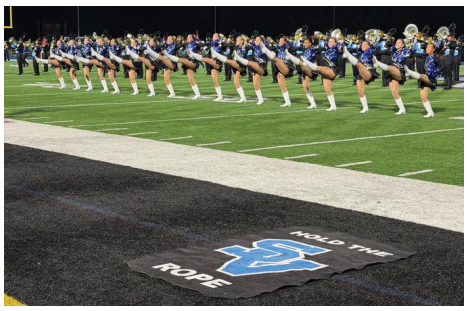
By Heather Lewis,
Seneca Valley Athletics & Activities Director

BEYOND THE COMPETITIVE ARENA

So often in sport, the focus is on results and the most commonly asked question, "Did you win?" However, with any athletic contest, there is much more than the actual result. The purity of interscholastic sports allows us all to enjoy not only competitive excellence, but also the brilliance and intricacy of performing arts, the authentic spirit and athleticism of cheerleading, and the pride of our student body in supporting their peers. This is what scholastic sport is about – athletes playing for the love of their game; marching band performing for the love of music, entertainment and camaraderie; cheer and dance squads exhausting themselves to bring energy and school pride to every event; and communities bound by one shared logo, as in "Wearing the SV."



This month, I would like to recognize and thank our brilliant Raider Marching Band and supremely talented SV Cheer and Dance squads. Your efforts unite our community, fuel #SVRaiderPride and showcase the remarkable talent that makes our District special. None of this happens without the remarkable leadership of Head Cheer Coach Laura Wise and Band Director Varden Armstrong. Thank you, Laura, Varden and your respective staff for your dedication to our students.







CONGRATULATIONS, RAULI!

Each year, the NFL and Hispanic Heritage Foundation celebrate Hispanic and Latino excellence throughout NFL communities. For the 2026 season, the NFL and Hispanic Heritage Foundation are honoring outstanding Latino youth and high school football players through their Latino Youth Honors program.

Congratulations to our very own Raulimar (Rauli) Ramirez-Perez, a current senior and member of the Pennsylvania Football News (PFN) Girls Flag Football 2026 All-Academic Team, who has been chosen as the high school flag football player to represent the Pittsburgh Steelers! Rauli was recognized on Sunday, September 27 at the Steelers vs. Cincinnati Bengals home game. Rauli "Wears the SV" proudly and with distinction and we celebrate this incredible honor with her.

Ryan Gloyer Middle School teacher Mr. Chris Eden nominated Rauli and, in his words, "Rauli has become a tremendous role model for younger Hispanic female students who may have never imagined that football was a sport or an opportunity available to them. If you're looking for someone who truly inspires others through her actions, leadership and character, I can't recommend Raulimar Ramirez-Perez highly enough!"



FALL SPORTS UPDATES

CROSS-COUNTRY – Boys and Girls (Head Coach Steve Strelick)

Head Coach Steve Strelick enters his 14th season at the helm of our boys and girls cross-country teams. The section title will be determined on Tuesday, October 6, when all schools race together at North Park. Until then, both the boys and girls teams are competing in exhibition style dual meets and invitationals. Results to date include:

At the HOKA Night XC Showcase, varsity boys finished 23rd with Hunter Pedersen leading the Raiders in 80th place out of 422 runners with a time of 17:04.80; varsity girls finished 32nd with Paige D'Amico coming in at 20:51.27, good for 96th overall out of 394 competitors.

At the 24th Annual Red, White & Blue Classic, results include:

- Varsity boys finished third overall in the 3A 5000-meter run with Ian Wahl (17:08.41) pacing the squad.
- Varsity girls finished 26th with Paige D'Amico again leading our pack at 20:47.10.
- Boys JV finished fourth overall in part due to Ian Maloney's third-place finish at 18:48.91 and Jackson Anglum close behind in fifth place at 19:03.41.
- Annelise Dykstra finished in third place (25:00.70) leading our girls JV team to a fifth place finish.







