

By Heather Lewis,
Seneca Valley Athletics & Activities Director

WINTER SPORTS FINAL RECAP

Boys Basketball

For the first time since 2013, Raider Boys Basketball returned to the PIAA playoffs thanks in large part to the contributions of a senior class that played together for the better part of three seasons. To open WPIAL playoffs, the Raiders hosted the Spartans of Hempfield Area. It was not an easy night for SV, but the trademark of this program is to never stop believing. Trailing by one point with the Spartans at the free throw line and less than eight seconds to play, the Raiders season came down to one missed free throw. Andrew Omasits grabbed the rebound off the missed free throw, drove the length of the court and was fouled with 1.8 seconds left. Calmly stepping to the line, Omasits sank both and Seneca Valley came away victorious 45-44. The win set up a semifinal contest against top-seeded Upper St. Clair including their 6' 7" player who has dominated the WPIAL all season long. The Raiders were tough defensively, holding Upper St. Clair to a season-low 42 points, but the size in the paint was too much and SV fell 42-35. Following a loss to Central Catholic in the 3-4 seed game, Seneca Valley went on the road to play Red Lion High School out of York, PA. Despite getting out to a quick 16-10 first quarter lead, the hot-shooting Red Lion squad started connecting on their home court and came away 69-62 winners to advance. We congratulate the 2025-26 squad on a wonderful season and wish seniors Easton, Owen, Reese, Jaxon, Andrew, Ryan and Nico all the best. You have worn the SV well!

Girls Basketball

Raider Girls Basketball was handed a difficult path in the WPIAL playoffs, playing all games on the road despite their second consecutive section title. To the credit of the players and coaching staff, they were undeterred. Facing fellow co-section winner Pine-Richland at their court in the opening round, the Raiders came out with a fierce competitive mindset and never trailed at the end of any quarter. With the game tied in the closing seconds of the fourth quarter, senior guard Natalie Hambly took the ball to the rim and was fouled with under four seconds to play. She confidently sank both free throws and SV held off the Rams' last second shot to come away a 31-29 winner and advance to play top-seeded Canon-Mac in the semifinals. In addition to Hambly's 13 points, Makayla Canty chipped in 10 to lead SV in the win. Against Canon-Mac, the game was a back-and-forth affair, but the Big Macs prevailed 47-42 on the strength of sinking some key free throws in the waning moments. Faced with a road game at Upper St. Clair for the right to claim the third and final spot in the PIAA bracket, the road-weary Raiders simply did not have enough despite 14 and 11 points from Hambly and Canty, respectively. It was a tough draw for this year's squad, and they handled the adversity like champions. We congratulate the team and coaches on their second consecutive section title and wish seniors Makayla, Brooke, Natalie and Erica all the best. Your class will go down in history for bringing back championship-level play to our Raider Girls Basketball program. Thank you!

Boys & Girls Swimming & Diving

The postseason is complete for the boys and girls swimming & diving teams and listed below are the medalist performances from both the WPIAL and PIAA championships. On the team side, the girls program finished in fifth place overall at the WPIAL championships and the boys came in 12th.

Medalists from WPIAL & PIAA Championships:

Girls team WPIAL & PIAA medalists

- WPIAL Diving, 1m – Ali Waters, 2nd place
- PIAA – Ali Waters, 4th place
- WPIAL 200 Medley Relay – Kyra Reinhart, Riley Skwortz, Ava Walker, Audrey Wolfe – 8th place
- WPIAL 200 Free Relay – Kyra Reinhart, Audrey Wolf, Maddie Tomaszewski, Sasha Myers – 3rd place
- WPIAL 400 Free Relay – Audrey Wolfe, Ava Walker, Maddie Tomaszewski Sasha Myers – 8th place

Boys team WPIAL & PIAA medalists

- WPIAL 50 Free – Will Feath, 8th place
- WPIAL 100 Backstroke – Triston Sasala, 5th place

Boys & Girls Wrestling

The postseason is complete for the boys and girls wrestling teams and listed below are medalist individual performances from both the WPIAL and PIAA championships.

