

# Gazelle Golfers Shooting For Top After Runner-Up Finish In '10



**GAZELLES:** 2010 Class AA Champion Hannah Withrow

**BY CLAY STODDARD**  
sports@yankton.net

Coming back from a second place finish in the 2010 state girls golf team tournament and an individual state champion in Hannah Withrow, the Gazelles golf team is looking to take on the state for a run at the title this season.

The Gazelles are returning virtually all of their state tournament golfers, including the first Gazelle ever to win an individual state title, Hannah Withrow. Withrow, a junior this year, shot an 81 in the state tournament to beat out the competition in 2010. The Gazelles are only missing one of their state tournament golfers from 2010, Mackenzie Fitzgerald.

"Well we have a good nucleus coming back, the only one we graduated was Mackenzie Fitzgerald, and she will be missed that is for sure. We have five out of our six state tournament players back. We have got Hanna Withrow, Megan Mingo, Kaitlyn Erickson, Taylor Specht, and Whitney Specht, all five of them are back," said Gazelles' head coach Brett Sime.

"We have a good experienced nucleus and I guess we will just go out hoping to try and improve every day that we can get on the golf course. We have not been able to get out there a lot yet because of the weather, but we are hoping for some good things this year," added Sime.

The Gazelles finished four strokes behind the Sioux Falls O'Gorman Knights during the 2010 state tournament, and the Knights

April 4	Brandon Valley/Brookings	Brandon	2 p.m.
April 7	SF Washington/Mitchell	Sioux Falls	2 p.m.
April 12	SF O'Gorman	Fox Run GC	2:30 p.m.
April 19	Mitchell/SF Lincoln	Fox Run GC	2 p.m.
April 20	Yankton Invitational	Fox Run GC	9 a.m.
April 29	Mitchell Invitational	Mitchell	10:30 a.m.
May 2	Sioux Falls Golf Invitational	Sioux Falls	9 a.m.
May 7	ESD Conference Tournament	Mitchell	11 a.m.
May 9	Lennox	Hillcrest Golf & CC	2:30 p.m.
May 13	Vermillion	Hillcrest Golf & CC	2 p.m.
May 16	Great 8 Tourney	Brookings	12 p.m.
May 23	State Tournament	Brookings	9 a.m.
May 24	State Tournament	Brookings	9 a.m.

will be a big challenge for them this year as well.

"O'Gorman will be looking pretty good. They did have a couple people graduate and they have some younger kids who will step right in. I still think they are going to be a really good team, they are kind of the team to beat right now," Sime said.

There will also be quite a bit of competition to be found from other teams throughout the state. With the success of the 2010 season, the Gazelles may find themselves with a bit of a target on their back, but they are ready for the challenge.

"Brookings has had a few girls graduate over the last couple of years, which kind of hurt them, and they have not quite replaced them like Sioux Falls O'Gorman has. Those are the teams that I still look at to be tough," Sime said.

But the Bobcats and Knights are not the only ones in the hunt.

"There are going to be some other teams that are going to be pretty good. Huron, in our own conference, and there are usually one or two Sioux Falls teams that end up being pretty good, and Rapid City Stevens always ends up with a good squad," added Sime.

Even with the stiff competition that the Gazelles will face this season they are confident about their competitiveness. With mother nature holding up practices for some teams, the Gazelles have had the chance to begin their practice season.

"I think we have actually kind of had a little head start on just about everybody, because we were able to practice a little bit last week. We are just looking forward to getting some good practice, and when we start doing tournament golf we will kind of see

where we are at. Once we start playing then it is a lot easier to judge where we are at, but we are hoping to be right up there towards the top."

The Gazelles have worked hard throughout the off season to improve on their individual performances from last year.

"We have had quite a few girls go out and play in some tournaments throughout the summer and we have also had some of the girls go up to Sioux Falls and work with a pretty good teaching professional up there and take some lessons through him," Sime said.

