

Avonworth

Coach: John Skarupa (1st at Avonworth, 2nd overall)

Returning Starters:

5-8 Junior Outside Hitter Maggie Colenbrander
5-8 Senior Outside Hitter/Right Side Harris Robinson
5-4 Junior Setter Abbi Holjes
5-10 Senior Middle Blocker Erin Farrah
5-3 Senior Libero Sarah Neal
5-7 Senior Outside Hitter Alexia Heinold
5-10 Senior Middle Blocker/Right Side Sasha Kosko

Season Outlook:

We are a young team but return a good portion of starters including five seniors that will look to make their final impact on the Program. We are a middle strong team with Erin Farrah and Sasha Kosko who are returning starters but we have a young sophomore Sophie Culley who is pushing to make an impact. We have great depth at the outside position with seniors Alexia Heinold and Harris Robinson and Junior Maggie Colenbrander all of which are very versatile players for us and can play any pin position. We also have a hungry freshman Nora Kate Gavin who has been fun to watch during the off season as she looks to crack the lineup. We return a great young starting setter with Junior Abbi Holjes who is looking to continue to quarterback this team for us with a valuable year of experience last year at the varsity level. We are led in the back row by returning Libero Sarah Neal who will look to provide some senior leadership in controlling our game by her passing and defense. Other players to note are Maggie Goetz and Sam Blöse both of which are a rare utility player who can be inserted into the lineup at many different positions and will be key to have two players with that flexibility in this uncertainty of a season. This team had a great run finishing 3rd in the WPIAL by losing in 5 close sets to the WPIAL Champion Freeport (now AAA) and made it to the 2nd Round of the State Playoffs, we lost some key contributors but we have the talent and a hungry group of girls who want to make it back to where we were last year and continue the journey deeper into the playoffs.

Section Favorite: North Catholic

WPIAL Favorite: North Catholic

Burgettstown

Coach: James Nai (3rd year)

Returning Starters:

5-8 senior outside hitter Geena Demario
5-4 senior libero Avery Havelka
5-7 junior outside hitter Aubry Krivak
5-8 junior middle hitter Madison Kozares

Season Outlook:

There's a good opportunity to get to double digit wins and return to the playoffs

Section Favorite: Serra Catholic

WPIAL Favorite: North Catholic

Brentwood

Coach: Kayla Hubsch (6th year)

Returning Starters:

5-3 senior defensive specialist Abbey Czerwien
5-2 senior setter Taylor Davis
5-9 senior hitter Sidney Wuenschell
5-7 junior middle hitter Maura Daly
5-3 sophomore defensive specialist Mackenzie Castiglione
5-9 sophomore hitter Olivia Trent

Season Outlook:

We have a number of returning starters and players who had alot of playing time last year at a young age. We are going to use that experience to our advantage this year. We have a solid team with multiple athletes able to play each position. We have strong hitters and quick defensive specialists this season who can play all positions on the court. We are looking to be competitive in 2A this year after playing in 1A for as long as I can remember.

Section Favorite:

We are new to Class 2A but from what I see North Catholic is a favorite.

WPIAL Favorites:

North Allegheny, Canon-McMillan, North Catholic and Bishop Canevin.

Young Players to Watch:

Olivia Trent, a Brentwood sophomore hitter who can play all positions. Played a middle hitter as a freshman but can also make a big impact as an outside hitter.

Brownsville

Coach: Cameron Coffey (4th year)

Returning Starters:

5-9 Junior Middle Hitter Emma Seto
5-7 Sophomore Outside Hitter Ciara Williams
5-7 Sophomore Outside Hitter Kami Franks
5-6 Sophomore Setter Skye Durst

Season Outlook:

We are a young team with a lot of chemistry that looks to build this season in hopes of a playoff berth this year to build upon next year as well since we lose no starters this season.

Section Favorite:

Frazier is always good and Carmichaels will probably be tough as well.

WPIAL Favorite:

Can't say I know of a favorite, but North Catholic is always good.

Carmichaels

Coach: Julianne Speeney (2nd year)

Returning Starters:

5-6 senior setter Alexandra McGee
5-10 senior middle hitter Emma Hyatt
5-8 senior outside hitter Nicole Ludrosky
5-2 senior defensive specialist/setter Emma Holaren
5-5 senior defensive specialist/setter Sydney Kuis
5-2 senior defensive specialist Alizah Roberts
5-4 junior outside hitter Aliyah Thomas
5-11 sophomore middle hitter Beth Cree

Season Outlook:

With the successes of the past few seasons, we are looking to evolve and elevate our game as we enter into a brand new class and section. With that being said, we are focused on being adaptable and persistent towards being a contender for the section title, and making another strong playoff run to the WPIALs.

