

# SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

## Players To Watch

**NICK POPPE, AVON.** The senior quarterback leads a strong rushing attack into the Class B ranks.

**BROCK BERGMANN, DAKOTA VALLEY.** A two-year starter at quarterback, Bergmann will lead an offense that returns seven starters.

**D'ANDRE FORE, VERMILLION.** The All-State running back ran for 823 yards and seven touchdowns a year ago.

**DENNIS DENEUI, VIBORG-HURLEY.** An All-State wide receiver last season, DeNeui will be looked to for leadership in 2011.

### Alcester-Hudson

**COACH:** Brian Haak (9th year)  
**ASSISTANTS:** Steve Hale, Randy Walth, Mike Seivert  
**VITALS:** Class 9A, Region 3  
**LAST YEAR:** The Cubs bounced back from their 0-8 season two years ago, and finished with an overall record of 5-4 in 2010. Despite its improvement, Alcester-Hudson lost to Avon in the first round of playoffs.  
**RETURNING LETTERWINNERS:** Tyler Tabbert (Sr., QB/DB), Lance Merrick (Sr., /LB), Levi Merrick (Sr., RB/DB), Alec Rus (Sr., TE), Rick Heiman (Sr., FB/LB), Derrick Lundberg (Sr., G/LB), Sawyer Jacobson (Sr., C/N)  
**TOP PROSPECTS:** Erik Barnes (So., RB/E), Shawn Wilson (Jr., G/E), Kody Bratzel (Sr., G/N), Austin Osterkamp (Jr., DB)

(Sr., 5-9, 175, RB/DB)  
**TOP PROSPECTS:** Esteban Rodriguez (Sr., 6-0, 185, OL/DL), Daniel Archambeau (Jr., 5-8, 135, RB/DB), Gabe Courmoyer (So., 5-8, 175, OL/DL), Nazareth Alcaraz (So., 5-10, 160, FB/LB), Neulan Dion (So., 5-7, 175, RB/DB), Christopher Dvorak (So., 5-10, 115, TE/DE), Joey Evans (So., 6-0, 135, RB/DB), Terrell Hopkins (So., 5-11, 165, TE/DE), Darrin Hopkins (So., 6-1, 200, OL/DL), Lorenzo Longe (So., 5-8, 145, OL/DL), Darby Svatos (So., 5-11, 175, OL/DL), Aaron Swanson (So., 6-3, 185, TE/DE), Aaron Tronvold (So., 5-8, 175, OL/DL), Angelo Alcaraz (Fr., 5-9, 130, RB/DB), Tyrone Flying Hawk (Fr., 6-0, 160, TE/DE), Reno Longe (Fr., 5-2, 155, OL/DL), Jacob Payer (Fr., 6-0, 175, TE/DE)

### Avon

**COACH:** Tom Culver (13th year)  
**VITALS:** Great Plains Conference  
**LAST YEAR:** The Pirates continue their impressive football power as they went 9-2 for the season. The most impressive team stat last year was the average points averaged against averaged points surrendered, the Pirates dominated that by averaging a win of 44 to 13.  
**RETURNING LETTERWINNERS:** Duffy Ducheneaux (Sr., 5-8, 160, RB/LB), Zach Johnson (Sr., 5-10, 160, RB/DB), Jackson Powers (Sr., 5-9, 170, RB/DB), Jacob Knodel (Fr., 6-0, 220, FB/DE), Brandon Kocmich (So., 6-1, 165, QB/DE), Nick Poppe (Sr., 5-11, 195, QB/DB), John Wynia (Sr., 6-4, 210, TE/DE), Joe Bertus (Sr., 5-11, 160, RB/LB), Wyatt

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### Bon Homme

**COACH:** Byron Pudwill  
**ASSISTANTS:** Ross Hudson, Jason Hein  
**VITALS:** Class 11B, Region 3  
**LAST YEAR:** The Cavaliers had a respectable season as they went 6-4 overall including a first round playoff win against Platte-Geddes before falling to Winner in the second



**AVON:** Jackson Powers (4)

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# Vermillion Girls' Soccer Program Looks To Step Up After Strong Showing In '10

*EDITOR'S NOTE: This article was originally published in our Aug. 20 edition. It has been modified to reflect competition since its publication.*

**BY JEREMY HOECK**  
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**VERMILLION** — Despite boasting a young roster, the Vermillion Tanagers girls' soccer team has high expectations after nearly beating some of the best teams in the state a year ago. The Tanagers, who opened their season Aug. 20 with a loss to St. Thomas More, recorded ties with top-seed St. Thomas More and third-seeded Harris-

burg at last year's state tournament. Now, for 2011, head coach Dave LaCombe sees his team as a potential threat come post-season time. "I expect that we will start slow, but will eventually get better with more experience," LaCombe said. "I expect us to finish strong and be a tough contender at the state level." Though nearly 70 percent of Vermillion's roster includes players between grades 8-10, the Tanagers bring back 14 players from last year. Highlighting that group are three seniors, led by first team All-State goalkeeper Katie Wasley.

