

Apollo-Ridge

Coach: Laura Daub (4th year)

Returning Starters:

5-7 senior outside Hitter Sophia Filippini
5-6 senior outside Hitter Ava Whitlinger
5-9 senior outside Hitter Brinley Toland
5-6 senior outside Hitter Morghan Wysocki
5-10 senior middle Hitter Anna Sadowsky
5-1 senior libero Isabel Gerheim
5-4 junior setter Jocelyn Emrock
5-4 junior setter/opposite Cheryl Gerheim
5-7 junior middle hitter Marly Koleno
5-1 sophomore defensive specialist Maeggie Wysocki
5-6 sophomore middle hitter Olivia Saxion
5-5 sophomore setter Kylar Toland

Section Favorite: Freeport

WPIAL Favorite: I think that is also Freeport.

Young Players to Watch:

We bumped up to AA this year, so I can only speak for our team. We have a talented group, and our largest senior class since I started coaching. I am excited to see big things from them.

Beaver

Coach: Suze Pollins (2nd year)

Returning Starters:

6-1 junior outside hitter Chloe List
5-2 junior libero Mackenzie Fox
5-8 junior right side hitter Reaghan Carroll
5-9 sophomore setter Zoe Ringer

Season Outlook:

We have a great group of girls this year that have been working very hard all summer to fill some big shoes that were left behind with the loss of our senior class from last year. We want to lean on the experience we do have with our returning starters and rely on some younger girls to provide a spark as well. We're looking to work hard, improve each day, and compete for a playoff spot in a very tough section.

Section Favorite: Shenango

WPIAL Favorite: Shenango

Young Players to Watch:

Zoe Ringer, a 5-9 sophomore setter for Beaver was an all-section player and started every game for us last year. I expect her to have a breakout season. Kailyn Connelly, a 6-1 freshman middle hitter, will be starting for us as well and we expect her to make an immediate impact.

Bentworth

Coach: Delaynie Stevenson (3rd year)

Returning Starters:

5-8 senior outside hitter Grace Skerbetz
5-10 senior middle hitter Emily Wise
5-8 senior setter Sarah Scicchitano
5-3 junior setter Jocelyn Babirad
5-4 junior defensive specialist Haylee Wolfe
5-4 sophomore outside hitter Chelsea Dindal

Season Outlook:

Our goal is to make the playoffs this year

Section Favorite:

No idea. We're in a new section this year.

Avonworth

Coach: John Skarupa (3rd at Avonworth, 4th Overall)

Returning Starters:

6-0 senior middle hitter Sophie Culley
5-4 senior setter Sam Blose
5-6 senior libero Mary Gannon
5-5 senior outside hitter/defensive specialist Francie King
5-7 senior opposite Erika Valois
5-8 senior outside/right hitter Gemma Kosko
5-9 junior outside hitter Nora Kate Gavin
5-9 junior opposite Victoria Huffmyer

Season Outlook:

We are a senior heavy team but also have a lot of familiar faces who will be taking a bigger role this year. This year will be a very interesting year with an almost completely brand new section but we are looking to grow and improve from a good run to the WPIAL final and a state playoff appearance.

Section Favorite:

This is a brand new section with only Quaker Valley as the familiar foe, it should be a tightly contested section with the top 5 teams of Central Valley, Hopewell, OLSH, Quaker Valley and Avonworth.

WPIAL Favorite:

With 41 teams in the largest classification I truly believe it is anyone's year. We have a lot of good teams that dropped from AAA like Beaver, Central Valley and Hopewell but the north section with Laurel, Neshannock and Shenango will be an interesting section with what I believe to be 3 of the top 5 teams in AA this year. Going to be an exciting year with a lot of interesting matches and rankings that will change weekly.

Young Player to Watch:

Kennady Martindale is a young middle hitter who improved tremendously over the off season. It's going to be exciting to watch her continue to develop. Outside hitter Gianna Reamer had a great club season with playing up a level, going to keep a close eye on her and her season.