Section Favorite:

Everyone is tough in our section. It's never an easy night.

Carlynton

Coach: Amber Seibel (4th year)

Returning Starters:

5-6 senior outside hitter Emmaline Stevens
5-5 senior outside hitter Brook Maxwell
5-8 senior middle hitter Brenna Ault
5-8 senior setter Natali Lutsiv
5-5 senior defensive specialist Maddie Ciabattoni
5-4 junior defensive specialist Mia Higbee
5-7 junior middle hitter Jamie Williams
5-4 sophomore setter Tanner Kephart
5-6 freshman defensive specialist Joann Hussain

Season Outlook:

We have quite a few experienced varsity players this year, who are augmented by a few new varsity players. Two of our seniors have been playing varsity since they were freshman. We will be running a rather aggressive 6-2 offense. Many of our players are going to see all six rotations. We have been working on making all of our players versatile attackers from any position.

Section Favorite:

Each year certain schools are expected to produce competitive teams, but I do not pay too much attention to this. Players who work hard enough can upset the best of teams. We have given a fair amount of "big" named schools a run for their money on the court. I am an advocate for the underdog!

Young Players to Watch:

All of these kiddos are young. Our own Joann Hussain does not necessarily have a starting position on the court, but she is a freshman who will definitely see her fair share of court time. She has a lot to offer this team, both as an athlete and as a supportive motivator.

Chartiers-Houston

Coach: Carrie Hansberry (2nd year)

Returning Starters:

5-5 senior setter Joelle Beaumariage
5-8 senior outside hitter Tatum Clayton
5-7 junior setter Cate Hansberry
5-11 sophomore outside hitter Jess Scott

Season Outlook:

This season we been placed in a new section. We are excited to play teams in our area.

Section Favorite:

Serra Catholic is a favorite for our section.

Young Players to Watch:

An Impact player to watch is our outside hitter Jess Scott. She started as a freshman for us. The experience she gained will help her excell this season. Also, Shannon Gorny South Park outside hitter

Deer Lakes

Coach: Victor Morais: (1st year at Deer Lakes, 4th overall)

Returning Starters:

5-7 outside hitter Cameron Simurda
5-4 defensive specialist/libero Cristiana Saldamarco

Season Outlook:

This is a young team since we lost eight seniors last season and only two players that played for varsity are returning, but we have been working hard to surprise the opponents.

Section Favorite:

I am not familiar with the players from other schools, however we have good young talent at Deer Lakes that could surprise everyone.

WPIAL Favorite:

I am new to Class 2A, but if I am not mistaken the favorite team to take the WPIAL would be North Catholic, the defending state champions.

Derry

Coach: Brock Smith (23rd year)

Returning Starters:

5-3 junior libero Sydney Williams

5-4 senior defensive specialist Alanna Meloy

Season Outlook:

We are young and definitely lack a ton of varsity experience. That being said, I believe that the players who are filling those positions have worked extremely well in light of the current situation. There is quality competition among many players vying to start on the court. That competition is going to pay dividends as the season moves forward. I believe that with continued effort and attention to improvement, we could be very competitive.

Section Favorite:

I am not really entirely sure. With section re-alignment we have new teams. Deer Lakes, East Allegheny, Valley and ourselves remain from the previous section. New additions of Ligonier Valley, Steel Valley, and South Allegheny remain unknown for now.

Ellwood City

Coach: Jenna Ricciuti (4th year)

Returning Starters:

5-11 senior middle hitter Danielle McCowin

5-8 senior outside hitter Breanna Reisinger

5-7 senior outside hitter Maria Ioanilli

5-8 junior setter Angelina Nardone

6-0 junior middle hitter Angelina Ricciuti

5-5 junior defensive specialist Jenna Vetica

6-0 sophomore outside hitter Morgan Hooker

Season Outlook:

Our 3 seniors are strong leaders, mentally and physically. They push the underclassmen to be aggressive and have good energy. We are excited and hopeful to play this season!

Section Favorite:

There have been many changes in our section this year. I believe we would be favorite this season.

WPIAL Favorite: North Catholic

Young Players to Watch:

We have a strong sophomore outside hitter, Morgan Hooker, that will play a big part in our lineup this season.

