By Heather Lewis,
Seneca Valley Athletics & Activities Director

A GOLDEN DAY AT WPIAL TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS!

Our track and field student-athletes spend an entire season preparing for one day – the WPIAL championships. Held at Slippery Rock University on Wednesday, May 14, our Raiders stood atop the podium in multiple events. Congratulations to the following WPIAL CHAMPIONS and their teammates who joined them on the podium as Top 8 medalists. It was certainly a great day to be a RAIDER!

Boys Track & Field

Dakari Payne – High Jump, **WPIAL Champion!**

Dakari Payne – Triple Jump, 5th place

Dakari Payne – Long Jump, 7th place

Noah Rieger – 100m, 8th place

Gavin Skarbek – 400m, **WPIAL Champion!**

Gavin Skarbek – 200m, 8th place

Max Smith – 3200m, 8th place





Girls Track & Field

Aubrey Erdos – Pole Vault, 2nd place

Sydney Heltzell – 1600m, 7th place

Jordan Monteleone – High Jump, **WPIAL Champion!**

Jordan Monteleone – Long Jump, 8th place

Kathryn Morrison – 100m Hurdles, 4th place

Kate Skeen – Long Jump, 5th place

Addison Weaver – Javelin, 7th place

Augelina Williams – 100m, 5th place

Augelina Williams – 200m, 6th place

Audrey Wolfe – Javelin, 5th place

4 x 100 Relay, **WPIAL Champion!** – Maddee Fischer, Aubrey Popp, Addie Bokash, Augelina Williams

4 x 400 Relay, 7th place – Kennedy Hummert, Tessa Rybak, Sydney Heltzell, Chioma Nwokolo

4 x 800 Relay, 2nd place – Sydney Heltzell, Paige D'Amico, Tessa Rybak, Kennedy Hummert





SENIOR AWARDS NIGHT

On Tuesday, May 13, we had an opportunity to recognize so many accomplished students, including six very deserving student-athlete award recipients. The following awards were presented, and honorees recognized.

The Sherman Award – Female MVP awarded to Lexie Hames (Softball): The Sherman Family presents this award. It goes to a female athlete with the following characteristics: athletic ability 50%, character 30%, and scholarship 20%.



The NexTier Award – Male MVP awarded to Andrew Malichky (Ice Hockey & Baseball): This award is given to a male athlete with the following characteristics: athletic ability 50%, character 30%, and scholarship 20%.



The O'Shea Award awarded to Legacy Joseph-Short (Basketball & Flag Football): This award is given to a boy or girl who most ably demonstrated the traits of Perseverance, Courage and Desire during the current year. He/she need not be a starter, a star or a letter winner. The boy/girl should be the athlete who has overcome the most severe handicaps or the greatest adversity to participate in athletics during the current year. The O'Shea Award is presented by the Knights of Columbus in Zelienople in memory of Doc O'Shea.



The Bertha M. Murray Award – Female awarded to Sydney Heltzell (Cross-Country, Indoor & Outdoor Track): This award is given to a senior girl who has outstanding athletic and academic standards.



The Garman C. Murray Award – Male awarded to Tyler Prex (Soccer): This award is given to a senior boy who has outstanding athletic and academic standards.



Knichel Logistics Female Positive Athlete Award awarded to Lilly Hudac (Basketball & Flag Football): This award is designed to recognize a female student-athlete who exhibits the aspects of positive sporting behavior, exceptional sportsmanship and genuine leadership.



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 on achieving their goals of continuing their athletic and academic careers at the next level. Each of you is a tremendous representative of Raider Athletics and we are very proud of your efforts in the classroom, in competition, and in the community.

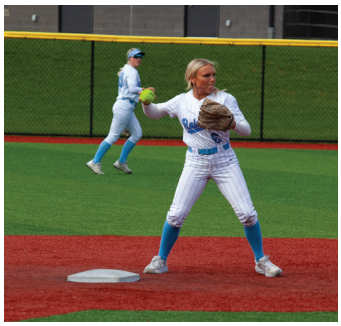
Name	Sport	College/University	Major
Colton Garner	Lacrosse	Ohio Wesleyan University	Finance

SPRING SEASON PLAYOFF BOUND PROGRAMS

Baseball

At the time of this writing, Raider baseball was currently awaiting their WPIAL opening round playoff contest. The Raiders finished second in the section standings with a section mark of 8-4 and an overall record of 14-6 on the season. Seneca Valley entered the WPIAL 6A bracket as the third seed and faced off against sixth seed Mt. Lebanon. The team then went on to defeat Norwin, securing their fifth WPIAL title! Good luck in the state tournament!





Boys Volleyball

The Raiders finished second in their section with a 6-2 record and an overall mark of 12-3. Seeded second in the WPIAL championship bracket, the boys faced off against Canon-Mac after receiving a first-round bye and swept the Big Macs in three sets (25-13, 25-19, 25-23). The team faced Penn Trafford on Tuesday, May 21 in the semifinals. Good luck boys!



Softball

The second seed Raiders entered the WPIAL championships with a bye in the first round and faced Norwin on Tuesday, May 21 in the semifinals. The Raiders completed their regular season with a 15-3 overall record and 13-3 in section play. Good luck in postseason play!

ALL-CONFERENCE SELECTIONS ANNOUNCED IN SPRING SPORTS

The Big 56 Conference recently announced its spring sport honorees in baseball and softball and the Raiders were well represented. The following Seneca Valley student-athletes were recognized for their excellence on the field.

