

## GOLF

## ATHLETES TO WATCH

**HANNAH WITHROW, YANKTON (Sr.):** Tied for 13th in Class AA girls, 2010 state champion  
**MEGAN MINGO, YANKTON (Jr.):** Tied for 3rd in Class AA girls  
**KYLE KLUG, HARTINGTON CEDAR CATHOLIC (Sr.):** Tied for 17th in Neb. Class

C Boys  
**KELLY AMUNDSON, VERMILLION (Sr.):** Tied for 19th in Class A girls  
**TRENTON PETERSON, PONCA (Sr.):** Tied for 24th in Neb. Class C Boys  
**LOGAN WAGNER, PARKSTON (Jr.):** Tied for 3rd in Class A girls.  
**SHYLER FUNCK, DAKOTA VALLEY (Jr.):** 6th in Class A girls.

**JORDAN BORMANN, PARKSTON (Jr.):** Tied for 8th in Class A girls.  
**SHELBY BAUER, FREEMAN (Jr.):** Tied for 21st in Class B girls.  
**PATRICK GILLESPIE, PARKER (So.):** Tied for 18th in Class B Boys  
**SYDNEY BORMANN, PARKSTON (8th):** Tied For 21st in Class A girls.

# Gazelles Set To Build On '11 Success

YHS Returns 4 From 3rd Place Team In '11

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
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*EDITOR'S NOTE: This article originally appeared in the April 2 edition of the Press & Dakotan. It has been updated to reflect the on-going season.*

With four golfers — including two of the top players in the state — returning from a squad that won an Eastern South Dakota Conference title and finished third in the state, the Yankton Gazelles girls' golf team is looking to build on its success of a year ago.

Yankton boasts two of the better young golfers in the state in senior Hannah Withrow and junior Megan Mingo.

Withrow is a former state champion, winning the 2010 title. She tied for 13th in last year's championships.

Mingo finished third last year and was the South Dakota Golf Association Junior Golfer of the Year last summer. Her resume last summer included a 20th place finish in the SDGA women's amateur and fourth in the U.S. Girls' Junior Amateur qualifier.

Withrow and Mingo also teamed up to finish fourth in the SDGA Two-Woman Championship.

The pair were also part of a Gazelles team that ended Brookings' 14-year reign at the top of the Eastern South Dakota Conference and lost a second place tiebreaker to Brookings on its home course at state.

Also back are junior Whitney Specht, who finished 27th a year ago, and sophomore Amber Livingston, who finished 66th.

"With four girls coming back from our state tournament team, we have a great nucleus to build around," Yankton head coach Brett Sime said.

One of the challenges facing the Gazelles is that, while the team has 15 golfers vying for varsity positions, only six of them are high schoolers.

"We have a good group of young kids, but we only have six high school kids," Sime said. "We have nine seventh and eighth graders out, and they are all excited about playing."

Senior Gabby Horton and sophomore Alyssa Schild are the other two high schoolers in the hunt for the final two varsity positions. Eighth grader Becky Frick also played in one varsity event last season.

"Becky did play in one tournament last year, and a lot of the other eighth graders took winter lessons in Sioux Falls," Sime said. "They're coming off those excited to get out and play. Hopefully it pays off in the end."

Eighth graders Ashley Bilbrey, Rachael Frick, Alicia Gregoire, Kirsten May, Payton Pierce and Ashley Van Meeteren are out, as are seventh graders Linze Cowman and Darian Tramp.

The Gazelles will be tested early.

After their season-opening victory in a triangular with Brookings and Brandon Valley on April 2, the Gazelles headed to Mitchell for a triangular with the Kernels and Washington.

On April 10, Yankton heads to Sioux Falls to face defending champion Sioux Falls O'Gorman on the course that will host this year's state tournament.

"Early on in the season it's about getting back to playing good golf, going out and learning to compete again," Sime said. "Girls' golf is a short season. We kick off Monday, and six weeks later we're tee-ing it up in Sioux Falls for state."



## SD GIRLS GOLF

### Alcester-Hudson

**COACH:** Sally J. Thompson (2nd year)

**VITALS:** Region 3B

**RETURNING LETTERWINNERS:** Christine Hakl (Sr.), Jamye McKee (Sr.), Kassie Van Wyk (So.), Abigale Farley (Fr.)

**TOP PROSPECT:** Brigita Rasmussen (7th)

### Andes Central

**COACH:** Tom Cooney (9th year)

**ASSISTANT:** Randy Winckler

**VITALS:** Region 4B

**LAST YEAR:** Andes Central placed fifth at the state tournament last year. They return three of those players that attended.

**RETURNING LETTERWINNERS:** Kellie Winckler (Jr., four time state qualifier, two time state medal winner), Krista Winckler (Jr.), Rebecca Lehmann (Fr.)

**TOP PROSPECTS:** Dennisha Johansson (So.), Sydney Meyers (So.), Brooke Deurmier (Fr.)

### Avon

**COACH:** Jay Weber (12th year)

**VITALS:** Region 4B

**TOP PROSPECTS:** Mallory Cihak (So.), Amanda Reiff (Fr.), Katelyn Buchholz (Fr.)

### Bon Homme

**COACH:** Lawrence Namminga (6th year)

**ASSISTANT:** Mike Duffek

**VITALS:** Region 3A

**LAST YEAR:** State qualifiers Gena Ludens and Jocie Einrem graduated. Ludens now golfs for the Mount Marty College women's team.