Frazier

Coach: Mandy Hartman (23rd year)

Returning Starters:

5-11 senior outside hitter Jane Smith

5-10 senior middle blocker Kaelyn Shaporka

5-6 senior setter Alexis Lovis

5-9 sophomore setter/outside hitter Jensyn Hartman

5-4 senior defensive specialist Jordin Brundege

Season Outlook:

With the loss of six starting seniors, this year we will look a little different. I am pleased with the progress we have had to this point, and I expect my athletic group to continue to get better as the season progresses.

Section Favorite:

There are a few of us that have similar teams so I think that there could be some battles within our section this year.

WPIAL Favorite:

I think Serra Catholic and North Catholic will once again put great teams with talented players on the floor.

Freedom

Coach: George M. Bellinger, Jr. (2nd year at Freedom, 27 years as a girls coach)

Returning Starters:

6-0 senior middle hitter Emily Ostrowski

5-3 senior setter Madison Lewis

5-7 senior right hitter Erin Meyer

5-4 senior outside hitter Alexis Surrenda

5-10 junior right hitter Olivia Evans

5-3 junior libero Audrey Lawrence

5-2 junior setter Emily Frashure

5-5 junior outside hitter Sara Mengel

5-11 sophomore middle hitter Journey Welling

Season Outlook:

With this being our second year with the program and moving into a new section, we're expecting to make significant strides to improve. Freedom has some very talented players returning this year and only graduated one starter last season. The girls goal is to make a run at the section championship and go deep into the playoffs.

Section Favorite:

I'd have to say that Ellwood City, Laurel, Nashanock, & Shenango would have to be the front runners.

WPIAL Favorite:

The favorite this year in AA would have to be North Catholic and Fraizer.

Keystone Oaks

Coach: Mike O'Leary (4th year)

Returning Starters:

5-7 senior outside hitter Cassidy Angle
5-8 senior middle hitter Emma Serakowski
5-7 senior outside hitter Helena Piccolino
5-5 senior defensive specialist Emma Anderson
5-7 junior right hitter Alana Harris

Season Outlook:

We have a lot of experience on this year's team. Hoping to lean on the senior leadership.

Section Favorite:

With new sections it's always tough and we have a tough section this year. North Catholic and Avonworth are going to be tough.

WPIAL Favorite:

It's a new year but I'd say North Catholic.

Laurel

Coach: Jim Aggas (1st year)

Returning Starters:

5-6 senior outside hitter Lily Pancher
5-7 junior defensive specialist Mackenzie Miles
5-5 junior middle hitter Jaeleigh Henderson
5-11 sophomore middle hitter Reese Bintrim
5-9 sophomore outside hitter Regan Atkins
5-7 sophomore opposite hitter Johnna Hill

Season Outlook:

We are a young hard working group who will come to play every night.

Section Favorite:

Being new, I have a lot to learn about our section. At first glance, I would have to say, Shenango, Ellwood City and Neshannock, who have long standing successful programs, would be the favorites.

WPIAL Favorite: North Catholic

New Brighton

Coach: Wes Remley (2nd year)

Returning Starters:

5-6 senior outside hitter Bethany Krut
5-6 senior outside hitter Jessi Walton
5-2 senior defensive specialist Stephanie Houk

Season Outlook:

Our team has a new enthusiasm due to the changes we've had to make from our previous season. Our five seniors last year gave our team a boost of confidence and truly helped inspire our whole team this year to push each other and keep a positive attitude, including our new senior student athletes. Between making new adjustments to our lineup and the help being received from our new assistant coach, we have some excited ladies ready to give 100% effort this season.

Section Favorite:

There have been some significant changes made to our section this year, and I'm sure the other teams, who still remain in our section or who have been added to our section, have made their appropriate adjustments due to various circumstances. Personally, I feel like it's any team's chance to come out on top of our section. With all due respect to the other teams, I feel like Ellwood City is the biggest contender in our section, based on their well-coached, team-driven student athletes. Danielle McCowin will surely make an impact for her team, just as she has done in previous seasons. With all that being said, I have the utmost confidence in New Brighton to claw their way to the top of our section this year. I only wish the best of luck to our opponents this season, especially with everything going on in our world today.

Neshannock

Coach: Jenny Bollinger

Returning Starters:

5-11 senior middle hitter Maddie DeMatteo
5-4 senior libero Alexa Vitale
5-10 senior setter/outside hitter Zoe Vitale
6-0 junior middle hitter Maya Mrozek
5-10 junior outside hitter Addi Watts

Season Outlook:

We are a young team with talent of skill and teamwork. We have a mix of veterans and new sophomore players that come in with force. Alexa Vitale is a quick libero who goes for everything. We get to maximize her skills this year.

