

## Albert Gallatin:

**Coach:** Baylee Powell (3rd year)

### Returning Starters:

Mia Myers, senior, setter  
Leah Myers, senior, outside hitter  
Mya Gildan, senior, middle hitter  
Kymber Hlatky Houze, senior, outside hitter  
Mitchel Turner, senior, middle  
Mary Myers, senior, defensive specialist

### Season Outlook:

I am very excited to get this season started. I feel like our returning starters have so much experience on the court and they have come out to play this year. I am looking forward to see what the season has in store for us.

### Section Favorite:

Thomas Jefferson always is favored in our section.

### Young Players to Watch:

We have a young setter: sophomore Danica Sterbutzel. She is showing so much talent this year and we are excited to watch her grow through the season.

## Beaver

**Coach:** Suze Pollins (4th year, 51-8 record)

### Returning Starters:

Zoe Ringer, 5-9, senior, setter  
Sophia Sharpless, 5-2, senior, Defensive Specialist  
Allie Williams, 5-7, senior, Defensive Specialist  
Kailyn Connelly, 6-3, junior, Outside/middle hitter  
Alaina Malobabich, 6-1, junior, middle hitter  
Aubrey Bumbilis, 5-8, junior, libero  
Anna Vinopal, 5-6, junior, Outside/Opposite Hitter  
Jaedyn Brown, 5-3, junior, outside hitter

### Season Outlook:

We bring back a very experienced team who went 22-1 last season and lost in the Class 2A PIAA semifinals. This group is very motivated and has a chip on their shoulder because they came up short last season. They have been putting in the hours at club, in the gym, and weight room to come back even better than last year. We are excited to play in a loaded Class 3A and are ready to compete.

**Section Favorite:** Beaver

### WPIAL Favorite:

Class 3A has the most talented teams across the board so I believe it could be any of these teams but these are my top 5 picks - Beaver, Mars, Oakland Catholic, Freeport, and South Fayette.

### Young Players to Watch:

Kayden Blinn, a 5-9 freshman setter/opposite has been a part of our program as a manager for the past couple years. We very excited to have her finally able to play and expect her to make an immediate impact in our lineup this season. This past club season she played on a 16 national club team and led her team to a 5th place finish at AAU Nationals.

## Ambridge

**Coach:** Carly Humphries (3rd year)

### Returning Starters:

Abby Reeves, 5-1, senior, defensive Specialist  
Savanna Jones, 5-1, senior, libero  
Natalie Korol, 5-3, sophomore, setter/outside hitter  
Gianna Georgakis, 5-9, junior, middle hitter

### Season Outlook:

Looking to have a good season. The girls are excited and ready to put in the work needed to have a good season.

### Young Players to Watch:

Natalie Korol & Noella Jaworcczykowska Edwards (co-captain) are sophomores at Ambridge. Looking for them to be a great impact on varsity. Also looking for senior Savanna Jones (co-captain) & junior Gianna Georgakis to be huge impacts.

## Belle Vernon

**Coach:** Henry Mulholland (3rd year)

### Returning Starters:

Hailey Lazur, 6-0, senior, middle hitter  
Taylor McDaniel, 5-7, senior, outside hitter  
Giavanna Wigand, 5-6, senior, libero  
Joy Johnson, 5-4, junior, defensive specialist  
Mallory Wasicek, 5-8, junior, outside hitter

### Season Outlook:

Our goal is to reach the playoffs in a very competitive section.

### Section Favorite:

Always Thomas Jefferson.

## Blackhawk

**Coach:** Kayli Newman (1st year)

### Returning Starters:

Addie Marazzi, 5-8, senior, outside hitter  
Karleigh Matscherz, 5-7, senior, setter  
Harley Frederick, 5-6, senior, outside hitter  
Addie Chevalier, 5-10, senior, opposite

### Season Outlook:

The girls have worked hard all summer long, and I am looking forward to this season. This is a very passionate team and I see big things for them this season.

### Section Favorite:

First year coach here. I'm looking forward for my team to play them all.

