

Beaver County Christian

Coach: Catherine Brown (1st year)

Probable Starting Lineup:

5-5 junior Setter Esther the Velde
5-9 junior middle hitter Audrey Michalik
5-7 junior outside hitter Brylee Mozley
5-7 senior outside/right hitter Cayla Condon
5-5 senior defensive specialist Emma Stroupe
5-4 sophomore libero Savannah Stroupe
5-9 sophomore outside/middle hitter Rachel Baird
5-8 senior opposite Heidi McChesney
5-6 sophomore setter Bella Hagberg

Season Outlook:

Hopeful, to pull them together as a solid well-ounded team defensively and defensively as the season progresses.

Section Favorite:

Union is a team I see doing favorably in the section and the WPIAL.

Young Players to Watch:

Elise Booker, and outside hitter from Union, is a young lady with great potential to excell this Season.

Bishop Canevin

Coach: Angela Wyman (2nd year)

Returning Starters:

5-8 senior outside hitter Keira Kozlowski
5-10 senior opposite Ava Gaitens

Season Outlook:

Our team has many new faces this year. Players are young, but talented. We lost several senior starters last year. Players like juniors Jade Bailey and Ella Whalen will help to fill those voids along with sophomores Clare Ruffing and Ayla Altman.

Section Favorite:

We have dominated the Section; however, with the addition of Chartiers Houston and Carlynton (who have replaced Sto-Rox and OLSH), things could be interesting this season.

WPIAL Favorite:

Again, we have dominated the WPIAL for 5 consecutive years. I look forward to seeing what this young team can do this year.

Young Players to Watch:

In terms of our team, Clare Ruffing, our 5-0 sophomore middle hitter will be one to watch for sure. Jade Bailey, our junior setter, is another one to keep your eye on; she has some big shoes to fill (with the graduation of Sani Jones).

Burgettstown

Coach: Sheri Kozares (2nd year)

Returning starters:

senior libero Jillian Frazier
junior middle hitter Kaitlyn Nease
junior setter/opposite Lizzy Ivanac

Season Outlook:

We have a lot of strong hitters and excited about being in a new section. Lizzy Ivanac has adjusted to setting after starting as a middle hitter last year. She is also an excellent server. Jillian Frzier is a magnet on the court, she seems to be everywhere the ball goes. Kaitlyn Nease is a powerful force blocking and hitting as well as having a deadly serve. Addison Cairns, a junior outside hitter, can play any front row position well.

Section Favorite:

Since we are new to our section, we are not familiar with any of the teams. We are looking forward to the challenge.

Carlynton

Coach: Aaron Cydnarowicz (2nd year at Carlynton, 9th overall)

Returning Starters:

5-4 senior setter Tanner Kephart
5-5 senior libero/defensive specialist Kendall Stark
5-7 senior middle hitter Taylor Zaletski
5-0 senior libero/outside hitter Aniyah Beatty
5-3 junior outside hitter/defensive specialist Joann Hussain
5-3 Sophmore opposite/outside hitter Jordynn Carter
5-11 Sophmore middle hitter Olivia Thompson
5-4 Sophmore outside hitter Zosia Branch

Season Outlook:

We have a strong core of seniors this year. With their leadership and a strong group of underclassmen I think we will be very competitive in our section.

Section Favorite:

This section looks like it will be very competitive this year.

WPIAL Favorite:

Bishop Canevin or Greensburg Central Catholic

Young Players to Watch:

Our sophmore class got a good bit of varsity time last year and I expect them to do big things this season. I am unfamiliar with the other team's younger players.

Carmichaels

Coach: Julianne Speeney (4th year)

Returning Starters:

5-11 senior outside hitter Beth Cree
5-7 senior setter Kendall Ellsworth
5-7 senior middle hitter Mikayla Andrews
5-2 senior defensive Specialist Macie Kraynak
5-3 senior libero Carlee Roberts
5-10 senior middle hitter Sophia Zalar
5-6 junior defensive specialist Karissa Rohrer

Season Outlook:

We always strive to be on top in all aspects of the game. Focusing on being adaptable and persistent, as well as the day-to-day will help us toward our goals to make it far.

Section Favorite:

You need to show up to play in our section each night.

Young Players to Watch:

Freshman Ani Cree & Sophomore Pacey Pratt

Eden Christian

Coach: Jillian Zentko (1st year)

Returning Starters:

None. They were all seniors last year.

Season Outlook:

We have high expectations for our young team this year. We had 6 starting seniors last year so there were a lot of positions to fill but the young talent we have is very promising. Their hardworking, enthusiastic, and never quit attitude is something that will set them apart from the other teams in this section. Excited to see what we can accomplish this year.

Section Favorite: Bishop Canevin

Young Players to Watch:

Ava Arnold and Ainsley Chevalier are freshmen this year with great potential and awesome court sense and awareness. They will both see playing time on Varsity. They are natural leaders on and off the court and we are excited to see what they bring to the ECA volleyball program this year. Ella D'Ippolito is a 6ft sophomore middle hitter who hardly lets any ball get past her. We have high expectations for her this season and she will definitely be a key component to the success of our team. Addison Cranston is a sophomore who is a powerhouse outside hitter. She definitely makes her presence known when she is on the court and will definitely be a key and essential player and leader on the court.

