

# Bucks Look To Build On Recent Success

Yankton Opens Boys' Golf Season Today At Brandon Valley Inv.

BY NICK ROBINSON  
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The Yankton Bucks golf team is coming off a successful 2012 season where they finished a respectable second place in the ESD and third place in the state.

"Last year we finished third place in the state," junior Jace Guthmiller said. "We didn't really have any expectations at all. But, this year we have all six guys coming back and we're ready to go."

The six returning starters are seniors Lane Sawatzke,

Brandon Frick, Logan Megard and Ben Jensen. Guthmiller and Mitch Schlingmen round out the juniors. Mason Sundleaf is the lone sophomore in the top seven.

"Coming in we have everyone coming back," head coach Brett Sime said. "We had some guys put in a lot of work during the summer; I'm expecting these guys to play a lot of good holes."

Look for the Bucks to lean on the experience of Guthmiller, who placed second place in the amateur division of the Hillcrest Pro-Am earlier

this month.

"There is more weight on my shoulders being a leader and a captain this fall," Guthmiller said. "Now that we're older, we're able to show the younger guys what we've learned."

Guthmiller has spent time on the varsity roster since his seventh grade year, more than any other Buck on the roster.

"Coming up from a seventh grader, I was a young fella to the older guys," he said. "Now I'm a leader and am able to help the younger

guys. It will help this team grow."

The Yankton Bucks will go as far as their experience will take them. A key strength for the squad are driving the ball of the tee.

Yankton will look to improve on their play in big tournaments.

"We didn't finish very strong in the big tournaments last year," Guthmiller said.

"We kind of choked down the stretch and had bad holes when we needed good holes. What can cure that is taking every practice like one of

## Bucks Golf

Aug. 19	Br. Valley Tourn.	11 a.m.
Aug. 27	@ Brandon Valley	2 p.m.
Aug. 30	Huron Inv.	10 a.m.
Sept. 3	@ Mitchell	1 p.m.
Sept. 5	@ Lennox	2 p.m.
Sept. 13	Yankton Inv.	10 a.m.
Sept. 14	Brookings Inv.	8 a.m.
Sept. 19	vs. Wash./Lincoln	2 p.m.
Sept. 20	Mitchell Inv.	9 a.m.
Sept. 28	ESD (Pierre)	10 a.m.

State AA Tournament  
Oct. 7-8 at Brandon Golf Course

at the tournament," Sime said. "I'm expecting the kids to be good leaders. At the end of the day we want to compete at the highest level we can."

Guthmiller is optimistic on where this team can go this season.

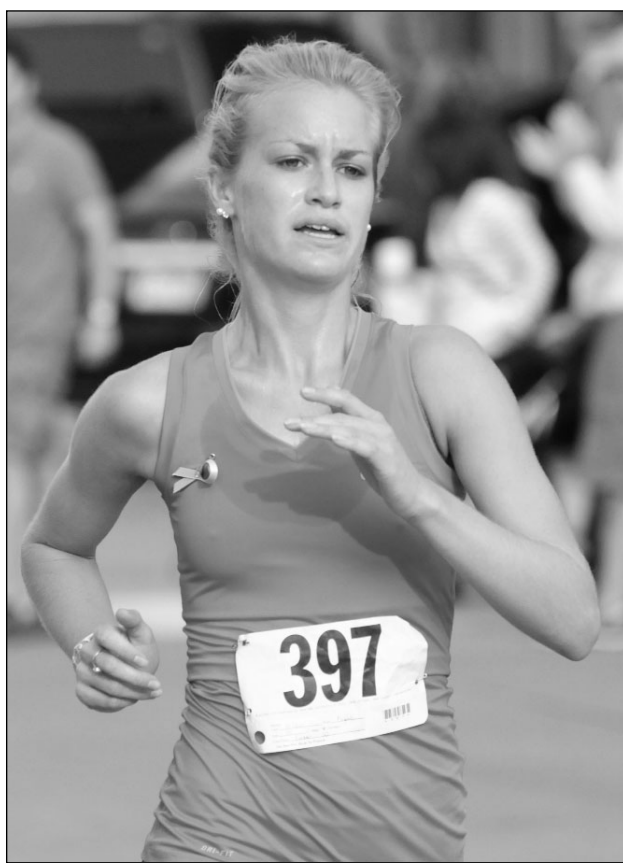
"Personally, I'd like to say that we had a blast this fall and that we gave it our all," he said. "Hopefully we will have no regrets and that we work hard enough to be crowned state champions."