Section Favorite: Ellwood City

WPIAL Favorite: Frazier

Young Players to Watch:

Marian Haggerty, a sophomore outside hitter, and sophomores Aaralyn Nogay and Katie DiMuccio. Also excited to see how Addi Watts and Maya Mrozek have grown in their skills this off-season.

North Catholic

Coach: Amanda Fetter (3rd year at North Catholic, 9th overall)

Returning Starters:

5-6 senior outside hitter/libero Elizabeth Feczko
5-3 senior backrow specialist Bella Madonna
5-9 sophomore outside hitter Allison Feczko

Season Outlook:

We have a great group of kids that are working hard to fill some big shoes that were left behind with the loss of our senior class from last year. Right now, our amazing sophomore class along with some powerful juniors have joined Elizabeth, Bella and the seniors. Our young players have really stepped up to the plate to raise the level of play in our gym and to help us work to get better every day.

Section Favorite:

Our section had some major changes during the off season. We have five teams in our section that I am honestly not very familiar with. I do know that Avonworth has a lot of talent and should be very competitive in our section.

WPIAL Favorite:

Ellwood City, Avonworth, Serra Catholic should all be very good.

Young Players to Watch:

North Allegheny sophomore Caroline Curran, Thomas Jefferson freshman Mia Fox.

Quaker Valley

Coach: Mike Vavrek (10th year at Quaker Valley, 16th overall)

Returning Starters:

5-7 sophomore outside hitter Kathryn Karwoski
5-9 junior middle hitter Elise Berry
5-5 junior defensive specialist Anna Weisser
5-6 senior Libero Kayla Doherty
5-8 senior outside hitter Maddie Hess
5-11 senior middle hitter Camille Johnson
6-0 senior middle hitter Mcauley Kriebel
5-6 senior setter Nicole Shaheen

Season Outlook:

We expect to get better everyday and be competitive in our section. After being in AAA the last 2 years, this year we move down to AA and are excited for the challenge of playing against some new and different competition.

Section Favorite:

It is a new section for us, but looking at it I would think that North Catholic and Avonworth would be considered the favorites.

WPIAL Favorite:

Not sure about AA. Maybe North Catholic, Shenango, Frazier, Serra Catholic. They have all had pretty strong programs the last few years.

Serra Catholic

Coach: Keith Trahan (8th year at Serra, 15th overall)

Returning Starters:

5-6 senior setter Brianna Pasternak
6-0 middle hitter Grace Fazio
5-4 libero Hannah Kessler
5-4 defensive specialist Chloe Berry

Season Outlook:

We project to be very competitive once again this year; returning half of our starting lineup from last year. Those four are elite players who will lead our team. Joining them, we have three seniors stepping into the starting lineup, Paige Pickford, a 5-9 right side; Jackie Moon, a 6-0 middle hitter; Sianna Sullivan, a 5-6 outside hitter; along with a pair of 5-9 junior outside hitters, Jenna Revak and Lydia Valentine. We also have a few talented underclassmen who might contribute by the end of the season. We will play with the skill and intensity that has become our staple for many years now. Our goal as always is first, a section title, and second a WPIAL title.

Section Favorite:

We are in a new section this year. I think we are the only defending champs and we've won section 8 or 9 of last ten seasons.

WPIAL Favorite: North Catholic.

Young Players to Watch:

I think there is a really good crop of sophomores that will take over as dominant players. Most of them were key contributors on competitive teams last year.

Seton LaSalle

Coach: Jenna Potts (1st year)

Returning Starters:

6-0 senior right hitter Kate Radan
5-8 senior outside/right hitter Malia Sigg
5-5 junior libero Sam Achille
5-9 junior middle hitter Sydney Kirk
5-7 junior outside hitter Keira Sipe
5-7 sophomore outside hitter Mia Pasquale

Season Outlook:

We had a young team last year and we're excited to compete this year with a bunch of key returning starters and more experience. We have a much tougher section this year, and think this will prepare us better for playoffs.

Section Favorite: Probably North Catholic

WPIAL Favorite: Probably North Catholic

Shenango

Coach: Greg Dugan (29th year)

Returning Starters:

5-11 sophomore outside hitter Kylee Rubin
5-8 sophomore outside hitter Emilee Fedrizzi
5-6 junior defensive specialist Emma Callahan

Season Outlook:

We are young but extremely competitive. A little behind where I would like to be at this point of the season but so are all the other teams.

Section Favorite:

Ellwood City, Laurel, Neshannock and Shenango should all be in the running for a section championship.

