

PIAA readies for winter sports, will start as scheduled

The first day of practices for basketball, wrestling and other winter sports is Nov. 20; the season will start Dec. 11.

By CHRIS HARLAN
Trib Total Media

As fall sports approach the postseason, the PIAA is turning its attention to winter.

Covid-19 guidelines for basketball, wrestling and all other winter sports will be produced soon, PIAA executive director Bob Lombardi said, adding that the PIAA intends to start those seasons next month as scheduled.

The PIAA board met online Wednesday.

"As we stand today on Oct. 7, we anticipate starting the winter sport season on time," Lombardi said.

The first winter practices are Nov. 20 with first competitions Dec. 11.

"We have a long way to go to get there," Lombardi added. The first step in the process

is releasing sport-specific recommendations for preventing coronavirus spread. The PIAA released corresponding guidelines for fall sports in July that provided game-day advice on social distancing, health screenings, sanitation and other topics.

Lombardi said the approval process would start in the next week when the steering committees meet. The PIAA board reconvenes Oct. 28, but it's not known whether the winter guidelines will be finalized by then.

"I can't give you a timeline today because we're in the process of scheduling those meetings," Lombardi said.

The coaches' association, the officials committee and the PIAA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee also must review the guidelines before they're ready for PIAA board approval, he said.

"We may not have them done in the next three weeks, but we're going to make our best efforts to get them around because there are a number

of groups we've shared them with (in the past)," Lombardi said. "Last time we shared them with the governor's office, the Department of Education and the Department of Health, even though they wanted to disavow their involvement."

The PIAA included the departments of education and health on the cover of its Return to Competition Guidelines for fall sports, but PennLive reported in August that Wolf's staff wanted the PIAA to issue a clarification saying they did not approve them.

Lombardi said the PIAA intends to start winter sports on time but will react to whatever circumstances arise. The PIAA took a similar approach to the fall and ultimately delayed the start of those seasons two weeks.

"We will remain flexible on what comes our way," Lombardi said. "We all need to be able to adapt. We all need to be able to be flexible. And we all need to be patient."



File photo

Practices for basketball season will begin Nov. 20 as scheduled for the PIAA.

PIAA adjusts XC qualifiers

The PIAA made changes to its fall postseason plans Wednesday including a move that lets more WPIAL

runners into the state cross country championships.

Also, the playoff brackets for team sports were altered to remove the Pittsburgh City League, which opted out, and add District 12, af-

ter the Philadelphia Catholic League decided to take part in fall sports. District 11, which includes the Allentown area, also opted out of the state playoffs.

The PIAA board met online Wednesday.

The board previously approved a cross country format that let every district send one team and five individuals to the state meet in each classification, boys and girls. The board amended that plan Wednesday and adopted a formula that's more proportionate to the number of cross country teams in each district.

The move benefits the WPIAL.

Now, along with one team, 10 WPIAL runners instead of five will qualify for the state meet in both Class 3A boys and girls. The WPIAL will send seven boys and seven girls runners in both Class 2A and A.

The state cross country championships are Nov. 7.

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER ROUNDUP

McIntyre, Yocolano combine for 6 goals in Charleroi's win

The Cougars can win the section by beating Mt. Pleasant.

By the Mon Valley Independent

Eben McIntyre scored four goals and Dom Yocolano had a pair as the Charleroi boys soccer team held off a furious Southmoreland comeback in the second half to leave Alverton with a 6-4 win in Section 3-2A play.

The Cougars (12-0, 10-0) can clinch another section title with a win Saturday over Mt. Pleasant.

McIntyre and Yocolano each scored twice in the first half as the Cougars led 4-2 at the break.

Brendan Moore had a pair of goals for the Scotties (4-7, 4-5) while Brandon Mehall and Andrew Rodriguez added second-half tallies.

Southmoreland pulled to within a goal at 5-4 before McIntyre scored with less than four minutes remaining.

Charleroi kicks off against Mt. Pleasant at noon Saturday.

Thomas Jefferson 5, Albert Gallatin 0

The Jaguars rolled over the visiting Colonials in a Section 3-3A contest.

Jack Sella had two goals for TJ (9-3, 7-3), while teammates Luke Giger, Jordan Chiprich and Trystan Alava each had one.

The Jaguars host Ringgold Monday.

Elizabeth Forward 1, Avonworth 1

The Warriors finished with a tie against Avonworth in Section 1-2A action.

EF (7-2-1, 7-1-1) took a 1-0 lead into halftime on a goal from Andrew Smith. Rob Hrabosky picked up the assist on the lone tally.

Avonworth (3-5-2, 3-5-2) scored on a penalty kick with 27 seconds left in regulation to send the game into overtime.



File photo

Dom Yocolano scored twice as Charleroi won at Southmoreland.

Austin Onofrey finished with four saves for the Warriors. EF hosts Keystone Oaks Saturday.

