

Aliquippa

Coach: Karma Jackson (5th year)

Returning Starters:

5-9 senior middle hitter Araya Cashaw,
5-2 senior outside hitter/def. specialist Denaya Washington
5-5 senior setter Anieja Thomas
5-1 senior libero Yamayah Darby
5-10 junior middle/outside hitter Mahogany Shegog

Season Recap:

These girls have been playing together for four years, they just have to believe in their selves as much as I do.

Section Favorite:

No favorite, but BCCS and Western Beaver usually dominate.

Apollo-Ridge

Coach: Laura Gartley (3rd year)

Varsity Roster:

5-6 Senior Opposite Emma Frain
5-10 Senior Middle Hitter Alani Williams
5-8 Junior Outside Hitter Brinley Toland
5-6 Junior Outside Hitter Morghan Wysocki
5-5 Junior Defensive Spec. Ava Whitlinger
5-10 Junior Middle Hitter Anna Sodowsky
5-1 Junior Libero Isabel Gerheim
5-8 Junior Outside Hitter Sophia Filippini
5-5 Sophomore Setter/OPP Cheryl Gerheim
5-4 Sophomore Setter/OPP Jocelyn Emrock
5-6 Sophomore Outside Hitter Marly Koleno
5-5 Freshman Setter/OPP Kylar Toland

Section Favorite: Greensburg Central Catholic

WPIAL Favorite: Bishop Canevin

Young Players to Watch:

I am hoping for big things from my sophomore and freshman class. My assistant and I are always keeping an eye on the talent for the future.

Avella

Coach: Joelle Cooper (7th year)

Returning Starters:

5-4 senior setter Allie Brownlee
5-6 outside/right hitter Katie Dryer
5-0 libero Isabella Greene
5-7 middle hitter Marie Dire
5-3 defensive specialist Hamnah Bower

Season Outlook:

We have a great mix of upperclassmen as well as incoming players. We are looking forward to a bounceback season after a down year last year.

Section Favorite: Fort Cherry

WPIAL Favorite: Fort Cherry or Bishop Canevin

Young Players to Watch:

Sydney Allen for Avella. I'm not sure of any others.

Beaver County Christian

Coach: Christen Adels (19th year)

Returning Starters:

5-4 senior setter Lizzie McCaslin
5-4 senior libero Olivia DeSarbo
5-6 senior outside hitter Audrey McMahan
5-8 senior middle hitter Hannah Oosting
5-3 senior defensive speciality Frances Hagberg
5-7 junior middle hitter Heidi McChesney

Season Outlook:

We return almost all of our starters, including senior setter Lizzie McCaslin who was 2nd Team All-WPIAL and senior libero Olivia DeSarbo who was 3rd Team All-WPIAL this past year. We have a strong senior class for a small school, and we are fairly consistent in serving, passing and defense. We are a short team as we don't have much height, and we need to focus on consistency in our attack. We do have a very strong freshmen class, and I anticipate two from that class seeing varsity time at the start of the season.

Section Favorite:

Western Beaver, Union and BCCS should be in the mix for the section title.

WPIAL Favorite: Bishop Canevin

California

Coach: Rene Pascoe (7th year)

Returning Starters:

5-6 senior outside hitter Tayla Pascoe
5-10 senior outside hitter Alexis Sherman
5-5 senior defense specialist Jordyn Cruse
5-4 senior setter Gianna Grillo
5-4 senior setter Jenna Dixon

Season Outlook:

I have some very strong players this year. I think we can be in the running for the section but we have to consistently play well for that to happen.

Section Favorite:

I think both Fort Cherry and Mapletown will be the teams to beat this year.

WPIAL Favorite:

Bishop Canevin, they have all their players returning.

Young Players to Watch:

There was a freshman hitter from Fort Cherry that really impressed me last year, Jillian McCarty

Bishop Canevin

Coach: Angela Wyman (1st year as head coach, 3rd with program)

Returning Starters:

5-10 senior middle hitter Abbie Maziarz
5-4 senior libero Erin LaQuatra
5-5 senior setter Sani Jones
5-10 senior middle hitter Olivia Thomas
5-8 junior outside hitter Keira Rose Kozlowski

Season Outlook:

We are excited to pick up where we left off last year and add to our WPIAL championships. We look forward to going for 5 WPIAL Championships in a row and pushing beyond our loss in the PIAA playoffs in the semifinals. Most of our starters are returning. We are also excited to have senior outside hitter Kyla Hartoyo join us this year after missing last year due to injury. She will play a key role in our offense. This team is fully capable and motivated to win a state championship. It is a new year with a new coaching staff. I am coming in with some very big shoes to fill with the passing of Kevin Walters who has been the cornerstone of this program. I am confident that he has prepared me for this task and I am more than honored to follow in his footsteps while making the program my own.