## Central Valley

**Coach:** Candace Glumac (5th year)

### Returning Starters:

Kylie Godshall, senior, setter  
Mia Dinello, senior, middle  
Selah Glumac, senior, defensive specialist  
Addy Sullivan, junior, libero  
Delilah Dohanich, sophomore, outside  
Peyton Davidson, sophomore, outside  
Ashley Bible, sophomore, outside

### Season Outlook:

We are young and inexperienced and we are looking forward to growing as a team

**Section Favorite:** Beaver

**WPIAL Favorite:** Beaver

## Chartiers Valley

**Coach:** Mackenzie Greene (2nd year at Chartiers Valley, 8th year overall)

### Returning Starters:

Kaylie Baumgart, 6-0, senior, middle hitter  
Carly Buck, 5-6" senior, middle hitter  
Emerson Kutschbach, 5-3, senior, defensive specialist  
Iyla Ozbey, 5-9, senior, opposite  
Addison Varnish, 5-6, senior, setter

### Season Outlook:

My team is ready to fight for a Section title and eager to compete this season. These girls have been working very hard this pre-season in the weight room and on the court. Super excited to see how this season unfolds.

**Section Favorite:** South Fayette

**WPIAL Favorite:** Beaver

## Franklin Regional

**Coach:** Rachel Carter (4th year)

### Returning Starters:

Maya Speranza, 5-10, junior, outside hitter  
Carson Burgh, 5-10, senior, setter/opposite  
Hadley Regelski, 5-10, senior, middle hitter  
Maria Piraino, 5-6, junior, defensive specialist  
Malena Fischetti, 5-6, senior, defensive specialist

### Season Outlook:

This team is already working hard to get better every day and hustles in every play. I think we will surprise some teams this year.

### Section Favorite:

With a new section, I am interested to see what everyone else thinks.

## Derry Area

**Coach:** Brock Smith (26th year)

### Returning Starters:

Alayna Williams, 5-5, senior, outside hitter  
Regan Repak, 5-7, senior, setter  
Gabrielle Sisak, 5-5, senior, outside hitter  
Madison Repak, 5-8, junior, middle hitter  
Haylee Myers, 5-9, sophomore, middle hitter

### Season Outlook:

Moved up a classification so there will be a challenge right off the bat. Have a pretty experienced team returning and expect that experience to carry us throughout the season. Have several younger players who are pushing the upperclassmen, creating excellent competition that should improve the team.

### Section Favorite:

Being a new section due to realignment, it is hard to say.

### WPIAL Favorite:

Looking back to the previous year, Hampton and Thomas Jefferson have been very strong consistently over the years.

## Freeport

**Coach:** Tom Phillips (24th year)

### Returning starters

Alaina Whitlinger, senior, 6-0, outside hitter  
Leah Schrecengost, senior, 5-8, opposite/outside hitter  
Ruby Furer, senior, 5-7 Opposite/outside hitter  
Sylvia Crytzer, senior, 5-4, defensive specialist  
Ava Dreher, senior, 5-5, defensive specialist  
Peyton Cene, Sr., libero

### Season Outlook:

All of our seniors were contributors on last years team to some extent and started games. We have a very solid group of underclass players coming in and the competition for starting positions is going to be intense. I'm very happy with the work and dedication that these players have put into our program and looking forward to seeing them grow in our volleyball family.

### Section and WPIAL Favorite:

Moving into a new section this year as well as a move upward in classification is always challenging, but we look forward to it. As always, our goals remain the same: finish strong in section and advance to the PIAA playoffs.

## Gateway

**Coach:** Erica Bosh (1st year)

**Returning Starters:**

5-6 senior setter Jolina Estremera  
6-0 senior middle/opposite Anastaja Lowrey  
5-10 senior middle Ashlee Young  
5-11 senior middle Auroya Brown  
5-5 senior setter Joanna Miller

**Season Outlook:**

We started a little late this year but the girls have utilized every minute to improve and get better. We have a lot of talented and experienced players returning that will help lead us to be very competitive this year.