You can follow Nick Robinson on Twitter at [twitter.com/RobinsonNick2013](https://twitter.com/RobinsonNick2013)

those tournament."

The Bucks open their season today in a tournament hosted by Brandon Valley.

"There will be five schools



## Mount Marty College Riverboat Days 5K Winners

LEFT: Former Yankton High School and University of South Dakota runner Matt Dewald blazes toward the finish line to win the men's portion of the Mount Marty College Riverboat Days 5K Run/Walk on Saturday morning in downtown Yankton. Dewald finished 20th in the Boston Marathon in April, and ran an Olympic Trials qualifying-time for the 2016 Marathon at Grandma's Marathon in June.

ABOVE: Yankton grad and University of South Dakota runner Megan Hilson won the women's division of the Mount Marty College Riverboat Days 5K Run/Walk on Saturday morning in downtown Yankton.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

## Gazelles Softball Team Opens Season Today

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
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The Yankton Gazelles girls' softball team, 19-14 a year ago, returns its entire pitching staff as they begin their 2013 campaign today (Monday) at Sioux Falls O'Gorman.

Jaclyn Arens (10-13, 5.17 ERA, 68 K in 131 1/3 IP) and Kalyn Peterka (8-1, 4.86 ERA, 14 K in 49 IP) pitched the majority of the innings a year ago. Madison Dangler (1-0, 7.00 ERA, 4 K in 5 IP) pitched mainly on JV, but is ready to contribute on varsity on a more regular basis this season, according to head coach Bernie Goeden.

"Our pitching staff is back, which should be a good thing," he said. "Jaclyn, Kalyn and Madison have all worked hard to improve. We had someone come in and work with our pitchers earlier this month, but they worked hard and their enthusiasm was there."

While teams can sometimes get by on one pitcher, pitching depth can be helpful, Goeden said.

"It helps to have more than one good pitcher," he said. "It's nice to have two or three. Everyone throws a little different, has a little different style."

Defensively, the Gazelles have to replace five players from a year ago, three of which were in the team's top-four in plate appearances. Jessica Wirth (.454, 9 triples, 2 HR, 25 RBI) and Karlee Kozak (.330, 6 doubles, 4 triples, 21 RBI) are taking their talents across town to Mount Marty. Hannah Horn (.215, 1 HR, 17 RBI), Tayler Hutchison (.182, 6 RBI) and Kourtney Erickson (.115, 2 RBI) are also gone from a year ago.

"The first few games we're going to move people around quite a bit," Goeden said. "We lost five from last year, including two of our main infielders and two of our main outfielders."

Abby Schulte (.402, 6 triples, 1 HR, 33 RBI), Andi Sprakel (.368, 1 HR, 22 RBI), Brooke Loecker (.368, 13 RBI) and Jenny Feilmeier (.353, 4 triples, 13 RBI) are among the returning hitters for the Gazelles.

"Andi has improved greatly, and most of it is confidence in herself," Goeden said. "Abby gets in streaks. Brooke and Jenny have hit the ball well. So has Jaclyn."

Arens (.295, 11 RBI) and Peterka (.386, 11 RBI) also hit well a year ago.

Loecker and Schulte will handle catching duties, according to Goeden. Brynn Albers, Arens and Dangler could spend time at first. Bailey Kortan, Peterka and Schulte could see time at second. Sprakel will anchor shortstop, with Kortan also spending time there. Feilmeier, Loecker and Arens have spent time at third during the preseason.

In the outfield, Heather Hauer, Kortan and Dangler have worked out, with Alisa Ruzick and Kelsey Hovorka also spending time in the outfield.

"We're going to have a lot of feeling out where everyone should play," Goeden said. "We have quite a few new girls."

As they have in previous seasons, Goeden's team will focus on defense.

"Every run you give up, you have to score one to get even," he said. "Hitting takes a while to come around."

You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at [twitter.com/JCimburek](https://twitter.com/JCimburek)

## Marine Appealing NCAA Rule Stopping Him From Play

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. (AP) — A Middle Tennessee freshman who finished five years of active service in the Marines this summer is appealing an NCAA rule preventing him from playing this season because he played in a recreational league in the military.

According to *The Daily News Journal*, the rule essentially says student-athletes who do not enroll in college within a year of graduating high school will be charged one year of collegiate eligibility for every academic year they participate in organized competition.