Brentwood

Coach: Matt Episcopo (1st year as head coach after four years as varsity assistant)

Returning Starters

5-9 senior outside hitter Olivia Trent
5-3 senior setter Brianna Folino
5-3 senior libero Mackenzie Castiglione
5-6 junior outside hitter Shayla Millington
5-9 sophomore middle blocker Paige Boehm

Season Outlook:

We have 5 returning starters from last seasons team. I feel we had some success considering the competition we faced, in arguably the best section in 2A. It was always a struggle in that section having to play North Catholic, Avonworth, and Seton LaSalle 2 times each. They were always ranked in the Top 5 of all 2A. Moving on to this season, with the realigned sections, I feel that our players are battle tested having faced some strong competition the past 2 seasons. We know this section will be very tough as well and we are excited for the challenge our new section presents this coming season.

Section Favorite:

I'm not very familiar with most teams in our section this season but I would have to say that Seton LaSalle is the favorite because I am very familiar with that team having played them the last 2 seasons. South Park and South Allegheny were very strong teams in their sections last season as well.

WPIAL Favorite:

I think Freeport is probably the WPIAL favorite in 2A. They have always had great success in 3A and they will be a very tough opponent for any team that faces them.

Young Players to Watch:

I think Jordynn Carter, a right-side hitter from Carlynton, is a young player that will make an impact in the WPIAL this year. I saw her twice last season and was very impressed with her play as a freshman.

Central Valley

Coach: Candace Glumac (3rd year)

Returning starters:

senior setter Macy Laughher
senior middle hitter Alyssa Porter
senior middle hitter Taylor Godshall
junior outside hitter Bella Flinchum
Ava Weber, senior libero

Season Outlook:

We have a new section this year with teams we've never competed against. We have been working hard to be ready for the new competition.

Section Favorite:

Avonworth is coming off a very successful season. Hopewell and OLSH are always quality teams as well. We're working to be top competition for them.

Brownsville

Coach: Cameron Coffey (6th year)

Returning Starters:

5-7 senior outside hitter Ciara Williams
5-6 senior setter Skye Durst
5-6 senior right side hitter Kami Franks
5-8 junior middle hitter Mackenzie Wade

Section Favorite:

We have a lot of new teams in our section this year so it will be exciting to see what teams come out on top. Waynesburg is always a favorite, Southmoreland is usually strong as well. We are hoping to be a contender the section title as well.

WPIAL Favorite:

With the realignment it should be interesting to see but Laurel, Avonworth and South Park are always strong programs that could contend this year.

Young Players to Watch:

My 6-1 freshman middle hitter Skyler Gates should make a big impact this season. She's already stepping into her varsity role extremely well and as she gains confidence she keeps getting stronger and stronger.

Deer Lakes

Coach: Mike Nypaver (1st year)

Returning Starters:

5-11 senior middle hitter Kaylee Lipp
5-5 senior setter Jess Sullivan
5-10 senior outside hitter Maddy Friess
5-4 senior outside hitter Delanie Kaiser

Season Outlook:

I am hoping that we will compete for the section, however I'll be happy with a playoff appearance.

Section Favorite: My guess is Freeport

WPIAL Favorite: I again guess Freeport

Derry

Coach: Brock Smith (25th year)

Returning Starter:

5-6 senior outside hitter Sasha Whitfield

Season Outlook:

Derry will be young as we lost 10 seniors. Have some experience returning and hope to get better as the year progresses. We have some talented young players coming up and if they develop quickly, we could see vast improvement moving forward this season.