- In the ninth grade race, boys freshmen runners picked up the top spot, with all five scoring runners finishing in the top 23. Ben Northrop's eighth place (19:26.91) was the top finish for SV
- The girls freshmen class finished seventh overall and Sally McLean paced the team at 21:49.10.

At the time of this writing, upcoming events include the Youthtowne Clash, PIAA Foundation Race, Grove City Invitational and section exhibition races.

FOOTBALL (Head Coach Don Barclay)

Head Coach Don Barclay enters his second season leading the Raider Football program and currently has the team sitting at 2-1. Following an off-season of hard work, this year's squad entered the season with familiarity and a high level of confidence in themselves, their coaches and their systems. While many on the outside predicted 2026 to be another building year,





this team has quietly displayed discipline, consistency and tenacity. They have outscored their first two opponents by an average margin of 34.5-10 relying on the strength of the pack and not any single individual. A small, but talented, senior class is providing the requisite leadership and has set the standard for Raider Football in 2026. Jamen Alwine has taken the reins at quarterback and relies on classmates Josiah Edwards and Maximo Robinson in the backfield. Jacobe Sutherland anchors the offensive line while Matt D'Appolonia, and Julian Hunt lead a relentless defensive unit. Jake Donesec, a surprising addition by way of a PIAA ruling allowing private school students to compete on their hometown team, has infused high energy and fearless play on both sides of the ball. With conference play upcoming, this team is poised to make their mark in WPIAL 6A football.

GOLF – Boys (Head Coach Dean Leventopoulos)

At the time of this writing, Coach Leventopoulos, in his eighth season leading our boys golf program, has our team contending for the WPIAL team championships with key section matches remaining against Central Valley and Butler. The Raiders are currently 8-2, good enough for second place in section play, and are battling for one of two section spots to advance to the team championships. Individual sectional and WPIAL championships are yet to come, and results will be shared in October. Good luck, boys!



GOLF – Girls (Head Coach Brian Pesavento)

Head Coach Brian Pesavento, in his fourth season, and Raider Girls Golf currently sit in fourth place in their section with a 6-5 record and one remaining section match vs. North Allegheny. Overall, the Raiders are 6-6 with upcoming sectional individual



championships – the qualifying event for WPIAL individual championships. Final results will be shared in October. Good luck, girls, in upcoming sectional and WPIAL individual play.

ICE HOCKEY (Head Coach Tyler Mesisca)

Tyler Mesisca, entering his third season as head coach, has the returning two-time PIHL champions in full competition mode following their annual preseason St. Margaret's tournament. The Raiders participated in the annual preseason PIHL Charities Tournament, outscoring their first four opponents, 28-2, to advance to the championship game. Unfortunately, the Raiders came up against a stingy Rams defense and fell to Pine-Richland 2-1. The team now turns their attention to the start of the regular season and their quest for three straight Penguins Cup and PIHL championships.

SOCCER – Boys (Head Coach George Williams)

There is no denying the 2026 version of Raider boys soccer is talented and experienced. The challenge for Head Coach George Williams, in his 32nd season, is molding this talent into a connected, selfless unit willing to face adversity head on and not back down. As of this writing, the Raiders are 4-1 overall (1-1 in section play) and have outscored their opponents 19-3 – evidence of their talent and chemistry. As is customary with Raider boys soccer, this team is deep and affords Coach Williams the luxury of resting players without noticing a drop in play on the field. Senior forwards Ben Baronner and Jacob Prex provide plenty of goals while Fynn O'Donnell and Luke West anchor a stubborn defense in front of Kyle DeMaster. Plenty of games remain and we look forward to another potential run at a WPIAL title.



SOCCER – Girls (Head Coach Mark Perry)



Entering his 11th season as head SV Girls Soccer coach, Mark Perry was faced with replacing five graduated seniors whose impact resulted in an appearance in the 2025 WPIAL championship game. If the start of the season is any indication, Coach Perry and his staff have found some answers. As of this writing, Raider girls soccer is 5-1-2 overall and 2-1-0 in section play. The team has scored 22 goals while allowing only five against in eight games. Senior All-Big 56 goalkeeper Sydney Postler returns to anchor a defense that allows less than one goal per game while classmates Anna Iaquinta and Izzy Yuhouse provide plenty of goal production. This year's squad may be thin on experience, but they are full of athleticism and depth – two key assets Coach Perry will utilize to return to F.N.B Stadium (formerly Highmark) for the WPIAL championships.

