

Bethel Park

Coach: Brooke Muraco (5th year)

Returning Starters:

5-11 senior right side hitter Sophie Puzausky
5-9 senior outside hitter Grace Lejeck
5-10 senior middle hitter Abby Neal
5-2 senior libero Elaine DeLallo
5-7 sophomore setter Cassidy Sullivan

Season Outlook:

We have 5 returning starters, so are working hard to win the section this year. We have a strong group of seniors who play start and aggressive and are hungry to win.

Young Players to Watch:

Cassidy Sullivan, setter, Bethel Park.

Butler

Coach: Meghan Lucas (27th year, Butler and Kiski Area combined)

Returning Starters:

5-11 senior setter Ava Plunkard
5-9 senior outside hitter Brynn Morton
5-11 senior middle hitter Kaela Malis

Season Outlook:

We've had a great summer and look forward to seeing our younger players step up and have big roles in the starting lineup this season.

Canon-McMillan

Coach: Sheila Mitchell (12th year)

Returning Starters:

5-3 senior defensive specialist Andie Giles
5-5 senior setter Kaylee Knoble
5-9 junior setter Olivia Gross
5-6 junior defensive specialist Ava Matuscin
5-8 junior opposite Brigid Torpey
5-4 junior defensive specialist Julia Murdy
6-1 sophomore middle blocker Abby Tucker

Season Outlook:

This year's team is ready to turn things around! With the addition of two freshman outsides, we come into this season with a full team of returning players, and players who have been working with each other throughout the summer to get back to the playoffs and beyond. I look for this team to be loud and active on the court during every play.

Section Favorite:

With Moon leaving our section, I'd say it's up for grabs.

WPIAL Favorite: North Allegheny.

Young Players to Watch:

Look out for Natalie Carr and Gianna Reamer, both freshman outsides for Canon-McMillan this year.

Fox Chapel

Coach: Diane Andreyko (3rd year)

Season Outlook:

Most of our players are very young. Last year our varsity and JV was pretty much the same team. I do have two seniors this year. Peyton Shema who is our libero and a starter from last year as well.

Section Favorite:

We have joined a new section so it will be interesting to see. However, we do have Shaler and I would say that they are probably still the strongest team.

WPIAL Favorite:

I think it's going to be up for grabs. I do know NA is returning a great squad.

Young Players to Watch:

I believe with girls every year is a bit unpredictable. They grow and develop so fast that new and good players are constantly rising.

Norwin

Head Coach: Mary Ellen Ferragonio (16th year)

Returning Starters:

5-9 senior setter Sophia Alvarez
5-10 senior opposite Kate Botti
5-8 senior defense specialist Madie Kessler
6-0 senior middle hitter Ashley Laukus
5-5 senior defense specialist Sara Olson
5-9 senior opposite Sydney Petko
6-2 junior middle hitter Lauren Palangio
5-9 senior opposite Nicole Miller
5-9 senior outside hitter Faith Dunn
5-6 senior defense specialist Jaden Streussnig

Season Outlook:

We will work hard and continue to improve.

Section Favorite:

All teams in our section are very competitive.

WPIAL Favorite:

There are many good programs in the WPIAL.

North Allegheny

Coach: Russ Hoburg (2nd year, 11th with the program)

Returning Starters:

5-8 senior libero Caroline Curran
5-5 junior defensive specialist Avery Butcher
5-11 senior setter/outside hitter/opposite Ella Deeter
5-10 senior middle hitter/opposite Maddie Fickess
5-10 junior outside hitter/defensive specialist Kyra Schmidt
6-0 senior setter/outside hitter/opposite Mia Tuman
5-10 senior outside hitter Carissa Treser
5-10 senior middle hitter Ella Zimmer
5-5 senior defensive specialist Rebecca Pilotta

Season Outlook:

The success of the past several seasons of volleyball at NA has the effect of placing a target squarely on our back each and every match. I am always very appreciative of the way that our athletes handle this pressure and come to compete each day. We are fortunate to have a bunch of high quality athletes (and more importantly people) in our program. Many of these players may not show up in the statistics each night, but they are an integral part of our team and provide a very high level of competition each and every day in practice. Our outlook will be focused on maximizing the potential of this particular group of young women both on and off the court.

Section/WPIAL Favorites:

We are fortunate to play in a part of the state where volleyball has grown quickly over the past several years. Teams representing the WPIAL have been highly successful in all classifications of the PIAA playoffs in recent history. Additionally, we happen to play in a section that also houses many of the top teams in the district. The challenge of competing against these teams on a nightly basis helps all of us to be prepared for matches in the playoffs. We're excited to begin the journey of attempting to rise to the top of those groups, but we certainly recognize that the competition will be fierce.

Young Players to Watch:

I don't have specific names of young players from other schools, but the level of play around the Pittsburgh area keeps rising each year. It is great to see so many young athletes enjoying the game and competing to take their individual and team play to the next level.

North Hills

Coach: Matt White (1st year)

Returning Starters:

5-6 senior defensive specialist Alyssa Rosatone
5-6 senior outside hitter Emma Patsilevas
5-3 junior setter Jenna Dominek
5-5 junior defensive specialist Giana Cutenese

Season Outlook:

We have a great mixture of returning players and new faces that are meshing well together. We are looking to build on previous growth as the new coaching staff works with the girls to maximize our potential and make strides in the positive direction.