Girls team WPIAL & PIAA performances

WPIAL Results

- Adele Shih-Calabro (112 lbs.): went 4-2, fourth-place medal, advanced to PIAA West Regional
- Hannah Hornick (190 lbs.): went 3-1, runner-up, advanced to PIAA West Regional
- Kaeleigh Tuell (148 lbs.): went 4-1, third-place medal, advanced to PIAA West Regional

PIAA West Regional Results

- Adele Shih-Calabro (112 lbs.): went 1-2, did not advance to PIAA's
- Hannah Hornick (190 lbs.): went 2-2, 4th place; advanced to PIAA's
- Kaeleigh Tuell (148 lbs.): went 1-2, did not advance to PIAA's

PIAA Championship Results

- Hannah Hornick (190 lbs.): went 1-2, did not advance to medal round

Boys team WPIAL & PIAA performances

WPIAL Results

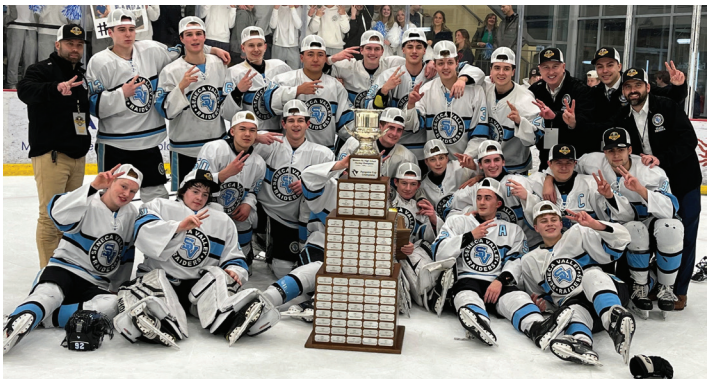
- Zach Hill (145 lbs.): went 3-2, 7th place; advanced to PIAA West Regional
- Riley Smith (107 lbs.): went 4-2, 5th place; advanced to PIAA West Regional
- Tommy Wuycheck (285 lbs.): went 3-2, 7th place; advanced to PIAA West Regional

PIAA West Regional Results

- Zach Hill (145 lbs.): went 1-2, did not advance to PIAA's
- Riley Smith (107 lbs.): went 3-3, 6th place; did not advance to PIAA's
- Tommy Wuycheck (285 lbs.): went 2-2, did not advance to PIAA's

THE WEIGHT WAS NOT TOO MUCH

When you win the Penguins Cup and follow up with a state championship, the weight of repetitive success can burden a team, stifle their talent and create mental roadblocks that are often too great to overcome. For the 2026 Raider Ice Hockey Program, under second-year head coach Tyler Mesisca, the shoulders were broad enough to carry the weight, and the minds were steady and strong enough to erase any doubt. There is no denying who the best 2026 ice hockey team in the state of Pennsylvania is – your Seneca Valley Raiders! With only one blemish on a 20-game regular season schedule (a 3-2 loss in a shootout), the Raiders entered the PIHL bracket as the top seed and with the opportunity to repeat as Penguins Cup Champions. In quarterfinal round action, SV handily defeated Upper St. Clair 5-1 and followed that with a gritty 2-1 win over Pine-Richland in the semifinals, setting up a finals contest between Peters Township and Seneca Valley. True to form, the Raiders were standouts on the ice, scoring five goals before the Indians got on the board. The third period provided plenty of excitement as Peters Township closed the gap to a 5-4 score, but a stingy Raider defense held strong through three minutes of power play, coming away victorious 5-4. The back-to-back Penguins Cup champions would hit the road for a rematch of last year's state title game facing the Firebirds of Holy Ghost Prep. This game was a mirror image of the 2025 contest as the Raiders were on the board early and often, bringing home the 2026 Championship trophy following a 7-2 win over the Firebirds, ironically the exact same score from a season ago. Cooper Hoehn and Braden Morin scored hat tricks and Chris Nichols was his steadying self in the net, turning away so many quality chances from Holy Ghost. What the Raiders of 2026 did was not easy. To carry the burden of holding two trophies, to face the best from each opponent every night, to withstand determined playoff teams and still have the grit, composure and mental tenacity





