

# Large Tanager Squad Looks To Remain Title Contenders



**TANAGERS**  
**KELLY AMUNDSON • SENIOR**

BY JILANNE DOOM  
sports@yankton.net

VERMILLION — Coming off a third place team finish at last year's South Dakota Class A State Golf Meet and losing a few key seniors, Head Coach Kier Hogen is anticipating another solid season for the Vermillion High School girls' golf team.

"From last year, we obviously lost some really good seniors but we've got a pretty good nucleus of a team coming back," Hogen said. "Some of the girls are senior Kelly Amundson, and we've got some juniors in Brooke Schwasinger, Elly Mueller, and Allison Heine. As far as the older ones that have been around, those are the older ones that we're going to be counting on probably the most to lead the team. They've all had some experience. They've all been with the program for a while and worked pretty hard during the off season."

Despite their successes in the past couple of years, including their third place finish last season and winning the state title two seasons ago, the team is focused on the road ahead of them instead of the past.

"I would say last year was one of the better third place finishes we've ever had, especially against such a competitive field. After winning it the year before, losing a couple people, and coming back to get third, I would say we were happy with that. But that's behind us now. We've got a new team and we're heading into a new season."

Along with the new season come several new faces with the potential to become key contributors.

"We've got some young girls that are coming up. Kelly's our only senior and we've got a group down to about seventh graders so we've got a mix of about everything," Hogen said. "We've got some good young ones that are going to come up

and we've got a junior in Katie Herrera who has improved a lot over the year. We've got eighth grader Kate Brockevelt who could very well be a contributor. We've also got another freshman, Audry Mueller. Another new one into the program that is a seventh grader is Kyleigh Moran. Another eighth grader that could very well be helping us is Kayla Stammer. That is probably the nucleus of the different groups that will be fighting for the top eight."

The Tanagers will have an unusually large selection of golfers competing for the top eight this season, but Coach Hogen is excited about the larger roster size for not only this season, but for years to come.

"We have 18 girls out," Hogen said. "It's not uncommon for us to have in that 14 to 15 range, but we probably haven't had 18 for a while. What's really nice about it is the range in the grades. We've got a little bit of everything in there and that's awesome because you're not having to start over all the time."

This year's group not only has a high quantity, but it also has a strong competitive spirit among the many different ages. However, the players know how to balance between their team competitiveness and fun at practice.

"It's a good group of girls, actually a pretty athletic and competitive group of girls - even the younger ones. We've got some girls there that like to compete and that makes a big difference," Hogen said. "As far as practice and stuff like that, the whole idea behind the competition is to have some fun and get prepared so that part really falls back onto me. We've got to make sure we're improving but at the same time you've got to make sure you're having some fun too where it doesn't become work. We obviously have our serious times but we get some giggles in there too."

This year, the team must recover from the loss of three sen-

iors, including Ellen Brown who tied for Vermillion's highest individual placer at 19th place. Coach Hogen is confident that the work ethic these seniors left behind will carry on to this year's squad.

"Last year we lost the three seniors and they were all three great gals. Hard to replace, but at the same time, that sort of works with the program," Hogen said. "When you get three girls like that who have been with the program, and they do their job as far as leaders, well that's what they leave behind is for girls to take over and be leaders. I have to thank them for doing what they did because they left us with a program that is not in too bad of shape."

As for this year's team leadership, Hogen is looking to his lone senior Kelly Amundson, who tied at 19th with her teammate at last year's state meet, because of her experience in the program and as a leader in other sports.

"I would think Kelly would almost naturally be a leader. Just due to that she is a senior and she's been on the team for a while, and obviously she was one of the leaders on the girls' basketball team also. I would expect her, along with those juniors, to be leaders, especially to the younger ones. Show them the ropes a little about how the program works."

Careful not to get ahead of themselves, the Tanagers are still hesitant to gauge just how competitive they will be this season until the Class A State Meet in Hot Springs at the end of May.