Section Favorite: Freeport

WPIAL Favorite: Freeport

Ellwood City

Coach: Jenna Ricciuti (7th year)

Returning Starters:

5-10 senior outside hitter Morgan Hooker
5-6 senior outside hitter Alyssa Donley
6-0 junior middle blocker Claire Noble
5-5 junior setter Lana Nocera
5-4 junior defensive specialist Ellie Kalantzis
5-9 sophomore middle blocker Delaney Sturgeon
5-9 sophomore middle blocker Emma Figurel

Season Outlook:

With only 2 seniors leading the team this year, we are looking for our underclassmen to step up in a big way. Key positions graduated last year and my girls are working hard to fill those roles smoothly. We have tough competition in our section this year but we are looking forward to the challenges.

Section Favorite: Beaver

WPIAL Favorite: Beaver, Shenango.

Young Players to Watch:

Delaney Sturgeon will make an impact on our team this year.

Fort Cherry

Coach: Mackenzie Greene (3rd year)

Returning Starters:

5-3 senior setter Taylor Campbell
5-9 senior middle hitter Kylie Chipps
5-8 senior middle hitter Trinity Matchett
5-7 senior outside/right hitter Makayla Faletto
5-6 junior outside hitter Jillian McCarty
5-6 junior opposite Lainey Hartner
5-5 junior defensive specialist Raney Stuab

Season Outlook:

I am expecting my team to be very small and scrappy.

Section Favorite: South Park

WPIAL Favorite: Shenango

Young Players to Watch:

Kylie Chipps and Jillian McCarty from Fort Cherry.

Freedom

Coach: George Bellinger Jr. (4th Year at Freedom)

Returning Starters:

5-11 senior middle hitter Journey Welling

Season Outlook:

This year is going to be a tough season, in a new section with teams that we haven't faced in a number of years and with only 1 returning starter we are going to have to rely on younger student athletes to step up. We will also rely heavily on a few upperclassmen with little or no varsity experience to learn the ropes as we go this year. We do have a bit of a favorable schedule with a few non-Section matches to start the season and give us an opportunity to gel as a team. So we are hoping and striving to compete for a playoff spot.

Section Favorite: Avonworth

WPIAL Favorite: Avonworth & Beaver

Freeport

Coach: Tom Phillips (22 years)

Returning Starters:

5-10 senior setter/opposite Cassidy Dell
5-5 senior libero Ava Soilis
6-0 senior middle hitter Hadley Hellgren
5-7 senior outside hitter Natalie Volek
6-1 junior middle hitter Josie Russo
5-8 junior setter Grace Beach
5-10 junior middle hitter Autumn English
5-7 junior outside hitter Sydney Selker
5-11 sophomore outside hitter Alaina Whitlinger
5-7 sophomore outside hitter Leah Schrecengost

Season Outlook:

Leadership and experience will be a main factor in Freeport's success this season. Moving to a new classification and section limits my knowledge of other teams. Each year, Freeport's goals remain the same. We strive for a section championship and a strong run in both WPIAL and PIAA playoffs.

Young Players to Watch:

Upcoming young players include sophomore outside hitter Alaina Whitlinger and sophomore outside hitter Leah Schrecengost who have proven to be important ingredients in Freeport's success thus far.

Hopewell

Coach: Terry Borkovic (33rd year)

Returning Starters

5-10 senior middle hitter Abby Oldham,
5-7 senior middle hitter Autumn Redinger,
5-5 senior outside hitter Adalyn Onuska,
5-5 senior, defensive specialist Madison Williams,
5-8 junior outside hitter Azure Humphries,
5-5 junior setter Haley Hineman,
5-5 sophomore opposite Kara Barkovich

Season Outlook:

We are a very young and inexperienced team. How quickly the young players adjust to varsity volleyball will be crucial to our success. We have numerous players moving up from junior varsity to varsity volleyball that will see significant playing time. We need to play strong backcourt defense for any chance to succeed. The team is working hard to improve in this aspect of the game.

Section Favorite:

We've been away from the AA classification the last two years. So, not familiar with many teams in our section. Central Valley is very strong. I hear Avonworth is very good. OLSH and Quaker Valley always have competitive, quality programs. We respect all the teams in our section.