is a testament to the resolve of the players and the steady hand of the coaches. We congratulate this team on back-to-back Penguins Cup and PIHL state titles!

COLLEGE COMMITMENTS – CLASS OF 2026

Raider student-athletes have recently made their college commitment official, officially signing to attend their college of choice. We congratulate these seniors for 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 immensely proud of your efforts in the classroom, in competition, and in the community.

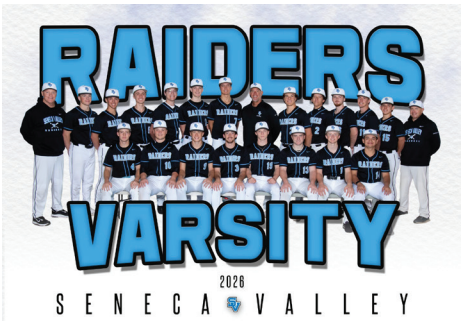
Name	Sport	College/University	Major
Jake Berg	Football	Saint Vincent	Education
Danny Drennan	Baseball	PSU Behrend	Mechanical Engineering
Mason Fisher	Baseball	PSU Behrend	Computer Science
Ryan Priester	Basketball	Allegheny	Biology
Addie Weaver	Track & Field	Slippery Rock	Exercise Science
Tommy Wuycheck	Football	Grove City	Education

SPRING SPORTS ARE UNDERWAY

The seasons keep coming and, already, spring sport teams are in action – some even facing section competition in mid-March. Here is a quick look at the upcoming spring season.

Baseball

Head Coach Eric Semega, entering his 26th season, fields a roster of 19, including 13 seniors. This senior-laden team is looking to repeat their championship form from a season ago when they brought home the WPIAL title. Leading the way will be returning Big 56 players Danny Drennan (OF), Micah Olayer (INF), and Ryan Rebholz (P). The Raiders are off to a 3-1 start collecting wins over Hempfield, Charlotte Latin and Charlotte Country Day and their lone loss coming to the Mustangs of Plum.



Softball

It is a new era for Raider Softball as Joe DeCristoforo takes over the reins as head coach. DeCristoforo has been on staff as an assistant the previous four seasons and the expectation is that the program will not skip a beat. Leading the way will be a senior class seven strong of Samantha Boussie, Hannah Hornick, Abby Kalkowski, Neve Miller, Emry Rice, Paige Volz and Brielle White. Kalkowski and Rice are both returning Big 56 performers, and they will help lead this team back to championship form in 2026. The team is off to a quick 2-0 start picking up wins over Harbor Creek and Armstrong.



Flag Football

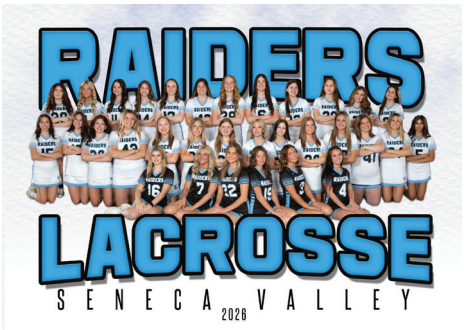
Head Coach Chris Eden, in his third year, returns a roster of 40 players intent on capturing their first-ever championship title. The 2026 season is the first as an officially sanctioned WPIAL and PIAA sport. Seniors Madi Barnyk and Abbi Speicher, founding members of this program, are expected to lead the Raiders this season.