"As far as goals, I'd say the girls are going to be able to compete," Hogen said. "How good we're going to be, I don't know. But our goal right now is to get better and to keep improving. I really do think if we just improve a little bit and take it day at a time at practice, then we'll be able to compete. But we'll see how it all falls into place by the end of the year."

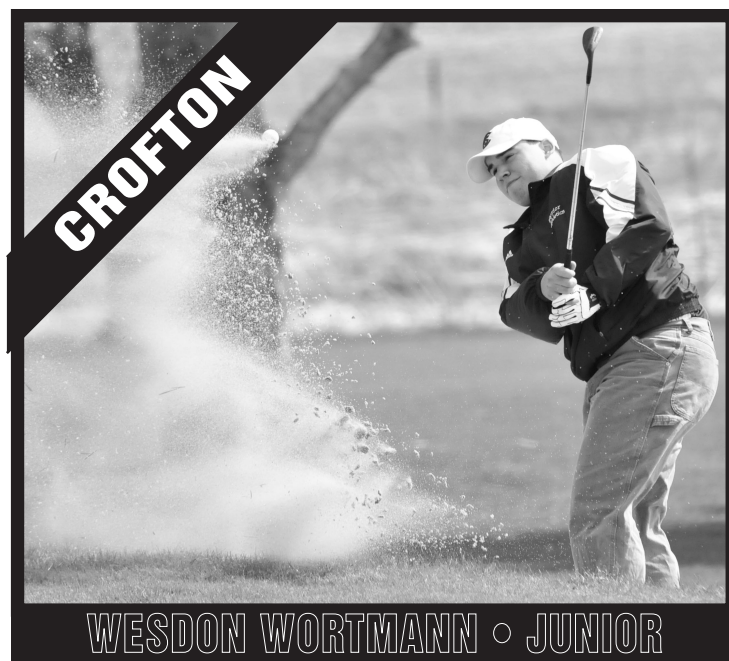
## NE Boys

From Page 2

pley (Sr.), Tyler Schurman (Sr.), Zach Huffart (Jr.), Calvin Casey (So.), Gabe Abts (Jr.), Logan McCoy (So.), Nate Ohlich (So.), Michel Leapley (So.), Blake Rierness (Fr.)

### Niobrara-Verdigre

COACH: Marilyn Janovec (6th year)  
ASSISTANT: Pat Svec  
VITALS: Class D, Niobrara Valley Conference  
LAST YEAR: The Cougars went to State and placed in the middle of the field.  
RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Josh Kemp (Sr., state qualifier), Coy Reynolds (Jr., state qualifier), Wyatt Reynolds (Jr., state qualifier)  
TOP PROSPECTS: Mackenzie



**CROFTON**  
**WESDON WORTMANN • JUNIOR**

Rettig (Sr.), Kade Mariano (So.), Hayden Liska (So.), Kayla Grim (Sr.), Jessica Reilly (Jr.), Sally

Chang (Jr.), Cassandra Holland (Fr.), Alex Hollmann (Jr.)

## SD Girls

From Page 2

Egan (Fr., state qualifier)  
TOP PROSPECT: Dina Soulek (Jr.)

### Irene-Wakonda

COACH: Brooke Bonte (2nd year)  
VITALS: Region 3B, Tri-Valley Conference  
LAST YEAR: The Eagles finished 12th in the state tournament after winning the TVC and finishing second in the region.  
RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Melissa Hessman (Sr., state qualifier), Alex Nelson (Sr., state qualifier), Maggie Kribell (Jr.), Sydney Nielsen (So., state qualifier), Makayla Mohr (So., state qualifier)  
TOP PROSPECTS: Ashleigh Schroeder (So.), Skyanna Sorenson (So.)