SOFTBALL

1st Team	2nd Team
Lexie Hames	Bella Gross
	Anna Kalkowski
	Emry Rice

BASEBALL

1st Team	2nd Team	Section 1 Player of the Year
Wes Conville	Andrew Malichky	Ryan Piekutoski
Danny Drennan	Micah Olayer	
Ryan Piekutoski		
Ryan Rebholz		

BOYS VOLLEYBALL ALL-SECTION

The WPIAL boys volleyball coaches recently announced their All-Section teams for the 2025 season and the Raiders were well represented.

1st Team	2nd Team	3rd Team
Mario Ardolino	Malachi DeGraff	Chase Crawford
Jordan Hoover	Matthew Dudash	
Abheek Nelikil	Brandon Suski	

EXCEPTIONAL IN SPORTS

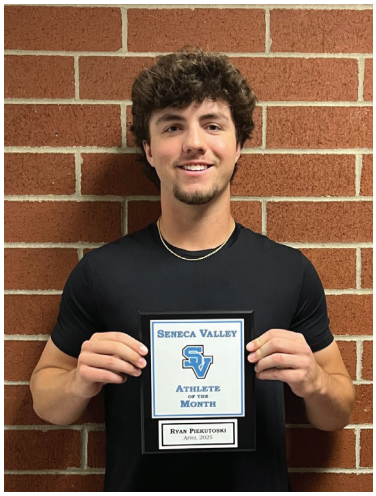
They key word – actually key letter, in the heading is "s" – for sports. The Northern Area Athletics Directors Association (NADA) recently honored a small collection of student-athletes who compete in three sports during their senior year. In this era of youth sport, competing in three distinct sports as a high school senior is a rare and uncommon experience. We recognized our two honorees – Landon Davis and Maddee Fischer – for their vast contributions to our Athletics program. Landon will graduate as a three-sport letter winner in football, wrestling and lacrosse. Maddee will graduate as a four-sport letter winner in cross-country, wrestling, track & field and flag football. We thank Landon and Maddee for their contributions as students, athletes and commendable citizens in our community. Well done!



ATHLETES OF THE MONTH, APRIL 2025



The Female Athlete of the Month for April was girls flag football two-way player **Lilly Hudac**. The senior wide receiver and free safety had a stellar month, helping Seneca Valley to a 7-2 overall record and 5-1 in section play. On the defensive side of the ball, Lilly tallied eight interceptions, including a five-interception performance against North Catholic in a defensive battle that ended in an 8-0 shutout win for the Raiders. Her ability to snag the ball has also made her a key wide receiver for the team. Lilly's stand out performance came in a week five game against Mars where she had eight receptions for over 125 yards. To top it all off, Lilly was named to the Pittsburgh Steelers Girls Flag Football roster for the second annual Pennsylvania Scholastic Football Coaches Association (PSFCA) Big 33 Girls Flag Football Tournament. We recognized Lilly as the April Female Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Lilly!



The Male Athlete of the Month for April was senior baseball player **Ryan Piekutoski**. As pitcher and infielder, Ryan played a major role in the Raider's second place finish in the section. With two games left at the time of publication, Ryan was batting .447 with 16 runs scored, 15 runs batted in (RBIs), a .557 on-base percentage, .830 slugging percentage, and finished with eight doubles, two triples and two home runs. On the mound, he has pitched a full seven innings in three games this spring and has allowed two earned runs on two hits with nine walks, eight strikeouts and a 2.57 ERA. His efforts were recognized by area coaches as he was named First Team All-Section and 6A Section 1 Player of The Year in the Big 56 Conference. For an impressive month, we recognized Ryan as the April Male Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Ryan!

WE ARE PLANNING FOR 2025-26

Physical, drug & concussion dates

The athletic department has announced its summer physical, drug testing and baseline concussion testing dates for 2025-26. Please note these plans are subject to change.

REMINDERS for 2025-26:

- All required paperwork for athletic participation in 2025-26 will be available on Parent Portal and the SV Athletics website starting May 1. **Reminder:** No paperwork may be completed prior to May 1.
- **ALL fall sport** paperwork is due in the athletic office no later than **3 p.m. on Thursday, July 31**. Coaches will not accept paperwork on the first day of tryouts.
- Please note physicals are first come, first served - we do not take reservations in advance. *We encourage families to have their physical completed as soon as possible after May 1. You may visit your PCP or any Urgent Care Clinic for an athletic physical.*
- The PIAA mandates their CIPPE form as the only permissible physical form for the doctor's signature.
- All student-athletes must register in the Parent Portal under "Sports Registration" before tryouts/practice begin. Registration opens May 1.
- Complete information available on the District's Athletics website under "Participation and TRYOUT information" starting May 1.
- Concussion baseline testing only needs to be completed every other year. Parents may call the Athletics Office at (724) 452-6040, x1752 to confirm the status of their child's baseline concussion test.

Summer Drug Testing and Baseline Concussion Testing Dates – Senior High School

- **Tuesday, July 8**, from 3-7 p.m.
- **Wednesday, July 9**, from 8 a.m. - Noon and 1-3 p.m.
  60 physicals from 8 a.m. - Noon; 30 physicals from 1-3 p.m.
- **Tuesday, July 29**, from 3-7 p.m.
- **Wednesday, July 30**, from 8 a.m. - Noon and 1-3 p.m.
  60 physicals from 8 a.m. - Noon