

BUCKS COUNTY Courier Times

Courier Times 2017 Girls Soccer Preview: Team-by-team capsules

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Archbishop Wood

Coach: Dan Finello (first year)

Last year's record: 14-7-1

Key players: Sr. Caitlyn Cliggett (D), Sr. Paige Sellers (MF), Jr. Lauren Ruth (F), Sr. Erin Welsh (D), Jr. Leah Brzezicki (D)

The season: The Vikings won the Catholic League title last season and know that every opponent will be doing its best to knock them off. Wood lost Sophia Filippo and her 18 goals to graduation, but junior Lauren Ruth is back after scoring 17 goals last season. "I think we certainly have enough in the tank to make a good run in the PCL and the districts," Finello said.

Bensalem

Coach: Lisa Buffardi (first year)

Last year's record: 5-11-2

Key players: Sr. Alayna McSeed (G), Sr. Amanda Credidio (MF), Jr. Alyssa Groves (F), Jr. Karleigh Hund (MF), Jr. Samantha Crawford (D)

The season: The Owls only have two seniors, but a large, talented class of juniors gives Buffardi a lot of hope. "I expect us to do actually fairly decent, and I want to make playoffs," she said. "And this group can make the playoffs."

Conwell-Egan

Coach: Andy Adamiec (12th year)

Last year's record: 11-10

Key players: Sr. Mackensie Michaels (MF), Sr. Ally Wojton (MF/D), Sr. Carly Bonfig (MF), Sr. Maddy Terry (G), Sr. Erin Rottloff (D)

The season: Conwell-Egan has a talented senior class and may be ready to challenge the upper-echelon teams in the Catholic League. The Eagles lost in the league quarterfinals in each of the last two seasons. "I've got most of the girls coming back from last year, so I guess we should be pretty good this year," Adamiec said. "I'm sure teams are going to be lining up to play us hard, so we'll see."

Council Rock North

Coach: Gavin Flannigan (first year)

Last year's record: 12-7

Key players: Sr. Becca Margolis (MF), Sr. Mia Scalamandre (D), Soph. Brooke Strobel (D), Jr. Bailee Matthews (D), Sr. Julia Ugras (MF)

The season: The Indians were hit hard by graduation, but Flannigan has enough returning talent to be competitive. "We're kind of younger, I think," he said. "We do have seniors, but there's a lot of talent underneath that. Let's see how they do."

Council Rock South

Coach: Nick Keim (first year)

Last year's record: 11-7-1

Key players: Sr. Julie Rebh (MF), Sr. Callie Deola (D), Sr. Grace O'Kane (D), Sr. Keira Flanagan (F), Sr. Julia Goldberg (MF/F)

The season: The Golden Hawks lost five starters to graduation, but should have enough firepower coming back to once again be a factor in the Suburban One League National Conference. "These girls are competitive," Keim said. "They want a chance to kind of prove what their capable of."

George School

Coach: John Stevens (third year)

Last year's record: 6-13

Key players: Jr. Nora Greer (G), Sr. Cynthia Menna (D), Sr. Jules Caplin (D), Soph. Alexandra Long (MF)

The season: Stevens is back after a two-year hiatus and is looking to make the Friends Schools League playoffs. The Cougars missed the tournament last season after playing for the league title in 2015. "I'm excited," Stevens said. "It's a great group. I think we'll have good leadership from the returning players. Ideally, we want to win the Friends League."

Harry S. Truman

Coach: Mike McHugh (third year)

Last year's record: 1-16

Key players: Sr. Galilea Montanez (MF), Jr. Madison Boltersdorf (MF), Soph. Nayeli Tello (D), Jr. Ariana Lorenti (D), Soph. Madison VanDerpoel (MF)

The season: McHugh has a very young team and will probably start four sophomores and four freshmen. But he's looking to form a nucleus to build around for the next few years. "Only having one senior, we're forced now to be young which is great," McHugh said. "But now moving forward, we hope now to move forward with these eight girls the next two years."

Neshaminy

Coach: Chelsea Lovelace (fourth year)

Last year's record: 20-2-1

Key players: Sr. Nicole Palmer (D), Jr. Brooke Mullin (F), Sr. Jackie Ziegler (MF), Jr. Hannah Stonkus (D), Soph. Kristin Curley (F)

The season: Neshaminy won the District One Class 4A title last season and returns its top two scorers in Brooke Mullin (22) and Jackie Ziegler (15) and two very good defenders in Nicole Palmer and Hannah Stonkus. “We have a great group of hard-working girls,” Lovelace said. “Our league is always competitive, so I know that they know what it takes to go far.”

Pennsbury

Coach: Kaitlyn Battiste (seventh year)

Last year’s record: 16-3

Key players: Sr. Kerry Phillips (G), Sr. Hope Drewes (D), Sr. Jenna Peters (D), Sr. Lizzy Kirk (MF), Sr. Kelsey Butler (MF), Sr. Dani Cady (MF), Sr. Riley Young (MF)

The season: Pennsbury won its third straight SOL National title last season and has a group of seniors that have lost just two league games. “They still have their eyes set on continuing that trend of being very successful,” Battiste said. “I don’t think there’s going to be any one superstar. I think they know and have acknowledged that this is going to be a team effort.”

Villa Joseph Marie

Coach: Rich Finneyfrock (14th year)

Last year’s record: 21-2-1

Key players: Sr. Miranda Behr (MF), Sr. Erica Behr (D), Sr. Madeline Jiminez (F), Sr. Megan O’Neill (MF), Jr. Rachel Senyk (MF)

The season: Villa reached the PIAA state title game for the third straight year, but was hit hard with the graduation of leading scorer Murphy Agnew and a host of very talented players. Finneyfrock must find a way to replace 44 goals that walked out the door. “It’s a year to rebuild,” he said. “You don’t lose someone like Murphy, who’s getting 30 goals a year, and not feel it. These other kids have to step up and realize that they can score, too.”

William Tennent

Coach: Bill Hontz (first year)

Last year’s record: 5-12

Key players: Sr. Ashley Rivera (MF), Sr. Nikki Reh (MF), Sr. Brianna Broccardi (F), Jr. Rebecca Smith (MF), Soph. Danielle Scott (D)

The season: Tennent had a tough first season in the SOL Continental, but former assistant coach Bill Hontz can count on several underclassmen who got some valuable playing time last year. “The outcome I have for the girls this year is always build on last year’s results and making the playoffs,” he said. “We look forward to the challenge.”