

# Young Tanager Golfers Look To Defend State Title On Home Course

BY JEREMY HOECK

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VERMILLION — As the Vermillion girls' golf team begins its defense of a Class A state championship, it will be somewhat of a new look for the Tanagers doing so.

The Tanagers, who edged Parkston by one stroke for last year's title, lost their top four golfers, who all earned top-30 finishes at the state tournament. Two of those kids graduated and two moved.

However, the cupboard is not exactly bare for 2011.

Vermillion brings back five returning letterwinners, highlight-

ed by Ellen Brown (Sr.) who finished 26th at state a year ago.

"Our depth was as much of a strength as anything last year," head coach Kirk Hogen said. "We had some girls who could have probably played on a lot of other teams that didn't make our state team.

"Will we miss those four girls? Definitely. But we've got some good depth again this year."

Also returning for the Tanagers are Kenzie Huska (Sr.), Lindsay Robinet (Sr.), Kelly Amundson (Jr.) and Allison Heine (So.). The quintet, along with Brown, all have varsity experience, but will now get a consistent taste of that action.

Ely Miller (So.) and Brooke Schwasinger (So.) are also compet-

ing for varsity spots, according to Hogen, while newcomer Josie Huber (Fr.) joins the team this season.

"We'll have a lot of competition up and down the board," Hogen said. "And that's good to have. We won't have any real young girls, just good, quality depth."

Also on the roster for the Tanagers are Katie Herrera (So.), Audry Miller (8th), Brooke Moser (8th), Kylie Kuiper (8th) Allison Odens (7th), Jordan Fostvedt (7th) and Kayla Stammer (7th).

Those younger golfers will not only help to push the upperclassmen but also gain experience throughout the season, according to Hogen.

"We're getting folks out, we just have to wait and see now who

steps up to the plate," he said. "I see a real mix for us; a lot of different combinations happening."

One area throughout the season that could serve to add extra motivation for the Tanagers is the fact that the State A Tournament will be held in Vermillion from May 23-24 at The Bluffs Golf Course.

For now though, Hogen said he is not concerned with that or how any other Region 2A team looks.

"There's nothing we can do in our area right now," he said. "I'm not really worried about that yet. We'll still prepare ourselves as best we can. You're trying to get yourself ready to play the course."

Vermillion opens its season at the Elk Point-Jefferson Invite on April 7.

Vermillion Girls' Golf 2011 Season Schedule			
April 7	EPJ Invite	Elk Point	9 a.m.
April 7	Madison	Madison	4 p.m.
April 12	DV Invite	2-Rivers	9 a.m.
April 18	Lennox	The Bluffs	4 p.m.
April 19	West Central	Hartford	2 p.m.
April 29	Vermillion Invite	The Bluffs	9 p.m.
May 6	Big 8	Harrisburg	11 a.m.
May 12	Harrisburg Invite	Harrisburg	9 a.m.
May 13	Yankton	Yankton	1 p.m.
May 16	Region	The Bluffs	9 a.m.
May 23	State	The Bluffs	10 a.m.
May 24	State	The Bluffs	9 a.m.

## Vermillion Boys' Tennis 2011 Season Schedule

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.

## Tanager Tennis Team Looks To Continue Improving

BY CLAY STODDARD

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The Vermillion Tanagers' boys tennis team is looking to improve on a 2010 outing in which they saw one win on the season.

The Tanagers' head coach, Dan Hanson knows just what his team will need to do to improve on the last year.

"Last season we ended up winning one match, which was an improvement over the year before. We beat Sioux City East, and had a couple other close matches throughout the year. I think we are going to be much better this year."

With an experienced group of players to lead the way, the Tanagers are working hard to improve on their 19th place finish at the state meet in 2010.

"We have mostly an older team, four out of our six varsity players are seniors," Hanson said. "We have a freshman and a sophomore that will be finishing out our squad, but for the most part we have a lot of seniors. We have a few other seniors on our team who will be fighting for a varsity spot.

"We have a lot of kids out this year as well, we have 26 kids out, so we have a good young base coming up too, so the future is looking good."

The Tanagers will be looking to the strength of their returning seniors for leadership throughout the year.

"I think my best player on Varsity will be Wes McBride. He is a senior, he has been with us all four years of his high school career, and he will be really good this year," Hanson said.

"James May is a freshman, and he will be my number two or three, then Ethan Druin will be my two or three. There will be four other guys fighting for the other varsity spots," added Hanson.

McBride will be granted the responsibility of leading his team in the hopes of an improved season.

"Last Year (McBride) played number two, he did so, he didn't have a great year by any means, but he did ok. He has brought a lot to the team this year, as a senior, this being his

last year, he has played forever," Hanson said.

"(McBride) started out on junior varsity his eighth grade year and his freshman year. He just kept practicing harder and harder, he probably has the best work ethic on our team. He really gives the younger kids someone to look up to, and I think he will be a big asset this year," added Hanson.