**RETURNING LETTERWINNERS:** Brittany Cihak (Sr.), Kassie Boese (So.), Megan Burbach

(So.), Brenda Walloch (So.)

**TOP PROSPECTS:** Tajia Schamp (So.), Christene Pinkelman (So.), Jodi Kriz (Jr.), Taylor Ahrens (So.)

### Dakota Valley

**COACH:** Paula Wilson (16th year)

**VITALS:** Region 2A, Big Sioux Conference

**LAST YEAR:** The Panthers sent two golfers to state. Both return this season.

**RETURNING LETTERWINNERS:** Shyler Funck (Jr., placed 6th at state last season), Alyssa Hunt (Sr., state qualifier), Annie Long (Jr.), Abby Schmitt (Jr.), Mary High (8th)

**TOP PROSPECTS:** Allie Oakley (So.), Natalie Renfro (So.), MaKenna Krysl (7th)

### Elk Point-Jefferson

**COACH:** Lee Clark (7th year)

**VITALS:** Region 2A, Big Sioux Conference

**LAST YEAR:** EPJ finished eighth in the state Class A meet. Kelsey Leif and Cassie Hilbrands, who tied for 14th, both graduated.

**RETURNING LETTWINNERS:** Ashlee Stepp (Sr., state qualifier), Morgan Hueser (Sr., state qualifier), Colby Irwin (Sr.), Hannah Stone (So.)

**TOP PROSPECTS:** Camilla Fowler (Sr.), Kelsey Abbey (Jr.), Katie Zeller (Jr.), Anna Chicoine (Jr.), Nicole Rupp (Jr.), Samantha Merkley (So.), Hannah North (Fr.), Tori Johnson (8th), Tiffany Bonham (7th), Katelyn Richards (7th)

### Freeman

**COACH:** Ryan Mors (6th year)

**VITALS:** Region 3B

**LAST YEAR:** The Flyers placed fourth in the state tourna-



ment. Gone from that team is Courtney Lickteig, who finished eighth.

**RETURNING LETTERWINNERS:** Shelby Bauer (Jr., tied for 21st at state last year), Maranda Egan (So., state qualifier), Megan

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## NE BOYS GOLF

### Creighton

**COACH:** Ward Baldwin  
**ASSISTANT:** Pat Wintz  
**VITALS:** District C-3, Northeast Nebraska Activities Conference

**LAST YEAR:** The team qualified for the state tournament. Holden Wetzler, who placed 15th in the state tournament, and Andrew Largen graduated from that squad.

**RETURNING LETTERWINNERS:** Ryan Mitteis (Sr., state qualifier), Logan Pierce (Sr., state qualifier), Ian Fuchtmann (So.), Tanner Homan (So., state qualifier)

### Crofton

**COACH:** Barb Bowers (1st year)

**ASSISTANT:** Allen Arens

**VITALS:** District C-2, Northeast Nebraska Activities Conference

**LAST YEAR:** Christian Nohr, who placed 15th at state, graduated.

**RETURNING LETTERWINNERS:** Josh Crawford (Sr.), Brandon Hegge (Jr.), Wesdon Wortmann (Jr.)

**TOP PROSPECTS:** Brent Evans (Fr.), Brock Mueller (Fr.)

### Hartington

**COACH:** Ken Kneifl (17th year)

**VITALS:** District D-1, Lewis & Clark Conference

**LAST YEAR:** The Wildcats graduated three letterwinners from their 2011 squad, all varsity regulars.

**RETURNING LETTERWINNERS:** Ethan Steiner (So., best returning average), Trey Morten (So.), Riley McLain (So.)

**TOP PROSPECTS:** Chase Dendinger (Fr.), Cole Fischer (Fr.), Derek Jueden (Fr.), Kolby Jueden (Fr.)

### Hart. Cedar Catholic

**COACH:** Michael Johnson (14th season)

**VITALS:** Class C, Mid-State Conference

**LAST YEAR:** The Trojans qualified for Class C state tournament as a team last season. Tyler Leise graduated from that squad.

**RETURNING LETTERWINNERS:** Josh Anderson (Sr., state qualifier), Seth Howell (Sr., state qualifier), Kyle Klug (Sr., state qualifier), Eric Kruse (Sr., state qualifier), Zach Kathol (Sr.), Derek Klug (Jr.), Grant Howell (So.), Dalton Lammers (So.), Logan Schumacher (So.), Jared Burbach (So.)

### Laurel-Concord/Coleridge

**COACH:** Scott Petersen (5th year)

**VITALS:** Class C, Northeast Nebraska Activities Conference

**RETURNING LETTERWINNERS:** Nate Grontquist (Jr.), Shawn McCoy (Jr.), Nathan Schmidt (Jr.), Brendon Groene (So.), Jamy McCoy (So.), Cory Peterson (So.)

**TOP PROSPECTS:** Shawn Leo-

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Robert L. Olson

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