WPIAL Favorite:

Not familiar with many of the teams in the AA classification. Freeport won the AAA title last year and has moved down to AA. Freeport is probably the favorite.

Young Players to Watch:

On our team, sophomore opposite, Kara Barkovich is very strong hitter.

Ligonier Valley

Coach: Emily Daugherty (4th year)

Returning Starters:

5-11 senior middle hitter Elizabeth Crissman
5-7 senior outside hitter Ruby Wallace
5-2 junior setter Saylor Clise
5-9 junior middle hitter Alexa Harding
5-6 junior libero Abrielle Tutino

Season Outlook:

We are a young team and are looking to continue growing our program through the younger players. We will be looking at some new girls this year who will play varsity time to make an impact! With being resectioned this year and seeing some new teams we haven't seen before. We are excited to see how this season plays out!

Is there a favorite in your section?

New section this year... Deer Lakes is always a strong team and was in the section with us last year as well.

Keystone Oaks

Coach: Mike O'Leary (6th year)

Returning Starters:

5-8 senior middle hitter Eriona Neal
5-4 senior defensive specialist Ava Neumont
5-5 senior defensive specialist Abby Branik
5-4 junior setter Makyah Woods
5-6 junior outside hitter Megan Mooney
5-3 junior defensive specialist Savanna Reick
5-8 sophomore setter/opposite Amelia Walter
5-9 sophomore middle hitter Mia McCafferty

Season Outlook:

Unfortunately, we lost an All-Section player from last year's team to injury earlier this offseason, so we will have to shuffle some players around into new positions but we are looking to get better every day and push to get back to playing competitive volleyball every night. We look to infuse some younger talent this year and earn a playoff spot after a couple of down seasons.

Section Favorite:

This is always tough when the sections are switched up but I would have to say South Park and Seton as they are usually always solid programs and very competitive.

WPIAL Favorite: Freeport

Young Players to Watch:

Ava Pintado will be an impact player for us this year at KO. She took major strides as a freshman at KO as well as in the club season with P3R and looks to build off of those experiences this year.

McGuffey

Coach: JoAnn Harshman (37th year at McGuffey, after 1 year at Avella)

Probable Starting Lineup

5-6 senior outside hitter Abbey Catlett
5-9 senior middle hitter Sydney Francis
5-4 senior outside hitter Roxanne Painter
5-3 senior libero Bailey White
5-10 junior middle hitter Stefanie Mounts
5-2 junior outside hitter Julia Barr
5-7 junior setter/outside hitter Addie Stagon

Season Outlook

We are back in our old section, which is a plus for us. If we play to our potential, we should be in the top half of section. We have good shot at qualifying for the playoffs if we can stay healthy.

Section Favorite

Waynesburg should be favored.

Mohawk

Coach: Anna Fadden (2nd year)

Returning Starters:

5-3 senior defensive specialist Jenna Barth
5-5 senior opposite Morgan Frye
5-10 senior middle hitter Audrey Magno
5-5 senior outside hitter Ariana Smiley
5-6 senior defensive specialist Dominique Walko
5-7 junior outside hitter Chloe Fadden
5-8 junior middle hitter Deyan Revis
5-6 junior setter Estelle Winck

Season Outlook:

Our team is working on building teamwork on and off the court to be more competitive.

Section Favorite: Neshannock

WPIAL Favorite: Neshannock

Young Players to Watch:

5-8 sophomore middle hitter Malayna McBride

Neighborhood Academy

Coach: Sophia Duck (1st at The Neighborhood Academy, 5th overall after a break)

List your returning starters:

5-10 junior middle blocker Isabella Cacalano Jordan*

Season Outlook:

A young team excited to join the WPIAL party. We have a few seniors with previous playing experience, highlighted by freshmen eager to make an impact. We plan to compete and earn points, while introducing ourselves to our section.

Section Favorite:

Not sure. First season as a WPIAL program.

