

Deer Lakes

Coach: B.J. Reiher (21st year with program, 1st head coach,

Returning Starters:

6-4 senior outside hitter Devin Reiher
6-5 senior outside hitter Paul Zalus
5-9 senior setter Gio Rizzo
6-0 junior outside hitter Seth Sciubba
6-2 senior middle hitter Tristan Hineman

Season Outlook:

I have been away from the game for six years. We have good numbers and nice, hard-working players. Looking to compete, improve, and have some fun this season.

Section Favorite:

Not entirely sure who the favorite is. Derry is always so tough to beat. They make a great rival and it would be a big game even if it was a scrimmage. I'm sure the rest of the section is eager to compete as well.

WPIAL Favorite:

Being that I've been away for 6 years and all the players have been away for one year, I'm not certain. However, I know enough to believe that Seton LaSalle is going to be high-end competitive.

Derry

Coach: Shawn Spencer (16th year)

Projected Starters:

6-2 senior outside hitter Hunter Wack
6-5 senior middle hitter Dakota Beeman
6-3 senior middle hitter Tristan Seger
6-2 senior opposite Grant Hudson
5-8 senior defensive specialist Dacoda Hafer
5-9 senior defensive specialist Michael Shumaker
6-0 junior outside hitter Nick Allison
5-10 junior setter Matt Rhoades

Season Outlook:

The team will be inexperienced this year. It will be a process. Hopefully by season end we will be in line for a playoff spot.

Section Favorite: Deer Lakes

WPIAL Favorite: Seton Lasalle

Players to Watch:

Nathan Zini, Seton-LaSalle; Devin Reiher, Deer Lakes; Rich Kaminski, North Catholic.

Gateway

Coach: Phil Randolph (3rd year)

Projected Starters:

6-1 junior outside hitter Chris Lewis
6-1 middle hitter J.T. Thomas
6-2 middle hitter Drew Holmes
5-10 opposite Sam DiPalma
5-9 setter Ryan Bozicevic
5-6 defensive specialist Aiden Colberg
5-0 defensive specialist A.J. Brown

Season Outlook:

We are very much in a building mode this year. Of the names listed above, none of the players have true varsity experience prior to this year. Chris Lewis has been active in club ball, but 5 of the total 7 starters are first-year players. Our biggest weapon, Will Kromka, broke his wrist in the WPIAL playoffs for basketball, and losing him in addition to the veterans from last year is a big obstacle for us to overcome. We are looking for growth each day, and we have found it during this abbreviated pre-season. A week-long COVID closure was not super helpful, but we are back to work and eager to make some noise.

Section Favorite:

Until someone knocks them off, Derry is the favorite in our section as far as I am concerned.

WPIAL Favorite:

From what I have heard, Seton La Salle has had the ability to keep an incredible program moving full steam ahead during the pandemic, so that would be my early favorite.

Mars

Coach: Michael Nypaver (5th year)

Returning Starters:

6-2 senior Outside Carson Owens

5-11 senior setter Jesse Sines

Season Outlook:

We are a young team that is looking to compete in section play. We will have lots of new faces, but will still be competing for a playoff spot.

Section Favorite: Derry

WPIAL Favorite:

Unknown, I haven't seen a team in over a year.

Players to Watch:

Carson Owens, our senior outside hitter, is a solid player and will be a big part of our team this year.

Plum

Coach: Fisher Biagiatis (1st year)

Returning Starters:

6-5 outside hitter Alex Vidas

Other Projected Starters:

5-10 junior setter/hitter Tommie Marzina

6-5 senior hitter Alex Vidas

6-4 senior hitter Evan Azzara

6-3 junior setter/hitter Cameron Moss

6-2 senior hitter Gavin Chandler

5-8 senior libero Keith Mawhinney

6-1 junior hitter Jason Rowe

Section Favorite:

Since I am new to head coaching, and Plum is new to the section we are playing in, I really don't know who my favorite team is to win the section.