

Deer Lakes

Coach: Kody Putirka (1st year)

Projected Starting Lineup:

5-10 senior opposite Kyle Blackwell
5-11 junior setter Kyle Penn
6-3 junior middle/right hitter Ryan Sandor
6-1 junior middle hitter Evan Frank
5-10 junior outside hitter Evan Rothrauff
5-9 junior outside Mason Metzler
5-8 junior libero Ben Barker

Season Outlook:

This is my first year as head coach, but I've been with the program since I graduated from Deer Lakes in 2013. We have no starters back from last year's team. I've worked with all these players, so the transition to head coach has been relatively easy. Our goal is to grow as a team with hopes of making the playoffs this year and in the years to come.

Section Favorite: Plum is the team to beat.

WPIAL Favorite: North Catholic.

Derry

Coach: Shawn Spencer (17th year)

Returning Starters:

5-11 setter Matt Rhoades
6-1 outside hitter Nick Allison
6-2 outside hitter Gabe Carbonara

Season Outlook:

Overall, a very inexperienced team but if we can keep getting better, hopefully we be able to make a playoff push.

Section Favorite: Deer Lakes and Gateway

WPIAL Favorite: O.L. Sacred Heart

Gateway

Coach: Phil Randolph (4th year)

Returning Starters:

6-1 outside/middle hitter Chris Lewis
5-9 setter Mark Bozicevic
5-6 defensive specialist Aiden Colberg
6-3 outside/middle hitter Will Kromka (questionable due to health issue)

Season Outlook:

We are a hybrid of guys who've been around the high school and club scene for a minute and guys who are getting their first opportunity to make a name for themselves on a bigger stage (or court in this case). Over the weeks and months leading up to the season, we've identified a nucleus of core players whom we can maneuver a bit to give us some versatility both offensively and defensively, and we excited to not only put these guys to work but also to challenge others in our program to carve out a spot for themselves, too. We have a handful of young men who've patiently waited for their time to shine, and these guys are eager to show that they've been slept on in the section.

Section Favorite:

Deer Lakes finished at the top last year, so they're the top target

WPIAL Favorite:

Seton LaSalle and Ambridge

Mars

Coach: Michael Nypaver (6th year)

Returning Starters:

5-6 sophomore libero Colton Riska
6-1 sophomore outside hitter Tyler Raabe
6-2 junior middle hitter Conor Tomcik
6-4 senior outside hitter Ryan Mitchell

Season Outlook:

This year we are looking to stay competitive in the section. Despite having over half of our starting lineup back we are very young and have shifted some positions of the veteran players around. Our section is always tough, so we will hopefully be battling for a playoff spot at the end of the year.

Section Favorite:

Derry would be my choice for a section favorite. They are always a top tier team.

Plum

Coach: Fisher Bagiatis (2nd year)

Returning Starters:

6-2 senior outside hitter Cameron Moss
5-7 junior libero Seth Favero
5-9 junior libero Alex Smith
5-11 senior outside hitter Thomas Marzina
5-6 senior defensive specialist Rocco Schneiderlochner
5-9 junior outside hitter Jacob Pedley

Season Outlook:

The outlook for the team this year is to go further than last year. We lost in the second round of WPIAL's. Since we have more experience this year, we hope that we can make it further, maybe even to the PIAA tournament.

Section Favorite:

The favorite in this section would be a toss up between Gateway and Plum

WPIAL Favorite:

The favorite has to be OLSH. They have quite a few club players on their team, and a bunch of senior leadership.