Section Favorite:

Our section has a few competitors this year, OLSH, Eden Christian Academy, and us. These matches will help us prepare for playoffs as section play ends.

WPIAL Favorite:

We are returning this season with most of our starters to defend our WPIAL championship.

Young Players to Watch:

I expect junior outside hitter Keira Rose Kozlowski to continue to make an impact this season, then through her senior year.

Cornell

Coach: Alexis Hamm (2nd year)

Returning Starters:

5-2 junior outside hitter Hannah Hoffman
5-8 junior outside hitter Heidi Stephenson
5-2 junior defensive specialist Mal Langston
5-3 junior setter Brooklyn Vandine
5-4 senior middle hitter Jada Jenkins
5-4 senior right side hitter Angel Matuke

Season Outlook:

We have a lot of girls returning who are now familiar with the game. We are still working on fundamentals and learning the game. I think this season, we will have a better grasp and handle on how to compete with teams in our section.

Section Favorite:

Bishop Canevin is always a great team. I look forward to playing them this season.

WPIAL Favorite: Bishop Canevin

Young Players to Watch:

Emma Balazentis, Mars

Eden Christian

Coach: Joyce Brown (2nd year at Eden, 8th overall)

Returning Starters:

6-1 senior outside hitter Elaina Arnold
5-10 senior setter Maura Shernisky
5-10 senior middle hitter Francesca Battaglia
5-2 senior defensive specialist Molly Myers
5-2 sophomore defensive specialist Mackenzie Rothacher
6-0 senior middle Rebecca Ackerman
5-10 senior outside hitter Julia Ackerman

Season Outlook:

We have a most of our team returning this year but we are very excited at the talent in the Freshman class. I fully expect a few of these players to see varsity time this year.

Section Favorite: Bishop Canevin

WPIAL Favorite: Bishop Canevin

Young Players to Watch:

Three Eden Christian freshmen: 6-0 middle hitter Ella D'Ippolito, 5-10 hitter Addison Cranston, 5-0 setter/defensive specialist Alexis Fowler.

Greensburg Central Catholic

Coach: Angela Komoroski (1st year as head coach, 3rd with program)

Returning Starters:

5-10 senior outside hitter Rebecca Hess
5-6 senior middle hitter Grace Petnuch
5-5 senior defensive specialist/opposite Isabella Guerrieri
5-11 senior middle/outside hitter Julia Kratzenberg
5-6 senior outside hitter Danielle D'Alessio
5-4 junior defensive specialist/libero Kayla Desak
5-6 sophomore setter Emily Hess

Season Outlook:

We have a very experienced varsity team this year and they are looking to give it their all during their senior year. They are also backed up by the largest freshman class ever to make the team, with 12 girls alone coming that grade level. There is a high level of talent in the young players and they are expected to see some playing time on varsity as well.

Section Favorite:

Leechburg is always our strongest competition and we look forward to playing them again this season.

WPIAL Favorite:

Bishop Canevin always is a challenging opponent and they are most definitely the ones to beat this year.

Young Players to Watch:

We haven't gotten to meet with any teams yet, but look forward to seeing who our talented opponents will be this year.

Fort Cherry

Coach: Mackenzie Greene (3rd year)

Returning Starters:

5-2 senior setter Kami Feehan
5-2 senior libero Jessi Everly
5-6 senior middle hitter/defensive specialist Emily Stacy
5-4 sophomore outside hitter Jillian McCarty

Season Outlook:

I am unsure. There is an even playing field this year in Class A.

Jefferson-Morgan

Coach: Stephanie Woodruff (5th year at JM, 18th year overall)

Returning Starters:

5-8 senior outside hitter Madison Wright
6-0 senior middle blocker Anna Uveges
5-8 junior outside hitter Jessica Torres
5-1 junior defensive specialist Mia Baker
5-2 junior defensive specialist Finley Kramer
5-5 sophomore setter Kayla Larkin

Season Outlook:

We have most of our letterwinners returning from last year so we have experience at all positions. We are a capable team that can be competitive with any of our section teams. Looking to use our experience to improve from last year.