"Having her back, she will have a lot of pressure on her shoulders, but it's something she can handle," LaCombe said. "As a goalie, she does a tremendous job." Also back are offensive threats Christine Eppling (Sr.), Shelby Gregoire (Sr.), Teddie Settles (Fr.), Tori Gregoire (Fr.) and Allie Mockler (Fr.). "The girls are more educated and more experienced on the field," LaCombe said. "We should see great things from our offense." Though, it will be on defense where the Tanagers could be a work in progress. The only returner to the defense is Kortni

Walker (Jr.). First-year starters to that side of the ball will include Cheyenne Steemken (So.), Kelsey Meadows (Jr.) and Haley Freidel (Fr.). "We lost 75 percent of our defense from last year, so that'll pretty much be an all new group," LaCombe said. "If I had to point to one weakness, defense could be it. We've introduced a new alignment, so the girls have been working on that." Also on the varsity roster are Alexis Reich (Jr.), Alisa Soesbe (So.), Mackenzie Gale (So.), Au-

tumn Barnett (8th), Shantel French (8th), Katie Kost (8th), Cheyenne Mallory (8th) and Sophia Taggart (8th). For the second year, Vermillion will also field a full junior varsity squad. Coaching that team, in addition to assistant coaching duties on varsity, will be former Tanagers standout Hannah Nelich-Arroba. The JV squad will include Sowmya Ragothaman (8th), Kayla Stammer (8th), Twila Sweeney (8th), Morgan Amund-

son (7th), Jaida Anderson (7th), Casey Druecker (7th), Bailey Gale (7th), Madie Gregoire (7th), Natalie Hertz (7th), Megan Hirsch (7th), Makenna Koble (7th), Bailee Mann (7th), Ole Manna-Ray (7th), Kayla Mulheron (7th), Maggie Peterson (7th), Madison Regnerus (7th), Abril Telleria (7th) and Sydney Tigert (7th). "It just shows that our program is growing," LaCombe said.

## VHS VB

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The biggest focus for the Tanagers this season is to go out and take control of their matches and dominate the sets. The depth of the team this season will be a strong indicator of the teams

overall strength. "Because we have so many kids that right now I think could start for anybody in the state, and right now we have nine or ten of them. So we are going to have competitive practices no matter what," said Billberg. The competitive practices throughout the season will give the Tanagers a strong base for their games throughout the season.

"Maybe the first two weeks out of the season one or two groups of girls are really achieving well, but throughout the season others will step up. Because we are so solid top to bottom we are going to have competitive practices each week throughout the season. This is going to be high quality versus high quality and I think that is going to make us very competitive towards November," Billberg said.

## Tennis

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state tournament last year, will get an early look at where it stacks up against some of the state's best. The Tanagers opened their season at a quadrangular in Yankton, competing with Rapid City Stevens — the preseason favorite in the state, Watertown and Yankton. "It'll show us where we are right away," Hughes said. Vermillion returns its top four singles players, including Claire Jones (Sr.) at flight one. Jones won a first-round match at the state tournament a year ago. Robinson (Sr.) returns to flight two singles, and will again team with Jones at flight one doubles

— where they were the state's eighth-ranked tandem a year ago. Jenny Sund (Sr.) returns at flight three singles and Abby Weiss (Fr.) is back at flight four. The Tanagers will turn to some varsity newcomers to fill out the remaining spots. Libby Sykes (7th) will take over at flight five, and according to Hughes, has a "ton of potential." Rose Steinmyer (Sr.) and Shelby Glover (8th) will contend for the flight six position. With four seniors on this year's roster, the Tanagers are still looking to recruit other players in order to develop depth, Hughes said. "We're hoping that we could entice a few more younger players, to get them playing a lot and building experience," she said. "As our team gets older, we want to build some depth and some strength."

