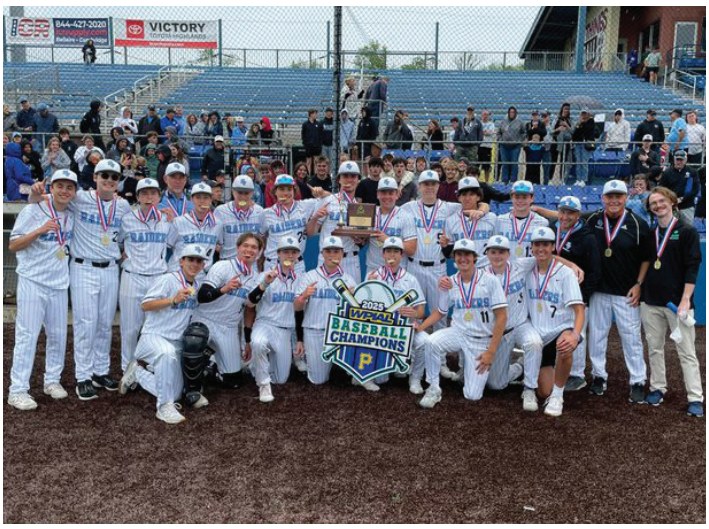
By Heather Lewis,
Seneca Valley Athletics & Activities Director

HOW A TEAM BECAME CHAMPIONS

"Be an even better teammate than player." *Will Healy*

There is no denying talent is essential to contend for championships. In the end, what often goes unnoticed is that the best team - not just the most talented - are the ones holding the trophy. It is a rare occurrence for individual talent to exceed teamwork when it comes to championship performances. In the spring of 2025, it was a privilege to watch Raider Varsity Baseball compete daily because their driving force was not in the bats, on the field or on the mound – their most enduring power was the way they consistently played for one another. When you combine talent with this level of connectivity and sacrifice, great things are possible. Entering the WPIAL tournament as the No. 3 seed in the 6A bracket, this team did not let themselves, their coaches or this community down. Their approach was one game at a time, and they just kept grinding. The opening round versus Mt. Lebanon saw SV jump out to a 3-0 lead only to have the Blue Devils tie the game in the top of the sixth. Mason Fisher was the hero in the bottom of the sixth inning bringing home Quin Carney and the Raiders advanced on a 4-3 win. Next up were the second-seed Big Macs of Canon-McMillan in the semifinals. On this day, the bats were alive and Andrew Malichky's pitching was on form and, with the 4-0-win, SV now found itself playing for a WPIAL title versus the fourth seeded Knights of Norwin. At EQT Park for the finals, Seneca Valley's pitching combination of Ryan Rebholz and Luis Torrenegra simply overwhelmed Norwin and Ryan Piekutoski's RBI single was all the Raiders would need to clinch their fifth WPIAL title in program history. Through this playoff run what was evident to all in attendance was that our Raiders never flinched – they kept battling inning after inning. They kept lifting one another up. They stayed present and played in the moment. In the end, this TEAM could call themselves CHAMPIONS! By virtue of their WPIAL title, Seneca Valley entered the PIAA bracket and



had the opportunity to host a first-round game vs. McDowell out of PIAA District X. The environment was electric and the Raider offense put on a show, scoring seven runs to advance to the quarterfinals with a 7-1 win. As all good things do, the season ended in Altoona where SV fell to eventual state champion Cedar Cliff. In a game where this squad was presented with unusual obstacles and challenges, they never quit. They battled, they supported, they believed. Unfortunately, in this game, it simply was not our day. As Coach Semega reminded them in postgame, it was one heck of a season and they were going to walk out of the ballpark (to the applause from #SVRaiderNation) with their heads held high. And that they did! Congratulations to the 2025 Raider Baseball Team – you will forever be a champion! And thank you for #WearingTheSV the right way!

- Athletics & Activities Director Ms. Heather Lewis ■

GATORADE PLAYER OF THE YEAR – AGAIN!

