



TANAGERS: Alex Card

## VHS Return Three State Qualifiers

BY CLAY STODDARD  
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VERMILLION — The Vermillion High School Cross Country teams are looking forward to the 2010 season following a 2009 season which saw only two state qualifiers on both the boys and girls teams.



"In 2009 we had two boys and two girls who were individual qualifiers for the state meet; Alex Card, Robert Osterberg, Blair Gilkyson, and Sophie Nelich-Arroba. All return except for Sophie," said fourth-year coach Kelly Fischbach. The Tanagers girls team is looking to improve with the return of their leaders, senior Ashley Brunick and 2009 state qualifier sophomore Blair Gilkyson.

"Ashley is back healthy after a strong start to the season last year before injury," Fischbach said.

The girls will also be supported by sophomore Megan Hower who was an individual qualifier in the 2008 state meet. Filling out the roster will be seniors Jana Bye and McKenzie Huska, sophomores Jacki Hulse and Jade Postvedt, freshman Ashley Sorensen and Caitlin Britten, eighth grader Britney Sweeney and seventh grader Maddie Mockler. Freshman transfer, Alyssa Sosebee, from Rapid City, is also expected to make contributions to the team.

The Tanagers boys' team will lead this year by returning state qualifiers and seniors Alex Card and Robert Osterberg, while sophomore Nathan Ford will also be contributing.

"We look to improve on our boys team finish from last year, as we have most of our components back older and stronger," Fischbach said.

Along with Card, Osterberg, and Ford, there are several returning letter winners for Vermillion. They include senior Carson Sullivan, sophomores Matt Hirsh and Colin Olson, and freshman Seth Miller.

"Several of these boys had strong track seasons last spring and hope to build on that this fall," Fischbach said.

Vermillion has added some newcomers to the team this year with the likes of senior Kevin Callahan, and junior Nash Wergen. "I also look for eighth grader Regan Bye to challenge for varsity time, along with newcomers sophomore Will Card and junior Chris Weber," Fischbach said.

The Tanagers begin their season at the Beresford Invite on Aug. 27.

# Strong Pitching Duo Anchors Tanager Softball Team

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
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VERMILLION — With a dynamic 1-2 punch in the circle and several players returning from a year ago, the Vermillion girls' softball team has high expectations for the 2010 season.

"We've got a lot of returning players," said Vermillion coach



Chris Girard. "Almost all of them played summer ball, so we should have a very solid team."

The Tanagers have just two seniors, Lindsay Robinet and Carlee Sorenson.

"Carlee's a solid utility player who can also catch. Lindsay plays outfield and second base," coach Girard noted. "Both have been playing Tanager softball their

whole high school careers. They are strong players."

Six juniors, including both the team's pitchers, make up a solid core for the squad.

The pitchers, who also split time at first base, are Lizzy Bye and Jessica Finch.

"We have two very solid pitchers that will help us tremendously," coach Girard noted.

Other players in that junior class are Sami Girard, Claire Jones, Beth Szymonski and Tory McCreary. "They know the game of soft-

ball," coach Girard noted. "They've played competitively for years."

The two sophomores on the roster, Shelby Christopherson and Paige Olson, will also be key contributors.

"Shelby's got a big bat and is solid at third," coach Girard said. "Paige has lots of speed and is a good bunter."

Coach Girard feels that the players' summer competition, which for many included playing on travel teams in Sioux Falls, has prepared them for a tough fall season. "They've seen a lot of pitchers.

They know what to expect," she said. "They know the level of competition out there, and I think they will be very well prepared."

While the Tanagers are athletic and fast, the team is a little undersized when compared to some of the teams they will face.

"We're not a big team. Our girls are on the tinier side, but we are quick," coach Girard said. "Smart baserunning and solid defense will keep us in the game."

Vermillion opened the 2010 season on Aug. 22.

# Young Vermillion Girls' Tennis Squad Remains Optimistic

BY ROYAL MCGREGOR  
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VERMILLION — Though the Vermillion Tanagers took some tough hits on their girls' tennis team, losing three of their top six players, the optimism remains for the returning athletes to play consistently.