Frazier

Coach: Mandy Hartman (25th year)

Returning Starters:

5-9 senior outside hitter Jensyn Hartman
5-10 senior middle hitter Braylin Salisbury
5-5 senior right side Maddie Stefancik
5-9 sophomore setter Gracen Hartman
5-9 sophomore outside hitter Grace Vaughn
5-2 junior libero Molly Yauch
5-5 senior defensive specialist Maria Felsher

Season Outlook:

We are returning an experienced group of players from last year's team, and with a strong group of incoming freshmen we look to be very competitive this upcoming season.

Section Favorite:

This section will be new to us since we dropped in classification. I expect Mapletown and Carmichaels to have strong teams.

WPIAL Favorite:

Bishop Canevin has traditionally done very well in Class A. With the new alignment, there are some very competitive teams dropping down which will strengthen the playing field.

Young Players to Watch:

I am expecting freshman, Maddie Salisbury, to make an impact for us at Frazier. Her older sister, Braylin, is our senior middle hitter and Maddie will also add to our offensive game.

Greensburg C.C.

Coach: Erin Leonard (1st year)

Returning Starters:

senior libero Kayla Desak
junior defensive specialist/all around Grace Kindel

Season Outlook:

We have a young but very talented team. They are coming together and I expect them to be really strong this season

Section Favorite:

Serra Catholic is new in our section this year, we're looking forward to playing them and Leechburg is always a strong opponent!

Young Players to Watch:

Sophomore Eva Denis, outstanding outside hitter.

Geibel Catholic

Coach: Brett Binduga (1st year)

Returning Starters:

5-7 outside hitter Maia Stevenson
5-2 libero Halee Hart

Season Outlook:

The team is young, we have 7 freshman with 2 sophomores that are new this year. So a lot of growth and development.

Hillcrest Christian Academy

Coach: Rebecca Flathers (2nd year)

Returning Starters:

5-4 senior libero Eliana Bilsky
5-4 junior outside hitter/defensive specialist Ava Bryant
6-0 junior middle hitter Emma Zanker
5-8 junior middle/right hitter Brooke Grimes
5-3 junior setter Kayley Gorham

Season Outlook:

I am excited for our second official year in the WPIAL. Coming off of year one in the WPIAL with 5 returning starters that lead us to playoffs holds a lot of excitement for the 2022 season. With new teams in our section I expect it to be a very competitive season. We have a lot of young girls with talent that will help build our team.

Section Favorite:

Most likely Bishop Canevin

Young Players to Watch:

I believe that Amaris Bilsky, a Hillcrest freshman defensive specialist, will make an impact this season (sister to senior Eliana). Her passion and skill will drive our team to success.

Leechburg

Coach: Eve Hebrank (7th season as head coach, 8th with the program)

Returning starters:

5-10 senior outside hitter Macy Kubla
5-9 senior middle hitter Madeline Mastalerz
5-5 senior libero Anna Cibik
5-8 senior middle hitter Karli Mazak

Season Outlook:

Leechburg has lots of leaders in this year's senior class with many competitive underclassmen looking to fill empty spots from last season's graduate. Coming off the best year the program has ever seen in its 30 year history, the Blue Devils are hoping to remain a competitive contender this season.

Section Favorite:

Greensburg C.C. is always a powerhouse, but it will be interesting to see what Serra brings to the competition.

WPIAL Favorite: Bishop Canevin

Young Players to Watch:

Emily Talarico 5-10 sophomore middle hitter for Leechburg

Mapletown

Coach: Christy Menear (8th year at Mapletown, 15 overall as a head coach)

Returning Starters:

5-10 outside hitter Krista Wilson
5-6 outside hitter Ella Menear
5-3 libero Riley Pekar
5-4 defensive specialist Brianna Ashton

Season Outlook:

Coming off of a historic year, we have been working hard in the gym. If we can stay healthy, we will be strong both offensively and defensively.

Section Favorite:

Carmichaels and Fraizer have moved back into our section. Our section is always filled with well coached teams. As always, it will be a battle to win the section title.

Riverview

Coach: Sara Kirsch (1st year at Riverview, previously coached at Fox Chapel)

Returning Starters:

I have three seniors that we will be relying on:
outside hitter Maci Orbin
setter Hazel Polesiak
middle hitter Alex Bibza

Season Outlook:

I coached previously at Fox Chapel and was asked to coach at Riverview after their previous coach resigned. This is my first year with the team. I live in Oakmont so wanted to help the girls out. I also coached the junior high team in the spring since they needed someone there as well. We had no summer workouts since I've only been the head coach for a week. I'm trying to teach them a lot in a little bit of time. My expectation is that by the end of the season we will have improved and the players will be more prepared for the future.