**Section Favorite:**

This is a new section this year and I believe it's open for any team to win it.

**Young Players to Watch:**

Gateway's sophomore outside hitter Triniti Stevenson.

## Greensburg Salem

**Coach:** Rachel Brannigan (4th year)

**Returning Starters:**

Anna Shevchik, 5-2, defensive specialist  
Katie Shea, 5-2, defensive specialist  
Alyssa Seigenfuse, 5-4, setter  
Blessing Gantt, 5-11, opposite  
Taylor Dale, 5-4, outside hitter

**Season Outlook:**

This season the Greensburg Salem volleyball team is a tight knit group who knows that to be competitive they must rely on their upperclassmen's passing abilities and leadership in order to be successful. They have worked hard in the off season and know that in a new section it is anybody's game. They are prepared to leave it all on the floor.

**WPIAL Favorite:** Freeport

**Young Players to Watch:**

Bella Dinkel is a freshman setter who will make a big impact both defensively and as well as setting for the Golden Lions.

## Hampton

**Coach:** Dainen Holler (3rd year)

**Returning Starters:**

Marin Katona-Bock, 5-8, sophomore, outside hitter  
Lilly Muczinski, 5-9, junior, setter  
Payton Galietti, 5-9, senior, outside hitter

**Season Outlook:**

Hampton looks to be competitive in the section with hopes to make a run in the WPIAL playoffs. The loss of 9 seniors in 2023/2024 has left an opportunity for new players to compete for significant playing time. Hampton returns 3 starting players from last season: Lilly Muczinski (Junior, Setter), Marin Katona-Bock (Sophomore, OH), and Payton Galietti (senior, outside hitter)

**Section Favorite:**

I do not know. We should have a competitive section with the new alignment.

**Young Players to Watch:**

Marin Katona-Bock, sophomore, outside hitter; Kameron Solkovy, freshman, outside/right hitter.

## Indiana

**Coach:** Malinda Oesterling (26th year overall)

**Returning Starters:**

Stella Stossel, 5-8 senior, outside hitter  
Addie Stossel, 5-5, senior, libero/defensive specialist  
Hannah Cowburn, 5-6, senior, setter  
Paige Fisanich, 5-9, junior, outside hitter

**Season Outlook:**

I have been coaching in District 6 for girls and boys for the last 7 years.

## Highlands

**Coach:** Michelle Dickerson (2nd year)

**Returning Starters:**

Carrah Scardina, 5-2, senior, libero  
Addison Arms, 5-11, junior, middle hitter  
Abigail Lemmon, 5-6, junior, setter  
Lyla Vivirito, 5-7, junior, outside hitter

**Season Outlook:**

Our team moved into a tough section this year but have been working hard in the off season. We look to pick up section wins this season.

**Section Favorite:**

Freeport is always a favorite and Hampton is the reigning champ.

## Knoch

**Coach:** Diane Geist (39th year)

**Returning Starters:**

Karlee Buterbaugh, 5-11, senior outside hitter  
Jess Farbacher, 5-7, senior outside hitter  
Kenzie Kurtz, 5-7, senior, middle hitter  
Avery Adams, 5-0, senior, defensive specialist

**Season Outlook:**

We will be in a fight for a playoff spot

**Section Favorite:**

Hampton is the WPIAL 3A Champion, Freeport is the AA WPIAL runner-up and Mars is a perennial play-off contender. It will be a battle.

**WPIAL Favorite:**

Class 3A is always strong. Too soon to tell.

**Young Players to Watch:**

We have two freshmen who may see some varsity time this year: outside hitter Braylin Steele and setter Maelan Bajuszik.

## Moon

**Coach:** Michael Sams (1st year)

**Returning starters:**

Elina Antoniadis, junior, setter  
Reese Keslar, junior, outside hitter  
Abbie Warnagaris, junior, middle hitter  
Maddie Finnegan, senior, libero/defensive specialist

**Season Outlook:**

Good mix of young players with a lot of experience and strong senior leadership

**Section Favorite:**

The honest answer is that every team in our section is very strong. Three to watch are: South Fayette, Oakland Catholic, and Chartiers Valley.