Section Favorite:

Fort Cherry, but with our well-balanced section, anyone can compete for the title this year.

WPIAL Favorite: Bishop Canevin

Young Players to Watch: Sydney Allen from Avella

Leechburg

Coach: Eve Hebrank (6th as head coach, 7th with program)

Returning Starters:

6-2 senior outside hitter Kalli Grine
5-7 senior outside hitter/setter Tatum Verner
5-7 senior opposite hitter Falyn Verner
5-9 junior outside hitter Macy Kubla
5-8 junior middle hitter Madeline Mastalerz

Season Outlook:

Leechburg is looking to stay competitive in our section while replacing two key components from graduation. We have a number of returning, young players ready to play and show their skill.

Section Favorite: Greensburg C.C.

WPIAL Favorite: Bishop Canevin

Mapletown

Coach: Christy Menear

Returning Starters:

senior setter Macee Cree
senior middle hitter Taylor Dusenberry
senior defensive specialist MeKenzie Reda
junior hitter Ella Menear
junior hitter Riley Pekar
junior hitter Krista Wilson

Season Outlook:

As long as we stay healthy, we should be competitive. We made the playoffs last year for the first in school history. It is our goal to do the same this year.

Section Favorite:

Fort Cherry will remain strong this season. They are a fundamentally coached team with talent.

Northgate

Coach: Max Schaar (2nd year)

Returning Starters:

5-6 senior outside hitter Isabella Uccellini
5-8 senior middle/right hitter Vegas Szakelyhidi
5-6 sophomore outside hitter Memphis Szakelyhidi
5-5 junior setter/libero Tiffani Rodarte
5-7 sophomore middle hitter Kara Elliott
5-6 sophomore opposite Destynee Barrett
5-6 sophomore middle hitter Erin King

Season Outlook:

We are hard-working, improving every day. We are looking to make a splash this year and make playoffs again. The effort and dedication from this young team is empowering.

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

Coach: Mike McDonald (35th season for girls)

Returning Starters:

5-8 senior setter Kaleigh Costantino
5-5 senior outside hitter Elleson Burke

Season Outlook:

OLSH will rely heavily on Costantino and Burke for leadership both as teammates and as performers on the court. The Chargers will start four new starters in the lineup this year, but will at least have some varsity experience from last year as back-ups. The girls will have to fight a lack of depth and experience as much as their opponents this season. Consistency in performance with their skills during the match and staying healthy until some depth is developed will be the most important aspects of this season that will need to be met.

Section Favorite: Bishop Canevin, Eden Christian

WPIAL Favorite: Bishop Canevin, Fort Cherry, Greensburg Central, Eden Christian

Young Players to Watch:

Kozlowski, OH Bishop Canevin. Girls from Ft. Cherry

Rochester

Coach: Emily Heasley (3rd year)

Returning Starters:

Senior setter Mekenzie Robison
Senior middle hitter Taylor Sebicic
Senior outside hitter Alisha Wright
Senior opposite Icis Witt
Senior outside hitter Mataya Jones
Senior libero Mikayla Bryant
Junior middle hitter Asia Martin
Junior defensive specialist Amarina Simoni

St. Joseph

Coach: Dennis Jones

Returning Starters:

5-6 setter Gabby Mason
5-7 outside hitter Lacey Zagurski
5-8 outside hitter Stella Swanson

Season Outlook:

We have a very inexperienced team. We are hoping for a fun competitive season and hopeful of playing the season with the threat COVID approaching once again.

Section Favorite:

GCC is the class of our section once again this year.

South Side Beaver

Coach: Alyssa Hickman (1st year)

Returning Starters:

5-8 senior setter Grace Woodling
5-8 senior middle hitter Josie Patosky
5-9 senior outside hitter Jacy Searight-Jarrup
5-4 junior outside hitter Brianna Stewart

Season Outlook:

We have strong senior leadership with three returning seniors being led by Grace Woodling as the setter. We are ready with promising and energetic underclassmen and are anticipating an exciting season.