Boys Lacrosse

Ryan Greer enters his first season as head coach for Raider Boys Lacrosse and the team, returning 10 seniors, is working extremely hard to put themselves in a position for a return to the WPIAL playoffs. Seniors James Bidoli, Ethan Bulvin, Josiah Funyak, Ronald Johnson, Braden Ketler, Nash Kraemer, Gabriel Livingston, Andrew Loebig, Alec Pezzuti and Ryan Sain will provide steadying leadership and experience at key positions.

Girls Lacrosse

Katie Smolter, in her 15th season as head coach, leads a team of 33 players and she will rely on the experience and leadership of seniors Lily Eppinger, Alexa Hanson, Isabella Leggett, Ashlee Libby, Rowan Welch and Alaina Wencil. The squad has an eye on a return to the WPIAL playoffs, starting with a focus on getting better each day.



Boys Tennis

First-year head coach Andrea Morrisard has the team off to a great start, winning their opening three matches against Riverside (5-0), Knoch (4-1) and Mars (3-2). The initial strength ladder and lineup feature the following singles players: Marcos Lopez (1st), Gianni Varlotta (2nd), and Liam Schley (3rd). Doubles teams are made up of Kylan Meiers, Jackson Brandt, Dylan Howe and



Billy Conway. Members Connor Eggleston, Jace Conway, Trent Gordon, William Richart, Parker Smith, James Wagner and Andy Weng round out the roster.

Track and Field

Both the boys and girls track & field teams - under head coach Ray Peaco, in his 18th season – opened their season with key section meet wins against Shaler and Fox Chapel. The boys squad beat Shaler 118-9 and Fox Chapel 96-54. The girls team scored 111-16 and 98-52 wins over Shaler and Fox Chapel, respectively. Early in the season, there have been notable changes to the program's top-ten list: Allie Lemke moved into a tie at 10th place in the Pole Vault (10′ 0″), Dakari Payne moved to No. 4 all-time in the Triple Jump (44′ 10″) and No. 7 all-time in the Long Jump (21′ 6″), Ed Strong moved into 9th place all-time in the Triple Jump (43′ 10″) and Tenny Voll moved to No. 3 all-time in the Pole Vault (11′ 6″).





Boys Volleyball

Head Coach Brett Poirier, in his sixth season at the helm, has a team currently ranked No. 2 in the WPIAL preseason poll. Talk about a competitive section, the top three teams in the preseason rankings all come from the Raider's section, making for great competition every single night. Unique to the season is the squad only has two seniors, Malachi DeGraaf and Isaac Parkinson, both of whom will play valuable leadership roles to the underclassmen. They will be supported on the court by a junior class of 11 strong and several talented sophomores and freshmen. SV opened the season with victories over Central Catholic (3-0) and Armstrong (3-1) and a loss in a five-set thriller at Meadville.



ALL-CONFERENCE SELECTIONS ANNOUNCED IN BASKETBALL

The Big 56 Conference recently announced its basketball honorees, and the Raiders were well represented. The following Seneca Valley student-athletes were recognized for their excellence on the court this season.

BOYS BASKETBALL

2nd Team

Owen Congdon
Andrew Omasits

GIRLS BASKETBALL

1st Team

Natalie Hambly
Reece McFadden

2nd Team

Makayla Canty
Brooke Dufford

Coach of the Year

Head Coach Dorothea Epps

RAIDER ATHLETICS PARTNERS

The Seneca Valley Athletics Department is proud to partner with many community organizations and families whose support goes a long way in helping provide a quality athletic experience for our student-athletes. Listed below are our current Raider Athletics Partners – we thank you for your support!