SLOW PITCH SOFTBALL (Head Coach Ken Chrin)

Raider Slow Pitch Softball is at the start of their season, winning two of the first four games played. They are fourth in the WPISL standings with a +21-run differential. Seniors Wynn Level and Emily Birsa will be reliable anchors for this year's squad. The regular season ends in late October with championships to be held Halloween weekend.



TENNIS (Head Coach Andrea Morrisard)

Second-year head coach Andrea Morrisard fields a young team with only one senior, Alivia Metz, on the roster. The team has had its share of bright moments along with the challenges of court inexperience. The record currently stands at 4-6 overall and 2-4 in section play. At the time of this writing, remaining section contests include matches with North Allegheny and Montour, along with non-section matches against North Catholic, West Allegheny and Quaker Valley. As the season comes to a close, the girls are working extremely hard to finish on a high note and an overall winning record. Final season results will be shared in the October "Raider Pride."



VOLLEYBALL (Head Coach Brett Poirier)

Head coach Brett Poirier enters his eighth season leading the Raider Girls Volleyball program and once again he has the team off to a great start. The Raiders are currently 6-1, capturing the Franklin Regional Varsity Tournament over Labor Day weekend. An experienced and talented senior class of Payton Fisher, Sheridan Gallagher, Gabi Hatock, Mackenzie Kohler, Cami Mueller and Delaney Myers will provide a calming presence in the face of adversity and high energy in those moments when urgency and intensity begin to fade. We look forward to an exciting, fast-paced brand of volleyball this season as these girls work hard in pursuit of a championship banner.



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

Heritage Seubert Financial Baseball Field
"We help families, businesses and institutions grow, preserve and transfer wealth."
www.heritageseubert.com

Cranberry Psychological Center
Cranberry Psychological Center
"Don't play games with your family's emotional health.
www.cranberrypsychcenter.com

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENT DATES FOR RAIDER ATHLETICS

Special Events

- Oct. 8: Homecoming Carnival & Parade, 5 p.m., Secondary Campus
- Oct. 9: Homecoming Game vs. Mt. Lebanon, 7 p.m., NexTier Stadium
- Oct. 23: Senior Night and Annual Pink Game vs. Norwin, 7 p.m., NexTier Stadium

Winter Sport Information

- Oct. 21: Drug & Concussion Testing for Winter Sports in Senior High School
  - NO physicals offered
- Nov. 4: Final Drug & Concussion Testing and Athletic Physicals for Winter Sports in Senior High School
  - 30 physicals offered starting at 2:45 p.m.
- Nov. 5: **Deadline** for winter sport paperwork; all papers are due in athletic office.
- Nov. 20: First official day of winter sports – mandatory tryouts begin this day.
- For tryout schedule, please contact the coach directly. Coaches contact information is located on the Athletics website under Participation Information tab.

REMINDERS for 2026-27:

- ALL paperwork for winter sports is due in the athletic office no later than **Thursday, Nov. 5, by 3 p.m.** Coaches will not accept paperwork on the first day of tryouts.
- The PIAA mandates the CIPPE Section 6 form as the only permissible form for doctor's signature.
- All required paperwork for 2026-27 athletic participation is available on the Parent Portal or Athletics website. Paperwork includes PIAA CIPPE Sections 1, 2, 5, & 6 and Drug Test Consent Form.
- If a student played in a fall sport, the only paperwork needed is PIAA CIPPE Section 7 and, if applicable, PIAA CIPPE Section 8 – these forms can be dated no earlier than Oct. 9.
- All student-athletes must register in the Parent Portal under "Sports Registration" before the start of each season.
- Complete information available on the District's Athletics website: Participation Paperwork
- Concussion baseline testing only needs 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.
- Tryouts are mandatory. Student-athletes are expected to attend every tryout session.