Young Players to Watch:

Shenango's 5-11 freshman middle hitter Kelly Cleaver. Kelly will be a key to our success this year.

Other players on varsity roster:

5-7 sophomore libero Ashley DeCarbo
5-8 junior setter Cassidy Peters
5-8 sophomore middle hitter Julia George
5-8 senior right hitter Kelsey Campbell
5-6 junior defensive specialist Hannah Zeigler

South Park

Coach: Chad Farrington (3rd at South Park, 9th overall)

Returning Starters:

5-8 senior outside hitter Shannon Gorny
5-10 junior outside hitter Faith Fetsko
5-3 junior setter Maddie Fiorentini
5-4 junior right side hitter Kristen Villa
5-7 sophomore middle blocker Maurie Haddad
5-0 sophomore libero Lanie Schultz

Season Outlook:

Switching into a new section is always difficult to gage, however, with the returning talent and relatively young team we have, the hopes are very high. We're looking to push for a second playoff appearance in as many years, and are confident we'll be able to accomplish that goal.

Section Favorite:

Serra Catholic won this section last year, so I feel they have to be the favorite. I know they are led by a great coach and have a strong senior group coming back this year.

WPIAL Favorite:

I also think Serra has a very good shot at taking the WPIAL title this year. Freeport won WIPAL for AA last year, but moved up in classification. Returning state champion North Catholic will again be in the conversation as well.

Young Players to Watch:

I can only really speak for my team at this moment, but Lanie Schultz and Libby Vietmeier are both sophomore's making very big impacts on our team this year.

South Allegheny

Coach: Jack Kelley (2nd year)

Returning Starters:

5-7 senior middle hitter Justine Shamber
5-1 senior libero Morgan Templeton
5-5 junior outside hitter Madison Pikula
5-3 junior defensive specialist Payton Limley
5-10 junior opposite Payton Linhart
5-8 junior middle hitter Paige Keller
5-3 sophomore setter Angelina Cortazzo

Season Outlook:

Last year, we snuck into the playoffs for the first time in school history so there is a lot of excitement and confidence in our gym right now. Our defense should be solid with Morgan Templeton and Payton Limley roaming the back row and we think OH "Mad Dog" Pikula may have grown into her nickname. But, because of a graduation and an injury, both of my starting middle hitters have never played the position before. Luckily, one of those middles will be senior Justine Shamber, who studied the position this summer and looks like she's been playing there for years. We aren't a physically intimidating team so we are going to have to play smart and relentless volleyball to get back to the playoffs—but I think we might have the athletes to do it.

Section Favorite:

This is only my second year coaching at the high school level and, right when I thought I knew where we stood in our section, we were realigned into Section 5. Deer Lakes was the team who knocked us out of the playoffs last year so we know they are going to be a problem. But really, we aren't too familiar with our new competition.

Young Players to Watch:

At point-guard, I mean setter, South Allegheny will play crazy-athletic sophomore Angelina Cortazzo full time this year. We will also introduce sneaky-good 5-5 sophomore outside hitter Kyra Marker as a starter.

Southmoreland

Coach: Heather Meyer (1st year at Southmoreland, 11 overall)

Returning Starters:

6-0 Junior Middle Hitter Delaynie Morvosh
5-10 Junior Middle Hitter Gracie Spadero

Season Outlook:

Despite such a short pre-season because we were not allowed indoors, I still believe Southmoreland will come to play.

Section Favorite:

This would be tough to answer since I am new to the section and classification.

Steel Valley

Coach: Jamie Dolton (8th year)

Returning Starters:

5-4 senior middle hitter Brooke Martin

5-3 senior right hitter Emily Polefko

5-1 senior libero Lexi Proof

5-8 junior middle hitter Abby Tester

5-6 sophomore setter Brooke Farrah

Season Outlook:

This year we plan to replace a deep senior class with some girls who have worked hard. We would like to build our strength and work towards a playoff spot.

Section Favorite: Derry

Waynesburg

Coach: Dan Higinbotham (8th year)

Returning Starters:

5-8 senior outside hitter Emma Robinson

5-9 senior middle hitter Riley Bowers

5-7 senior setter/outside hitter Cayla Rush

5-10 sophomore right hitter Sarah Stephenson.

Season Outlook:

To continue our playoff run to six years and advance past the first round.

Section Favorite:

Until someone beats Frazier I would have to say they are the favorite. However, I have confidence in my team that we can make a run at the section title this year.

Young Players to Watch:

Keep an eye on my sophomore Sarah Stephenson. I believe she will make a strong contribution this season.