

Spartan Athletes with One Common Goal: Giving Their All

The Spartans' Fall 2017 Athletic Season not only produced a glittering highlight reel of team and individual accomplishments, it set the bar even higher for this season. Our student athletes are taking to fields, courts, tracks, and courses this fall with eyes on excellence, but with one common goal in mind: giving their all.

It can be difficult to keep focus once so much success has been achieved, but that is precisely what the soccer program looks to do as an encore to their historic 2017 season. Both boys and girls teams tore through the WPIAL playoffs, advancing to the finals under the bright lights of Pittsburgh's Highmark Stadium. While the girls fell just short in a hard-fought 1-0 match, the boys secured their first ever WPIAL championship and continued their run all the way to the statewide PIAA semifinal.

"It's unbelievable what our soccer teams accomplished last season, and we can't wait to see what they have in store this year," said Athletic Director Lou Cerro. The boys team enters the season ranked second while the girls check in at number five in the Tribune Review's preseason previews. Both groups, returning a number of their star players, aim to build on their successes to take the next step.

On Friday nights, the varsity football team maintains similarly lofty ambitions on the heels a similarly deep post-season run. The Spartans nearly captured their sixth WPIAL title in 2017, and despite losing 22 graduating seniors in the off-season, the goal remains the same.

Though only a handful of starters from last season remain, Cerro – who also serves as head football coach – is encouraged by the deep level of natural talent at skill positions, as well as in the trenches. "The youngest team I've ever coached in my whole career," said Cerro. "There's a lot more teaching, a lot more individual work to make sure everybody knows what they're doing." He added that he's looking forward to seeing underclassmen develop and upperclassmen step into leadership roles, saying, "the sky's the limit with this team."

The girls volleyball team also hopes to build on a banner season in which it appeared in both the WPIAL final and PIAA semifinal. Always a force in their section, the Spartans enter the season ranked fifth by the Post-Gazette and sixth in the Coaches Poll and look to contend for the program's first WPIAL title since 1973. "Last year produced more than just great results, it gave us great experience," said coach Mike Marchionda. "We got close, but we're only just beginning."

Girls tennis took to the court on August 24th for their home opener against the always formidable Upper St. Clair Panthers. We can expect some tremendous forehands, volleys, and teamwork at Clever Park this season. September 15th marks another exciting Montour Invitational for both boys and girls cross country. Our runners will once again demonstrate the skill, fitness, and commitment necessary for excellence. The PGA and LPGA seasons may be coming to a close, but don't fret golf fans, as Chartiers Country Club will soon play host to our tremendous Spartan golfers.

For more information on the Montour Athletics, including complete schedules, rosters, and updates throughout the season, visit www.montourathletics.org and make sure to follow @MontourSD.