## Mars

**Coach:** Tami Caraway (12th year)

**Returning Starters:**

Ella Nicotra, 6-0, senior, outside hitter  
Lily Javor, 5-9, senior, outside hitter  
Hailey Duker, 5-10, senior, setter  
Cecilia Christy, 6-0, junior, middle blocker  
Rylee Wooldridge, 5-8, junior, outside hitter  
Alaina Graham, 5-9, junior, defensive specialist

**Season Outlook:**

Our players gained experience last season which they used as a catalyst for growth. We're excited to play together as a team and improve each time we step on the court.

**Section Favorite:**

There will be some tough matches in section between schools with a great tradition of competing and winning. Hampton and Freeport start with an advantage coming off of successful seasons last year .

**WPIAL Favorite:**

Beaver, Freeport and Hampton are definitely favorites based on last season. TJ and South Fayette come back with strong teams as well.

## McKeesport

**Coach:** Elisabeth Dansak (3rd year)

**Returning starters:**

Elonna Walker, 5-9, senior, opposite  
Jourdin Allen, 5-10, senior, middle hitter  
Danyla Glover, 5-3, senior, libero  
Cheyanne Oliver, 5-8, senior, outside hitter/defensive specialist  
Anniya Simmons-Brown, 5-8, junior, outside/right hitter  
Jenesis Kisasonik, 5-5, sophomore, outside hitter  
Kyra Stephenson, 5-5, sophomore, setter  
Harmony Morris, 5-6, sophomore, middle hitter

**Season Outlook:**

We expect to have to have our best season yet. With almost our whole varsity team returning and adding an additional defensive specialist/libero we are in a good spot to make a playoff run. We have gritty seniors who are looking to help their team turn heads this year.

**Section Favorite:**

No favorites yet, we are in a new section this year and are looking forward to seeing some new teams.

**Young Players to Watch:**

I expect all four of my varsity sophomores - Jenesis Kisasonik, Kyra Stephenson, Harmony Morris and Mariyah Cook - to make a huge impact on our team and in our new section this year.

## Oakland Catholic

**Coach:** Jenna Potts (2nd year at Oakland Catholic, 5th overall)

### Returning Starters:

Josie Fontana, 6-2, junior, outside hitter  
Elena Krummert, 5-7, junior, libero  
Grace Kosylo, 5-6, senior, outside hitter/defensive specialist

### Season Outlook:

We graduated a big senior class and we'll be a different team than last year, but we're really excited by the talented crew of seniors, juniors, and sophomores who worked hard in the off season and are stepping up in big ways. We'll be more balanced on offense and our ball control is tight. I'm so excited to see this team will grow as the season goes on, especially with their energy, team chemistry, and drive. We have a tough preseason schedule that will prepare us for a super tough section. We're excited and ready to defend our section championship and make a playoff run.

### Section Favorite:

Every game in our section is a battle.

### WPIAL Favorite:

It'll be a very competitive year for 3A with Beaver and Freeport newly in the mix, the top 4 teams of 3A Section 2, and Hampton defending their title.

## Ringgold

**Coach:** Adam Thomas (7th year)

### Returning Starters:

Izzie Walsh, 5-8, senior, outside hitter  
Riley Lewis, 5-7, senior, setter  
Ryann Lape, 5-5, senior, defensive specialist  
Camryn Bucci, 5-3, senior, libero  
Megan Kopp, 5-8, senior, middle blocker  
McKenna Adams, 5-7, junior, outside hitter  
Cami Tustin, 5-7, junior, middle blocker/right side hitter  
Addy Mundorff, 5-11, junior, middle blocker

### Season Outlook:

Our team is motivated to compete for the 2024 section title this year. We have a solid foundation that comes with years of varsity experience. We finished second in the section last season and are looking to improve upon that. With that said, we plan on taking the season one week at a time, and even further one game at a time.

### Section Favorite:

The favorite has to be TJ as they are the returning section champions.