"They just play a lot of golf, and that is pretty much what I ask of them when we are not in season, and when we are in season we just try to get better every day. That is pretty much all I can ask, that they go out there and put forth their best effort in practice and in the meets and hopefully they go out there and do well," added Sime.

The Gazelles begin their season with a triangular in Brandon Valley against the Lynx and the Brookings Bobcats on April 4. The true test for the girls will come on April 20 when they host the Yankton Invitational, and they seem to be up to the challenge.

"We do have one of the first bigger tournaments in the Yankton Invitational held on April 20," Sime said. "There are always a lot of teams that come to that and there is good competition. It is really the first time we get a lot of the teams together and it will be a great field."

# Muth Takes Helm Of Bucks Tennis Program

**BY ROYAL MCGREGOR**  
sports@yankton.net

For the first time in 18 seasons, the Yankton Bucks have a new head tennis coach.

The man that took over the helm from Tim Mulhair is Yankton Native Brady Muth. There isn't much that Muth is going to change in the gameplan Mulhair started.

"Coach Mulhair did such a great job building this program up that there's not much that we are changing," Muth said. "The difference this season might be my approach."

"There are a couple things that we've done early on in the season that are different, but the players are responding well to it."

Yankton finished last season in third place at the Eastern South Dakota (ESD) Conference meet and also lost its top two tennis players from last season in Cyrus Sorenson and Jacob Rockne.

Half of Yankton's roster are underclassmen as the Bucks roster rounds out with four seniors, three juniors, one sophomore, five freshmen and one eighth grader.

"We've got a really good core of senior athletes," Muth said. "Then there are a lot of younger ones. There aren't a lot of juniors or sophomores."

Despite the loss, Muth already has his sights set on who the top four players are going to be this season in Jeremy Cap (Sr.), Derek Dvorak (Sr.), Max Hunhoff (Sr.) and Luke Rockne (8th).

Cap and Rockne both had successful seasons last year as they each won ESD Conference titles in flight three and six respectively. Hunhoff also had a quality showing at ESD last season with a third place finish.

"The top four are pretty well defined," Muth said. "The final two spots are going to be a battle to find out, who is going to be in those spots."

Being that the last two positions are still up in the air, there are some top candidates that include Ryan Shindler (Sr.), Morgan Jones (Jr.) and Chance Sorenson (Jr.).

"Morgan (Jones) is going to be one of those guys just from his athleticism," Muth said. "Those are all guys that will be working to get time on the court."