St. Joseph

Coach: Dennis Jones (9th year)

Returning starters

5-6 senior setter Gabby Mason
5-11 junior outside hitter Julie Spinelli

Season Outlook

We are very young with a lot of energy. Looking forward to a fun season.

Section Favorite

Greensburg Central Catholic and Serra Catholic

WPIAL Favorite:

Bishop Canevin, Serra Catholic, Greensburg C.C.

Young Players to Watch:

Two players from St. Joseph: 5-6 freshman Kate Giannetta, 5-7 sophomore Sofia Quattrocchi.

Serra Catholic

Coach: Keith Trahan (11th year at Serra, 18th overall)

Returning Starters:

5-11 senior middle hitter Sarah Glaneman
5-9 senior middle hitter Dana Weber
5-5 junior outside hitter/defensive specialist Caitlyn Cooley
5-7 junior outside hitter Maria Goldstein
5-10 junior outside hitter Olivia Hussein
5-3 junior defensive specialist Riley Kostandinu
5-5 junior setter Emerson Trahan
5-6 sophomore libero Cassidy Trahan

Season Outlook:

We are excited with our prospects for the season. We have a solid and experience core coming back. Emerson and Cassidy were second and third team all-WPIAL last year. Sarah, Dana, and Ollie were second team all-section. Maria and Caitlyn were third-team. This is one of the most experienced returning groups we have had. They have a year of playing our tough out of section and tournament schedules, and WPIAL playoffs, which is key. We lost a few key seniors from last year, so the key for this group is who grows in leadership and confidence.

Section Favorite:

We moved sections and moved back down to single A this year. Thus, I would say the two returning section champs are favorites going in: Greensburg C.C. and Serra Catholic.

WPIAL Favorite:

Canevin is the defending champs and perennial power.

Young Players to Watch:

Natalie Carr is a freshman at Cannon Mac and Isabelle Hoppe is a freshman at Pine Richland. They play up with my daughter Cass in club. They are very good players with volleyball experience way beyond their years.

South Side Beaver

Coach: Alyssa Hickman (2nd year)

Returning Starters:

5-4 senior Brianna Stewart
5-4 senior Sara Hickman
5-8 senior Jaiden Strnisa
5-4 junior Giavonna Chiccarello

Season Outlook

We are hard-working and improving every day. We have a lot of potential to be competitive in the section and I look forward to seeing how the team and players develop through the season.

Section Favorite:

Beaver County Christian and Union

WPIAL Favorite

Bishop Canevin and Eden Christian

Trinity Christian

Coach: Gene Larson (10th year)

Returning Starters:

5-11 sophomore middle hitter Auroya Brown
5-7 senior outside hitter Elizabeth Crary
5-4 senior libero Rachel Dutton
5-8 senior outside hitter Sierra McCabe
5-3 sophomore outside hitter Josie Thomas
5-2 senior Setter Morgan Walker

Season Outlook:

We have a solid and now more experienced group of returning players. We played a lot of tough sets and matches within our section last year, which should set us up for success this year. We expect to challenge for a playoff spot.

Section Favorite:

GCC lost too much to maintain their stranglehold. Serra Catholic is the new Queens of the section.

WPIAL Favorite:

Bishop Canevin, but Serra Catholic could challenge.

Union

Coach: Nicolle Benincase (8th year)

Returning Starters:

5-8 junior outside hitter Dalaina Jones
5-3 junior S Nina Dinardo
6-1 junior middle hitter Kelly Cleaver
5-4 senior S Ella Casalandra
5-6 senior outside hitter Kendall Preuhs
5-6 senior RH Isabell King
5-6 senior outside hitter Kayla Freuhstorfer
5-8 senior outside hitter Madison Mangelli
5-9 senior outside hitter Elise Booker
5-8 senior middle hitter Sydney Wrona
5-11 senior middle hitter Zoe Lepri
5-2 senior L Emma Murdock

Season Outlook:

We have a big squad and a lot of returning starters. We are the returning undefeated section champions but games between us and Beaver County Christian are always good competition. I have a lot of returning talent, a large senior class, and a lot of talented underclassmen coming up through the ranks. I look for us to be contenders for some time to come. The girls have been putting in really hard work all summer and we're ready to get into this year and defend our section title.

WPIAL Favorite: Bishop Canevin

Western Beaver

Coach: Sara Walter (1st year)

Returning Starters:

6-0 senior middle hitter Delaney Bernard

5-4 junior outside hitter Gracie Patterson

5-2 junior libero Julia Ruttner

Season Outlook:

I think we are going to have a super strong season. We have a tight group of girls and we have a positive outlook on every game. We are excited to show what we've been working on in the off season.

Section Favorite:

Coming into this season Union is the section favorite. They have some aggressive hitters on their team.

WPIAL Favorite:

Bishop Canevin and Greensburg Central Catholic

Young Players to Watch

Western Beaver's Abby Olsanski is a junior outside hitter.

She's off to a strong start this season and was voted as one of the captains by her peers.