

SPORTS PAGE

WINTER PREVIEW: NEW SEASONS MEAN NEW OPPORTUNITIES



Player Profile: Ryan Lenhart

KYLEE RUBIN
DECEMBER 10, 2020

This week's first player profile is on Ryan Lenhart. Ryan is a two-sport athlete who plays football in the fall and basketball in the winter. Ryan's awards for basketball include being a two-time letterman. His individual goals this year are to become a better leader for the team and push everyone to be "the best we can." Ryan's team goals this season are to make it to the state playoffs. An athlete Ryan looks up to is LeBron James. He looks up to James because of his "talent and his desire to work hard." Ryan loves playing basketball because it is "fun being around players who are all trying to win." Ryan's future goals are to play football in college but remains undecided on what major to pursue or career path to take. Good Luck Ryan!



Front Row: H. Lively, A. Pagley, Z. Herb, V. Sibeto, B. Zeigler, C. Cook, M. Leiterra
Middle Row: Coach LaRocca, C. Butchelle, P. Schry, T. Morosky, C. Hilton, T. Presnar, B. D'Angelo
Back Row: Coach Othites, D. Peters, R. Watkins, M. Othites, A. Demko, R. Lenhart, K. Lenhart, B. McQuiston, Coach McQuiston

A. BOVO & C. CALABRIA
DECEMBER 10, 2020

The basketball season is upon us and the returning players from last year's 19-7 team look to build off of what they started last year. Unfortunately, the Wildcats are losing two of their key starters. Point guard, and thousand-point scorer, Colin McQuiston, and forward Jason Kraner. Returning players are seniors Reis Watkins, Ryan Lenhart, Case Butchelle, and Vince Sibeto. The absence of Kraner and McQuiston afford other players moving up the opportunity to fill the two starting positions to play a big role in this upcoming season. Sophomore Zach Herb, returning from a torn ACL from last season, will need to step up and try to fill a starting position in the first five.

"Going into the season, the kids have been working hard. I think we can be in the mix of things if we keep everyone healthy." said Coach McQuiston.

The entire team is excited to start off the season in their opening tip-off tournament at Neshannock tomorrow evening. However, this game comes with a set of challenges as they are starting off with two of their returning players hurt. Reis Watkins is returning from a high ankle sprain and Case Butchelle is still getting back to form from a broken leg this summer. Both boys hope to be back into game shape by the time it comes to their first section game. The Wildcats are also hoping that the season will not get pushed back due to the virus. They have already seen one cancelation with their scrimmage on December eighth. Also, a season game against Riverside on the fifteenth. Good luck to the Wildcats with their season this year!

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VARSITY BASKETBALL

Freshman Basketball: Cats try to defend title

COLTON FERRUCCI & RYAN FRY

DECEMBER 10, 2020



Front Row: Chris Kale, Jimmy Roe, Gennaro Leitera
Middle Row: Jason Malley, Ben Santangelo, Sam Myers
Back Row: Coach O'Hara, Grason Hooks, Jake Natale

The new squad of ninth grade boys basketball players have some big shoes to fill. The ninth graders that moved up to tenth grade this past year won a tri-county championship and amassed a 12-4 overall record. Coach Luke O'Hara had some of the most hardworking players that he had ever had, and it showed come playoff time. Those players included top scorers Brody McQuiston, Braden DeAngelo, and Kyle Lenhart. Brody is technically in ninth grade, so it would seem that he would be on this year's team, but as a few have done in the past he is up on the varsity team. With no Brody bodying up in the paint, this crop of ninth graders will have many opportunities to develop their game and see enhanced playing time as the freshman squad goes to battle over the next two months. This year's ninth grade Wildcats look promising. They consist of the following players. Chris Kale, Grason Hooks, Jake Natale, Ben Santangelo, Jason Malley, Jimmy Roe, Gennaro Leitera, and Sam Myers. This squad's record last year was 15 and 12 with Jimmy Roe as the leading scorer, but a new year means new challenges so the rest of the Cats' will need to step up in order to win another Tri-County Championship. We asked Coach O'Hara about this year's team and he replied, "The team is looking good. The boys are making the most of each opportunity that we get in the gym." If the boys keep up the good work like Coach O'Hara is saying, they could possibly find their way back to the title game. Good luck to this year's team. Go Cats'



PLAYER PROFILE

Isabella DeVivo

TREVER VALENTI

DECEMBER 10, 2020



This week's second player profile is on junior Izzy DeVivo. Izzy is a member of the girls varsity basketball team and has been playing for many years. She loves to play the game because "it's competitive" and she "loves being with her friends." Izzy's goals for this year are to improve her skills and all-around game to become a better player. She also wants the team to make a run in the playoffs and have a successful season. Isabella looks up to James Connor, the Pittsburgh Steelers running back, for inspiration because of all the adversity he went through with beating cancer and still remained a dominant force on and off the field. Her future plans are to someday attend law school and become a criminal justice lawyer. Good Luck Izzy!