Seton LaSalle 4, Bentworth 0

The Rebels scored four goals in the second half to topple Bentworth in Section 4-A play.

Dan Myers had a pair for Seton LaSalle (8-1, 8-0), while TJ Cherry and Reno Butelli also found the back of the net.

Bentworth (5-7, 5-6) hosts Washington Monday.

Beth-Center 2, Monessen 0

The Greyhounds (2-7, 2-7) were shut out by Beth-Center (4-4, 4-4) in Section 4-A action. No other game information was reported.

Washington 9, California 0

With a roster decimated by injuries, the Trojans fell in a nonsection contest to Washington at Trojans

Stadium.

No other game information was provided.

California (0-11) is at Seton LaSalle Saturday at 11 a.m.

Keystone Oaks 8, South Allegheny 1

The Golden Eagles (7-2, 7-2) extended their winning streak to three games with a triumph over the Gladiators (0-12, 0-10) in Section 1-2A play. No other game information was reported.

McKeesport 1, East Allegheny 0

The Tigers (1-2-1) earned their first win of the season in a nonsection matchup against East Allegheny (3-8). No other game information was reported.

Girls Bentworth 3, Charleroi 2 (2OT)

Mallory Schreiber scored the game-winning goal to lead Bentworth to a double overtime victory over Charleroi in Section 2-A play.

Reagan Schreiber also added a pair of goals for the Bearcats (9-3, 7-3), who trailed 2-1 at halftime.

"I'm very proud of the girls. We knew it was going to be a tough one, playing back to back days and three games in four days," Bentworth head coach Tyler Hamstra said. "Charleroi played well and they have players who can hurt you. We had a breakdown or two that led us to being in the hole at half. We really controlled the second half but just couldn't finish.

"Charleroi is an underrated team and at some point they are going to knock off someone. I'm just glad we got through them twice."

Hamstra said he felt confident in his team's ability to capture the win, especially after Reagan Schreiber

netted her second goal of the night.

"We are a very fit team with kids who all look like distance runners," Hamstra said. "Overtime experiences are great lessons. I don't love that it took overtime to win it, but I also know it galvanizes young teams, especially when facing adversity."

Despite the loss, Charleroi head coach Traci Fleming was elated by her team's performance. The Cougars (3-8, 3-6) were again led by Bella Carroto, who scored two goals. Zoe Duhon and Boots DeUnger each had assists.

Charleroi's defense played a big role in the close game, too.

"My defense was amazing," Fleming said. "It was a solid team performance and Taylor Ramsdell stepped up and was the leader running our defense."

Addison Conrad made some big saves to keep the game close and finished with eight.

"Both teams played well and nobody deserved to lose that game," Fleming said. "It was our most solid performance. We just couldn't get one more to fall or get a bounce our way. Then in the overtimes, we were just exhausted. My girls left it all on the field tonight."

Bentworth resumes play at home against Chartiers-Houston Tuesday. Charleroi hosts Steel Valley Saturday.

Volleyball Thomas Jefferson 3, Belle Vernon 0

The Jaguars rolled over the Leopards in a section match Thursday. Game scores were 25-9, 25-7 and 25-22.

Gianna Anderson had 10 digs for Belle Vernon (1-7).

No stats were reported by Thomas Jefferson.

Frazier 3, Beth-Center 0

The Commodores rolled to a

sweep of Beth-Center in Section 3-2A play. Frazier claimed set wins of 25-17, 25-20 and 25-15.

Jensyn Hartman had 25 kills and 10 service points, while Alexis Lovis contributed with 27 assists. Kaelyn Shaporka added 14 kills and three blocks. Jordin Brundage led the team with 24 digs and Makenna Stefancik had 10. Madde Stefancik chipped in with 10 service points.

Big South Invitational

The Ringgold boys cross-country team blew by the competition to win the Big South Invitational at Mingo Creek Park.

The Rams claimed the top three spots overall, led by freshman Ryan Pajak's 16:05 finish. His brother, Lucas Pajak, was right behind him at 16:15 and Ben Daerr finished third at 16:59.

Ryan Pajak officially broke the school record set in 1992 by Joe Schreiber.

Lorenzo Zeni (fifth, 17:20), Nick Whaley (eighth, 17:51) and David Molisee (ninth, 18:29) brought home top 10 finishes for the Rams.

Ringgold was first in the boys standings with 19 points. Chartiers Valley was a distant second with 69 points.

As a team, the Ringgold girls finished second overall behind Chartiers Valley, who had the overall winner in Kate Pipilo and three others in the top 10.

Ringgold finished with 41 points, led by Charlee Leach's fourth-place overall finish. Leach crossed the finish line in 21:26, less than 15 seconds behind Elizabeth Forward's Marissa Manko (21:11).

Andrea Kassa (21:47) and Annie Daerr (21:51) finished in the top 10 for the Rams.

EF was third in the team standings with 61 points.

All finishers in the top 10 of the boys and girls races received all-conference accolades.

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