Still, Hughes said she remains optimistic that the Tanagers can improve on their 14th-place finish at the state tournament in 2010. "We have really high hopes," she said. "These are hard-working girls, and we have every reason to believe they'll do well."

## VHS FB

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Four other starters return for the Tanagers: Chayse Meierkort, Stetson Kastengren, Dan Goeden and Riley Vlasman. Vermillion has been known to be a run-oriented team, and that

trend seems that it will continue this year. The Tanagers averaged rushing for just under 200 yards per game last year and passing for an average of 33 yards per game. "To be successful at the high school level you have to run effectively," Culver said. "The running attack can then open the passing game and teams will be more likely to overplay the run on a play-action pass." Their defensive philosophy is just the opposite. The Tanagers look to take the run away while on defense. Their base defense

will have a 4-4 look that crowds the line hoping to take away the run. "If you can run the ball effectively on offense, and take the run away on defense you will be successful," Culver said. The Tanagers open their season at home on Aug. 26 when they take on West Central at 7 p.m. Culver is assisted in his coaching duties by Jay Drake, Jake Terry, Jason Gault and Alex Ourada.

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**VHS Golf**  
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 "I'm not going to really worry about that. Even when we had

some of the better teams that we've had over the years I don't really worry about what other teams have," he said. "We have no control over what everyone else is shooting. We're going to concentrate on what we have and how we can improve."

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# Good luck to the Centerville Tornadoes!

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**Freeman Flyers Football**

8/26	Bridgewater-Emery-Ethan	Emery	9/30	Marion	H
9/9	Hanson	H	10/7	Alcester-Hudson	A
9/16	Chester Area	A	10/14	Mt. Vernon	A
9/23	Howard	H	10/20	Canistota	H

**Freeman Lady Flyers Volleyball**

8/29	Alcester-Hudson	H	10/3	Dell Rapids St. Mary	A
8/30	Irene-Wakonda	Wakonda	10/4	Andes Central	H
9/8	Gayville-Volin	A	10/6	Bon Homme	A
9/12	Scotland	A	10/11	Canistota	H
9/13	Bridgewater-Emery	Emery	10/13	Avon	H
9/15	Tripp-Delmont-Armour	Armour	10/17	Oldham-Ramona-	
9/22	Menno	A		Rutland	H
9/24, 27	Cornbelt Conf. Tourn.		10/18	Hanson	H
	Marion		10/21	Centerville	A
9/29	Ethan	A	10/24	Marion	A

**Freeman Academy Bobcats Soccer**

8/26	Chamberlain	A	9/6	Mitchell Christian	H
8/27	Huron	H	9/10	Groton	A
9/2	Lead-Deadwood	A	9/20	James Valley Christian	H
9/3	Sturgis	A	9/24	Mountain Lake Christian	H

**Freeman Academy Bobcats Volleyball**

8/30	Dakota Christian	A	10/6	Centerville	A
9/1	Menno	A	10/8	Gayville-Volin Tourn.	
9/6	Dell Rapids St. Mary	H	10/11	Viborg-Hurley	H
9/13	Irene-Wakonda	H	10/13	Marty Indian	A
9/15	Gayville-Volin/Baltic	H	10/18	Mitchell Christian	A
9/19	Alcester-Hudson	A	10/22	Andes Central Tourn.	
9/29	TVC Tourney	H	10/24	Oldham-Ramona-	
10/1	TVC Tourney	Alcester		Rutland	H
10/3	Marion	A			

**Centerville Tornadoes Football**

8/26	Marion	H	9/23	Irene-Wakonda	Irene
9/2	Parker	A	9/30	Baltic	H
9/9	Gayville/Volin	A	10/7	Viborg-Hurley	H
9/16	Menno	H	10/20	Alcester-Hudson	A

**Centerville Lady Tornadoes Volleyball**

8/29	Menno	H	9/24	Magnus Tourn.	Elkton
8/30	Beresford	A	9/29	TVC Tourn.	H
9/1	Canistota	H	10/1	TVC Tourn.	Alcester
9/6	Gayville-Volin/		10/4	Alcester-Hudson	H
	Scotland	H	10/6	Freeman Academy	H
9/8	Avon	A	10/11	Oldham-Ramona-	
9/13	Baltic	H		Rutland	A
9/15	Marion	H	10/13	Irene-Wakonda	Irene
9/17	Cavalier Clash	Tyndall	10/18	Newcastle	H
9/20	Viborg-Hurley	Viborg	10/21	Freeman	H