Young Players to Watch:

5-11 freshman outside Abigail Mullin from The Neighborhood Academy

Neshannock

Coach: Jen Bollinger (4th year)

Returning Starters:

5-9 senior outside hitter Katie DiMuccio
5-6 senior setter Aaralyn Nogay
5-10 senior middle Alexandra Kwiat
6-1 senior outside hitter Marian Haggerty
5-4 senior libero Jenna Glies
5-5 senior defensive specialist Rylah Watts

Season Outlook:

We have big goals for this season, this group has a real chemistry that can take as far into the post-season.

Section Favorite:

Our section is a tough section and very competitive. Most every night of volleyball will be key. No nights off for sure. It makes for a great competitive atmosphere!

Young Players to Watch:

We have a great freshman class that will do great things in years to come. Our juniors are filling in spaces that are needed and really rising to the occasion.

New Brighton

Coach: Wes Remley (4th year)

Returning Starters:

5-7 senior middle hitter Taydym Reeves
5-3 senior outside hitter Chloe Darnley
5-6 junior outside hitter Jenna Alaksin
5-7 sophomore middle hitter Sadie Walton
5-4 sophomore libero Chloe Rizer

Season Outlook:

Our team consists of a good group of girls that work well with each other on and off the court. Our lineup has some returning starters from the previous year, bringing a little more experience to an ever-growing team. I look forward to seeing the hard work our players have put into our practices out on the court during our games this season.

Section Favorite:

New Brighton has changed sections this year so there are many teams that we have never faced before; Avonworth and Hopewell both seem to be very good teams in our section, but it will come down to the teams with the most heart and determination. We will, however, be competing against Freedom again this year, as they also changed sections.

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

Coach: Mike McDonald (37th year)

Returning starters:

5-8 senior outside hitter Alyssa Minton
5-9 senior middle hitter Kara Bridge
5-8 junior outside hitter Ellie Baker
5-8 junior S Morgan O'Brien

Season Outlook:

A lack of returning varsity experience and a lack of depth will cause the Chargers to have to really work on their ball handling, serve reception skills, and defense skills if they want to garner a playoff spot this season. Some returning seniors and juniors will be relied upon to fill out the starting lineup and also offer some production. Pairing that with the move up to AA, where the quality of play and skill is usually at a higher level, and the task is pretty formidable for McDonald's team this season. Consistency and limiting errors will be the goals for this season.

Section Favorites: Avonworth, Central Valley, Hopewell.

WPIAL Favorite: Freeport

Quaker Valley

Coach: Mike Vavrek (12th year at Quaker Valley, 18th overall)

Returning Starters:

5-6 senior setter Shayna Cunnard
5-7 senior outside/middle hitter Kathryn Karwoski
5-3 senior libero Hannah Lubert
5-11 junior middle hitter Katelyn Clark
5-10 junior opposite Annica Kagle
5-7 sophomore outside hitter Nora Hammond
5-10 sophomore outside hitter Molly MacDonald
5-8 sophomore setter/opposite Vanessa Pickett

Season Outlook:

We have a lot of girls returning who gained valuable experience last year on the varsity court. We hope to build off that and improve every time we step in the gym.

Section Favorite: Avonworth and Central Valley

WPIAL Favorite: Freeport

Young Players to Watch:

The 3 sophomores listed above who are expected to do good things for us.

Riverside

Coach: Marcie Young (2nd year)

Returning Starters

5-7 junior setter Maddie Prestia
5-7 junior setter/outside hitter Sara Kaelin
5-8 sophomore middle hitter DeLana Fox
5-9 junior outside hitter Brooke Dougherty

Season Outlook:

We are going into our 2nd year of a program that has never had girl's volleyball in 62 years. This will be our first season in the WPIAL 2A Section 1. We're prepared to make some heads turn with a lot of athletic players. Our freshman class is expected to make a huge impact on our program and we're really excited about the opportunity to play in the WPIAL this season.

