

OBSERVER-DISPATCH

Oriskany girls team to beat in CSC Division IV?

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Poland Central girls basketball teams have been a force in the Center State Conference for a few years now.

Last year's Tornados won the CSC Division IV title at 8-0 and finished 16-5 overall, but head coach Jason Potempa lost six seniors to graduation — including all-time scoring leader Shiane Irwin and her 22 points per game.

That's one reason why Hamilton Central coach Gary Weeks picks Oriskany as "the team to beat in our division" this season.

There's another reason or two, according to Weeks and New York Mills coach Mike Keating.

"They have a ton of experience," Weeks said.

And Keating? "They have a skilled team with height."

Both are right.

Oriskany coach Reggie German, the former New Hartford High School star, has a pair of skilled junior guards — twins Matteson and Maddelyn Hoehn — returning this season, not to mention 6-foot-3 senior forward Jane Fahy, who led the league in scoring last year.

Oriskany finished third in the league and 8-13 overall last year, when Fahy earned first team all-star honors after averaging 18.1 points and 13 rebounds per game, and both Hoehn sisters were honorable mention all-stars.

Sophomore guard Mackenzie Buck also returns for Oriskany.

- Hamilton returns a second team all-star guard — senior Lauren La Ruffa averaged 10.7 points and 3.4 assists and had 52 3-pointers last season. "We are very young, but we're athletic and quick, which will allow us to play up-tempo — which I like to

do,” Weeks said.

- Morrisville-Eaton, 4-16 overall last year as a CSC Division III member, has a new coach in Penny Koehl. Hannah Baird was an all-league honorable mention last season.
- New York Mills returns four starters, including junior guard Abbey Copperwheat, a first team all-star last year when she averaged 11.1 points, and senior backcourt mate Alyssa Fuccillo, who averaged 10.9 points and made 40 3-pointers.
- Poland returns starters Claire Lepper, Jennifer Sergott and Heather Artz.



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