

Vermillion | Volleyball

Tanagers Look To Compete With Revamped Roster

BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE
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VERMILLION — With one returning starter to the Vermillion volleyball team, the Tanagers have a completely rebuilt team, but are still setting the bar high.

Head coach Lenni Billberg said she had a large number of seniors graduate, as well as a large number of kids move away. But that's not stopping her team from setting the goal to take the number one seed in their district. "This year, I actually have seven students who transferred to our school," she said. "So we lost 18 kids, but all of a sudden we're re-loaded. We've got excitement, we've got some

competition, we had a great summer and I am really excited to see what our kids can do."

Last season, the Tanagers were last in their district, but after summer camps and open gyms this summer, Billberg said she is excited to see what her girls can do.

"We really did struggle last year," she said. "Getting the first seed is a very tough goal, but we have to beat really good teams."

Billberg said she knows Elk Point-Jefferson will return a number of good players to its squad with experience, and Dakota Valley has a great spring and summer program and brings back a lot of good kids.

"We have many goals

Vermillion Volleyball					
9/3	@ Lennox/Todd Co.	4 p.m.	10/1	@ S.F. Christian	7:30 p.m.
9/5	@ South Sioux City	7 p.m.	10/3	@ West Central	7:30 p.m.
9/7	Luverne Inv.	9 a.m.	10/8	Dell Rapids	7:30 p.m.
9/10	Bon Homme	7:30 p.m.	10/17	Canton	7:30 p.m.
9/12	@ Tri-Valley	7:30 p.m.	10/19	Dakota 12 Conf. Tourn.	
9/17	Sergeant Bluff-Luton	7:30 p.m.		(Sioux Falls)	9 a.m.
			10/22	Beresford	7:30 p.m.
9/21	Cavalier Clash	8:30 a.m.	10/25	@ Dakota Valley	7:30 p.m.
9/23	Madison	7:30 p.m.	10/31	@ Elk Point-Jeff.	7:30 p.m.
9/24	@ Tea Area	7:30 p.m.	11/5-7	Region 4A	TBD
9/30	Wagner	7:30 p.m.	11/21-23	State A (Aberdeen)	

along the way," she said. "We'll see how we're doing for our first two weeks — see where we're standing, and then we want to do well at the Luverne tournament in Minnesota. Then we want to step forward and do well in Bon Homme against the A and B teams." To reach these goals, Bill-

berg is relying on her lone returning starter, senior Josie Huber.

Billberg said Huber was the team leader last year, which will make a difference this year as she gains more confidence.

"Josie was the one who calmed us down when we needed to be calmed down

last year, so we already have that athlete who knows what to do in an even bigger role," Billberg said. "That's what you look for in athletes, and Josie really has that strong leadership capability."

Huber said she has focused on team chemistry this season, and has seen eagerness from her teammates.

"We have a handful of new players this season, and they have meshed with our team very well," she said. "I see them contributing a lot this year, and I'm looking forward to playing on the court with them."

"Not only have we been playing well as a team and beating some great programs, but we have had an amazing turnout from our underclass-

men. They are very eager to get in the gym and play."

Huber is also looking to her fellow senior teammates for help. Sarah Hughes Berheim, Melissa Chickering, Abreaunna Raizola and Brandis Williams will also lead the team, Huber said.

"We have set the pace at practice, so I feel that our intensity is laying a foundation for the rest of the season," she said. "As a competitor, I always have the mindset to win, but as a leader, keeping the momentum up and a positive attitude on the court will help us succeed."

You can follow Emily Niebrugge on Twitter at twitter.com/ENiebrugge

Vermillion | Girls' Tennis

Veteran Lineup Back For VHS

BY JEREMY HOECK
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EDITOR'S NOTE: This article originally appeared in the Aug. 24 edition of the Press & Dakotan.

VERMILLION — A year after falling short in all their matches, the Vermillion Tanagers girls' tennis team will look to six returners to turn the tables in 2013.

By virtue of experience, the Tanagers return all six players — three high schoolers and three middle schoolers. Those back are Abby Weiss (Jr.), Audrey Mueller (Jr.), Libby Sykes (Fr.), Alex Rosdail (8th), Brandi Styles (8th) and Kirsten Bohn (8th).