Section Favorites:

Favorites in our section are tough, because there are 5 really great teams in our section that could fight for section title and playoff opportunities. With Beaver moving down from 3A to 2A they will likely have a huge impact in the section against Neshannock, Shenango, Laurel and Ellwood City.

WPIAL Favorite:

I think there will be a lot of surprises this year in 2A for the WPIAL finals. Defending champs North Catholic has moved up to 3A, giving many teams an opportunity to take over the 2A title. I think Avonworth, Beaver, Seton LaSalle and Neshannock could make it to the finals. If I would have to pick a favorite, I would go with Avonworth and Seton-LaSalle with Avonworth winning.

Young Players to Watch

Beaver's Chloe List would be a player to watch. Ellwood City's Morgan Hooker would also make a player to watch this season. Both girls are talented enough to have large impacts on their team!

Seton LaSalle

Coach: Jenna Potts (3rd year)

Returning Starters:

5-7 senior outside hitter Mia Pasquale
5-10 senior middle hitter Jamie Durstein
5-7 defensive specialist/outside hitter senior Presley Lucas
5-5 senior setter Emma Egan

Section Favorite:

We are excited to compete in a new section! We have been working hard in the off season and have a strong group of returners and talented newcomers stepping up this year.

WPIAL Favorite:

Not entirely sure because this is a new section for us, but we're looking to compete for the title. Avonworth sticks out in my mind, not sure about the rest of the teams in AA.

Young Players to Watch:

A freshman of ours, outside hitter/middle hitter Addie Lonergan, is going to be one of our strongest offensive players.

Shenango

Coach: Greg Dugan (31st year)

Returning Starters:

5-11 senior outside hitter Kylee Rubin
5-8 senior outside hitter Emilee Fedrizzi
5-6 senior libero Ashley DeCarbo
5-7 senior middle hitter Ang Butchelle
5-7 senior opposite Julia George
5-5 junior defensive specialist Maria Bryant

Season Outlook:

We had two very successful camps and the team is ready for the season to begin.

Section Favorite:

Laurel, Neshannock, Ellwood City, Beaver and Shenango all have very good teams and it will be a very competitive section this year.

Southmoreland

Coach: Dan Boring (1st year)

Consistent Returning Starters:

5-9 junior outside hitter Amarah McCutcheon
5-10 junior defensive specialist Kaylee Doppelheuer
5-7 sophomore setter Riley Puckey

Season Outlook:

Team returns a favorable amount of starters and athletes. The team will be looking to continue its WPIAL postseason appearance streak, and win its first WPIAL playoff game in the last 4-5 years.

Section Favorite:

I see Waynesburg returning some strong players and could be the potential favorite.

South Allegheny

Coach: Jack Kelley (4th year)

Returning Starters:

5-5 senior setter Angelina Cortazzo
5-8 junior defensive specialist Lexi Lundberg
5-7 junior middle hitter Bri Hayes

Season Outlook:

We've gone from a very experienced team to a very inexperienced team. We lost 7 starters to graduation from last year's section-championship team. Plus, one of my three returning players with varsity experience, Bri Hayes, will miss half of the season due to injury. But we're not throwing in the towel. We still have our first-team all-section setter, Angelina Cortazzo, for one more season. Junior Lexi Lundberg, one of our defensive specialists last year, is more than ready to become a 6-rotation player. And Faith Hresko should be fun to watch—the 5-1 senior, who missed most of last season and just switched to outside hitter this summer, will see her first varsity action (playing her at OH isn't as crazy as it sounds once you see her jump). Due to our inexperience, I would predict a slow, sloppy start. But I think we will improve as the season goes on and our youngsters start to get comfortable (and Bri gets healthy). I don't know how quickly it will come together, but I think we have the ingredients to turn our rebuild around pretty quickly.

Section Favorite:

I don't know much about our new section but, when in doubt, bet on Seton Lasalle.