### WPIAL Favorite:

Hampton is the favorite as they won WPIALs last year. North Catholic and Armstrong, amongst others, should be teams to look out for as well.

### Young Players to Watch:

I don't know of any players personally, but I'm sure by the year's end there will be a number of freshmen and sophomores contributing to their team's success in the playoffs.

## South Fayette

**Coach:** Scott Sundgren (23rd year as head coach)

### Returning Starters:

Juliet Leroux, 6-0, junior, middle hitter  
Lola Jacobs, 5-11, senior, middle hitter  
Charlotte Dzicki, 5-10, senior, outside hitter  
Lanna Thomas, 5-7, junior, setter  
Madisyn Jones, 5-6, senior, libero/defensive specialist

**Section Favorite:** We have a really strong section, so in my opinion, we'll have to see how everyone does.

## Thomas Jefferson

**Coach:** Courtney Frost (1st year as interim coach, 3rd year with program)

### Returning Starter:

Myla Evans, 5-5, senior, setter/opp

### Section Favorite:

Thomas Jefferson, Ringgold, Laurel Highlands.

### Young Players to Watch:

Thomas Jefferson - Sophia Janosko, sophomore, libero and Viola MacNeil, sophomore, outside hitter.

## Trinity

**Coach:** Erin Helmkamp (12th year, 7th in second stint)

### Returning Starters:

Sydney Allen, 5-5, senior, outside hitter  
Bella Roberts, 5-6, senior, outside hitter/def. specialist  
Grace Cessna, 5-6, junior, setter  
Kimari Behrens, 5-8, junior, outside/right hitter

### Season Outlook:

We will be rebuilding a little bit after graduating 5 seniors last year that all had starting roles. The core coming back is strong and we will look to build off of their experience.

### Section Outlook:

Our section hasn't changed at all and has been a very competitive section in the past. I don't know that there's a favorite.

### WPIAL Favorite:

There are a lot of talented teams in the WPIAL, but I think teams are figuring out what best works for them but I'll give Hampton the nod.

### Young Players to Watch:

Trinity is looking for sophomore, Ella Sammel, to have a big year as a starting middle hitter for the Hillers. Ella was 2nd in the PIAA in the high jump for Trinity and we are looking for her to take her jumping ability and do big things for our team!

## Uniontown

**Coach:** Josh Scully (2nd year)

**Returning Starters:**

Ryleigh Jose, 5-7, senior, outside hitter  
Lexi Humberston, 5-0, senior, libero, defensive specialist  
Maggie Campbell, 5-9, junior, setter

**Season Outlook:**

We will be a very young team with an abundance of freshmen. We are excited to see who will push themselves forward to round out our varsity squad.

**Section Favorite:** Thomas Jefferson

**WPIAL Favorite:** Hampton

## Valley

**Coach:** Matt Magnusen (1st year)

**Returning Lettermen:**

Cierra Alexander, 5-8, junior, outside hitter  
Ay'hauna Miller, 5-8, junior, outside hitter  
Ziah Livingston, 5-3, sophomore, setter

**Season Outlook:**

We graduated a really good group of seniors last year, which also means there are opportunities for new contributors this upcoming season. We have returning varsity players we will depend on, along with players looking to step into more prominent positions. The new section will provide an extremely tough test each and every match, but we are excited for the challenge that having tough competition brings. Our focus has been on continuing to improve our skills as we

**Section Favorite:**

Freeport is in competition for a WPIAL title each year, so you have to think of them as a favorite. Plus with Hampton as the reigning 3A WPIAL champions, they have to be considered as a favorite as well.

## West Allegheny

**Coach:** Steve Nicola (3rd year at West Allegheny, 9th overall)

**Returning Starters:**

Haley Trosky, 6-2, junior, outside hitter  
Abby Perlmutter, 5-6, senior, libero

**Season Outlook:**

We are a young and inexperienced team looking to grow and be competitive in our section.

**Section Favorite:**

I don't believe there is a clear favorite in our section.

**WPIAL Favorite:**

I don't believe there is a clear favorite in the WPIAL.