In all, the Tanagers could have as many as 16 girls out this season, 13 from the middle school, head coach Hughes said.

"They have a great attitude and love the game of tennis," said Hughes, whose team opened its season by going 0-3 against Rapid City Stevens, Watertown and Yankton at a quadrangular in Yankton.

"The girls work together in spite of their age differences and have a good way of joking about it."

Hughes said she was confident that despite their past performances, the Tanagers can overcome their obstacles.

"It's especially challenging right now because in addition to being a small school, we have a hole in our lineup," she said.

Also on the roster for the Tanagers are Ammara Khizar (8th), Bali Summers (8th), Shinayne Whipple



Abby Weiss

(8th), Coroline Horton (7th), Natalie Kaufman (7th) and Christina Stoker (7th).

Youth aside, Vermillion is ready for the season, Hughes said.

"My expectations are to learn, improve and en-

hance self-motivation and discipline due to increased enjoyment of the game," she said.

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck

VHS Girls' Tennis (0-3)			
8/24	@ Yankton Quad	0 W, 3 L	
8/27	@ Mitchell Tr.		
9/10	Madison	4 p.m.	
9/12	@ Yankton	4 p.m.	
9/13	@ Brandon Valley	9 a.m.	
9/17	@ Madison Tr.	noon	
9/19	Yankton	4 p.m.	
9/30	@ Mitchell	4 p.m.	
10/3	@ Washington/Lincoln/Roncalli	10 a.m.	
10/10-12	State Tourn. (Sioux Falls)		

Vermillion | Boys' Soccer

Tanagers Focused On Repeat Performance

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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EDITOR'S NOTE: This article originally appeared in the Aug. 17 edition of the Press & Dakotan.

VERMILLION — The Vermillion Tanagers boys' soccer team was unbeaten a year ago, 12-0 and state champions in 2012. In 2013, the Tanagers are hoping for similar results.

Vermillion sports five seniors and several other returning players as it opened the 2013 campaign Aug. 17 against Belle Fourche. The Tanagers are 2-1 as of Aug. 26

"We have a lot of the right tools," said Vermillion head coach Curt Nelson. "We need to work just as hard as last year, possibly harder, to get back to the top."

While the Tanagers graduated five seniors and lost a sixth player, but Vermillion dealt with similar losses prior to last season.

"We have a good group of guys returning and a number of new kids," Nelson said. "We have similar numbers to last year."

One thing in Nelson's — and the team's — favor is the fact that all of the seniors play different positions.

"We have good balance again, like last year," he said.

Two players return after earning all-state honors a

VHS Boys' Soccer (2-1)			
8/17	Belle Fourche	L 1-7	
8/23	@ Hot Springs	W 6-4	
8/24	@ Custer	@ 6-1	
8/30	Hot Springs	6 p.m.	
8/31	Custer	3 p.m.	
9/6	Sturgis	6 p.m.	
9/16	Huron	5 p.m.	
9/21	@ Huron	1 p.m.	
9/26	S.F. Christian	7 p.m.	
9/28	@ Sturgis	2 p.m.	
10/4	@ Chamberlain	5 p.m.	
10/17-19	State Tourn. (Sioux Falls)		

year ago, striker Nathan Samudzi, a first-team selection, and center midfielder Ethan James. Outside midfielders James May and Austin Druin also return. Senior goalkeeper James Butler is also a welcome addition to the roster.

The Tanagers had an inexperienced defense a year ago, but return juniors Matthew Wasley and Blaine Bottolfsen, and sophomore Alec Leber this season. Junior forward Sam Tigert, sophomore midfielder Joe Miller and freshman midfielder Seth Druin are also part of Vermillion's first unit.

Also on Vermillion's varsity and JV roster include junior Andrew Callahan, sophomores Daniel Robinson and Tristan Meadows, freshman Nate Robertson, eighth graders Matthew Noteboom, Josh Prescott, Nick Lubers

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VHS FB

From Page 4B

Junior Jack Brown (5-11, 165) has impress at quarterback in preseason workouts.