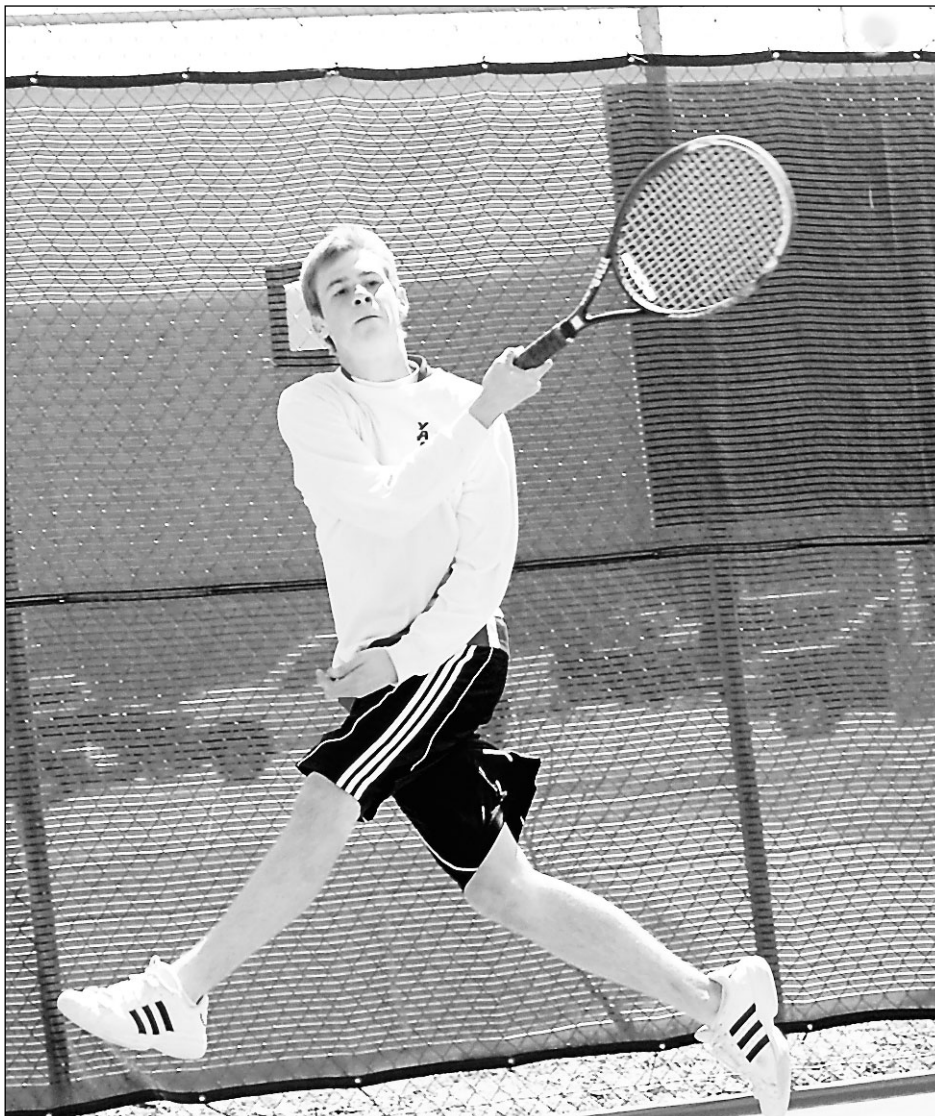
One player that the injury bug has already found is junior Michael Wilcox, who took home a third place win in the ESD meet last year. The junior has been delayed to the tennis court, but Muth hopes that he is able to get some matches in before the season is over.

"Mike (Wilcox) is working his way back," he said. "We don't know the time table for Mike."

"He's coming to practice, but spends most of the time in physical therapy."

The Bucks' first match is on April 2, where they will host Vermillion and Sioux City Heelan. Yankton has been waiting to play a different team and as Muth said, "I think we are tired of beating each other up."

Yankton is hoping to get all the kinks out of



**BUCKS:** Senior Jeremy Cap, ESD champion at Flight 3 Singles

April 2	Vermillion/SC Heelan	YHS/SAC Courts	9 a.m.
April 5	Br. Valley/SF Roosevelt	YHS/SAC Courts	1 p.m.
April 12	Sioux City North	Sioux City	4 p.m.
April 16	Madison/RC Stevens	YHS/SAC Courts	9 a.m.
April 19	SF Washington	YHS/SAC Courts	4 p.m.
April 21	Sioux City West	YHS/SAC Courts	4 p.m.
April 26	Vermillion	Vermillion	4 p.m.
April 28	Sioux City Heelan	YHS/SAC Courts	4 p.m.
April 30	Watertown/Mitchell/Madison	Madison	9 a.m.
May 3	SF Lincoln	Sioux Falls	4 p.m.
May 5	Vermillion	YHS/SAC Courts	6:30 p.m.
May 7	Brookings/Aberdeen/Huron	Brookings	10 a.m.
May 9	SF O'Gorman	Sioux Falls	4 p.m.
May 10	Mitchell/Brandon Valley	Mitchell	1 p.m.
May 13	ESD Conference Meet	Aberdeen	9 a.m.
May 19	State Tournament	Sioux Falls	9 a.m.
May 20	State Tournament	Sioux Falls	8:45 a.m.
May 21	State Tournament	Sioux Falls	8:45 a.m.