Young Players to Watch:

We are really excited about our freshman class. We kept 12 freshmen this year and they have have created legit competition at all positions. Two of them, 5-10 middle hitter Ava Brown and 5-11 outside hitter Regan McBeth, will begin the season as varsity starters. McBeth is making a lot of noise in our gym. If she reaches her potential, we think she can be the kind of player that will cause problems for all of you for the next four years.

South Park

Coach: Chad Farrington (5th year at South Park, 11th overall as girls coach, also 6 years at Serra Catholic, also one year as South Park boys coach)

Returning Starters:

5-1 senior defensive specialist Lanie Schultz
5-6 senior outside hitter/right side Brooke Kubiak
5-3 senior defensive specialist Geana Paranzino
6-0 senior middle hitter/right side Elliot Oliphant
5-8 senior middle hitter Maurie Haddad
5-3 senior setter Julia Kuczma
5-11 junior middle hitter Riley Zigler
5-6 junior right side Erin Thagard
5-5 junior setter Libby Cassidy

Season Outlook:

Promising. As a group, we had a lot of ups and downs last year with illnesses and injuries that really took its toll on us. We're looking to rebound and we've got a strong determined group looking to do so. The majority of the upperclassmen have seen significant varsity playing time over the past few years, and that should prove extremely helpful heading into this coming season. There's a level of expectation now that's simply understood between, not only the coaches to players, but amongst the players themselves as well. We're looking and hoping to be extremely competitive in this new and unknown section.

Section Favorite:

Section realignment took place going into this season, so there's a lot of unknown for our South Park group. We're in an entirely new section with some interesting schools and teams. Seton LaSalle is coming off of an extremely strong year, finishing third in the WPIAL and South Allegheny won their section last year. Brentwood was in with some of the WPIAL best last year and still found the playoffs, Fort Cherry was a playoff team from last year, is moving up from single A and is an unknown. It's always difficult because you never really know who has what returning and who lost what to graduation, but I'd expect this section to be very competitive with Seton LaSalle, South Allegheny and South Park all fighting for the section title.

WPIAL Favorite:

This is the first time in a while I can say I'm unsure. There was a lot of movement from last year to this year. North Catholic has ruled AA for some time, but has now gone up to AAA. Freeport is always competitive and is rejoining AA after 2 years up at AAA. OLSH has moved back up into AA after 2 years down a class in A. And even with all the movement, Avonworth and Seton LaSalle, 2nd and 3rd in WPIAL respectively from last year, are returning and have to be in the conversation. This might be the most open I've seen AA since I've been at South Park. It's going to be a very competitive year, but I can't pinpoint any team in particular that I'd say is leaps and bounds above the rest.

Waynesburg

Coach: Dan Higinbotham (10 years)

Returning Starters:

5-11 senior outside/right hitter Sarah Stephenson
5-9 junior outside/right hitter Karlee Hogue

Season Outlook:

Losing 9 seniors in 2 years leaves us with an inexperienced young team. We are putting in the work but this season will be a challenging one regardless. I completely expect our team to overcome and make it to the playoffs just like we have done in the past.

Section Favorite:

I expect we will be in the hunt for the section but expect battles from Brownsville, Southmoreland, and Charleroi.

WPIAL Favorite: Freeport.

Yough

Coach: Kelly Fitterer (1st year)

Returning Starters:

5-9 senior outside hitter Brooke Croushore
5-6 junior defensive specialist Troy Martinelli
5-4 junior libero Baily Spell
5-5 junior defensive specialist Kaylin Ritenour
5-8 sophomore outside hitter Andoria Waldier
5-8 sophomore outside hitter Addison Seanor
5-10 sophomore middle hitter Hailey Bock
5-7 junior middle hitter Autumn Matthews

Season Outlook:

We have a good amount of freshmen this year and returning players. I believe we are going to start coming together as a team and we will end with some wins this season.