"He's already shown that he knows the offense. He already knows the whole playbook that we just put in this season," Homan said. "Even if

I make a mistake some times, he's able to correct it if I call something wrong. It is really good with having a QB with leadership there."

Defensively, Bye, Madsen, Osborne and Jensen have looked good in the Tanagers' new 3-5 defense.

"We have five returning starters on defense and a few kids that are going to key in and be pretty good," Homan said. "Regan Bye, Tyler Madsen, Alex Osborne, Nick

Jensen are really going to help us out. A newcomer that's just coming out his senior year, Ethan James (Sr., 6-0, 186), could play at safety for us."

James will also fill the kicker. Other special teams spots were still up in the air as the Tanagers entered their final week before the season opener, but Homan expected athletes to step into those roles.

"We really haven't gotten too deep into that," he said. "But we feel we're going to have pretty decent special teams once we get the kids lined up where we want them."

What is also lined up for the Tanagers is a gauntlet of a schedule. After opening at Lennox today (Aug. 30), the Tanagers travel to South Sioux City, Neb., host rival West Central and travel to Tea Area before a mid-season bye. After they break, the schedule gets even tougher, with games at Dakota Valley, with Flandreau, at Madison and with Dell Rapids.

Dell Rapids won four of the past five Class 11A championships. West Central won eight of the previous 10.

"It's going to be a tough ride," Homan said.

No matter what the outcome is on the field, Homan and the rest of the Tanager coaching staff hope to build a foundation for the future — both the program's and the student-athletes'.

"I'm looking that we build a good foundation. When you're coming in as a coach, you want to build that foundation for the kids coming up," he said. "The five pillars that we're going to focus on are family, character, pride, purpose and attitude. I feel if our kids grow each week and build on those pillars, it will help them in life as well."

Coaching with Homan are Jake Terry, Jon Brooks, Jason Gault and Gerry Ebel.

You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at twitter.com/JCimburek

VHS Golf

From Page 4B

A key to Vermillion's success so far is the time the golfers have put in this past summer.

"These guys have put in a lot of work during the off-season, and it shows," Hogen said. "We've also had great leadership so far. Summer golfing isn't something that we have seen in the past. It's great these guys took the time to work hard this summer."

The Tanagers will need work on decision making if they want to make the state tournament.

"There are always little things you can work on," Hogen said. "We have to make sure we are mentally ready to go, so far we've been making some poor choices.

VHS Boys' Golf			
8/20	Beresford Inv.	5th	
8/22	Dakota Valley Inv.	6th	
8/27	@ Dakota Valley		
8/29	S.F. Christian Inv.		
9/10	@ Lennox	4 p.m.	
9/12	Vermillion Inv.	10 a.m.	
9/17	Elk Point-Jefferson	4 p.m.	
9/20	@ EPJ Inv.	9 a.m.	
9/23	Dakota 12 Conference (Hartford)	9 a.m.	
9/30	Region 2A (TBA)	9 a.m.	
10/7-8	State A (Hartford)	TBA	

We can always improve on our short game."

The Vermillion Tanagers will compete in the Sioux Falls Christian Invite next Thursday in Sioux Falls.

"This is a good bunch of kids," Hogen said. "We want to get Vermillion golf back to where it should be, the state tournament. Hopefully, I can help them reach that goal."

You can follow Nick Robinson on Twitter at twitter.com/RobinsonNick2013.