TANAGERS: Claire Jones



"We lost three varsity members from our team from last year," head coach Dan Hanson said. "One tough thing that we are faced with is that we're lacking numbers a little bit, but we are looking for the girls to show that they can compete and play tough teams throughout the season."

Among the losses were Kayla Munger, who played at flight two, as well as twins Kasey and Kelly Nielsen, who sat fourth and fifth in the mix, respectively. The Tanagers do have one play-

er coming back after season-ending surgery last year, Valerie Robinson (Jr.), who is set to be number two on this season's roster.

"Valerie was going to be our number two player last year, but she blew her knee out in basketball during the summer," Hanson said. "She is back now and we are excited to see what she is able to bring to the table."

Junior Claire Jones returns as the team's No. 1 player.

"Our one and two players are junior, so we are really looking forward to them help lead the team this season," Hanson said. "We hoping that they push the other girls to practice hard and play hard during their matches."

Senior Lindsay Robinet finished last season third in Vermillion's lineup and she is going to continue where she left off this season.

"Lindsay is our lone senior that is on the team this year," Hanson said. "She'll be playing number three again this year."

Dylan Daniels had a solid season with the Tanager last season and Hanson said that she will be a key part of gaining points at their dual and matches.

"Our number four girl this year will be Dylan again," he said. "She was also our number four last year

and she will be a big contributor to our team."

The Tanagers have a strong one through three contingent, but Hanson said that they are going to have a tough against some of the other competition in South Dakota.

"We don't have a really big team this year," he said. "We've been practicing for right around a week and we have eight girls on our roster."

"Some of the other bigger schools in South Dakota are solid through their top 10 girls," he added. "We drop off after you hit our five, six, seven, then the skill level drops off from our lack of pool of kids to pick from."

The youth of Vermillion is hoping to blossom this year to get the Tanagers back into the swing of things this season.

"Last year our team won five matches," Hanson said. "I think this year we are hoping to win three or four, we need everyone to stay positive and it tough to play against competition in our class."

"We need to keep moving forward and they need to learn not to come down on themselves and learn from their mistakes."

The Tanagers opened the 2010 season Aug. 21 at a quadrangular in Yankton.

# Vermillion Boys' Golfers Aiming High

BY ROYAL MCGREGOR  
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EDITOR'S NOTE: This article originally ran in the Aug. 16 edition of the Press & Dakotan.

VERMILLION — The Vermillion Tanagers boys golf team took first place in the Big 8 Championship last year, but they are going to have a tougher road ahead of them after losing three key seniors from last year in hopes that they can make a good showing at the state level.

"We lost three valuable seniors from last year Cole Andre, Erik Ustad and Aaron Steele," Vermillion head coach Kirk Hogen said. "Those are three main golfers that we have had for quite some time."

"They were three letterwinners that were the mainstay of our group last year," he added. The Tanagers are looking to fill



in the gaps with golfers that have had experience at the varsity level and are relying on them lead the team this year.

"Zach McDonald, who is our one senior, Mitch Nelson, who is a junior and Carter Andre, who is an eighth grader," Hogen said. "Those are the three that we are counting on as much as anything this year."

Hogen is looking for a couple kids on the team to battle for the fourth and fifth positions.

"Everyone is in competition, everyone has to prove themselves," Hogen said. "Mitch Ellison, who is a junior will be competing for a fourth or fifth spot, Peter Haut, who is a sophomore will be fighting for one of those spots and Jay Munger, who is a freshman will also look to be

competing for one of those roles." Hogen has high expectations for the squad.

"I don't every feel like we are starting over as a golf team, because we have some good talent on the team, it is always going to hard to fill the shoes of three good seniors from last year," Hogen said. "We have some good kids on the team this year and it is going to come down to on how those kids develop into better golfers and how they handle the pressure on being the top guys."

"We are going to take this season a match at a time and hopefully each match we learn a little something and keep improving," he added. "Hopefully at the end of the season we can present a team is favorable and can compete with everyone else in the state."