### Marion

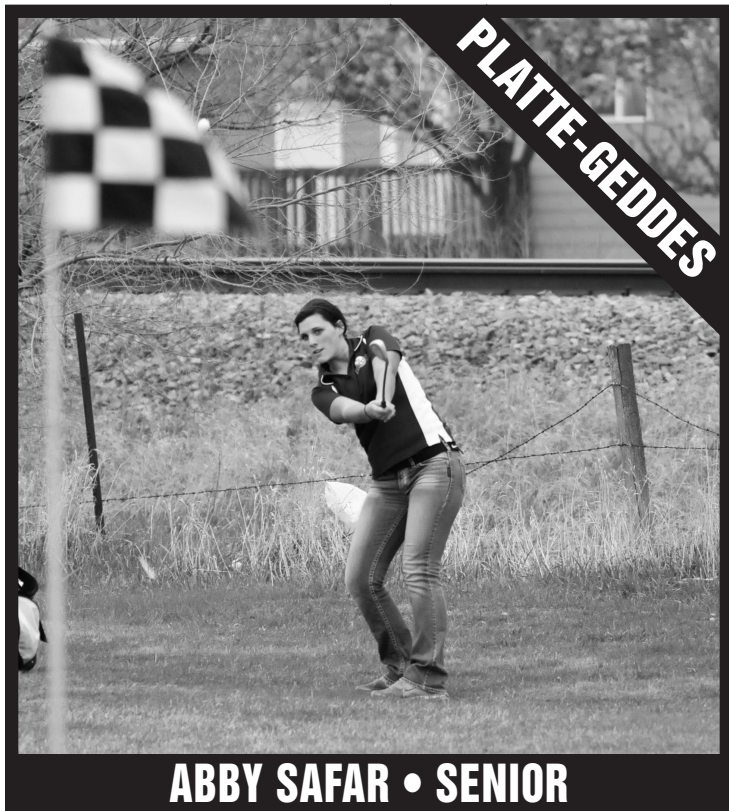
COACH: Bruce Hansen (19th year)  
VITALS: Region 3B, Cornbelt Conference  
RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Stephanie Haiar (Sr.), Abby Schoenwald (Sr.), Cassie Engbrecht (Jr.)  
TOP PROSPECTS: Alycia Kayser (So.), Claire Gors (7th)

### Parkston

COACH: Eric Norden (7th year)  
VITALS: Region 3A  
LAST YEAR: Parkston finished second as a team at the state tournament and were region champions. Sam Bialas, who tied for 21st, graduated from that squad.  
RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Jordan Bormann (Jr., tied for 8th at state), Taylor Bormann (Jr., state qualifier), Logan Wagner (Jr., tied for 3rd at state), McKenzie Weidenbach (Jr.), Heather Kollman (Sr.), Sydney Bormann (8th, tied for 21st at state), Mariah Mogck (Sr.), Sydney Weber (8th), Devin Kurtz (Jr.)

### Platte-Geddes

COACH: Jody Gittings (3rd year)  
VITALS: Region 4B  
LAST YEAR: PG qualified three golfers for the state tournament. Maggie Foxley graduated from that squad.  
RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Abby Safar (Sr., state qualifier), Jill Olson (Sr.), Mercedes Van Zee (Sr.), Amanda Qualm (Sr.), Joslin Nelson (Jr., state qualifier)



**PLATTE-GEDES**  
**ABBY SAFAR • SENIOR**

TOP PROSPECTS: Cassidy Plooster (So.), Ellie Ringling (So.), Niki Nelson (Fr.), Kiera Hubers (Fr.), Maddi Slaba (Fr.), Savannah Boltjes (Fr.), Sadie Meyerink (7th)

TOP PROSPECTS: Julie Gilley (8th), Ashley Cap (7th).

### Viborg-Hurley

COACH: Deb Anderson (8th year)  
VITALS: Region 3B  
LAST YEAR: The Cougars had no letterwinners or qualifiers for state.  
TOP PROSPECTS: Shelby Simonsen (8th), Cassandra Voss (8th), Ashley Benson (Fr.)

