



Winter Sports Return, Initially Without Fans

January saw the return of swim meets and February brought basketball games. Throughout most of the winter season, swim competition took place virtually. Teams competing swam in their home pool against an opponent doing the same. Race results were kept online via a shared scoresheet and posted online. During boys sectionals, and for the first time during the 2021 season, swimmers were permitted to compete against each other in the same pool.

The protocols used by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, Section VI, and the Niagara-Orleans League created new challenges for parents and fans to watch the athletes. When winter sports returned, no spectators were allowed. As a result, the Barker Raiders Athletics Network was formed to live stream all home events of the Barker Raiders. Computer and video equipment was used to broadcast the swim meets and basketball games over YouTube. Across the N-O League each school made a decision on how to broadcast it's own home events. YouTube, Facebook Live, and school websites were solutions chosen by districts. All seven schools provided some type of solution for those at home to watch the events. Barker live streamed each event and then made the recording available to view on demand after the conclusion of the event. No in person scouting was allowed so the recorded content was also used by coaches as a scouting tool.

February 22nd **Ryan Santarsiero** was crowned N-O League Champion in the 200 Individual Medley during the all league swim meet. Santarsiero finished the race in a time of 2:14.53. Two days later spectators were allowed to attend sporting events. Although the limit was two spectators per athlete, the ability to view competition on the internet existed through the end of the season.

In March, after the winter season concluded, two Barker teams received Scholar Athlete recognition: **Boys Swim** and **Girls Swim**. Also, **Sydney Luckman**, basketball, received N-O League 1st Team honors.

All Western New York Scholar Athletes for the fall were announced in late December. **Lena Fazzolari**, Field Hockey, and **Carla Stoloski**, Cross Country were both selected for this Section VI award.

The combined **Varsity Football** team from Roy-Hart, Barker, and Lyndonville, which played 8-man this spring, just wrapped up the fall season II campaign with a win over South Seneca in the final game. The RBL team also competed against teams from Holley, Perry, Pembroke, and Charles Finney/Northstar.

The spring season is now upon us as baseball, softball, tennis, and track & field began on May 3rd. Limitations of two spectators per athlete are still in place for spring sports which run through mid to late June. Spectator passes will be distributed to athletes to share with their family members.

Congratulations to all of our athletes for completing the winter season and Fall Season II. Thank you to athletes, parents, and fans for their cooperation in following the guidelines and supporting a safe return to play.





(Clockwise from upper left): **Lena Fazzolari**, Field Hockey, All Western New York Scholar Athlete. **Sydney Luckman**, Basketball - Niagara-Orleans League 1st Team. **Ryan Santarsiero**, Swimming - Niagara-Orleans League Individual Medley Champion. **Carla Stoloski**, Cross Country - All Western New York Scholar Athlete.

For additional athletics information regarding schedules, sports stories, rosters, special recognition, streaming and recorded events, historical information, and links to New York State Public High School Athletic Association and the Niagara-Orleans League, please visit our athletics homepage:

www.barkercsd.net/athletics