

Apollo-Ridge

Coach: Laura Daub (2nd year)

Returning Starters:

6-0 senior setter Madi Marks
5-7 sophomore middle hitter Brinley Toland
5-7 senior middle hitter Emily Bonelli
5-9 senior right hitter Renee Tomiczek
5-4 junior backrow specialist Emma Frain
5-0 sophomore libero Isabel Gerheim

Other players that will see Varsity Time:

5-10 sophomore middle hitter Anna Sodowsky
5-2 freshman backrow specialist Marly Koleno
5-5 senior outside hitter Morgan Gamble
5-9 junior outside hitter Alani Williams

Season Outlook:

This season will be brand new for us. We are going into it with optimism. We not only have a bigger interest, number wise, but we are now playing new teams in a new section!

Section Favorite:

Honestly, we do not know yet since we are new to the section.

Young Players to Watch:

There was a freshman from Burrell that was a fantastic athlete. I believe she will definitely make an impact for all the years that she plays.

Beaver County Christian

Coach: Christen Adels (18th year)

Returning Starters:

5-6 senior outside hitter Bria McChesney
5-8 senior outside hitter Ella Metheny
5-4 senior outside hitter Maya Opp
5-6 junior setter Lizzie McCaslin
5-4 junior libero Olivia DeSarbo

Season Outlook:

We have a new look this year as our top two hitters graduated, and we will be playing all of our matches away as we do not have a home gym. We should be strong in serve and serve reception, however we lack height, so we'll need to focus on developing our attack and blocking. We should be competitive for the section title, but we will need to have consistent play and limit our unforced errors.

Section Favorite:

With Shenango's realignment to Class 2AA, BCCS, South Side Beaver and Wester Beaver are probably the contenders for the section title.

WPIAL Favorite:

Bishop Canevin is the favorite until someone is able to unseat them.

Bishop Canevin

Coach: Kevin Walters (14th year at Canevin, 21st overall)

Returning Starters:

5-9 senior outside hitter Gillian Golupski
5-10 senior middle/right hitter Rutanya Taylor
5-10 junior middle hitter Abbie Maziarz
5-9 junior middle hitter Olivia Thomas

Season Outlook:

My team is young but athletic looking to make the playoffs

Section Favorite: O.L. Sacred Heart

WPIAL Favorite: Not sure since I didn't get to see any teams this summer.

California

Coach: Rene Pascoe (6th year)

Returning Starters:

5-8 senior middle hitter Camari Walden
5-7 senior outside hitter Elaina Nicholson
5-8 senior middle hitter Mylaina Pendo
5-4 junior libero/outside hitter Tayla Pascoe
5-4 junior defense specialist Jordyn Cruse

Season Outlook:

I feel our team has a chance to make the playoffs again this year.

Section Favorite:

We have Fort Cherry new to our section this year. I think they are going to be the team to beat in the section.

WPIAL Favorite: Bishop Canevin

Cornell

Coach: Alexis Hamm (1st year)

Probable Starters:

5-4 sophomore Hannah Hoffman
5-2 senior Mackenzie Hoffman
5-2 junior Jada Jenkins
5-1 junior Angel Matuke
5-1 sophomore Mal McShane Langston
5-7 sophomore Heidi Stephenson

Season Outlook:

With a young and inexperienced team, we have a lot of room to grow. We have figured out a strong line up that will help us be successful this season.

Section Favorite: Bishop Canevin

WPIAL Favorite: Bishop canevin

Eden Christian

Coach: Joyce Brown (1st year at Eden, 7th overall)

Returning Starters:

5-7 senior hitter Alexa Puckett
6-0 junior hitter Elena Arnold
5-5 junior ds Julia Balla
5-7 junior setter Maura Shernisky (Vincentian)
5-10 junior hitter Francesca Battaglia (Vincentian)

Season Outlook:

This team will be very different from last years team. There were a few graduating seniors, and Eden just missed playoffs last year, but what makes this year special is all the new people joining our existing team. We have two starters from playoff team Vincentian and two new transfers from Georgia. This mix has added a lot of versatility and we are excited to see what they are capable of. This wont be your traditional Eden experience.

Section Favorite:

Bishop Canevin is always hard to ignore. They have a great program and are always very competitive. OLSH is also one to watch since they are just returning from AA. But dont count us out.

WPIAL Favorite:

Again I would say Bishop Canevin and Greensburg C.C. (I will miss playing them in section)

Young Players to Watch:

I am only aware of our girls this year. We have a heavy junior team with many very talented players.

Fort Cherry

Coach: Mackenzie Greene (2nd year at Fort Cherry, 4th overall)

Returning Starters:

5-6 senior outside hitter Macey Roble
5-8 senior middle hitter Reagan Carter
5-0 senior libero Ellie Staley

Season Outlook:

Have a pretty strong team. lot play junior olympic ball during time off. Actually have a pretty good season. I think we will be a strong competitive team. Now a scrappy team. smarter team. Better defensive team.

