

Bishop Canevin

Coach: Peter Barakat (6th year)

Returning Starters:

I have no returning starters.

Season Outlook:

We are a very inexperienced team but we have some athletes who are just joining the team. They are basically learning the game from the beginning. We only have a handful of returning players and a couple of those are just finishing seasons in hockey and basketball. It is the most inexperienced I have ever coached, so it will take a couple of weeks before we start to grasp some of the basics. But I do believe we have some good athletes who are capable of learning the game and will not let the rough beginning we will probably have get them frustrated.

Section Favorite:

Seton-LaSalle should be the favorite. Thomas Jefferson should also be good.

Top Players to Watch:

Shawn McSwiggen, Thomas Jefferson; Colin Wiegand, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart have a chance to have dominant seasons.

Keystone Oaks

Coach: Jordan Zange (1st year)

Returning Starters:

6-0 senior outside hitter Maddox Fingers
6-2 senior middle hitter Trenton Ladner
5-2 senior libero Kyle Le
5-9 junior setter Tyler Feeny
5-9 sophomore outside hitter Cy Spivak

Season Outlook:

We have a well-rounded group of returners and new faces in the gym this year. Their chemistry goes hand in hand on the court and we plan on making a solid run in the playoffs.

Section Favorite: Seton LaSalle

WPIAL Favorite: Seton LaSalle

Top Players to Watch:

Maddox Fingers, Cy Spivak, Kyle Le, Tyler Feeny.

Seton LaSalle

Coach: John Lawrence (8th year at Seton LaSalle, 36th total)

Returning Starters:

5-11 senior setter/outside hitter Mason Woolensack
5-10 senior libero Nathan Kuntz
5-9 senior libero/defensive specialist Justin Hill
5-11 junior setter/outside hitter Kasen Killen

Other projected starters

6-5 junior middle hitter Gavin Poe
6-4 junior middle hitter Luke Masua
6-3 junior setter/outside hitter Aidan Price
5-10 junior outside hitter Ty Tamborino
5-11 sophomore setter/outside hitter Brady Diegelman
5-10 junior outside hitter Lewis Kicinski
5-9 senior outside hitter Anthony George
6-1 junior middle hitter Justin Savko

Season Outlook:

At least for the regular season I think we will be strong. Much better balanced than last season. We were able to conduct over 50 open gyms this year and we had a number of our players play through the winter with Exile Volleyball Club and attend the Division I Coaches clinics we ran through Exile last fall. Overall, I think we are a stronger team with much more depth than last spring.

Section Favorite: Seton LaSalle

WPIAL Favorite: O.L. Sacred Heart

Top Players to Watch:

Andrew Ubinger, North Catholic, senior outside hitter; Shawn McSwiggen, Thomas Jefferson, senior outside hitter; Jake Strnisa, Hopewell, junior outside hitter; Mason Woolensack, Seton LaSalle, senior setter/outside hitter; Gavin Poe, Seton LaSalle, junior middle hitter; Aidan Price Seton LaSalle, junior setter/outside hitter; Corey Obeldobel, Hopewell, junior; Bryce Lizanich, Montour, junior middle hitter; Brady Diegelman, Seton LaSalle, sophomore setter/outside hitter.

Steel Valley

Coach: Gary Goga (5th year)

Returning Starters:

6-3 senior middle hitter A.J. Lasek
6-2 senior setter Averill Blanchard

Season Outlook:

We are very inexperienced and will try to get better every day. This is a really hard working and athletic group, probably the most athletic team we've had in a long time. We need to keep working to learn the game and keep improving.

Section Favorite: Seton LaSalle

WPIAL Favorite: Seton LaSalle

Thomas Jefferson

Coach: Frank Staffen (23rd year)

Returning Starters:

5-11 senior setter/defensive specialist Ian Karel
6-6 senior outside/middle hitter Shawn McSwiggen
6-5 senior outside/middle hitter Adam Weidmann
6-5 sophomore outside/middle hitter Will Stewart

Players New to Varsity:

5-10 senior outside hitter Peyton Hancharik
6-1 sophomore outside hitter Alex Blaker
5-10 sophomore setter/defensive specialist Riley Burdett
6-0 sophomore setter/outside hitter Aaron DeNardo
5-7 sophomore libero Jason Salman
5-3 freshman libero Jaiden Wadlow

Season Outlook:

We are looking pretty good and have a lot of talent in several areas. I really think that we have a very good team and can compete at a high level.

Section Favorite:

I think it is going to be a toss-up this year with Seton LaSalle, Trinity and Thomas Jefferson all fighting for first place. All three teams have talent.

WPIAL Favorite:

OLSH, North Catholic, and Ambridge will be in the mix.

Top Players to Watch:

Shawn McSwiggen, Adam Weidmann, Will Stewart. I think all three have talent and with Will & Shawn both having club experience makes them outstanding players.

Trinity

Head Coach: Larry Myers (14th year)

Returning Starters:

6-2 senior setter Connor Roberts
6-3 senior middle hitter Connor Bull
6-2 senior outside hitter Kyle Fetcho

Season Outlook:

We have a good core of returning seniors. The competition for the remaining starting positions will be among a group of mostly first year players. How quickly they develop will determine how far we can go this season.

Section Favorite: Thomas Jefferson

WPIAL Favorite: O.L. Sacred Heart