



BUCKS | BRYAN YOUNGBERG

Tanagers Aim To Improve On Eighth Place Finish

BY TYLER SMIT
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VERMILLION — When it comes to Vermillion High School gymnastics, the Tanagers have experience on their side.

Vermillion will once again be guided under the leadership of coach Mark Upward and assistant coach Skye Lindquist. Upward has been coaching Vermillion athletes for 30 years and is eager to get the season going. Upward was recognized last season by the South Dakota Gymnastics Coaches Association for his years of coaching in Vermillion.

But with a new season, comes a new opportunity to the athletes and coaches to do great things.

The Vermillion gymnasts — who opened their season Nov. 29 with a dual loss to Sioux Falls Lincoln — will look to improve off their eighth place showing at last year's state meet, with help from a returning core of talented athletes who are ready to put their name on the page.

Upward lost key gymnasts last season due to graduation, but remains optimistic.

"We lost two excellent gymnasts last year. It will be a difficult job to replace two all-arounds that scored 34 and 35 points at each meet," he said. "Our hope is to replace these scores, but we may have to do it with more individual specialists than all-rounders. We are excited for this season as we have many younger girls back who are ready to contribute to the team score on a regular basis."

The Tanagers lost crucial members from last year's state meet squad. These athletes include Amber Walker and Elly Melby. The Tanagers will remain strong thanks to a core of upperclassmen.

Returning this year and looking for success is junior Morgan Hower. Hower will be competitive in the all-around honors for Vermillion. Hower competed last year in the vault at the State Gymnastics Meet in Watertown.

Senior Cassie Donahoe and junior Rory Tucker will be strong on beam. Tucker will be looked at for strong performances on floor exercises as well; she competed in floor exercises during last year's state meet. Junior Alexis Reich, and freshman Jamie Moles will help Tucker and look to be competitive on floor exercises.

The bars will be taken by Hower, junior Grace Olson, Moos, and Donahoe.

Moos, and Reich will bring experience on the vault for the Tanagers.

Also on the Vermillion roster are Jade Fostvedt (Jr.), Teddi Settles (Fr.), Cheyenne Mallort (8th), and Maddie Mockler (8th).

Vermillion faces stiff region competition this year with opponents such as Wagner, West Central, and Madison all ready to get the season rolling. Other programs in the state will be tough as well.

Deuel edged out Madison in last year's state meet; ending a 16-year run of championships for the Madison Lady Bulldogs. The Tanagers will use their experience to make a run for a high showing at the State Gymnastics Meet held Feb. 17-18 2012 at the Swiftel Center in Brookings.



TANAGERS | RORY TUCKER

YHS Boys

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"None are playing college basketball," said Gross.

Gross admits that losing seven seniors could be a potential weakness for the Yankton Bucks this season, and says the team will need to focus on team chemistry early in the year.

"We only have one starter back, but have four returning players with varsity experience," said Gross.

The Bucks hope to utilize the experience that remains and find early season success. Players that are expected to start for Gross this season are senior guards Conner Fitzsimmons and Bryan Youngberg. Other seniors that are expected to start include Jackson Pasco, Jackson Seitzinger and Conner Vlasman.

Also on this year's roster: juniors Michael Rucker, Kellen Soulek, Zach Benjamin, Troy Huhoff, Drew Konopasek, Andrew Hummel, Sam Wendte, and sophomore JJ Hejna.

Yankton expects to bring an up-tempo style offense to the season, which will fare well for the Bucks.

"We will be fairly quick and

will be able to run the floor. We should be able to apply more defensive pressure, both in the half court set as well as full court," said Gross.

The Bucks face stiff competition this year. ESD Conference Champ Mitchell returns many players with experience — Tucker Volesky is one of the experienced players that should be watched out for. Pierre will also be in the hunt for a title with experience coming from Zach Hanson. Gross says a talented Sioux Falls Lincoln and Sioux Falls O'gorman should also be given attention as both teams return many starters with experience.

The Bucks will travel to Brookings to face off against the ESD opponent Bobcats at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 9.

Wrestling: Tanagers Return Four State Qualifiers

BY JEREMY HOECK
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EDITOR'S NOTE: This article originally appeared in the Nov. 29 edition of the Press & Dakotan.

VERMILLION — Kyle Seibel has reason to be excited for his first season in charge of the Vermillion wrestling team.

The first-year coach inherits a squad that returns four state tournament qualifiers and is starting to build some numbers across the board.

"My goal in taking this team over was to try to get a full squad, and that's still a work in

progress," said Seibel, whose team opened its season Nov. 29 with a 57-24 dual win at Lennox.

"We need that if we're going to compete with the best teams in the state."

Vermillion, which finished 20th at the state Class A championships a year ago, will be led by Brett Bye (Fr., 31-10), who finished sixth at 112 pounds last year, Regan Bye (Fr., 21-20), Will Mart (Sr., 20-11) and Brenden Raizola (Sr., 18-16).

The only state qualifier to graduate was Lance Burkhardt, which ensures that the Tanagers will have some spots to fill, Seibel said.

"Right now, it's just about trying to get the numbers built up; that's what we need for this program, so we can have the competition in the practice room," he said. "That breeds success, rather than having it handed to you."