Section Favorite:

We are in a new section, but hope to compete for the section title.

Geibel

Coach: Becky Albright (1st season)

Returning Starters:

5-4 senior middle hitter Kennedi Stockey
5-4 senior outside hitter Taylor Ramsey
5-5 junior setter/outside hitter Makenzie Garred
5-5 sophomore middle hitter Maia Stevenson

Season Outlook:

This will be a rebuilding year for the volleyball program at Geibel. Each of the returning players have stepped up as leaders in their own way and are committed to being competitive and having a successful season. Our new player are just as dedicated and have accepted every challenge thrown their way. Overall, the team has bonded well. They are all looking forward to a fun season!

Greensburg C.C.

Coach: Courtney Stynchula (3rd year as head coach, 5th year with program)

Returning Starters:

Senior setter Ava Bailey
Senior libero Michelle Binder
Senior middle Makenzie Kallock
Junior outside Isabella Guerrieri
Junior outside Rebecca Hess
Junior middle Grace Petnuch
Junior middle/outside Julia Kratzenberg

Season Outlook:

We lost only three seniors from a team that went undefeated in our section. Our goal is to win another section title.

Section Favorite: Greensburg C.C.

Leechburg

Coach: Eve Hebrank (5th year)

Returning Starters:

5-5 senior setter McKenna Pierce
5-3 senior libero Skylyn Raypush

Season Outlook:

We graduated seven seniors last year so the team is definitely in a rebuilding year, but I've seen a lot of new leadership from our returning players. They are hungry and just glad to be in the gym preparing during this time we're in. Our goal is to stay competitive while strategizing a little differently than we've been able to in the past.

Section Favorite: Greensburg Central Catholic

WPIAL Favorite: Bishop Canevin

Jefferson-Morgan

Coach: Stephanie Woodruff (4th year at Jefferson-Morgan, 19th overall)

Returning Starters:

5-4 senior libero/outside hitter Abby Ankrom
5-8 senior middle hitter Savannah Kramer
6-0 junior middle hitter Anna Uveges
5-8 junior outside hitter Madison Wright

Section Favorite: Fort Cherry

WPIAL Favorite: Bishop Canevin or Fort Cherry

Mapletown

Coach: Christy Menear (6th year)

Returning Starters:

senior middle hitter Sadie McCann
junior setter Macee Cree
junior defensive specialist Makenzie Reda
junior middle hitter Taylor Dusenberry
sophomore hitter Ella Menear
sophomore libero Riley Pekar
sophomore hitter Krista Wilson

Section Favorite:

Our section is always very competitive. The teams are well coached with developed players.

Northgate

Coach: Max Schaar (1st year)

Returning starters:

setter/right hitter Bella Keenan
middle hitter Aubrey Watson
setter/right hitter Jordan Thomas
outside hitter Mel Reese
outside hitter Izzy Uccillini
middle hitter Vegas Szakelyhidi

Season Outlook:

We are looking at making a splash this season. Our girls have never been more prepared or more capable. I'm very excited for our first game on Monday.

St. Joseph

Coach: Dennis Jones (6th year)

Returning Starters:

5-7 junior outside hitter Stella Swanson

Season Outlook:

I lost eight seniors from last year's team. While we have some good young talent it will take a while for the group to gel. With no tournaments we will probably experience growing pains early on in the season.

Section Favorite: Greensburg Central Catholic

WPIAL Favorite: Not sure who the favorite will be this year due to the virus.

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

Coach: Mike McDonald (34th season)

Returning Starters:

5-5 senior setter Grace Bradley
5-2 senior libero Ally Buerk
5-5 junior outside hitter Elle Burke
5-10 senior outside hitter Maddy Chlystek
5-7 junior setter Kaleigh Costantino

Season Outlook:

Given the down season that OLSH suffered last year, there has been a re-emphasis on skill development, positive team climate, and competitive atmosphere during the workouts and practices this season. A few people have been moved to new positions, and we are continuing to challenge other players to compete so that everyone will be pushed by someone else for a spot in the line up. So far the effort by the girls has been pretty good and there seems to be some advancement in the consistency of the skills needed to play well. We are a continual work in progress and we grade ourselves everyday to see if we maintained the standard or fell below it. And the goal is to improve some part of our game individually and as a group everyday. Time will tell if this strategy will add up to wins for this season's team.

Section Favorite: Bishop Canevin.

WPIAL Favorite:

Bishop Canevin. There can't really be anyone else until they lose.

Riverview

Coach: Samantha Taylor (2nd year)

Returning Starters:

5-4 senior outside/right hitter Katie Zatawski
5-5 senior outside hitter/libero Lizza Novikova
5-8 senior middle hitter Lauren Dugan
5-5 senior outside/right hitter Alexis Sykes

Season Outlook:

This season we will have a few younger starters. The team has lost their four year starting setter. This year upcoming setters are fighting for their positions. We multiple strong hitters who are all working hard to earn and keep their starting positions.

