

VOLLEYBALL: Section V tournaments open this week, with Class C2 in the spotlight

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The 2018 girls volleyball season was somewhat of an anomaly for local teams as only one — Warsaw in Class C2 — came away with a sectional title. With the plethora of talented girls volleyball teams in the area, just one block is a rarity.

That looks like it will change back to normalcy this fall. At least eight, maybe up to 10, local squads are looking at legitimate shots at making a run to a crown across a number of classes.

And all eyes should start right at Class C2 — last season went without a Byron-Bergen or Le Roy title, something that hasn't happened since the 2009 season, but those two stellar programs are now on a collision course and only one will end up on top.

The Bees will enter as the No. 1 seed and have been absolutely dominant all season long. Byron-Bergen is a perfect 16-0 and in doing so has dropped just one set all season long, while also winning the GR Division I title.

Coach Cindy D'Errico's team has nine seasoned seniors, including OH Madison Farnsworth, OH/DS Hannah Catalino, libero Abby Vurraro, RS/OH Hannah VanSkiver and a host of others that will make this likely the deepest team in the bracket.

Le Roy will enter as the No. 2 seed and after stunning back-to-back losses to Livonia and Hammondsport the Oatkan Knights rebounded to win three straight easily down the stretch to enter at 16-2.

The Oatkan Knights behind head coach Kelly Tyler will be as tough as always, led by eighth-grader Carson Tyler (165 kills, 162 digs), sophomore Hailey Johnson (84 kills, 237 assists, 109 digs), senior Olivia Johnson (76 kills, 113 digs), senior Kayla Fussell (70 kills, 43 digs) and junior Abbigail Woodworth (142 assists).

Byron-Bergen will get the winner of No. 8 East Rochester and No. 9 Williamson in the quarterfinals, while Le Roy will meet either No. 7 Holley or No. 10 Wayland-Cohocton. The finals are set for November 8 and there is plenty of reason to believe these two clubs will be there.

Here is a look around the other brackets:

Class C1

Attica will enter as the No. 1 seed and, quite frankly, the Blue Devils are happy to have Byron-Bergen in Class C2 because their only two losses this season at 15-2 came to the Bees.

Other than that Attica has rolled behind impressive seniors Randsley Berry (MH), Claudia Hardie (Setter) and Leah Veley (OH).

Attica will meet the winner of No. 8 World of Inquiry and No. 9 Aquinas in the quarterfinals.

The Blue Devils' top competition for a title will be No. 2 North Rose-Wolcott (15-5) and No. 4 Mynderse (11-8) but this one should be theirs to lose.

Class D1

This bracket is loaded with local teams, led by 2018 champion Warsaw, which sits at No 3, as well as No. 5 Oakfield-Alabama/Elba, No. 6 Alexander, No. 7 Letchworth, No. 10 Pembroke and No. 12 Perry.

The Tigers enter the tournament at 14-5 and are led by senior MH/RS Ceanne Ellsworth, senior OH Cristen Green, senior MH/RH Madison Schillaci and a number of other talented players. Warsaw's only losses have come to Attica, Le Roy, Avon, Pavilion and Notre Dame — all of whom enter sectional play with at least a No. 4 seed.

Senior GR all-star Brianna Smith (109 kills, 81 digs) will lead the Hornets, who are fresh off of a GR Division II title.

Leah Bezon (40 kills) was also a GR all-star this season for OA/Elba, while Megan Johnson has 189 assists.

Warsaw will await the winner of No. 6 Alexander (11-7) and No. 11 Geneseo, while Oakfield-Alabama/Elba (12-5) will host No. 12 Perry in the opening round; if victorious, the Hornets will meet the winner of No. 4 Campbell-Savona and No. 13 Rochester Academy in the quarterfinals.

No. 10 Pembroke has had an up-and-down season and finished at just 8-9 will draw a tough opening round matchup with No. 7 Letchworth, which will be 10-8 entering tournament play. The Dragons are paced by Dakari Moss (116 kills, 132 digs), Casey Wurtz (39 kills, 54 digs) and Emma Gutowski (38 kills, 67 digs), while Olivia Metz has 173 assists.

Class D2

This bracket will feature just one local team, a Caledonia-Mumford squad that has flown under the radar this season and enters as the No. 3 seed at 14-5.

The Red Raiders' losses have come against Livonia, Le Roy, Avon, Hammondsport and Warsaw, all top five teams in their respective brackets.

Olivia Woodward has led the way with an outstanding season, including 202 kills and 76 digs; she is joined by Maddie Devore (112 kills, 29 digs), Haley Sherwood (65 kills, 23 digs) and Mackenzie Stezenmeyer, who already has an amazing 403 assists on the season.

Cal-Mum will meet the winner of No. 6 South Seneca and No. 11 Dundee in the quarterfinal round.

Class D3

Both Pavilion at No. 3 and Notre Dame at No. 4 enter with shots at making a run, but unfortunately for both they will likely have to get through No. 1 and once-beaten Hammondsport to get it done.

The Golden Gophers have had an outstanding season and enter the postseason at 17-3, with their only losses coming to Cal-Mum (twice) and Le Roy.

Addy Milligan will lead the way with 170 kills and 107 digs, while Lauren Kingsley (135 kills, 69 digs and a leader at the net in blocks), Karlee Zinkievich (91 kills, 120 digs), Shannon Campbell (359 assists) and a number of others have had strong campaigns.

Pavilion will host the winner of No. 6 Northstar Christian and No. 11 Eugenio Maria de Hostos in the quarterfinals.

The Fighting Irish are 14-4, with those only losses coming to Byron-Bergen and Attica (twice each), the top-seeds in both Class C1 and C2.

Setter Alexis Danosos, OH Jewel Shenck, MH/OH Adyrona Miller will pace a Notre Dame squad that could very easily make some noise in this bracket.

Notre Dame will host No. 13 Hinsdale in the opening round and then meet the winner of No. 5 Fillmore and No. 12 Arkport-Canaseraga in the quarterfinals; a possible semifinal matchup with Hammondsport is looming on November 6.