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Softball: 2018 PAC season preview (team-by-team capsules) - updated

Posted by editor

3/23/18 7:06pm

Boyertown

Head Coach: Kim Musselman, 2nd season

2017 Record: 10-6 PAC, 13-7 overall

2017 Postseason: Lost to Council Rock North 3-0 in opening round of District 1-6A playoffs

Key losses to graduation: Sarah Reinert 3B Mercury First Team, Reading Eagle Tri-County Player of the Year; Alyssa Acker SS; Kody Streeter 1B First Team, Taylor Garcia OF, Honorable Mention; Grace Evan UT Honorable Mention

Returns/players to watch

Veronica Maryanski, Senior, IF, Honorable Mention All-League

Allison Melahn, Senior, P/OF, Albright College

Naiya Murray, Senior, OF, West Chester University

Kylie Hertzler, Junior, C Honorable Mention All-League

Caitlin Keenan, Sophomore, OF/P

Alexandria Schaefer, Sophomore, P

Rachel Hartman, Freshman, IF

MacKenzie Shaner, Freshman, IF

Coach's comments/season outlook: "While it is always difficult to replace a strong group of graduating players, we are returning starters at a few key positions from last year's team. We are also excited by the success some of the younger girls had when given the opportunity last year and the improvement we have seen in them over the winter. Finally we are excited by what we have seen from some of the incoming freshmen this year and hope that they can make some immediate contributions. As a second year coaching staff, we hope to build on the successes of last year and are excited for what the new season will bring."

Methacton

Head coach: Cathy Miller, 37th season

2017 Record: 6-10 PAC, 6-14 overall

Key losses to graduation: Lauren Rhodes OF, Sydney Thompson 1B, Elizabeth Talbot 2B

Key Returning Players

Sr. Aubrey Seal – Pitcher

Sr. Sam Weil-Kasper-Catcher

Sr. Emily Kuberski OF

Jr. Ashley Narke P/OF

Jr. Abby Penjuko SS,

Jr. Taylor Angelillis 3B

Soph. Caroline Pellicano P/1B

Players to Watch: Jr. Kiki Hamilton 2B/OF, Jr. Anna Ryu OF, Soph. Nichole Dorn 2nd/OF,
Soph. Carly Sorber OF

Outlook: "The Warriors are looking to rebound after only the third losing season in program history. The return of Senior pitcher Aubrey Seal (after rotator surgery last year) to the battery anchored by senior catcher Sam Weil-Kasper along with senior leadership in the outfield from Emily Kuberski, plus the maturation of junior Abby Penjuko SS, Taylor Angelillis 3B should go a long way toward helping the Warriors improve on last season. Juniors. Anna Ryu OF, Kiki Hamilton 2B/OF and Sophs. Caroline Pellicano P/1B and Nichole Dorn 2B/OF look to round out the starting nine. The team is excited to get this season started."

Norristown

Head coach: Me'Lisa Morgan, 1st season

2017 Record: 2-14 PAC, 4-15 overall

Key returnees

Mya Humphries – Junior – 3B

Ashley Kinsey – Senior - C

Alia Fisher – Junior – 2B

Marissa Dell – Junior – 1B/P

Bailee Hendricks – Sophomore – SS/OF

Freshmen to watch: Jordyn Bell OF, Erin Morse 1B/OF/P, Shannon Taylor P/OF, Margo Johnson U-SS.OF/1B, Ariana McIntyre OF

Key loss to graduation: Stephanie Orman P

Coach's season outlook: "The team has been working hard during the preseason to prepare for this upcoming season, including getting to know the coach and the new coaching staff. We have a core group of returning players, and strong group of freshmen whom I am looking to put in and play right away. While there may be some growing pains throughout the season, we are vowing to be **RELENTLESS** in our efforts every single game and practice."

Owen J. Roberts

Head coach: Jen Beaver, 3rd season

2017 record: 12-4 PAC, 15-8 overall

2017 postseason: Lost to Upper Perkiomen 3-2 in PAC semifinals; Finished 1-1 in District 1-6A playoffs, defeating Upper Darby 14-4 before suffering season-ending 4-2 loss to North Penn

Key returnees/Players to watch

Darby Stuart, Senior, 1st Base, .291 BA, 20 RBI (York College)

Rylie Hijosh, Senior, Outfield (Arcadia)

Madison Twaddell, Junior, Outfield, 2nd Team Liberty Division

Casey Walker, Junior, Catcher, .522 BA, 20 RBI, .588 OBP, 1st Team Liberty Division, 2nd Team All-Area

Ally Maupay, Sophomore, Pitcher, 1.55 ERA

Key losses to graduation: Camryn Glenn, Brianna Smith, Brittney Dellaquila, Emily Shaheen, Nikki MacMullin

Coach's outlook: "We have a hardworking group of girls who love to play the game. Though we lost a talented senior class and a three-year starter, we have a strong group of upperclassmen. We also have a talented group of newcomers who are eager to play. With tough competition in our league, we know that we can't take a game off."