Rochester

Coach: Emily Heasley (2nd year)

Returning Starters:

senior outside hitter Kallista Seybert
senior middle hitter Alysha Martin
senior libero Mya Norman

Season Outlook:

We have a strong group of seniors and some up and coming underclass men. They have really improved their hitting going into the season. Most importantly they work together as a team. They have a lot of love for the game and are eager to get the season started!

WPIAL Favorite: Bishop Canavan

Springdale

Coach: Cindy Kurutz (6th year)

Returning Starters:

5-6 outside hitter Kylie DiLeo
5-9 setter Julie Hitlan

Season Outlook:

Usual low numbers, only 14 girls for varsity and junior varsity.

Section Favorite: Greensburg C.C.

South Side Beaver

Coach: Brian O'Keefe (1st year as a head coach, been with the program since 2013)

Returning Starters:

senior outside hitter Lilly Shychuck
senior libero Madison Weaver
senior defensive specialist Jaelyn Swogger
junior setter Grace Woodling
junior middle hitter Josie Patosky

Season Outlook:

We had only two seniors last year, so we had underclassmen playing key positions and gaining valuable experience. We'll continue to rely heavily on senior outside hitter Lilly Shychuck for our offense. Junior setter Grace Woodling started for us as a sophomore last year, so it's good to have experience at that position. Seniors Madison Weaver, Jaelyn Swogger, and Chelsea Weber will handle a lot of the passing and digging, and juniors Josie Patosky and Jacy Jarrup will patrol the net. I expect senior Cameron Brodmerkel and sophomores Brianna Stewart and Hannah Chiocca to contribute a lot on offense.

Section Favorite:

Since perennial powerhouse Shenango moved up to AA this year, I think Beaver County Christian is the team to watch in our section.

WPIAL Favorite:

I think Bishop Canevin is the obvious favorite (again).

Trinity Christian

Coach: Gene Larson (8th year)

Returning Starters:

5-8 Senior Middle Hitter Haley Hart
5-7 Senior Setter Annika Axelson
5-6 Senior Outside Hitter Destyni Valenti
5-5 Senior Setter/Opposite Paige Walker
5-8 Sophomore Outside Hitter Sierra McCabe

Season Outlook:

Mix of experience and youth combined with lack of offseason and scrimmage opportunities will make it a rough start. Should still challenge for a playoff spot.

Section Favorite:

Has to be Greensburg C.C.

WPIAL Favorite:

Bishop Canevin or Eden Christian.

Union

Coach: Nicole Barker (5th year)

Returning Starters:

5-4 senior setter Hannah Bowen
5-3 junior outside hitter Raquel Zarlingo
5-8 junior middle hitter Amanda Book
5-8 junior outside hitter Aliha Toy

Season Outlook:

We expect this to be our best year yet. We have a lot of talent, including young talent. It's the deepest bench I've ever had. We are very excited to get started. Our goal is to win the section title.

Section Favorite:

Based on past playoff appearances, BCC is a good contender.

WPIAL Favorite: Bishop Canevin.

Young Players to Watch:

We have a lot of young players, including sophomores Elise Booker, a middle hitter, and Ella Casalanda, a setter.

Western Beaver

Coach: Kit Walter (2nd year)

Returning Starters:

5-1 senior Jocelyn Herda
5-5 senior right hitter Katie Mazzei
5-7 senior hitter Miya Wingard
5-8 junior outside hitter Vanessa Bailey
5-10 sophomore middle hitter Delaney Bernard
6-0 sophomore middle hitter Bella Chaffee

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West Greene

Coach: Aimee Gillispie (1st year)

Returning Players:

5-8 sophomore middle hitter MacKenzie Wise
5-6 junior defensive specialist Anna Durbin
5-7 senior middle hitter Elizabeth Brudnock
5-8 senior defensive specialist Jenna Rush
5-4 junior defensive specialist Olivia Kiger
5-6 senior right hitter Jersey Wise
5-3 junior defensive specialist Jordan Karvan
5-4 junior setter BreAnn Jackson
5-3 sophomore setter Taylor Karvan
5-6 sophomore outside hitter London Whipkey
5-10 sophomore outside hitter Sophia Plock
5-8 senior defensive specialist Kyra Burns
5-6 senior defensive specialist Alison Thomas
5-4 sophomore setter Emily Simms

Season Outlook:

I believe that our team is going to be a force to be reckoned with in this upcoming season. These girls have been constantly improving their skills and teamwork. I have players that are making some big strides while others have really come into their position on the team. Although our team does have some intense competition this season, I think other teams will realize that this is not the same West Greene Volleyball team that they are used to.

Section Favorite:

I'm not sure since this is my first year.