Player Profile: Case Butchelle

JUSTIN STEPHENSON

DECEMBER 10, 2020

Our third player profile this week is senior Case Butchelle. Case has had many career accomplishments throughout the years that he has played sports at Shenango. He started playing basketball two years ago and both years the team has made it to the WPIAL and state playoffs. His best memory during those years was beating Sewickley who was one of the top teams in the entire state.

Case's individual goal is to be able to play full games this season because over the summer he fractured his leg playing pickup basketball. His team goals are to make it to the WPIAL playoffs again and then go compete in the state tournament with his fellow teammates. Case loves playing basketball and enjoys the sport because, "It's something you can always improve on and I grew up playing basketball with my friends. It's fun to compete against them."

One athlete that Case admires is former Memphis star and the youngest NBA MVP ever, Derrick Rose. One of the reasons he admires him is for his strength through adversity. Adversity means difficulties or misfortune and Rose had more than his share of injuries. He says that Derrick Rose was meant to be a star before his injuries, and had that potential career taken away from him. After graduation, Case wants to attend BCCC to get his nursing degree and then finish out his bachelor's degree in nursing at Slippery Rock. His ultimate goal is to get his doctorate in nurse anesthesia and become a nurse anesthetist.

LADY CATS LOOK TO BUILD ON LAST SEASONS SUCCESS



Front Row: M. Iwanejko, M. Bryant, K. Peters, A. DeCarbo, A. Kays
 Middle Row: A. DePaolo, M. Emerick, M. Long, E. Lenhart, Coach Carolyn Peterson
 Back Row: Coach Kevin Zona, E. Fedrizzi, J. Natale, K. Rubin, I. DeVivo, Coach Madison Harden
 Not Pictured: Kelly Cleaver

TINO CAMPOLI, PATRICK CIONNI & TYLER COLICH

SEPTEMBER 25, 2020

With basketball season right around the corner, the varsity girls basketball team is getting ready to tip off this year's campaign with hopes of improving upon last season. Last year, the girls finished with a section record of 7-7 and advanced to the playoffs where they lost in the first round to Ellis Academy. The team graduated one senior, Jordan Smith, and has become extremely young, with no seniors on the current roster. The good thing about having a really young team is that there will be many returning players that are key factors to the team. These girls include junior Kassidy Peters and sophomores Emilee Fedrizzi, Kylee Rubin, Janie Natale, and Ashley DeCarbo. Junior high standout Kelly Cleaver is an incoming freshman who will have to step up and try to make the transition to life at the varsity level.

When asked about the team this year, Coach Zona said, "I have high hopes and I'm optimistic about the upcoming season. It's a committed group of kids who show up ready to work hard, pay attention to detail, and buy into the program. Considering the circumstances, we had a really good summer, a solid pre-season, and will be ready to compete at a high level. I'm excited to see the number of players growing allowing us to have a JV schedule this year as well." It is very beneficial to have a large roster and a JV team so younger girls can get experience and are ready for varsity when they get the opportunity. This depth will also help by pushing the varsity girls to be better on a daily basis. The girls start off the season at the New Castle Tip-Off Tournament this Friday at New Castle High School. They play hosting New Castle in their first contest, so the girls are hoping to start off strong against the larger Hurricanes. Good luck to the Lady Wildcats this season!



Front row: Andy Domenick, Gavin Bruce, Tyler Houk

Middle Row: Jackson Procter, Drew Procter

Back Row: Sam Patton, Coach Chieze, Brayden George

8th Grade Basketball

MADISON IWANEJKO & CONNOR JEFFCOAT
DECEMBER 10, 2020

Last year's eighth grade boys basketball team was 15 and 12 and continued a winning tradition among the junior high program. This type of success is good, but undoubtedly puts pressure on the upcoming seventh grade boys to carry the torch during this upcoming season. The year's eighth grade team has nine players. Those players include Gavin Bruce, Joey Campoli, Tyler Houk, Jackson Procter, Drew Procter, Brayden George, Sam Patton, Andy Domenick and Daniel DePaolo. This same team last season posted a record of 17-8 and was very successful. Brayden George was the leading scorer with a total of 283 points. Joey Campoli made 36 three-point shots in 25 games. Sam Patton had the best free throw percentage at 65% and Andy Domenick was the team's best defender. A year has gone by so each of the boys are bigger, stronger, and hopefully more skilled than last year. Coach Bryan Chieze acknowledged the new challenges staying, "This year will be a battle and we are going to face a lot of challenges and adversity. My guys have put in a lot of work and preparation to get themselves ready for the season and our ultimate goal of winning the eighth-grade championship." We wish you all the best of luck this upcoming season! Go Cats!

