By Heather Lewis,
Seneca Valley Athletics & Activities Director

WINTER SPORTS UPDATES

Basketball, Boys & Girls: At the time of this writing, our boys and girls basketball teams were both ranked #2 in the latest TribLive WPIAL rankings and both teams sit atop their section standings. Coaches Kevin Trost and Dorothea Epps have their teams playing aggressive defense, and disciplined, selfless team basketball on the offensive end. Great starts by both teams in the first half of section play!

BOYS BASKETBALL STANDINGS

WPIAL Section 1 (Class 6-A)

Team	Section	Section %	Overall
Seneca Valley	7-1	0.875	10-6
New Castle	6-2	0.750	12-2
Fox Chapel	6-2	0.750	11-4
North Hills	4-4	0.500	5-10
Butler	3-5	0.375	10-5
Pine-Richland	3-5	0.375	5-8
Woodland Hills	2-6	0.250	6-8
North Allegheny	1-7	0.125	5-9

GIRLS BASKETBALL STANDINGS

WPIAL Section 1 (Class 6-A)

Team	Section	Section %	Overall
Seneca Valley	5-0	1.000	9-5
Butler	3-2	0.600	8-6
North Allegheny	3-2	0.600	5-7
Pine-Richland	3-2	0.600	4-10
North Hills	1-4	0.200	5-10
Woodland Hills	0-5	0.000	5-7

Bocce: Congratulations to our Raider Bocce team that opened their season with wins over Mars and Butler. The Black team is 4-0 in match play and the Blue team is 3-1. The Raiders have two matches remaining against Armstrong and Knoch.



Competitive Cheer: Congratulations to our Raider Competitive Cheer squad for qualifying for the PIAA state championships in the Large Varsity Traditional 3A classification! In addition, this squad has also qualified for the National High School Cheerleading Championship (NHSCC) to be held at Disney World in Orlando, Florida. Well done, Raiders!



Ice Hockey: At the time of this writing, Raider Ice Hockey sits in second place in the PIHL 3A standings with a record of 8-2-2. The team has eight games remaining and will attempt to secure the top seed in the playoffs.



We congratulate the following Raider ice hockey players who were named to compete in the PIHL All-Star game on Jan. 26, at Robert Morris University (RMU). Congratulations to all!

- Tyler Garvin, Forward
- Carter Hoehn, Defenseman
- Andrew Malichky, Forward
- Jimmy Murtha, Forward
- Chris Nichols, Goalie

Swimming & Diving: Raider swim and dive teams are in the middle of their section schedules and are training hard for WPIAL championships. The girls team is currently undefeated (6-0) in dual meets and the boys are 4-2.

Wrestling: Raider boys and girls wrestling teams are finishing their dual match portion of their respective schedules and will shortly turn their attention to WPIAL section and individual championships. Final season and postseason results will be available in a later Raider Pride issue.

ALUMNI VISIT WITH SALT TO TALK COLLEGE

Earlier this month, the Student-Athlete Leadership Team (SALT) welcomed five Raider student-athlete alumni to their January meeting to talk about college and what it is like to be a college student-athlete. Joining SALT were:

- Graham Hancox (SV '23) – IUP Football
- Anna Kalkowski (SV '24) – Seton Hill Softball
- Julia Lozowski (SV '23) – Tampa Soccer
- Kara Pasquale (SV '24) – Slippery Rock Volleyball
- Nathan Prex (SV '22) – Lebanon Valley Soccer



The panel answered questions and shared their experiences on the daily life of a student-athlete, the importance of nutrition and sleep, balancing academic responsibilities with athletic commitments, the biggest surprise transitioning from high school sports to collegiate sports, and what their favorite parts of being a student-athlete are. We are grateful to Graham, Anna, Julia, Kara and Nathan for spending the morning with SALT.





Leading up to winter break, SALT was busy planning a visit to the Passavant Community in Zelienople. SALT members visited all elementary schools in early December and sat down with our young students to make holiday cards for the Passavant community members. On Dec. 18, members of SALT visited Passavant to share in some holiday festivities and distribute holiday cards and cookies. Residents were also treated to some spontaneous caroling by SALT. It was a festive and heartwarming morning for all.

In addition to the Passavant visit, SALT organized a toiletry, hat and gloves drive during contests the week of Dec. 16. The collaborative efforts of visiting team communities along with the Seneca Valley community resulted in SALT collecting six garbage bags worth of donations, all of which were donated to the Second Avenue Commons shelter.

