

Baldwin

Coach: Chris Kelly (8th year at Baldwin)

Returning starters:

5-10 senior middle hitter Heidi Johnston
5-2 senior libero Alexa Chapla
5-6 junior outside hitter Kay Lindenfelser

Season Outlook:

After graduating ten seniors last year we have gotten a lot younger. We do have some experience at some key spots, but we will have a lot of players getting their first real taste of varsity action. I'm optimistic we can improve our record from last season.

Section Favorite: Moon

Bethel Park

Coach: Brooke Muraco (4th at Bethel Park, 11th overall)

Returning Starters:

5-11 senior middle hitter Chloe McDaniel
5-11 junior right side hitter Sophie Puzausky
5-9 junior outside hitter Grace Lejeck
5-10 junior middle hitter Abby Neal

Season Outlook:

We are looking to build on our successes from last year. We plan to start off strong and continue to get better and progress each day in the gym, working toward a section title and postseason wins.

Butler

Coach: Meghan Lucas (26 years at Butler and Kiski Area)

Returning Starters:

5-10 senior outside hitter Taylor Welter
5-4 senior defensive specialist Megan Penrod
5-4 senior defensive specialist Isabella Shook
5-8 senior defensive specialist Sophia Wogan
5-9 junior outside hitter Maisy Gibson
5-10 junior setter Ava Plunkard
5-8 junior outside hitter Brynn Morton

Season Outlook:

Looking forward to seeing the freshmen and sophomores push the upperclassmen in the gym. We will be competitive and continue to work hard and always leave it all on the court!

Section Favorite: North Allegheny

WPIAL Favorite: North Allegheny

Canon-McMillan

Coach: Sheila Mitchell (11th year)

Returning Starters:

6-2 senior middle hitter Vicky Manda

Season Outlook:

Our team will be new this season after having many returners throughout the last few seasons. However, the players coming up have worked hard to fill the missing spots! Our defense has improved and we will be looking to use our strong middles.

Section Favorite:

I think Moon will still be strong this season.

Connellsville

Coach: Sara Bruschi (7th year)

Returning Starters:

5-10 senior middle hitter Gianna Zamperini
5-7 senior outside hitter Bryn Shearer
5-6 junior setter Rylan Musgrove
5-9 junior outside hitter Hillary Claycomb

Season Outlook:

We are a small, young team, but do have returning starters with experience from last season. We have worked really well together this summer and hopefully, that carries over into the season.

Section Favorite:

Oakland Catholic but Norwin, Latrobe, Hempfield, and Penn-Trafford always have competitive teams every year.

WPIAL Favorite: North Allegheny

Gateway

Coach: Kayla Taylor (1st year)

Returning Starters:

I am unsure of

Season Outlook:

I think I have many athletic and competitive girls on my team that are eager to make a name for our program.

Young Players to Watch:

We do have a freshman and sophomore sister duo playing varsity that I think will make an impact (Jojo and Mikey Estremera).

Hempfield

Coach: Ashten Flynn (1st year)

Returning Starters:

5-5 senior outside hitter Katelyn Ross
5-10 senior middle hitter Emma Hornyak
5-9 junior outside hitter Liz Tapper
5-8 junior setter Morgan Rosensteel

Season Outlook:

Definitely going to be more competitive this season compared to last years season. Hoping to be very successful in our section!

Section Favorite: Norwin or Oakland Catholic

WPIAL Favorite:

Unsure of a favorite due to it being such a competitive environment

Young Players to Watch: Sophomore Defense Sarah Podkul, we're looking for her to have a big season for us.

Latrobe

Coach: Drew Vosefski

Returning Starters:

5-9 junior setter/opposite Lily Fenton
5-6 senior libero Bailey Watson
6-1 senior middle blocker Anna Rafferty
6-1 junior middle hitter Emma Blair
5-8 senior setter/defensive specialist setter Shallyn Shank
5-7 junior outside hitter Maya Krehlik

Season Outlook:

We are very optimistic. We have height and experience and a belly full of desire. Our goal is to win the section title.

Section Favorite:

The section race is wide open. We are one of a few teams that has talented players returning.

WPIAL Favorite:

North Allegheny until somebody beats them. You have to knock off the king to become the king.

Young Players to Watch:

Two players from Latrobe, 6-2 junior opposite Page Watson and 5-10 sophomore outside hitter Elle Snyder.