Section Favorite:

North Allegheny is coming off a great season and returning a strong core. Pine Richland is also bringing a strong returning class. This year should result in another year of competitive section matches.

WPIAL Favorite:

I will root for my section and say the team that can triumph through this tough section will be prepared for a strong WPIAL run.

Young Players to Watch:

I am not familiar with other teams in 4A yet, but for our squad we have a strong underclassmen group with Addyson Wrigley and Ashlyn Fazio leading the way. Excited to see the entire groups growth throughout this season.

Penn-Trafford

Coach: Jim Schall (25th year)

Returning starters:

5-7 senior outside hitter Gia Pezze
5-5 senior outside hitter Kate Schall
5-8 senior middle hitter Laylah McPherson
6-0 senior middle hitter Kaelynn Loffredo

Season Outlook:

We will have a lot of new players in the lineup and returning players taking on bigger roles. I expect our team will work hard and compete well.

Section Favorite:

I think Hempfield and Norwin will have improved teams. I am not familiar with Fox Chapel and Shaler rosters.

WPIAL Favorite: North Allegheny

Peters Township

Coach: Chris Kelly (1st year at Peters Twp, after eight years at Baldwin. Also coached Peters Twp boys team for eight years)

Returning Starters:

5-10 senior right side Alexa Camill
5-4 senior defensive specialist Lizzy Syverson
5-10 junior opposite Lyla Josefoski
5-9 junior setter Claire Brula
5-10 setter/opposite Mailea Hufnagel

Season Outlook:

This will be my first season coaching the girls at Peters Township, but I have been very encouraged by what I've seen this summer. We are looking to improve upon the 5-7 record from last season and make it back to the playoffs for a second year in a row.

Section Favorite:

With Moon leaving the section, the favorites would be Bethel Park and Upper St. Clair who finished second and third respectively in the section last year.

WPIAL Favorite:

Is there ever any other favorite to win the WPIAL besides North Allegheny?

Pine-Richland

Coach: Angela Seman (2nd year)

Returning Starters:

5-11 outside hitter Kaili Doctor
5-9 outside hitter Katie Gianni
6-0 middle hitter Sophia Menke
5-8 middle hitter Bri Gathers
5-6 setter Sofia Morse
5-4 defensive specialist Avery Kline

Season Outlook:

This will be one of the most physical Pine-Richland teams in almost a decade. We will have a large senior class who brings a lot of knowledge and maturity on and off the court. We will also be joined by some outstanding freshmen, who I intend on being powerhouses from the start of the season.

Section Favorite:

I would not say there is a favorite this year. The opportunity for great competition in our section this year is great.

WPIAL Favorite:

The WPIAL is always a great place for competition. With the changes in the sections, I think it will be a more even match up once we get into playoffs.

Young Players to Watch

Isabelle Hoppe, freshman setter at Pine-Richland.

Seneca Valley

Coach: Brett Poirier (4th year)

Returning starters

5-10 senior outside hitter Brooke Pelloni
5-10 junior middle hitter Olivia Congdon
5-10 senior right side hitter Sydney Dabruzzo
5-9 senior middle hitter Mia Stohon
5-4 senior setter Cassidy Matteo

Season Outlook:

Be very competitive from the start to the finish. Work hard and get better everyday. No easy matches in our section.

Section Favorite:

North Allegheny is always the favorite

WPIAL Favorite:

North Allegheny until someone can beat them

Shaler

Coach: Annie Bozzo (3rd year, 1st at Shaler)

Returning Starters:

6-1 senior middle blocker Mackenzie Barr
5-8 senior defensive specialist Madi Barr
5-11 senior outside hitter senior Claudia Clontz
6-1 senior middle blocker Candace Kozej
6-0 senior right side hitter Halle O'Neill
5-10 junior outside hitter Hilary Quinn

Season Outlook:

We are working hard to fill gaps and become an all around solid team. We are hoping to make another deep run in the WPIAL playoffs and qualify for PIAA playoffs.

Section Favorite:

I'm not sure as I'm still becoming familiar with AAAA Volleyball and the section changes.

WPIAL Favorite: North Allegheny

Upper St. Clair

Coach: Kim Manning (3rd year)

Returning Starters:

5-10 junior outside hitter/opposite Carli Casey
5-10 senior outside hitter Alex Culp
5-9 senior middle/right hitter Cassidy Jordan
5-6 junior defensive specialist/libero Calla Dressler
5-10 junior middle hitter/outside hitter Grace Triebsch

Season Outlook:

USC returns a core group of starters to the varsity line-up. Their experience and leadership will drive their team towards another playoff berth and help to feed the teams hunger for a section title. Some new young talent will also make USC a strong squad with a lot of depth.

Section Favorite:

This year with Moon leaving our section, I think Bethel Park will be one to watch out for.

WPIAL Favorite:

North Allegheny, Shaler

Young Players to Watch

I think there is a strong senior class of players all around Class 4A. They include USC's Alex Culp, Bethel Park's Grace Lejeck and Sophie Puzausky, Pine Richland's Kaili Doctor, NA's Mia Tuman, Shaler's Mackenzie Barr, and Latrobe's Lily Fenton. Young players that will contribute include Bethel Park's Cassidy Sullivan, Canon Mac's Abby Tucker, and Fox Chapel's Claire Feczko.