Senior softball pitcher and Clemson recruit Lexie Hames was honored as the Gatorade Player of the Year for the state of Pennsylvania for the second consecutive season. Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation's best high school athletes for their success on the field, in the classroom and in the community. Hames led the 2025 Raiders to a 20-5 overall record. In the circle she was 17-3 with a 0.48 ERA, striking out 279 batters in 116 innings for an average of 2.4 Ks (strikeouts) per inning. She fired nine shutouts, including two no-hitters and held opposing batters to a 0.80 average. At the plate, Hames batted .500 with seven home runs and 18 RBIs to post an OPS of 1.945. She drew 41 walks and struck out only four times in 79 plate appearances. She ended her career with 951 strikeouts and two WPIAL titles. A standout for USA Softball's U-18 National Team at last summer's World Cup qualifier, Lexie was ranked as the nation's No. 1 prospect in her class by Extra Innings Softball. Congratulations, Lexie – an honor so well deserved! ■



SPRING SEASON FINAL POSTSEASON RECAPS

Softball

Following a first-round bye, the second-seeded Raiders faced off against Norwin in the WPIAL 6A semifinals and came away with a 6-1 win. Paige Volz's first-inning, two-run triple was a game-winning hit, but a team effort led to SV putting six on the board to Norwin's one. The Raiders



advanced to face Hempfield for the WPIAL 6A title and sole spot in the PIAA bracket. Both teams brought their bats and, as it often does, the game against the Spartans came down to a single run scored by Hempfield in the bottom of the first inning. The Raiders were unable to take advantage of their seven hits and multiple baserunners and fell 1-0, ending the season and careers of five terrific seniors. We thank the Class of '25 and wish each of them all the best!

Track & Field

Results from the 2025 PIAA 3A Track & Field Championships were:

- Girls 100m: Augelina Williams (13.02, 29th place)
- Girls 100m Hurdles: Kathryn Morrison (15.18, 15th place)
- Girls 4 x 100 Relay: (50.17, 25th place)
- Girls 4 x 800 Relay: (10:05.40, 25th place)



- Girls High Jump: Jordan Monteleone (5-6, 4th place, Medalist)
- Girls Long Jump: Kate Skeen (17-3.75, 15th place)
- Girls Pole Vault: Aubrey Erdos (11-6, 10th place)
- Girls Javelin: Audrey Wolfe (123-1, 16th place); Addie Weaver (122-2, 17th place)
- Boys 400m: Gavin Skarbek (49.67, 10th place)
- Boys High Jump: Dakari Payne (6-4, 10th place)

Boys Volleyball

As noted in the May issue, Seneca Valley earned the No. 2 seed in the WPIAL 3A championship bracket, and following their first-round win over Canon-Mac, squared off against the Warriors of Penn Trafford in the WPIAL semifinals. The back-and-forth affair saw the Raiders take sets one and three (25-19, 25-20) and the Warriors winning sets two and four (25-22, 25-20), setting up a decisive fifth set for the right to face off against North Allegheny (NA) in the WPIAL finals. As has been customary all season, this Raider squad rose to the occasion and brought home the fifth set in convincing fashion winning 15-3 to take the match 3-2. Up next was the rubber match between SV & NA. In the WPIAL championship game, SV jumped out in front with a first-set win 25-17 over the Tigers. Unfortunately, the momentum was lost as the Tigers roared to three straight set wins (25-15, 25-20, 25-18) to win 3-1 and take home the gold. As runner-up the Raiders were on the road for the PIAA first round and travelled quite a distance to face off against PIAA District 3 runner-up Central York. It was not our day as the Panthers got the best of our Raiders in three straight sets (25-19, 25-20, 25-23). With the loss, the 2025 Raider boys season ended, and we thanked our graduating seniors for all they have given to the program. We wish all of them well as they embark on life's next adventure.



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

ATHLETES OF THE MONTH, MAY 2025



The Female Athlete of the Month for May was track and field jumper **Jordan Monteleone**. The junior had a stellar season competing for the Raiders in high jump, long jump and triple jump. Her main event was the high jump where she finished in first place 10 times. She helped the girls track and field team tie for second place in the section with a record of 4-2, which qualified them for the WPIAL 3A Girls Team Track and Field Semifinals. Her standout performance came at the 2025 WPIAL Championships where a high jump of 5-5 ensured she finished in first place and became just the third girls high jump WPIAL champion in SV track and field history. Jordan capped off her season with a fourth-place finish in the high jump at the 2025 PIAA Track and Field Championships with a jump of 5-6. We recognized Jordan as the May Female Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Jordan!



The Male Athlete of the Month for May was senior boys volleyball player and team captain **Abheek Nelikil**. As a setter, Abheek was a key player for the Raiders who went 14-5 in the season including a return to the WPIAL 3A Boys Volleyball championship game for the first time since 2022. Through the regular season and WPIAL/PIAA playoffs, Abheek tallied a team record of 941 assists, 320 digs, 62 kills, 42 aces and 38 blocks. He was recognized by area coaches for his on-court abilities, including being named on both the First Team All-Section and All-WPIAL boys volleyball lists. For an impressive month, we recognized Abheek as the May Male Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Abheek!

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.
- **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*