

**GIRLS VOLLEYBALL PREVIEWS**

**NORTH FARMINGTON**  
 Coach Deb Calanchi and the North Farmington Raiders have virtually their entire volleyball team back from last season and are anticipating a successful season in 2001-02 because of it.  
 The Raiders, who were 3-8 in the Western Lakes Activities Association, lost only two girls to graduation. Thus, most of North's 12-player roster have varsity experience.  
 ■ **Meghan Callahan:** The 5-foot-9 senior middle hitter is the team's best blocker and can also play in the back row. "She's not your typical middle hitter," Calanchi said. "We don't have the 6-2 girl that most teams in the conference have, but she's a smart player and she's a hungry player."  
 ■ **Elin Piilits:** Piilits is a 5-6 senior outside hitter who started last season. "She can put the ball anywhere," Calanchi said. "She's starting to become a better passer, which can only help her effectiveness on the floor."  
 ■ **Amy Berke:** The 5-6 junior is a returning starter and all-around player. "She's our money when we need a go-to player," Calanchi said. "She reads the ball better than any player I've ever seen. Defensively, she gets to the spot before the ball gets there."  
 ■ **Lisa St. Charles:** The 5-8 senior played middle and outside hitter last season and has a good swing, according to Calanchi. "Her hitting is deceiving," she said. "She hits everything straight down, but it's not real powerful or typical of what you'd see from most hitters. But it can be very effective."  
 ■ **Michele Boothroyd:** She's a 5-7 junior who joined the varsity at the end of last season and will be a utility player. "If I had to predict, I'd say by the end of the season she'll end up starting somewhere," Calanchi said. "She plays with quiet confidence. She's a good athlete who has all the fundamentals."  
 ■ **Brittany Pajewski:** The 5-7 sophomore was on the freshman team last year but played varsity basketball this fall. "Brittany has good jumping ability and natural athleticism, and that will help her earn a spot on the court," Calanchi said.  
 ■ **Melissa Traczyk:** A 5-8 senior mid-dig hitter, Traczyk returns to the varsity and will be an all-around player. "This year is the year for her," Calanchi said. "She's healthy and just pounding the ball."  
 ■ **Jessica St. Charles:** The 5-2 senior is the team's main quarterback, according to Calanchi. "She has gotten better each year in that spot," Calanchi said.

"We're expecting her to step up her defense even more and, hopefully, be included in the offense with her back-row attacks."  
 ■ **Jenna Street:** Another 5-2 senior, Street missed most of last season following surgery. "She'll come off the bench when we need someone to step in and pass," Calanchi said. "There are a lot of challenges in this group, because they're all returning and all want to play all the way around."  
 ■ **Lisa St. Charles:** The 5-3 senior came on strong at the end of last season and had a good summer, according to Calanchi. "She will get to anything and set anything," Calanchi said. "Our passing wasn't our strength; so the setters really had to move on offense, and she did a great job of making sure we had the options."  
 ■ **Lisa Scher:** The 5-7 senior is one of North's best blockers in addition to her setting skills. "She's also improving in terms of learning to run the offense and make the right calls," Calanchi said.  
 ■ **Ashley Lynch:** A 5-6 junior, Lynch moves up from the JV; she'll be a back-up setter but has the ability to be a utility player. "She's all athlete," Calanchi said, adding Lynch also plays soccer.  
 Calanchi has been coaching the current group of seniors for four years and has high expectations for them and this season.  
 "This group models the kind of work ethic we need to have," she said, "so it will be interesting to see how well we compete. We're excited to return all those players who have experience."  
 "We want to walk into any gym and have a high expectation of winning. It comes down to showing up and coming to play every night."  
**FARMINGTON FALCONS**  
 When a team had one of the best seasons in recent history, the question is "What does Farmington High do for an encore this year?"  
 That's simple. The Falcons bring back the majority of their players. With eight of their top 11 returning, it's quite possible they could top last year's performance.  
 Farmington ended Farmington Hills Marcy's string of 11 straight district championships before losing to Walled Lake Central in a regional match and finished with a 19-21-7 record.  
 "We're very ahead of last year," coach Alex Perrin said. "We're already running a lot of system stuff. Usually, we don't get to that until mid season. We're fine tuning things already."  
 The Falcons lost All-Observer Hitter Lyndy Howard, as well as Jessi Halliday

and Chrissy Baker, but have a solid trio returning in senior setter Randin Brown, senior hitter Julie Kimmel and junior attacker Jessica Janowicz. Farmington's returning players are:  
 ■ **Randin Brown:** The Falcons needed a setter last season, and Brown filled the role even though she had never played the position. Now the 5-7 senior is a veteran. "She stuck with it and made a ton of progress," Perrin said. "This year she has taken it to another level."  
 ■ **Julie Kimmel:** A 5-9 senior all-around, Kimmel was named team co-MVP with Howard and made the all-area second team. "She's one of the best serve receivers I've been around," Perrin said. "She does a lot of things well and is very athletic. But she's absolutely outstanding at serve receive." Kimmel is an outside hitter but can play setter in an emergency.  
 ■ **Jessica Janowicz:** Perrin believes Janowicz, a 6-foot junior hitter, is a big-time player and all-state candidate. "She's ahead of where Lyndy was and 'She's very gifted and she works very hard at volleyball. She's one I'm really excited about."  
 ■ **Jocelyn Atkins:** She's a 5-10 attacker, a senior who plays in the middle. "We know she can bring it," Perrin said. "When we put her in the starting lineup, we put six returning players out there."  
 ■ **Moghan Young:** Perrin looks for the 5-8 senior outside hitter to step up and make a bigger contribution. Young is a tri-captain with Kimmel and Brown. "Her performance so far is very, very encouraging," Perrin said. "She always had a lot of potential; now she's starting to capitalize on it."  
 ■ **Kelsey Gulsbert:** The 5-7 senior is

another returning varsity player and a defensive specialist who will concentrate on playing the back row.  
 Lisa Holtebyck, a 5-7 sophomore setter, and Daanna Gauer, a 5-10 junior middle hitter, move up from the JV and will see a lot of playing time on the varsity.  
 "She's more advanced than Randin was as this point last year," Perrin said of Holtebyck. "She has played a lot of club volleyball, which accelerated her progress."  
 (Gauer) was the MVP of the JV team. Like Lisa, she played a lot of club volleyball, so she's more mature in terms of her playing ability."  
 Completing the varsity team are 5-6 senior defender Chelsea Kresky, 5-10 junior hitters Allison Kahroff and Melissa Patterson and 5-10 sophomore hitter Jill Alspach.  
 "In the conference, I think we'll be one of the four best teams," Perrin said. "I think we're being overlooked by a lot of people, and I think we can come up with some surprises."  
 "Churchill, Salem, Central, Canton and us are right there in terms of teams that have a lot of returning players. I'm looking forward to this season and those matches."

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