

Bishop Canevin

Coach: Peter Barakat (5th year)

Seniors:

6-2 senior outside hitter Christian Andrews
5-7 senior libero Joey Brooks
6-2 senior outside hitter Carson Gaitens
5-11 senior outside hitter Matthew Mell
6-0 senior middle blocker Collin Milko
5-11 senior outside hitter Nick Paulson
6-2 senior setter/hitter Jordan Ruffing
6-1 senior right side Jack Staley
6-3 senior middle blocker Carmen Wirral

Season Outlook:

We are an athletic group but inexperienced in volleyball. We had three juniors who were going to be first year players last year, who would have gained valuable experience, but that obviously didn't happen, for us or anybody. Will our athleticism overcome our inexperience? That will be the nightly question for our team.

Section Favorite:

With two years in between matches, we're probably giving the most uninformed opinions we've ever offered, but Ambridge and Seton-LaSalle would be good choices. I think North Catholic could make a run as well.

WPIAL Favorite: Seton LaSalle

Players to Watch:

Again, there's a lot unknown after two years between matches, but I'm certainly familiar with Nathan Zini from Seton-LaSalle, and he's a major impact player.

Keystone Oaks

Coach: Mike Mull (5th year, 12th overall)

Returning Starters:

6-0 senior right hitter Vinny Pacak
5-8 senior libero Pat Simmons
5-7 senior defensive specialist Sean Dobos
5-3 junior setter Kyle Le
6-0 junior middle Maddox Fingers

Season Outlook:

Half our team are first year players, they understand their roles and expect to fill in some holes this year after losing some key seniors the past two years. Our numbers are extremely low this year due to COVID. The guys are eager to learn every day and are extremely coachable. I feel good with the athletic group we have and look forward to growing each day.

Section Favorite: Seton LaSalle

WPIAL Favorite: Ambridge

Seton LaSalle

Coach: John Lawrence (7th year at Seton LaSalle, 35th overall)

Returning Starters:

6-7 senior outside hitter Nate Zini, Seton LaSalle
6-0 senior libero Brandon Haas, Seton LaSalle
6-0 senior middle hitter Sean Weldon, Seton LaSalle
6-0 senior outside hitter Logan Kuntz, Seton LaSalle

Other Projected Starters:

6-11 senior middle hitter Jacob Scarff
5-9 junior setter Mason Woolensack

Season Outlook:

Seton LaSalle was able to conduct extensive off season training again including summer workouts through Exile Volleyball Club where my boys were able to train along side the top college players in the Pittsburgh area. Including the summer workouts we completed over 80 pre-season sessions. We are smaller in overall numbers this season, but still very tall with players at 6-11, 6-7, 6-4 and multiple boys at 6-0.

Section Favorite: Seton LaSalle

WPIAL Favorite: Seton LaSalle

Steel Valley

Coach: Gary Goga (4th year)

Projected Starters:

6-2 senior setter Camden Rager
6-4 junior middle hitter AJ Lasek
6-2 freshman middle hitter Duane Carter
5-9 freshman libero Haneef Capers
6-3 junior right side Averill Blanchard
6-2 senior outside hitter Evan Coleman
5-8 freshman outside hitter Joe Nguyen

Season Outlook:

We are a very inexperienced team. Hoping to work hard, improve every day and looking forward to having an opportunity to have a season.

Section & WPIAL Favorite: Seton LaSalle

Thomas Jefferson

Coach: Frank Staffen (Started in 1998 at TJ)

Varsity Roster:

5-9 senior libero/setter Brayden Andrisko
5-9 senior defensive specialist Carson Arthrell
5-9 senior defensive specialist Zack Budday
6-2 senior middle hitter Joaquin Gardner-Gotera
6-1 senior middle hitter Colin O'Dea
5-11 senior setter/defensive specialist Cody Pavicic
6-2 senior outside/middle hitter Sam Sweeney
5-10 senior defensive specialist Cole Vernet
5-11 senior outside hitter Jacob Weber
5-11 junior outside hitter/setter A.J. Getsy
5-8 junior setter/defensive specialist Ian Karel
6-6 junior outside hitter Shawn McSwiggen
6-5 junior outside hitter Adam Weidmann
6-4 freshman middle hitter William Stewart

Season Outlook:

The team is returning a lot of experienced players. I have high expectations for them.

Section Favorite:

Seton LaSalle and Thomas Jefferson.

WPIAL Favorite: Ambridge

Players to Watch:

Shawn McSwiggen, Thomas Jefferson; Nathan Zini, Seton LaSalle.

Trinity

Coach: Larry Myers (14th year)

Returning Starters:

6-3 senior middle/outside hitter Mike Dunn
6-2 senior outside hitter Tyler Ashmore
6-1 junior setter Conner Roberts

Season Outlook:

This will be our first season in our new section so we are a little unsure of where we stand compared to the competition. We have a good core of athletes but not much experience. Two of the three returning starters will be in new positions and the remaining starters will be untested. If we can find the right chemistry I think we will have a chance to challenge for a playoff spot.

Section & WPIAL Favorite:

Seton LaSalle is the section and district favorite this year.