JUNIOR HIGH BASKETBALL

7th Graders: Making the jump to the junior high level of competition

RYAN LENHART & TYLER KAMERER
DECEMBER 10, 2020

The seventh-grade basketball team coached by Matt Benson is in for a crazy ride this year. They have been on the grind for a while now and are ready to showcase their skills. They realize now that COVID could shut down the season at any time which means that they are going to have to leave it out there every time that they step onto the court. This season is also going to be the changing point. These boys are no longer in elementary school. They have made the transition to junior high which means this can change the pace of the game and it can also change the intensity of the games.

Coach Benson is excited for this new crop of boys stating, "We have a good group of guys that are working hard every day to take their game to the next level. I'm looking forward to a good, hard-working season, and am excited to see the kids excel and have fun." Coach B and his team will kick off the season on Saturday, December 12th against the Rochester Rams at home. The seventh-grade boys do not start section play until December the 16th. The Wildcats are slated to play in a Christmas tournament that is hosted by Neshannock. Players like Christian Anterock, Treyton Ross, Brody Budai, Gabe Christopher, Phil Laurenza, Brendan Miller, Michael Kessler, Joseph Esposito, Jacob Loughry, Jacob Conner, Isaac Shaffer, and Cameron Malley will need to refine their game each and every practice if they hope to win a seventh-grade championship. Good luck boys and have a fun season!



Front row: Brody Budai, Gabe Christopher, Jacob Connor, Brendan Miller

Middle Row: Michael Kessler, Trey Ross, Jacob Loughry

Back Row: Coach Matt Benson, Phil Laurenza, Christian Anterock, Joseph Esposito

INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

Boys Indoor Track and Field: Different than usual, but different can be good

CHRISTIAN MAXWELL & TYLER MOROSKY
DECEMBER 10, 2020

Winter track is very different from any other sport. It is contested as a team, but has many individual facets involved with it as well. Winter track gives you the opportunity to compete against many schools from farther away and not only local schools here in Lawrence county. Furthermore, there are no classifications and some teams aren't even schools; they could just be a club of some sort. All of the meets are invitationals instead of having a "regular season" like outdoor track and contain anywhere from 30-40 different schools.

Shenango's very own indoor track team, consisting of a boys and girls team, still plans on having a season this winter with their first meet scheduled for January ninth at Youngstown State University. When asked about the outlook for this upcoming season, head coach Chris Vecenie offered, "The season is up in the air right now. Our first

competition is scheduled for the beginning of January and we hope to have a four-meet season that lasts until the middle of February. Adaptations are being made daily, but the kids are working hard and are continuing to get in better and better shape as we make our way to the first meet."

Some of the boy's key graduates from last year include Jason Kraner, Jake Stephenson, Isaac Beachem, Xavier Gump, and Colin McGrath. Returning contributors this year include Adam Bryant, Thomas Presnar, Tyler Morosky, Colton Ferrucci, Brandon Stuck, and DJ Klein. Klein, Ferrucci, Morosky, Stuck, Presnar, and Bryant all made conference championships last season and hope to have repeat performances this time around. With such a large graduating class, newcomers like Hayden Morgan, Aaron Martin, and Tyler Wittmann will have to fill some roles for the team to be successful. We wish the boy's the best of luck this year in hopes of having a season and being successful.



WINTER TRACK AND FIELD

Girls Indoor Track and Field: Lady Wildcats prepare during uncertain times

DALTON PETERS & MORGAN PISULA
DECEMBER 10, 2020

Be careful as you navigate the halls and the stadium at the high school as winter track is once again underway. Indoor track is unlike any other sport playing right now. The team is spread out practice at different locations and different times based on the events in which the girls participate. Competition follows a similar abnormal set up. Instead of going against one team, the girls go against about thirty teams per meet that they attend. Despite the strange set-up the team still performs admirably each season and this year should be no different.

From last season, seniors Keri Ann Lechner and Angelica Klein have both moved on and are competing at the collegiate level. Returning are current seniors Carmen Medvit and Haley Morgan, along with juniors Emma Callahan and Hannah Yeykal. All four girls advanced to conference championships last season with Haley Morgan and Emma Callahan making it to the Indoor State Championship meet.

This is no small task. To make it to state championships, you have to rank in the top 20 of all competitors in the state which is very difficult to do. Despite a strong returning group, many new girls will be asked to build up the team even more this season. Junior hurdler Rhyann Kelly, sprinters Madi Baker and Adison Kays, along with freshman jumpers Elyse Lenhart, Cameryn Yanssens, Aleigha Slagle will all look to make their mark this indoor season. Coach Vecenie is optimistic about the group stating, "We have a nice blend of experience and youth. The older girls are settling nicely into leadership roles while the younger ones come and work hard each and every day." Good luck to the girls this season!