Vermillion opened the season Aug. 16.

# Tanagers Hope To Ride Power Game Deep Into Post-Season

From P&D Staff Reports

VERMILLION — The Vermillion Tanagers have a long history of power football under head coach Gary Culver. With the talent Vermillion returns, Culver expects the Tanagers to have success as a hard-nosed team.



The Tanagers open their 2010 campaign Friday against Lennox, the start of what they hope is another great season.

"Lennox will be a good team for us to start our season off against, because this will be their coaches second season and what I saw towards the end of the season they gained a lot of confidence," Culver said. "It is a traditional Big Eight Conference rival that we will be facing. I think this will be a good opener for us to be able to go up there."

Vermillion returns three starters on offense and four on defense from a team that went 3-6 a year ago.

All three offensive returnees are up front, center Scott Iverson (Sr., 6-2, 235) and tight ends Cody Olson (Sr., 6-2, 175) and Will Mart (Jr., 6-3, 215).

"Scott did an outstanding job last season as a junior. He is just bigger, stronger and is just more experienced coming into this season," Culver said. "Cody is a great blocker and just continues improve and gain strength and has excellent speed to get out into the open for our passing game."

"Hopefully, we can utilize him in the passing game."

Tyler Husby (Sr., 6-1, 180) moves into the starting quarterback role.

"Tyler doesn't quite have that varsity experience at the quarterback position, but has a lot of junior varsity quarterback experi-

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# Speedy Tanagers Ready To Take On Competition

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VERMILLION — The Vermillion Tanagers girls' soccer team will bring a fast squad to the pitch when it opens the 2010 season.

Vermillion returns a host of talent from a year ago, as just three letterwinners graduated from 2009: Sophie Nelich-Arroba, Hannah Nelich-Arroba and Lacey Leichtman. The Neligh-Arroba twins will be playing at Dakota Wesleyan this fall.

The Tanagers boast good team speed, led by senior Ashley Brunick and junior Christine Epping.

"Ashley was injured halfway through last year and returns healthy," noted head coach Dave LaCombe. "Christine was a first-year player last year. She is much more knowledgeable and fast. They



are both great outside threats." Vermillion boasts several other fast players.

"We feel very blessed with speed this year," LaCombe said. "Speed is our biggest threat."

Seniors Tascha Donnelly (D) and Morgan Erickson (D) and junior Shelby Gregoire (MF) among the team's fastest players.

Junior Katie Wasley returns for a third straight season in goalie. "She is a key asset for us," LaCombe said. "She is a very talented, knowledgeable skilled goalie that's not afraid to get dirty."

Senior Tracy Howe, sophomores Kelsey Meadows and Kortni Walker, and freshmen Haley Freidel, Tori Gregoire, Allie Mockler, Alexis Reich, Teddie Settles and Cheyenne Steemken will also be counted on this season. Each has varsity experience, but many will be asked to play different roles this season.

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**Bon Homme Cavaliers Football**

8/27/10	Tea Area	H	9/24/10	Wagner	H
9/3/10	Platte-Geddes/Dakota Christian	H	10/8/10	Canton	H
9/10/10	Beresford	A	10/15/10	Parkston	A
9/17/10	Garretson	A	10/21/10	Elk Point-Jefferson	A

**Bon Homme Lady Cavs Volleyball**

8/28/10	Avon	A	9/28/10	Dakota Valley	A
8/31/10	Andes Central	A	9/30/10	Manno	A
9/4/10	Tournament Game	A	10/5/10	Dakota Christian	A
9/7/10	Vermillion	H	10/7/10	Freeman	A
9/9/10	Platte-Geddes	A	10/12/10	Scotland	H
9/14/10	Tripp-Delmont/Armour	H	10/13/10	Carsica/Stickney	A
9/16/10	Irene-Wakonda	H	10/19/10	Parkston	A
9/18/10	Tournament Game	H	10/22/10	Viborg/Hurley	H
9/21/10	Wagner	H	10/23/10	Tournament Game	A
9/23/10	South Central	H			