Cedar Catholic Trojans					
Football					
9/6	@ Oakland-Craig	7 p.m.	10/4	Luth. High NE (HC)	6:30 p.m.
9/13	Laurel-Concord-Coleridge	7 p.m.	10/11	@ Battle Creek	7 p.m.
9/20	@ Ponca	7 p.m.	10/18	West Holt	7 p.m.
9/27	@ Crofton	7 p.m.	10/24	@ Wisner-Pilger	7 p.m.
Volleyball					
9/5	Humphrey St. Francis/Battle Creek	5 p.m.	9/26	Randolph	5:30 p.m.
9/7	Scotus Inv.	9 a.m.	10/1	@ Battle Creek	5:30 p.m.
9/10	@ Crofton	5:30 p.m.	10/3	Guardian Angels Central Catholic (West Point)	5:30 p.m.
9/12-14	Wakefield Tourn.	TBA	10/10	Ponca	5 p.m.
9/17	@ Norfolk Catholic	5:30 p.m.	10/15	O'Neill St. Mary's	5:30 p.m.
9/19	@ Lutheran High NE	5:30 p.m.	10/17	@ Boone Central-NG	5 p.m.
9/21	Stanton Inv.	10 a.m.	10/25	O'Neill/Wayne	6 p.m.
9/24	Pierce	5:30 p.m.	10/28-11/1	Mid-State Conference	TBA
Cross Country (Co-op with Hartington)					
9/5	Niobrara-Verdigre Inv.	4 p.m.	9/27	Crofton Inv.	4:30 p.m.
9/12	Hartington Inv.	4 p.m.	10/3	Stanton Inv.	4 p.m.
9/16	Neigh-Oakdale Inv.	4:30 p.m.	10/11	Bloomfield Inv.	3:30 p.m.
9/23	Bon Homme Inv.	3:15 p.m.			
Girls' Golf					
8/30	Wayne Inv.	9 a.m.	9/23	@ Plainview/Crofton	4:15 p.m.
9/5	West Holt Inv.	9 a.m.	9/26	Metteer Inv. (Wayne)	9 a.m.
9/10	Pierce/Norfolk Catholic	4 p.m.	9/30	Plender	4 p.m.
9/16	O'Neill Inv.	10 a.m.	10/1	Mid-State Conference (Crofton)	1 p.m.
9/19	@ Pierce/Wayne	4 p.m.			
9/21	Plainview Inv.	9 a.m.			

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GOOD NEIGHBOR PHARMACY

Hartington Wildcats					
Football					
8/30	Humphrey	7 p.m.	10/4	Winnebago	3 p.m.
9/6	@ Bloomfield	7 p.m.	10/11	@ Pender	7 p.m.
9/13	@ Wynot	7 p.m.	10/18	@ Randolph	7 p.m.
9/27	Allen	7 p.m.	10/24	Emerson-Hubbard	7 p.m.
Volleyball					
9/5	Wynot Tourn.	5 p.m.	10/8	Laurel-Concord-Coleridge	5:30 p.m.
9/7	Hartington Round Robin	10 a.m.	10/10	@ Allen	5:30 p.m.
9/10	@ Wausa	5:30 p.m.	10/14	Randolph	5:30 p.m.
9/17	@ Wynot	5:30 p.m.	10/17	Ponca/Walthill	5:30 p.m.
9/21	Creighton Inv.	9 a.m.	10/19	Hartington Inv.	
9/24	Bloomfield	5:30 p.m.	10/22	@ Winsler	
9/26	Osmond	5:30 p.m.	Emerson-Hubbard	5:30 p.m.	
10/1	@ Wausa/Wakefield	5:30 p.m.	10/28-11/1	Lewis & Clark Conf.	TBA
10/3	Plainview	5:30 p.m.			
Cross Country (Co-op with Cedar Catholic)					
9/5	Niobrara-Verdigre Inv.	4 p.m.	9/27	Crofton Inv.	4:30 p.m.
9/12	Hartington Inv.	4 p.m.	10/3	Stanton Inv.	4 p.m.
9/16	Neigh-Oakdale Inv.	4:30 p.m.	10/11	Bloomfield Inv.	3:30 p.m.
9/23	Bon Homme Inv.	3:15 p.m.			
Girls' Golf (Co-op with Crofton)					
8/30	Wayne Inv.	9 a.m.	9/21	Plainview	9 a.m.
9/5	West Holt Inv.	9 a.m.	9/23	Home Triangular	4:15 p.m.
9/10	Columbus Lakeview Inv.	9 a.m.	9/26	Metteer Inv. (Wayne)	9 a.m.
9/14	Pierce Inv.	9 a.m.	9/28	Antelope CC Quad	9 a.m.
9/16	O'Neill Inv.	10 a.m.	10/1	Mid-State Conference (Crofton)	1 p.m.
9/19	Home Dual	4 p.m.			

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