■ YHS TENNIS, Page 3

March 22	Bob Prince Invitational	Vermillion	4 p.m.
March 28	Dan Lennon Invite	Vermillion	12 p.m.
April 5	SC East/SF Washington/Yankton	Sioux City East	4 p.m.
April 9	Brandon Valley Invite	Brandon	10:30 a.m.
April 12	Mitchell/Brandon Valley/Yankton	Williams Field	4 p.m.
April 16	Sioux City Relays	Sioux City	8 a.m.
April 16	Corn Palace Relays	Mitchell	9 a.m.
April 19	Washington/O'Gorman/B. Valley/YHS	Williams Field	4 p.m.
April 25	SF Lincoln	Williams Field	4 p.m.
April 28	1st Dakota Relays	Williams Field	4 p.m.
May 6	SF O'Gorman Invite	SF O'Gorman	12 p.m.
May 6-7	Howard Wood Dakota Relays	Sioux Falls	4 p.m./10 a.m.
May 14	ESD Conference Meet	Watertown	11:30 a.m.
May 19	Last Chance Meet	Williams Field	4 p.m.
May 27	State Meet	Brandon	10:30 a.m.
May 28	State Meet	Sioux Falls	9 a.m.

# Strong Numbers, Talent Power Yankton Track & Field Program

**BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK**  
james.cimburek@yankton.net

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This article originally appeared in the March 22 edition of the Press & Dakotan.

In an era when most teams see their numbers drop in the junior and senior classes, Yankton is seeing some new and returning faces in its upper classes as they begin the 2011 track and field season.

Yankton boasts over 130 athletes — including 24 seniors — as the team opens its 2011 campaign today (Tuesday) at the Bob Prince Indoor at the DakotaDome.

"This is one of the biggest rosters of kids we've had," said head coach Luke Youmans. "The bulk of our roster is in the ninth and tenth grade category, but we have some new faces that haven't been out as juniors and seniors decided to give it a shot."

Youmans credits the growth to the combination YHS tries to provide, of competitive intensity and a fun atmosphere.

"We've tried to do things to make working hard a little more fun," he said. "We've involved the kids in activities that have allowed them to have fun on a different level."

The Yankton girls come into the 2011 season having finished in the top four in the state in 11 consecutive seasons, a span that also includes six Eastern South



**GAZELLES:** Senior Angie Dvorak, third in Class AA in 100 hurdles in 2010

Dakota Conference titles, including last season.

While the Gazelles graduated two 2010 individual champions — Christine Broders (South Dakota softball) and Mariah Hofer (South Dakota State) — and a former state cross country and track champion in Megan Hilson, Yankton returns a ton of talent from a team that finished

■ YHS TRACK, Page 3

# Baseball: Veteran Bucks Ready To Take Next Step

**BY JEREMY HOECK**  
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

A year after reaching the state tournament, the Yankton Bucks baseball team is looking for the next step in 2011.

And taking over the hungry team full of upperclassmen is first-year head coach Robb McClemans.

"It's a really interesting year to take over, that's for sure," said McClemans, a 2008 graduate of Mount Marty College. "We have 12 seniors, and they all have great experience, so that's really helpful."

"With that, though, it throws a little more pressure at you," he added. "They got to the final four at state, so I think the expectations are pretty high."

Yankton finished 12-9 last season, but lost in the Class A State Tournament opener to eventual champion Sioux Falls O'Gorman.

Though, of the 11 players who saw time for the Bucks in the state tournament, only three were seniors.

In other words, despite the early exit, the Bucks were primed for another run this season.

Even with a new coach, Yankton can rely on that returning experience to put together another successful spring season, according to McClemans.

"The good part is, I've coached a lot of these kids the past few summers, so there's some familiarity with them," said McClemans, who also pointed out a need to develop some stability with the program. "I'm not coming in not knowing anybody, so in that regard it's nice."

One obstacle for the Bucks will be not having the services of senior pitcher and power hitter Steven Stanga.

A first-team All-State selection

after recording a 1.03 earned run average in 27 innings last season, Stanga had arm surgery last fall and, according to McClemans, will be limited in game activity this spring.

Without Stanga in the mix, Yankton will turn to more of a by-committee approach. Seniors

■ BASEBALL, Page 3

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