Moon

Coach: Steve Nicola (4th year at Moon, 6th overall)

Returning Starters:

5-5 senior defensive specialist Sammy Hahka
5-9 senior defensive specialist Chloe Keppel
5-8 junior outside hitter Bailey Maxin
5-9 junior opposite Larissa McGowan
5-6 senior libero Abby Santacroce
5-11 senior outside hitter Molly Simmons

Season Outlook:

We are looking to build on the success of the past two seasons and advance past the semifinals in the WPIAL Playoffs.

Section Favorite:

I think we are the favorites in the section after winning last year and having multiple returning starters, but I expect the section to be very competitive as usual.

WPIAL Favorite: North Allegheny

Mt. Lebanon

Coach: Maddie Bazelak (1st year)

Returning Starters:

5-9 senior outside hitter Mary Kate Jenkins
5-7 senior outside hitter/setter Sadie McClinchie
5-2 senior defensive specialist Mia Alandete

Season Outlook:

We look to utilize our combination of experienced players with younger players. We feel we have a team that will go to battle and can compete with any team. Sadie McClinchie has committed to Wittenberg University.

Section Favorite: Moon

WPIAL Favorite: North Allegheny

North Allegheny

Coach: Russ Hoberg (1st year as head coach, 10th with program)

Returning Starters:

Junior defensive specialist Caroline Curran
Junior setter/opposite Ella Deeter
Junior setter/opposite/outside hitter Mia Tuman
Junior defensive specialist Rebecca Pilotta
Senior middle hitter Jadyn Perkins
Senior middle hitter Rachel Burton

Season Outlook

We are singularly focused on taking it one match at a time. We certainly respect the recent past success of the program, but we recognize that this is a new group that must write its own chapter. We hope to compete once again, but we are aware of and again respect the high level volleyball being played both locally as well as across the state.

Section Favorite:

We're fortunate to compete in a section with a lot of strong teams. Shaler was in the WPIAL championship last season, Pine Richland and Seneca Valley have been strong and improving on that strength each year. Fox Chapel, North Hills, and especially Butler are all steadily improving as well and very dangerous on any given night. I appreciate that play in our section requires us to show up each and every match which hopefully makes us stronger come playoff time.

WPIAL Favorite:

I'm not quite as familiar with the other sections, but in addition to the teams listed from our sections, Oakland Catholic and Moon should be quite strong. Upper St. Clair and Cannon McMillan are also improving and always a threat.

North Hills

Coach: Vicky Danko (4th year)

Returning Starters:

5-8 senior outside hitter Tatum Zwick
5-10 senior middle hitter Katie Catrain
5-10 senior middle hitter Kylin Kamienski
5-8 senior opposite Maria Chutko
5-6 junior defensive specialist Alyssa Rosatone
5-6 sophomore defensive specialist Giana Cutenese

Season Outlook:

We are looking to make an impact this year with a core group of senior leadership this season and a new breath of younger talent.

Section Favorite: North Allegheny

WPIAL Favorite: North Allegheny

Norwin

Coach: Mary Ellen Ferragonio (15th year)

Returning Starters:

5-9 senior outside hitter Carley DiPaolo
5-8 senior defensive specialist Julie Chenot
5-11 senior middle hitter Alyssa Laukus
5-9 senior opposite Chloe Lukondi
5-8 senior defensive specialist Natalie Miller
5-9 senior defensive specialist/outside Hitter Riley Oslosky
5-9 senior setter Grace Shephard
5-9 senior outside hitter Maria Yaniga

Season Outlook:

Work hard and improve every day

Section Favorite:

All teams will be strong

Oakland Catholic

Coach: Emily Reeser (5th year)

Returning Starters:

5-8 senior outside hitter Elizabeth Ford
5-9 senior outside hitter Ava Barkich
5-4 senior setter Naomi Jesionowski
5-9 senior setter/opposite Rachel Sweeny
5-6 senior setter Audrey Pohlod
5-5 junior libero Madison Cigna

Season Outlook:

We are bringing back a lot of depth and talent from last year's team. We look forward to a challenging season and the competition.

Penn-Trafford

Coach: Jim Schall (24th year with the girls team)

Returning Starters:

5-10 senior outside hitter Jude Lovre
5-7 senior outside hitter Liv Fanelli
5-10 senior middle hitter Jessie Bridge
5-8 senior defensive specialist Kenna Schropp
5-8 senior defensive specialist Cailin Stukus
5-7 senior defensive specialist Carlie Hoffman
5-7 senior setter Maura Suman

Season Outlook:

I think our team will play hard and try to compete well in our section. We are hopeful for a more normal girls' season.