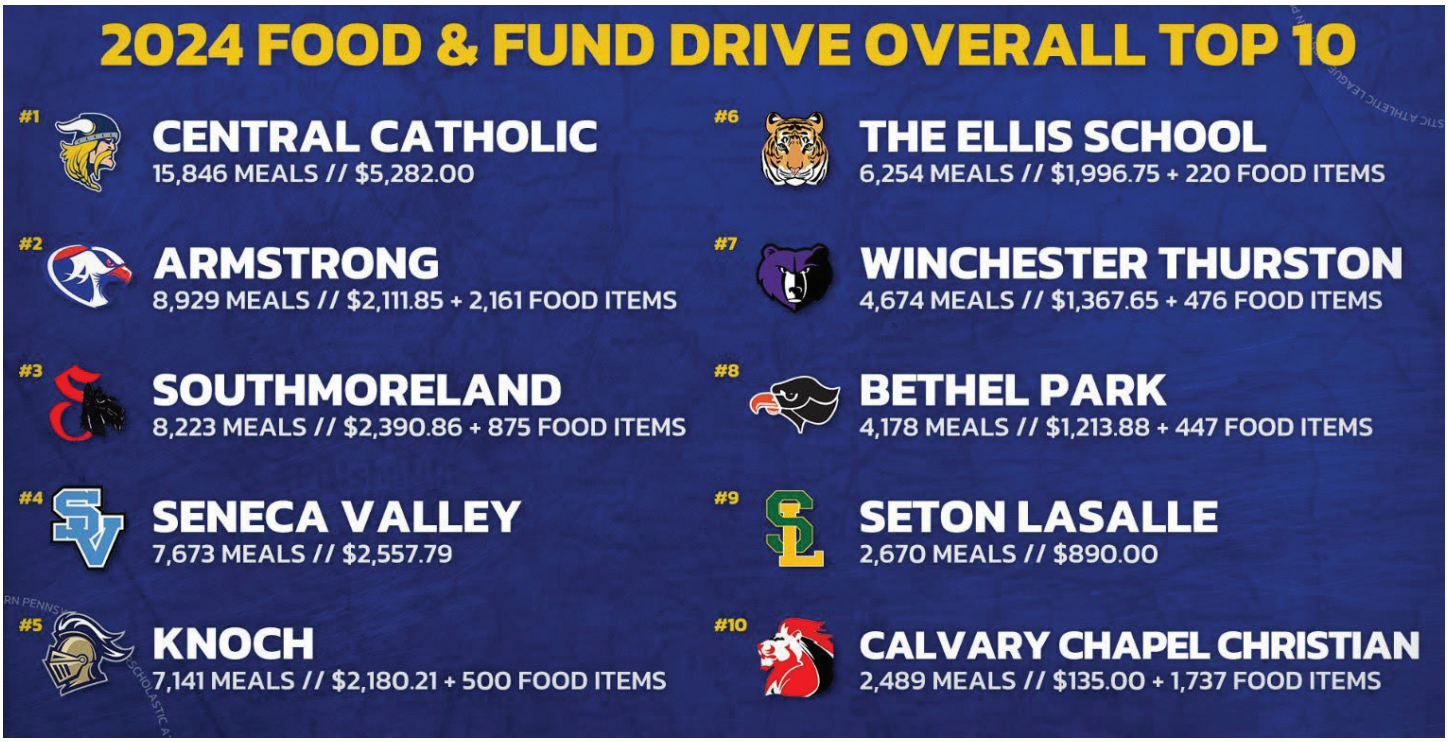
COLLEGE COMMITMENTS – CLASS OF 2025

Many Raider student-athletes made their college commitment official with the early signing period starting in mid-November. We congratulate these seniors in achieving their goals of continuing their athletic and academic careers at the next level. Each of you are tremendous representatives of Raider Athletics and we are proud of your efforts in the classroom, in competition, and in the community.

Name	Sport	College/University	Major
Jordan Hoover	Volleyball	Roberts Wesleyan University	Engineering
Rachel Humphreys	Lacrosse	University of the Cumberlands	Physical Therapy
Elizabeth Petelin	Volleyball	Penn State-Behrend	Nursing

RAIDER GENEROSITY ON DISPLAY

Once again #SVRaiderNation generosity was on full display during the 2024 WPIAL Food & Fund Drive for the Pittsburgh Food Bank. Seneca Valley was fourth overall and second in 6A classification for its contributions to the WPIAL third annual drive. Thank you to everyone who contributed! #WearingTheSV



ATHLETES OF THE MONTH, DECEMBER 2024



The Female Athlete of the Month for December was girls diver Ali Waters. The junior has been a key point scorer for the Raiders on a young diving squad. She has recorded a first-place finish in each meet this season and has already exceeded the qualifying score for the 2025 Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL) 1-Meter Diving Championships. Her contributions on the diving board have assisted the girls swimming and diving program to six straight wins. Ali's dives have all scored above 220 points with her season and personal best score of 274.95 coming in a tri-meet against McDowell and Canon McMillan. We recognized Ali as the December Female Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Ali!



The Male Athlete of the Month for December was junior boys basketball guard Nico Santapau. Nico was a key contributor for the Raiders as they overcame injuries and a slow start to the season to boast a seven-game win streak for a 7-6 overall and 4-1 section record, at the time of this writing. Over the first 13 games of the season, Nico has tallied 10.8 points a game in 324 minutes of play. He leads the team in three-pointers made (31) along with free throw percentage (83.9%). On the defensive end, he averages 2.6 rebounds a game and has tallied 15 steals. His standout game came against Avonworth where he scored 19 points and came down with four rebounds to lead the team to a 72-61 win. For an impressive month, we recognized Nico as the December Male Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Nico!