The Tanagers compete in their first match on April 2nd, where they will travel to Yankton to take part in the Yankton Quad. The teams competing in the quadrangular will be Sioux City Heelan, Sioux City North, Yankton, and Vermillion.

"We are working towards our first match. We have not solidified our varsity team yet, but we have our top seven for sure. We have not really got a whole lot of doubles matches in yet, so we have got to work on that. I think we are right where we need to be to be ready for Saturday the 2nd," Hanson said.

The Vermillion Tanagers are looking to make a move on their opponents this season, and maybe even surprise a few of them.

"I am thinking big, big for our team anyway. We have not really won a whole lot of matches in the past," Hanson said. "Last year we won one match, which isn't by any means great for a lot of teams, but it was pretty good for our team."

"I think we should win three or four matches and at least beat two or three teams at the state tournament, which is what I am hoping for. Who knows maybe we will surprise ourselves and do a little better, but I think we will at least do that well," added Hanson.

With a steep incline to overcome, the Tanagers are looking at the 2011 season with a spark of hope and excitement for the future. The hard work and leadership that flows through the team should propel them up.

"I am just looking forward to this year, with our group of seniors, it is always nice to have a large varsity squad of seniors. It gives all of the other kids a view to what all the hard work has paid off for, and a lot of leadership on the team," Hanson said.

# Veterans, Pitching To Carry Vermillion



TANAGERS: Senior Zach McDonald, one of 10 returning letterwinners for Vermillion

BY ROYAL MCGREGOR

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VERMILLION — The pitching staff for the Vermillion Tanagers look to be their top asset coming into this season.

The Tanagers finished last season with an overall record of 9-6 and their state tournament hopes were ended taking a first round loss to Bon Homme. They are hoping to get back to be in the running for a state tournament berth, but they aren't going to be pressing too early in the season.

"Right now there are four sophomores in our starting lineup," Vermillion head coach Jason Gault said. "We feel like this season is going to be one of those works in progress."

Vermillion lost four players from last season due to graduation including two present collegiate athletes in Jason Rasmussen and Nick Anglin, who currently play at Augustana College and Dakota Wesleyan respectively.

The Tanagers also lost first team all-state pitcher/third baseman Brian Hansen and second baseman Sam Ekstrom.

Since Vermillion only lost four players from last season, they have 10 returning letterwinners including seniors Tyler Husby, Zach McDonald, Scott Iverson, Robert Osterberg, Andrew McCann and Luke Dodge.

"We went through some growing pains last year," Gault said. "It is kind of nice to be able to lean back on their experience."

"They understand what the expectations are and they are able to lead by example."

The junior class includes Nate Garrett, D'Andre Fore, Stormy Mirtz and one returning sophomore Chayse Meierkort.

Vermillion also has a handful of newcomers in Caleb Millier (Jr.), Tanner Settles (So.), Tanner Anderson (So.), Cody Sommervold (Jr.), Nile Morecraft (Jr.) and Collin Bertram (So.).

The pitching staff for the Tanagers is going to be lead by Husby, followed by Garrett, Osterberg, Morecraft and Meierkort. Gault said with the extra season of experience they have

## S. Dakota Baseball

### REGIONS/DIVISIONS (Dates To Be Determined)

REGION 1B EAST: Beresford, Bon Homme, Dakota Valley, Vermillion  
 REGION 1B WEST: Corsica-Stickney-Armour-Plankinton, Lake Andes, Parkston, Wagner-Avon  
 REGION 4B EAST: Platte-Geddes-Dakota Christian

### STATE B

May 31 at Flandreau

### Beresford

HEAD COACH: Al Hoines (1st year)

ASSISTANTS: Jason Carlson, Eric Docken, Tracy St. Pierre, Dan Gacke

VITALS: Class B, Region 1, East Division

LAST YEAR: The Watchdogs, 16-6, finished second at the state tournament. Gone from that team are five players.

RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Collin Peterson, Dan Frieberg, Hayden Palmer, Matt Hoines, Madison Landeen, Ethan Sorensen, Chris Mohr, Andrew Erickson, Jackson Anderson, Kyle DeLay, Michael Mullinix, Trevor Anderson, Kory Diefendorf, Matt Wiebers, Eli Orr, Derek Wiebers, Jay Walz

NEWCOMERS: Ty Knutson, Logan Hunter, Oliver Doeden, Caleb Johnke, Josh Casperson, Adam Ivarsen

ASSESSMENT: The Watchdogs found out what it takes to not only win in the playoffs, but make a serious run at a state championship. Now, in 2011, the goal becomes taking the next step.

"Depth will be the key to this year's team," coach Hoines said. "Even with losing five players, we have a good class of players ready to step up and take over."

### Bon Homme

HEAD COACH: Gary Kortan (6th year)

ASSISTANT: Don Kortan

VITALS: Class B, Region 1

LAST YEAR: The Bon Homme Cavaliers had a highly successful season a year ago placing first in the conference and ending with an overall record of 11-4. The Cavaliers took a loss to Beresford in the region finals.

RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Nathan Kloucek (Sr.), Doug Vanecek (Sr.), Lance Raneck (Sr.), Micah Bartlett (Sr.), Jeff Honner (Jr.), Scott Ulmer (Jr.), Ross Kortan (So.), Kodi Larson (So.), Blase Vanecek (So.)

ALSO RETURNING: Nathan Bares (Jr.), Alec Webre (So.), Sawyer Fridrich (So.), Austin Kaul (Fr.), Mike Mesman (Fr.)

ASSESSMENT: The Cavaliers have plenty experience returning to the squad, but the five players that graduated are going to be tough to replace. Bon Homme should see another quality season under the helm of coach Gary Kortan.

"Younger players who have varsity experience have to step up and compete," he said. "We have to play defense."

### Corsica-Stickney-Armour-Plankinton

HEAD COACH: Bob Bamberg (2nd year)

ASSISTANTS: Wade Gall, Dean Fink

VITALS: Class B, Region 1, West Division

LAST YEAR: The Express ended their season with winning the Region 1B west division playoff, but state tournament dreams were ended losing to Beresford in the Region 1B championship.

RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Kris Menning (Sr.), Luke Bamberg (Sr.), Eric Vandenberg (Sr.), Zach Milligen (Sr.), Keifer Johnson (Sr.), Aaron Groenweg (Jr.), Adam Frink (Jr.), Joel Prien (Sr.)

ALSO RETURNING: Dustin Bultje (So.)

NEWCOMERS: Chance Boyd (Sr.), Lane Thomas (So.), Garrett Lawson (So.), Cody Heezon (So.), Kellam Karst (So.), Kade Rexwinkel (Fr.), Nick Blom (Fr.), Mason VanVaren (Fr.), Jordan High Elk (So.), Allen Nulinburg (Fr.)

ASSESSMENT: The Express have many returning starters to help them make another run at a state tournament berth. It will be interesting to see how the newcomers make a name for themselves early in the season.

"We should have a solid batting line up and a host of veteran pitchers," Bamberg said. "Hopefully we can get as a team and improve throughout the season."

### Platte-Geddes-Dakota Christian

HEAD COACH: Jeff Kuiper (9th year)

ASSISTANTS: Dough Dyk, Rob Hoffman

VITALS: Class B, Region 4

LAST YEAR: The Honkers ended last season with an overall record of 6-8, while losing three starters including Tommy Holleman, Calby Plooster and Carter Kernnitz.

EXPECTED STARTERS: Trey DeHaan (Jr.), Mike Buitensbos (Jr.), Randy Dyk (Sr.), Mike Kimball (Sr.),

Jon Hoeksema (Jr.), Jon Werkmeister (Sr.), Ryan Nepodal (Sr.), Cody Wagner (Jr.), Richard Sternberg (So.), Austin Plooster (Sr.), Harlan Big Crow (Jr.), Otto Qualm (Sr.)

OTHER RETURNERS: Tate Wagner (8th), Coby Johnson (8th), Derek Steele (Jr.), Kyle Beltman (Sr.), Cody Qualm (Fr.), Jayden VanZee (8th), Cody Steffel (Fr.), Chris Olson (Jr.), Nate Spawn (8th), Connor Kuipers (So.), Drew Turnis (So.), Ross Fredrick (Jr.)

ASSESSMENT: PGDC should see another strong season on the baseball diamond as they return a majority of their starters. The depth on the team should also be a strong suit in case the injury bug strikes during the season.

"Pitchers throwing strikes and playing good defense should be our strengths," Kuiper said. "We have good depth with 15 juniors and seniors."

"We should be able to take advantage of some of our speed guys."

## Nebraska Boys' Golf

### DISTRICT TOURNAMENTS

C-3, MAY 16 AT NORFOLK CC, NORFOLK: Crofton, Hartington Cedar Catholic, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge, Ponca D-3, MAY 16 AT SUMMERLAND GC, EWING: Creighton, Hartington, Niobrara-Verdigre, Randolph, Santee

### STATE

C: May 24-25, Meadowlark Hills GC, Kearney  
 D: May 24-25, Iron Eagle GC, North Platte

### Creighton

HEAD COACH: Welden Zepf (13th year)

ASSISTANT: Pat Wintz

VITALS: Class D, District D-3

LAST YEAR: The Bulldogs take home a fifth place finish in the conference, while also benefiting from not graduating any seniors.

RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Holden Wetzler (Sr.), Andrew Largen (Sr.), Ryan Mittels (Jr.), Logan Pierre (Jr.)

ALSO RETURNING: Zac Sorensen (So.)

NEWCOMERS: Tanner Homan (Fr.), Ian Fuebman (Fr.), Colt

Condon (Fr.), Billy York (Fr.)

ASSESSMENT: Creighton has a strong returning group coming back to improve on last season. The top end of the roster is going to have to show some good leadership to drive the newcomers into competition.

### Crofton

HEAD COACH: Gregg Bailly (15th year)

VITALS: Class C-1, Northeast Nebraska Activities Conference

LAST YEAR: Senior Christian Nohr was in the top five in the state

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