Section Favorite: Oakland Catholic

WPIAL Favorite: North Allegheny

Peters Township

Coach: Nikki Oakes (3rd year as head coach, 7th with the program)

Returning Starters:

6-0 senior outside hitter Abby Willott
5-5 senior defensive specialist Lauren Luppe
5-9 senior middle/outside hitter Hailey Pearson
5-6 junior libero Lizzie Syverson
5-4 sophomore defensive specialist Sofia Ellison
5-7 sophomore outside hitter Ellaina Jackovic
5-10 sophomore opposite Lyla Josefowski
5-6 sophomore setter Mailea Hufnagel

Season Outlook:

We are a very young team carrying six sophomores this year expected to make a large impact. Senior captain Abby Willott has returned from her ACL tear last year and leading the team every practice. Joining her is fellow senior captain Hailey Pearson who brings so much energy to the court. These two combined with other senior leadership our girls have raised their levels of expectations and accountability. We are looking forward to see how this team comes together!

Section Favorite:

Our section is always one to watch! It's hard to pick when so many amazing players across the board contribute to their teams success.

WPIAL Favorite:

The North Allegheny program has been left in great hands and I believe their success will carry on!

Young Players to Watch:

I think we can continue to expect great things all around. Players that come to mind continue to be Molly Simmons from Moon and well as Mia Tuman from North Allegheny. There are certainly many more.

Pine-Richland

Coach: Angela Seman (1st year)

Returning Starters:

senior right hitter Sophie Catalano
senior libero Makayla Roy
junior outside hitter Kaili Doctor
junior middle hitter Sophia Menke
junior outside hitter Katie Yann
junior setter Nicole Snyder
junior middle/right hitter Sarah Faber

Season Outlook:

This season I see the team developing their skills and creating a foundation of being a fighting team. I see the team creating a good culture of winning and turning the program back into a power house.

Section Favorite:

At this time, I do not have a favorite.

Young Players to Watch:

I see our sophomore setter Sofia Morse making an impact this year.

Seneca Valley

Coach: Brett Poirier (3rd year)

Returning Starters:

5-7 senior setter Mandy Altsman
6-0 senior middle hitter Rachel Summers
5-6 senior defensive specialist Brooke Eckenrode
5-6 senior libero Riley Might
5-2 senior defensive specialist Phoebe Lyman
5-11 senior outside hitter Emma Davis
5-10 junior outside hitter Brooke Pelloni
5-8 junior middle hitter Mia Stohon

Season Outlook:

To be very competitive in a tough section and finish in the top 4 so we can make it to playoffs.

Section Favorite:

It would have to be North Allegheny until someone beats them

WPIAL Favorite:

North Allegheny until someone beats them

Young Players to Watch:

There is probably one or two players on every team that will make a big impact as a freshman or a sophomore.

Shaler

Coach: Paul Stadelman (4th year as girls coach)

Season Outlook:

5-5 senior setter Tia Bozzo
5-9 senior outside hitter Mia Schubert
5-5 senior defensive specialist Sierra Ricci
5-3 senior defensive specialist Brooke Schweitzer
5-5 senior defensive specialist Kayleigh Newland
5-11 junior middle hitter Mackenzie Barr

Season Outlook:

We are planning on being very competitive in a very difficult section. We hope to make a deep run into playoffs and are pushing for a PIAA playoff berth.

Section Favorite:

North Allegheny

WPIAL Favorite:

North Allegheny

Young Players to Watch:

Hilary Quinn from Shaler and Emmy Schrom from Hampton.

Upper St. Clair

Coach: Kim Manning (2nd year)

Returning Starters:

5-6 senior setter Sydney Angel

5-7 senior outside hitter Jackie Bell

5-10 junior outside hitter Alex Culp

Season Outlook:

USC will be looking for another WPIAL playoff birth with the return of key players and the addition of very talented sophomores. After graduating ten seniors, USC will look to prove that although a young team, USC will be in the mix for a section title.

Section Favorite: Moon

WPIAL Favorite: North Allegheny

Young Players to Watch:

There are so many stand out young players that will make this season extremely competitive after gaining so much playing experience last year. Watch out for Upper St. Clair's junior outside hitter Alex Culp and sophomore middle hitter Grace Tribsch who will be making a huge impact.