Perkiomen Valley

Head Coach: Joe Bogus - first season as head coach at PV, replaces Dan McLaughlin. Softball coach for 28 seasons, 25 as a head coach.

2017 Record: 12-4 PAC (league champion), 22-6 overall

2017 Postseason: Captured PAC championship with 2-0 win over Upper Perkiomen after topping Spring-Ford 3-1 in semifinals; Lost to Avon Grove 3-0 in District 1-6A final after wins over CB South (8-0), North Penn (1-0) and Spring-Ford (5-1, district semis); 3-2 victory over Parkland in PIAA-Class 6A opening round ... lost to Chambersburg 3-1 in state quarterfinals

Key returning players

Sela Fusco OF -junior -2nd team 6A All-State, 2nd team All-Liberty

Jess Oltman - 1B/P - senior -PAC All-Conference (DP), 1st All-Liberty

Players to watch: Seniors - Taylor Hamm (C), Alex Vullings (OF), Jess Ott (2B), Kasey Souder (utility), Fiona Warren (OF), Hayley Moriarity (OF). Juniors - Ashley Bangert (3B), Katie Hurd (P), Jordan Sell (SS), Jillian VanGilder (utility). Sophomores- Bella Bruni (P), Kara Fusco (OF) Peyton Shuler(C/OF).

Key losses to graduation:

Abby Wild -P 1st team 6A All-State, Pac All-Conference, 1st team All-Liberty

Gillian Berry- OF 1st team 6A All-State, Pac All-Conference, 1st team All-Liberty

Coach's Season Outlook: "As a team we will miss Coach McLaughlin and his years of service to our program. However, we are looking forward to the upcoming season. The PAC has always been a competitive league. In order to be successful, you have to practice each and every day how you intend to play in the face of that tough competition. We are looking forward to a successful season, but we know our success will only come from hard work and positive actions on and off the field."

Phoenixville

Head coach: Grace Henderson, 2nd season

2017 Record: 9-7 PAC, 12-9 overall

2017 Postseason: Lost to Great Valley 4-2 in opening round of District 1-5A playoffs

Key Returners

Susan Duncan 3B, Senior

Katie Rutledge 2B Junior

Players To Watch

Emma Rakowski SS, Junior

Rebecca Cooper C, Sophomore

Kendall Brown P, Freshman

Courtney Gable P, Freshman

Key losses to graduation: Jessica Anthony, Emily Buckwalter, Jessica Eldridge, Aubrey Valenteen, Miranda McMahan, Danielle Marosek, Ainsley McQuiston, Tessa Locketto

Coach's season outlook: Losing 8 seniors is tough, but we have many players that I am sure will make the most of the opportunity to play this season. We are looking to build on last season's success and make it to Districts and States."

Pope John Paul II

Head coach: Amanda Knight, 4th season

2017 Record: 6-10 PAC, 10-11 overall

2017 Postseason: Lost to eventual district champion Upper Perkiomen 10-6 in District 1-4A semifinals

Key loss to graduation: Amanda Butera, Shortstop

Key returnees/players to watch:

Alexandra Szpindor (Senior, Pitcher)

Gabrielle Simms (Senior, 2B)

Nicole Bowen (Senior, Utility)

Hope Robinson (Senior, 3B)

Maria Cotellesse (Senior, Utility)

Ashley Remington (Senior, Pitcher)

Grace Harvey (Junior, Catcher)

Skylar Bass (Junior, OF)

Isabel Ameer (Junior, Utility)

Faith Heyser (Sophomore, 1B/P)

Ashley Haggerty (Sophomore, Utility)

Ashlyn Lewis (Sophomore, Utility)

Dani Dare (Freshman, Utility)

Coach's season outlook: "With many of our starting lineup returning to PJP we are looking to be even better this year. Amanda Butera's bat will be missed, but a lot of the upperclassman have worked hard in the off season. The three captains (Szpindor, Simms, and Bowen) are working hard to get everyone excited and in midseason condition prior to the first game against Pottstown on March 28. Grace Harvey is back for her third year behind the plate, and excited to get started. Szpindor and Remington are back on the mound, with the addition of three underclassmen (Heyser, Haggerty, and Dare) that are more than willing to step in and help. Hope Robinson and Nicole Bowen add power to the lineup. There is a lot of strength in all of our players who are able to move around and play multiple positions. It helps knowing that everyone is there to back everyone up."