### Wagner

COACH: Jim Jaeger (16th year)  
VITALS: Region 3A  
LAST YEAR: The Red Raiders lost one letterwinner from last year's squad, Talia Peters, who tied for third at state.  
RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Devon Brecke (Sr.), Jaequeline Juffer (Sr., state qualifier), Courtney Hansen (Sr.), Tristen Scherr (Jr.), Kathleen Juffer (So.)  
TOP PROSPECTS: Alexis Cimpl (Sr.), Brooke Roth (8th), Megan Zephier (8th)

### Scotland

COACH: Turk Peterka  
VITALS: Region 4B  
LAST YEAR: Aisha Abbink qualified for state as a sophomore  
RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Sydney Schmitz (Sr.), Lacey Bietz (Jr.), Audrey Gall (Jr.), Aisha Abbink (Jr.)  
TOP PROSPECTS: Katie Winckler (Fr.), Kimberly Stibral (Fr.), Maggie Fiscel (7th)

### Tripp-Delmont

COACH: Matthew Termansen (2nd year)  
VITALS: Region 4B  
LAST YEAR: The Wildcats had a couple golfers come close to attending the state meet last year.  
RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Macey Fuerst (Sr.), Rachel Soulek (Sr.), Payton Schaefer (Fr.)

## SD BOYS GOLF

### Alcester-Hudson

COACH: Sally J. Thompson (2nd year)  
VITALS: Region 3B, Tri-Valley Conference  
LAST YEAR: The Cubs had one state qualifier, Nathan Johnson, who graduated.  
RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: DJ Schouten (Sr.), Travis Terpstra (Sr.)  
TOP PROSPECTS: Tyler Lewis (So.), Landon Nygard (So.), Andrew Ter Wee (So.), Marshall Christensen (8th), Nick Johansson (8th), Grant Johnson (8th), Mitch Johnson (8th), Zach Ronning (8th), Parker Dooley (7th), Donovan Wilson (7th).

### Andes Central

COACH: Tom Cooney (9th year)  
ASSISTANT: Randy Winckler  
VITALS: Region 4B  
RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Joe Evans (So.), Aaron Swensen (So.), Derby Svatos (So.), JJ Cooney (8th).  
TOP PROSPECTS: Alex Evans (Sr.)

### Avon

COACH: Jay Weber (12th year)  
VITALS: Region 4B  
TOP PROSPECTS: Michael Johnson (So.), Devon Tolsma (Fr.), Cody Namminga (Fr.), Cole Fillaus (Fr.), Zach Wynia (Fr.), Trey Doom (Fr.), Dylan Chambers (Jr.), Blake Howes (Jr.), John Kopp (8th)

### Freeman

COACH: Ryan Mors (6th year)  
VITALS: Region 3  
LAST YEAR: Freeman's Aaron Lickteig placed second at the state tournament.  
RETURNING LETTERWINNERS: Aaron Lickteig (Jr., two time state runner-up), Kurt Weber (Jr., state qualifier), Travis Schnabel (Fr.), Derek Scherschligt (Jr.), Zach Sohler (Fr.), Brenna Schmidt (Fr.), Kyle Koerner (Sr.), Kahler Koerner (Jr.)

### Gayville-Volin

COACH: Bruce Anderson (1st year)  
VITALS: Region 4B  
LAST YEAR: The Raiders had



**AVON**  
**CODY NAMMINGA • FRESHMAN**

one golfer go to state, Ben Sonichsen, who graduated.  
RETURNING LETTERWINNER: Justin Nelson (Sr.)  
TOP PROSPECTS: Kyle Kocmick (Sr.), Dillon Pokorney (Sr.), Stephen Burgesen (So.), Alex Taggart (So.)

### Irene-Wakonda

COACH: Brooke Bonte (2nd year)  
VITALS: Region 3B, Tri-Valley Conference

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