By NCAA standards, Steven Rhodes' play at the Marine base counted as "organized competition" because there were game officials, team uniforms and the score was kept.

But the 6-foot-3, 240-pound Marine sergeant said the recreational league was nothing close to organized.

"Man, it was like intramurals for us," said the 24-year-old. "There were guys out there anywhere from 18 to 40-something years old. The games were spread out. We once went six weeks between games."

The rule first took shape in 1980, when "participation in organized competition during times spent in the armed services, on official church missions or with recognized foreign aid services of the U.S. government" were exempt from limiting eligibility.

But through several revisions and branches of the rule, the clause allowing competition

during military service was lost and not carried over into the current bylaws.

Daryl Simpson, MTSU's assistant athletic director/compliance, said he doesn't believe the NCAA ever intended to penalize military service members.

"All this is strictly because of how the bylaw is worded," he said. "In my opinion, there is no intent of anyone to not allow protection to our U.S. service members."

Middle Tennessee won a partial appeal to the NCAA last week recouping two years of eligibility for Rhodes with his recreational league spanning two academic years. But Rhodes still is appealing to play this season practicing both at tight end and defensive end.

## Small Colleges Using Sports To Keep Enrollment Up

BY ERIC OLSON  
AP Sports Writer

FREMONT, Neb. (AP) — Brennan Azinger harbors no dreams of making it to the major leagues. In fact, if it weren't for a friend at a small college in Nebraska putting in a good word for him with the baseball coach, he wouldn't be playing beyond high school.

The coach invited the first baseman from Logan, Iowa, for a campus visit without having seen him play. This month, Azinger is starting his freshman year at Midland University as one of 70 players — yes, 70 — on the Warriors' roster.

Strength in numbers equates to strength of school for Midland, where more than 600 of its nearly 1,100 students are on its 25 sports teams.

"Most kids coming here know they're not going to get drafted," said Azinger, his mom next to him after he signed up for classes. "They're just playing for fun.

They're getting their education."

And Midland is getting dollars.

Small colleges have long used the lure of partial athletic scholarships to draw students. With college costs rising, many small, private liberal arts schools are trying to stay relevant as prospective students turn to less-expensive community and online colleges.

Between 2006 and 2011, the number of schools where at least 33 percent of the students played a sport increased from 96 to 124. Derek Flynn, who specializes in enrollment issues for higher education consulting firm Noel-Levitz, has found that even the smallest athletic scholarships can entice new students.

"I think families like to shout from the mountain tops that their son or daughter earned a scholarship to play college sports, or that they are simply playing college sports," Flynn wrote in an email.

"When we examine the data of campuses that offer small athletic scholarships, student behavior (enrollment rate) doesn't seem to change dramatically whether the student is offered the smaller or larger amount," he said. "It would suggest that it is about the recognition rather than the amount, although I am certain parents recognize the amount."

Midland has added 11 varsity sports since 2010 and was among 18 four-year colleges nationally where more than half its students played a sport in 2011, the most recent year data was available from the federal Office of Postsecondary Education.

Next year, the Warriors will start men's and women's ice hockey programs, and men's volleyball, swimming and diving and rugby are being considered after that as the school strives to reach an enrollment of 1,800.

"You look at other colleges that have had financial

## Stevens Downs Gazelles



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Yankton's Taylor Ruter tries to escape a Rapid City Stevens defender during their girls' soccer match on Saturday at Yankton's Lewis & Clark Soccer Complex.

Traditional power Rapid City Stevens made quick work of Yankton, beating the Gazelles 10-1 in girls' soccer action on Saturday at Lewis & Clark Soccer Complex.

Emily Haar had two goals and an assist, and Rylea Norris, Sterling Gikling and Lexi Pszanka had two goals each for the Raiders.

Nicci McGuire made five saves for Stevens.

Yankton, 1-1, hosts Brandon Valley on Tuesday.

### Boys

#### Yankton 1, Watertown 0

Treyson Slate's first-half goal was all Yankton would need in a 1-0 victory over Watertown on Friday, in the boys' soccer opener for both teams.

Slate scored off a free kick, and the defending champion Bucks did the rest on defense. Goalkeeper Landon Breen needed to stop just one shot in goal.

Yankton had 16 shots on goal in the contest.

The Bucks host Brandon Valley on Tuesday.