Pottsgrove

Head Coach: Jessica Norris (2nd year)

2017 Record: 7-9 PAC, 8-12 overall

Key returning players:

Seniors - Kira Livezey (P/OF), Rayna Markle (P/INF)

Juniors - Kelsey Hochstuhl (3B), Olivia Klaptosky (OF)

Key losses to graduation: Jenna Yerger, Rachel Cherubini, Cori Dickinson, Shauna Maggio

Coach's season outlook: "This year Pottsgrove is a young team that has a unique combination of returning players and first-year players. The team has 14 players consisting of 7 freshmen, 3 sophomores, 2 juniors, and 2 seniors."

Pottstown

Head coach: Jon McKee, 1st season, succeeds Chloe Seidel

2017 Record: 0-16 PAC, 0-17 overall

Key Returnees/Players to Watch

Gianna Epps – Senior – SS/OF/C

Kat Kincade – Senior – P/3B, 1B

ME Gerry – Junior – 3B

Caitlyn Mattingly – Sophomore – P

Key losses to graduation: Alivia Lopez (P/1B), Rachael Levensgood (2B/OF)

Coach's season outlook: "We are very excited with the turnout we have this year and are thrilled by the addition of a middle school program, which we have been lacking for some time. Although we have some inexperienced players, the girls have been working very hard during both the off-season and practice. The team is continuously making great strides of improvement which will reward us when it comes to game day. This being my first official year as Head Coach, I am looking forward to spreading passion for softball throughout the Pottstown community."

Spring-Ford

Head coach: Tim Hughes (21st year)

2017 Record: 15-1 PAC (Liberty Division champions), 20-4 overall

2017 Postseason: Lost to eventual champion Perk Valley 3-1 in PAC semifinals; Finished 3rd in District 1-6A tournament with 10-2 win over Coatesville after losing to Perk Valley 5-1 in district semis; Advanced to state semifinals with wins over St. Hubert (16-1) and Liberty (9-2, quarterfinals) before losing to Hazleton 8-5 in PIAA semis

Key losses to graduation: Megan Kern – SS, Sophia Cinti – OF, Maggie McConney – 3B, Morgan Maziarz – OF, Abbie Zollars – 1B, Ashley Venella – OF, Ashley Berry – IF

Key Returning Starters

Sam Lindsey - P

Julia Heine – 2B

Maddy Little – OF

Ashley DellaGuardia – 1B

Maddie Cortino - C

Coach's season outlook: "With the loss of a ton of talented players that made it to the state semi's, we have a lot of untested young new players. We're just looking to improve throughout the year to be able to play in some big games at the end of the season."

Upper Merion

Head coach: Missy Toto (1st Year)

2017 Record: 3-13 PAC Frontier, 5-14 overall

Key loss to graduation: Alyssa Adinolfi - (P,3B)

Key returnees/players to watch: Katelyn Barr (SR, OF), Emily Reid (SR, 3B, P), Lauren Del Giudice (JR, SS), Alexis Ettorre (JR, OF), Katelyn O'Brien (JR, OF), Kayla Warren (JR, P, 1B), Colleen Quinn (SO, 2B), Olivia Barr (SO, P)

Coach's season outlook: "We are optimistic about the upcoming season. We have a solid core group of returning players and are excited to see what the addition of a few new players brings to our team."

Upper Perkiomen

Head coach: Dean Sullivan, 3rd season

2017 Record: 14-2 PAC (Frontier Division champions), 22-4 overall

2017 Postseason: Lost to Perkiomen Valley 2-0 in PAC championship game after topping Owen J. Roberts 3-2 in semifinals; District 1-4A champions with wins over Pope John Paul II (10-6, semifinals) and Villa Maria (4-1, title game); Lost to Bangor 8-4 in PIAA 4A quarterfinals after blanking East Pennsboro 3-0 in state playoff opener

Key returnees

Karlee Fretz (P,SS)

Sr Alyssa Sullivan (1B, 3B)

Sr Taylor Lindsay (P,1B)

Soph Morgan Lindsay (C,SS)

Players to watch: Sierra Fretz (3B,C), Jenna Sullivan (OF)

Key losses to graduation: Sarah Heidler, Olivia Young, Emily Moll

Coach's season outlook: "We are looking to build off last year's successful season with three 4-year starters, who have been All State, All Conference and All League at some point in their high school careers leading the team. They are Karlee Fretz, Alyssa Sullivan, and Taylor Lindsay, and all are poised to finish the long journey they started four years ago. A powerful lineup and great pitching will be this team's strength. Juniors Gail Kooser and Alexa Banner are ready to step up into bigger roles. Morgan Lindsay (Soph) coming off 1st team All State as a freshman will continue to get better. Adding some speed and power in Jenna Sullivan (Fr) and Sierra Fretz (Fr) -, who will both add flexibility to lineup. Playing in the PAC is very difficult. PAC has great teams, players and coaches in which we look forward to competing against."

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