Section Favorite: Beaver County Christian and Union

WPIAL Favorite: Fort Cherry

Springdale

Coach: Stephen Smietana (1st year as head coach, third year with program)

Returning starters:

5-4 senior middle hitter Autumn Sprouse
5-5 senior libero Brianna Thompson
5-4 junior setter Bella Burrell
5-6 junior middle hitter Jaina Parsons-Higgs
5-6 junior right side hitter Kelsey Sprouse

Season Outlook:

We've had a couple of girls rejoin the team from the past so they've had a few years off. We are working on shaking the dust off so to speak and really focusing on building a strong sense of team. We also had some injuries last season and hoping to get those players back playing full time soon. We have a lot of potential to be very competitive in the section and I look forward to seeing how the team and players develop throughout the season.

Section Favorite:

Greensburg Central Catholic has always had a solid team with some very talented players.

WPIAL favorite:

GCC has a great opportunity and I know Bishop Canevin and OLSH always have strong teams.

Trinity Christian

Coach: Gene Larson (9th year)

Returning Starters:

5-2 Junior Setter Morgan Walker
5-7 Junior Outside Hitter Elizabeth Crary
5-4 Junior Libero Rachel Dutton
5-8 Junior Outside Hitter Sierra McCabe

Season Outlook:

Very young team. We have a solid and improved group of returning players. We also have a couple of young players that will play and contribute immediately. We hope to challenge for a playoff spot.

Section Favorite:

Probably Greensburg Central, but Leechburg could challenge.

WPIAL Favorite: Bishop Canevin

Union Area

Coach: Nicolle Benincase (7th year)

Returning starters

5-9 senior middle hitter Amanda Book
5-5 senior opposite Maddie Kassi
5-7 junior middle hitter Elise Booker
5-4 junior setter Ella Casalandra
5-5 outside hitter Kendall Preuhs

Season Outlook:

We have a very talented team this year with 9 juniors and 3 seniors all returning with varsity experience. We have a lot of young talent and a few players to watch 5'10 soph MH Kelly Cleaver and 5'5 soph OH Dalaina Jones. We have a very deep bench and a lot of reliable and talented athletes to put on the floor. We're still chasing that section title and hoping this is really our year. These upper classmen have had a lot of success in the past and the whole team has been working really hard all summer long. We're ready to go.

WPIAL Favorite: Bishop Canevin

Western Beaver

Returning Starters:

5-8 senior outside Hitter Vanessa Bailey
5-6 senior outside hitter/defensive specialist Taylor Cayton
5-5 senior defensive specialist Maren Klein
5-6 senior setter Shelby Martin
5-4 senior opposite Rylie Myers
5-11 junior middle hitter Delaney Bernard

Other Members of Varsity

5-4 senior middle hitter Makayla Reed
5-4 junior defensive specialist Maura Sosack
5-4 soph. outside hitter/defensive specialist Gracie Patterson
5-2 sophomore defensive specialist Julia Ruttner

Season Outlook:

The Golden Beavers continue to work hard, eyes set on putting 2021 on the banner hanging in the gym. We expect a hard fight in every match knowing that all the teams in our section are working just as hard for that same prize, but the battles against Beaver County Christian and Union are key. There is so much talent, skill and athleticism in our section, with everyone giving 100 percent we'll just have to wait and see. Expect a lot of exciting, nail-biting matches!

West Greene

Coach: Aimee Gillispie (2nd year)

Returning Starters:

5-6 senior defensive specialist Anna Durbin
5-6 senior defensive specialist Olivia Kiger
5-5 senior setter BreAnn Jackson
5-4 senior defensive specialist Jordan Karvan
5-5 junior setter Taylor Karvan
5-10 junior outside hitter Sophia Plock
5-5 junior setter Emily Simms
5-6 junior opposite London Whipkey
5-10 junior middle hitter McKenzie Wise

Season Outlook:

I think this year, West Greene will go far. I have a lot of returning starters that work well together and are ready to get back to the WIPALS. This team has been working hard over the summer and I'm excited to see where they take this team.

Section Favorite: Fort Cherry

Young Players to Watch:

Kasie Meek on West Greene team. Kasie is currently a sophomore and played Junior varsity last year but stepped up to play middle hitter in the first WPIAL appearance for West Greene with varsity two days prior to the match. I believe she will be someone to keep an eye on this year.