Filling out the rest of the weight classes for Vermillion will be Brandon Steenholdt (Sr., 113), Carter Kratz (7th, 120), Brandon

Hertz (Fr., 152), Alex Osborne (So., 160), Damarius Cheeseman (Jr., 170) and Danny Goeden (Sr., 184).

A quartet of seventh-graders, including Kyle Seibel, Jr., will fill in at 106 pounds, but Seibel said he expects that class to be open most of the season — as will 195

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Yankton High School Winter Sports

Bucks Boys' Basketball

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
12/9	Brookings	Brookings	7:30 p.m.
12/13	Sioux Falls Washington	Yankton	7:30 p.m.
12/15	Watertown	Watertown	7:30 p.m.
12/17	Brandon Valley	Brandon Valley	7:30 p.m.
12/20	Mitchell	Yankton	7:30 p.m.
1/6	Aberdeen Central	Yankton	7:30 p.m.
1/7	Pierre T.F. Riggs	Pierre	7:30 p.m.
1/10	Brookings	Yankton	7:30 p.m.
1/13	Huron	Huron	7:30 p.m.
1/14	Sioux Falls Lincoln	Sioux Falls	3:30 p.m.
1/21	Rapid City Central	Rapid City Central	3:30 p.m. MT
1/26	Sioux Falls O'Gorman	SF O'Gorman	7:30 p.m.
1/27	Sioux Falls Roosevelt	Yankton	7:30 p.m.
2/3	Brandon Valley	Yankton	7:30 p.m.
2/7	Mitchell	Mitchell	7:30 p.m.
2/10	Aberdeen Central	Aberdeen	7:30 p.m.
2/11	Watertown	Yankton	7:30 p.m.
2/17	Pierre T.F. Riggs	Yankton	7:30 p.m.
2/21	Huron	Yankton	7:30 p.m.

Bucks Wrestling

11/29	Sioux Falls Washington	Yankton	7:30 p.m.
12/3	Watertown Dual Tourn.	Watertown	10 a.m.
12/10	Yankton Invitational	Yankton	11 a.m.
12/16	Aberdeen Central	Yankton	7:30 p.m.
12/17	Sioux Falls Washington Inv.	SF Washington	9 a.m.
12/19	Brookings	Brookings	7:30 p.m.
1/3	Pierre/Chamberlain	Pierre	5 p.m.
1/7	Watertown	Yankton	1 p.m.
1/13	Huron	Yankton	7:30 p.m.
1/20	Mitchell	Yankton	7:30 p.m.
1/21	Pierre East-West Duals	Pierre	11 a.m.
1/24	Madison/S.F. Roosevelt	Madison	5:30 p.m.
1/28	Brookings Inv.	Brookings	9 a.m.
2/3	Brandon Valley/Tea Area	Brandon	5:30 p.m.
2/11	ESD Tournament	Huron	11 a.m.
2/16-17	Region 2A	Vermillion	5 p.m./6 p.m.
2/24-25	State A	Aberdeen	10 a.m.

Gazelles Girls' Basketball

12/9	Brookings	Yankton	7:30 p.m.
12/13	Sioux Falls Washington	SF Washington	7:30 p.m.
12/15	Brandon Valley	Brandon Valley	7:30 p.m.
12/17	Watertown	Yankton	7:30 p.m.
12/20	Mitchell	Mitchell	7:30 p.m.
1/6	Aberdeen Central	Yankton	7:30 p.m.
1/7	Pierre T.F. Riggs	Yankton	7:30 p.m.
1/10	Brookings	Brookings	7:30 p.m.
1/14	Sioux Falls Lincoln	Yankton	3:30 p.m.
1/17	Sioux Falls Roosevelt	Sioux Falls Roosevelt	7:30 p.m.
1/21	Rapid City Central	Rapid City Central	2 p.m. MT
1/24	Mitchell	Yankton	7:30 p.m.
1/26	Sioux Falls O'Gorman	Yankton	7:30 p.m.
2/2	Brandon Valley	Yankton	7:30 p.m.
2/7	Huron	Yankton	7:30 p.m.
2/10	Aberdeen Central	Yankton	7:30 p.m.
2/14	Watertown	Watertown	7:30 p.m.
2/17	Pierre T.F. Riggs	Pierre	7:30 p.m.
2/21	Huron	Huron	7:30 p.m.

Gazelles Gymnastics (Yankton-Bon Homme)

11/28	SF Washington/Mitchell	Mitchell	6:30 p.m.
12/3	Sioux Falls Inv.	SF Lincoln	noon
12/6	SF Lincoln/Mitchell	Yankton	6:30 p.m.
12/8	SF Roosevelt/SF O'Gorman	Roosevelt	6:30 p.m.
12/12	Wagner	Wagner	6:30 p.m.
12/17	Mitchell Inv.	Mitchell	11 a.m.
1/7	Brookings Inv.	Brookings	noon
1/16	SF Washington	Yankton	6:30 p.m.
1/19	Vermillion	Vermillion	6:30 p.m.
1/23	SF O'Gorman	Yankton	6:30 p.m.
2/4	ESD Tourn.	Brookings	1:30 p.m.
2/11	Region 2AA	SF Lincoln	noon
2/17-18	State AA	Brookings	4:30 p.m./5 p.m.