NexTier Bank
"We're more than just a bank – we provide personal and business banking solutions that support our communities and help you reach your dreams."
www.nextierbank.com

Myers Law Group
"Official Law Firm Partner of Raider Athletics."
www.jpmyerslaw.com

Allegheny Health Network
"Official Sports Medicine Partner of Raider Athletics."
www.ahn.org

Field Turf, USA
"A world leader in artificial turf and field surface for Raider Athletics."
www.fieldturf.com

Hawkins Financial Services
"We strive to exceed our clients' long-term goals."
www.hawkins-fs.com

Captivating Imagery
"Your local professional portrait photographer and proud sponsor of Raider Athletics 'Athlete of the Month' program."
www.captivatingimagery.com

Heritage Seubert Financial Baseball Field
"We help families, businesses and institutions grow, preserve and transfer wealth."
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ATHLETES OF THE MONTH, JANUARY 2026

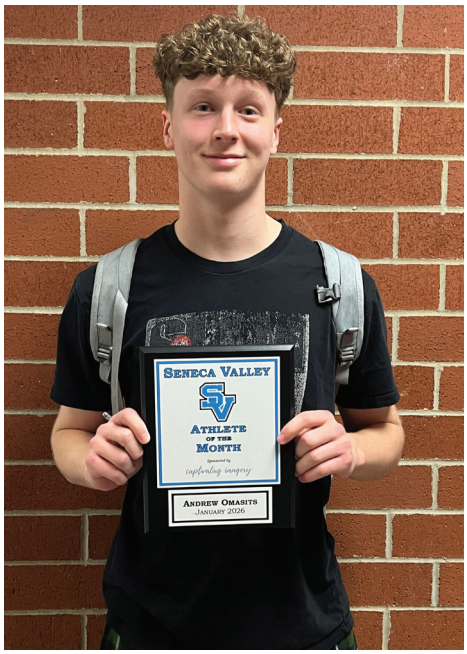
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The "Captivating Imagery" Female Athlete of the Month for January was senior girls basketball player Natalie Hambly. Natalie has had a stellar season and played a part in a second consecutive section title for the Raiders. Over a six game stretch, she totaled 80 points, eight assists, 15 rebounds and eight steals. Natalie became just the third player in Seneca Valley Girls Basketball history to reach the 1,000-point milestone. She took this one step further and became the all-time leader in points after scoring 13 against Butler to eclipse the previous record of 1,062. Her efforts were recognized by area coaches as she was named First Team All-Section for the Big 56 Conference. We recognized Natalie as the January Female Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Natalie!



The "Captivating Imagery" Male Athlete of the Month for January was senior boys basketball player Andrew Omasits. Andrew was a key member of a team that finished the regular season 13-8 (8-6 in section) earning the fourth seed in the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletics League (WPIAL) Playoffs. Over a 10-game stretch, he averaged 11.5 points, 2.9 assists, 4.9 rebounds and 1.4 steals. Andrew's stand out game came in a section win over Pine-Richland where he poured in 16 points, dished out four assists and grabbed four rebounds while shooting 50% from the field. On the season, Andrew has 255 points, 61 assists and 67 rebounds. He was also named Second Team All-Section for the Big 56 Conference. For an impressive month, we recognized Andrew as the January Male Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Andrew!



MR. SOWA-DOKU NAMED ASSISTANT ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to our very own Mr. Sowa-Doku, recently honored by the Pennsylvania State Athletic Directors Association (PSADA) as the 2026 Assistant Athletic Director of the Year. Mr. Sowa-Doku was recently recognized at the annual PSADA conference in Hershey, PA. Entering his fifth year as Seneca Valley Assistant Director of Athletics and Activities, Mr. Sowa-Doku primarily oversees all team services operations, from transportation to scheduling, equipment to technology. In addition, he, along with Ms. Lewis and Mr. Kurtz, serves our student athletes through the voices and advocacy of the Student-Athlete Leadership Team (SALT). There is no denying the impact Mr. Sowa-Doku has on our Athletics Department, our student-athletes, coaches and our #SVRaiderNation community. Congratulations, Mr. Sowa-Doku; an honor well deserved!

