

Butler

Coach: Lew Liparulo (31st year)

Returning Lettermen:

5-8 libero Riley Chapla
5-10 defensive specialist Christian Melnik-Mohr
6-3 middle hitter Ben Miller
6-3 outside hitter Colten Welter
5-9 setter Mason McCall
6-1 opposite Alec Teff

Season Outlook:

We should compete with all teams in our tough section.

Section & WPIAL Favorite:

Shaler with a strong line-up should be top contender in our section and WPIAL.

WPIAL Players to Watch:

Colten Welter should be one of the respected hitters in WPIAL.

Fox Chapel

Coach: Phil O'Keeffe (22nd year)

Returning Starters:

senior middle hitter Jack Lynch
senior outside hitter Ethan Shelestak
senior outside hitter Gladwin Rowan
senior middle hitter Solomon Amemasor
senior setter Andrew Shepard

Season Outlook:

We should be in the mix for a playoff spot.

Section Favorite: Shaler

WPIAL Favorite: Someone from Section 2.

Pine-Richland

Coach: Tyler Trimbath (1st year)

Returning Starters:

6-7 sophomore outside hitter Doolin Stober
6-4 junior outside hitter Luke Jancy
6-1 junior middle hitter Brady Weir
5-10 junior setter/opposite Matteo Rotelli
6-0 junior opposite Michael Tunder

Season Outlook:

We are expecting to shock a lot of teams in our section this year. We have a new mindset with a lot of players having new positions and new responsibilities. We have added a lot more depth at every position with most of our players deciding to play club this past season.

Section Favorite: Shaler

WPIAL Favorite:

Shaler or North Allegheny are always in the top

North Allegheny

Coach: Dan Long (2nd year)

Returning Starters:

5-10 senior setter Nicolas Carioto
6-4 senior outside hitter Stone Gaertner
5-4 senior libero Will Hahn
6-3 sophomore outside hitter Will Robertson
6-0 senior middle hitter Jeremiah Satcho
6-1 senior middle hitter Theo Wilkinson

Season Outlook:

We are eager to emiddle hitterrace the challenge of our highly competitive section. We are hopeful that the experience gained from last season and the development from the off-season will prepare us to be competitive, if the oppositeortunities are earned, at the WPIAL and PIAA levels.

Section Favorite: Shaler

WPIAL Favorite: Shaler

WPIAL Players to Watch:

Logan Peterson, Dante Palombo, Luke Bockius, Lucas Churchfield, Coleton Welter, Nicholas Carioto, Cam Miller, Brad Heinbaugh, Stone Gaertner, Will Hahn, Jordan Hoover, Justin Oswald, Jackson Genicola, Zac Wurzer

North Hills

Coach: April Krivoniak (2nd year)

Returning Starters:

5-9 junior libero Zach Malavite
6-1 junior outside hitter Brady Davidson
6-1 senior outside hitter Dane Fazio
6-0 junior middle hitter Zach Fritz
6-1 senior setter Dan Dalton
6-0 senior outside hitter Royce Clanagan
6-1 senior middle hitter Cian Clements
5-9 junior setter Brady McCall

Season Outlook:

The team looks to build on their success after being ranked in the WPIAL AAA Top 10 for several consecutive weeks for the first time in a very long time, if not for the first time ever. These boys have worked hard to change the program's culture, and their efforts have brought North Hills volleyball into the conversation; they have continued to improve in the offseason and look forward to competing for a playoff spot in our talented section.

Section and WPIAL Favorite: Shaler

Seneca Valley

Coach: Brett Poirier (4th year)

Returning starters:

6-0 senior opposite Nicholas Dunmire
6-0 senior libero Matthew Cinker
6-2 senior outside hitter Matthew Mirilovich
6-2 senior setter/opposite Peter Breski
6-4 senior middle hitter Matthew Degraaf
6-5 junior middle hitter Jordan Hoover
5-9 senior defensive specialist Connor Gormly

Season Outlook:

We only graduated two seniors last year. Seven returning starters from last year's group should put us in the hunt for a successful season. Our section is so strong that you have to be ready to play every night.

Section Favorite:

I usually say North Allegheny. This season it should be Shaler. Butler will be strong and has a deep team. Pine Richland keeps getting better.

WPIAL Favorite:

Last season Shaler made it to the State finals. With them returning almost everyone from that team they should be the favorites this year.

Shaler

Coach: Paul Stadelman (13th year)

Returning Starters:

5-9 senior defensive specialist Cam Miller
6-2 senior middle blocker Dante Palombo
6-2 senior outside hitter Logan Peterson
6-4 senior right side/setter Peyton Planz
5-8 senior defensive specialist Dunnovan Ronel
6-0 senior setter Zach Rosenwald
6-0 senior middle blocker Logan Schimmel
6-0 senior outside hitter Zac Wurzer

Season Outlook:

We had the most successful season in Shaler Area Volleyball history last year with our first WPIAL Championship as well as a PIAA Finals appearance. We lost a valuable senior in Joey Gannon but hope to be highly competitive in a strong AAA volleyball pool of teams this season. With many starters returning, we are focused on each match in front of us.

Section Favorite:

We are the defending section champions and hope to repeat, but know we have our work cut out for us with a very challenging section from North Allegheny, Seneca Valley, Butler, North Hills, Pine Richland and Fox Chapel

WPIAL Favorite:

We feel good about our chances of having a shot at another WPIAL title. We have a lot of respect for many of the teams in AAA and have our guard up and need to put forth our best effort and remained disciplined to defend our title.

WPIAL Players to Watch:

Lucas Churchfield, Norwin; Luke Bockius, Canon-McMillan; Coleton Welter, Butler; Nicolas Carioto, North Allegheny; Brad Heinbaugh, Penn Trafford; Jackson Genicola, Norwin; Will Hahn, North Allegheny; Stone Gaertner, North Allegheny; Josh Reilly, Hempfield; Justin Oswald, Upper St. Clair. There are also some younger players who were coming on strong at the end of the season with Josh Peters from Canon-McMillan as well as a pair of sophomores from Upper St. Clair - Tyler Robbins and Sam Berger.