

Armstrong

Coach: Andrea Lasher (1st year in second stint, 3 years overall)

Returning Starters:

6-2 senior outside hitter Nathan Rosenberger
6-2 junior setter/opposite Rafe Hankey
5-10 junior setter/opposite Sam Dosch
5-8 junior libero/outside hitter Sam Jacobs
6-1 Junior outside hitter Brendan Savinda

Season Outlook:

I feel we will be very competitive and will be fighting and working hard toward a section championship this year.

Section Favorite:

I strongly feel Latrobe, Derry, Gateway, and Armstrong will be the top contenders this year in our section.

WPIAL Players to Watch:

I can only speak right now for Armstrong, but I feel Nate Rosenberger, Brendan Savinda, Sam Dosch and Rafe Hankey from Armstrong will be top players this season to look for.

Derry

Coach: Shawn Spencer (20th year)

Returning Starters:

6-5 senior outside hitter Cameron McNichol
6-4 senior middle hitter Mason Beeman
5-10 senior setter/defensive specialist Johnathan Shumaker
6-1 junior outside hitter/setter Noah Berkheimer

Season Outlook:

Have a few key players back, need the newcomers to develop and fill the roles that graduated hopefully in time to make a playoff push.

Section Favorite:

 Mars

WPIAL Favorite: Mars & North Catholic

Latrobe

Coach: Drew Vosefski (25th year)

Returning Starters:

senior outside hitter Sam Kiesel
junior setter/opposite Eric Bisignani
junior outside/middle hitter Owen Ward

Season Outlook:

With three returning starters and six juniors that saw extensive varsity time coming off the bench, we feel we can be as strong if not stronger than our performance in the 2023 season. Our three captains will be the core of our team for 2024. Sam Kiesel was our leading scorer in kills last season, 1st team all section, 1st team all W.P.I.A.L., and all tournament at the Rhode Island Invitational tournament. As a sophomore Eric Bisignani earned 1st team all section honors and 3rd team all W.P.I.A.L. Sophomore Owen Ward was selected as 2nd team all section.

Section Favorite:

 Latrobe.

Gateway

Coach: Phil Randolph (6th year)

Returning Starters:

6-1 senior defensive specialist Chase Anthony
6-0 senior setter/opposite Jace Beam
6-2 senior middle hitter Mark DiPalma
6-4 senior outside/middle hitter Alec Dunsmore
5-7 junior defensive specialist Owen Echegaray
6-2 junior outside hitter Darius Farrar
6-0 senior setter/opposite Will Hansmann
6-1 senior outside/middle hitter Ryan Hoffner
5-11 senior defensive specialist Keagan Kyper
6-3 senior middle hitter Jake Pawlowski
6-4 senior middle hitter Jake Santo
6-0 senior outside/opposite Diego Valentin

Season Outlook:

Once again, I'm terrifically excited for this season to fully get underway. We are in a fortunate position where we are returning our entire starting lineup except for one, Noah Passalinqua, who was an animal for us the past few years from the outside spot. Fortunately for us, we have guys who are hungry to show that they can pick up right where Noah left off, and I fully believe that they can – and will do so. Over the time that I have run this program, we went from a roster of 12 to now having 30 guys on the team, and that means that there is a lot of competition for those six spots. Our depth and experience are invaluable resources heading into a wildly competitive section, and it is our intention to keep grinding day after day in order to show that we have a special group of guys here at Gateway. We are not the program that we once were, and I say that for all the right reasons.

Section Favorite:

Based on the initial coaches' rankings, Mars and Greater Latrobe seem to be early favorites heading into the season; of course, we are looking forward to showing that we should be in the thick of this conversation, too.

Mars

Coach: Michael Nypaver (8th year)

Returning starters:

6-5 senior middle hitter Ryan Ceh
5-8 senior libero/defensive specialist Colton Riska
5-10 junior setter Kyler Robinson
6-1 senior outside hitter Tyler Raabe
6-1 senior opposite Liam Quinn
6-4 junior outside hitter Derek Piatek

Season Outlook:

I hope this year we are as, if not more, competitive as last season. I hope to build off of the success we had last year and fight for a playoff spot.

Section Favorite:

Our section is full of talent. I think Derry and Latrobe will be to their normal high level of volleyball. Gateway has some strong players returning after a playoff appearance last year. I also think that Armstrong, who found success at the end of last season, has some good players returning. Our section could be anyone's for the taking.