



TANAGERS: Cheyenne Mallory

## Vermillion Gymnastics Squad Boasts Mix Of Youth, Experience

BY CHRIS RILEY  
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VERMILLION — A new season brings with it new opportunities for the Vermillion gymnastics team. Longtime coach Mark Upward's Tanager squad began their 2012-13 competition Nov. 28 in a home dual against Sioux Falls Lincoln.

"We lost a couple of gymnasts from last year due to moving and health reasons, so we don't have a lot of depth in our lineup," Upward said. "We will really rely on our (top) girls to pull the load for the team."

One of those top girls is senior Jade Fosvedt. Fosvedt returns after leading the Tanagers with an 18th-place individual finish on the beam in the Class A state tournament last year.

Others that Upward is counting on include seniors Morgan Hower (all-around), Alexis Reich (floor) and Rory Tucker (beam, floor) as well as freshman Cheyenne Mallory (all-around) and junior Anna Hammond (all-around).

"Those six gymnasts will be the nucleus of our team with support from younger gymnasts," Upward added.

Mallory as well as seventh-grader Anneliese Taggart should be the top newcomers to the Tanager varsity program.

"Cheyenne has come in this year ready to work and learn," Upward said. "She is providing a spark to all who want to improve. Anneliese is showing promise and is looking to

move into the varsity ranks for us at some point this year. She has been learning new skills that will complement her routines as she progresses."

Vermillion placed ninth at the state tournament a year ago after an eighth-place finish in both 2011 and 2010. That is something Upward thinks his team can improve upon.

"Our goal is to place in the top four at state," he said.

The Tanagers will return home to host the Winter Wonderland Invitational on Dec. 29 before finishing the balance of their schedule on the road.

They travel to Yankton to dual the Gazelles on Jan. 17. The 2013 Class A state tournament will be held in Rapid City on Feb. 15-16.

You can follow Chris Riley on Twitter at [twitter.com/ChrisCRiley](https://twitter.com/ChrisCRiley)

### Wagner

**COACH:** Lorie Walery  
**ASSISTANTS:** Cherie Petry, Craig Fleming  
**VITALS:** Class A, Region 2  
**LAST YEAR:** Wagner placed eighth last year at the state tournament with a score of 120.794.

**RETURNING LETTERWINNERS:** Kylee Ligtenberg (Sr.), Megan Kocer (Jr.), Bobbi Jo Soukup (Jr.), Hannah Flemming (So.), Krista Dvorak (Fr.), Adrian Weber (Fr.), Rachel Dion (Fr.), Jensen Holzbauer (8th), Alexis Dion (8th)

**TOP PROSPECTS:** Justine Soukup (Sr.), Kelsey Barnett (8th), Chloe Noteboom (8th), Bree Kotab (7th), Chyrelle Franklin (7th), Ma'Lea i'atala (7th)

# Tanagers Return Four Qualifiers For '12-13

BY CHRIS RILEY  
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The Vermillion Tanager wrestlers open their 2012-13 campaign with an interesting mix of youth and experience on the mat.

After losing three letter-winners from last year's squad that went 6-2 in duals, this year's team has a handful of individuals looking to build upon state tournament experience.

"We have a combination of young wrestlers and some seasoned wrestlers this season," head coach Hazen Bye said. "A few of the returning wrestlers have significant experience and I look for them to be competitive throughout the season."

Coach Bye returns third-place state tournament placer Brett Bye (132 pounds). The sophomore, who has placed at state on three occasions, will likely move up to the 145-pound weight class this season.

Other returning state qualifiers include eighth-grader Carter Kratz, sophomore Regan Bye and junior Alex Osborne.

"Regan and Brett Bye will continue to be competitive and win matches while Alex Osborne, Seth Heine, Carter Kratz and Brandon Hertz are also expected to put points on the board," Bye added. "We have a great core of young skilled wrestlers who will add strength to the program as they grow and gather more experience."

Kratz will likely wrestle at 132 pounds, Regan Bye will handle the 152-pound duties, Osborne will look to wrestle at 170 pounds and Garcia at 195.

In addition, the Tanagers return seven more letter-winners from last season and feature of host of newcomers looking to make an impact as Bye's squad totals over 25 athletes.

The Tanagers placed 16th at the Class A state tournament a year ago after a fourth-place finish at regions. They were also the Big 8 Dual Champions.

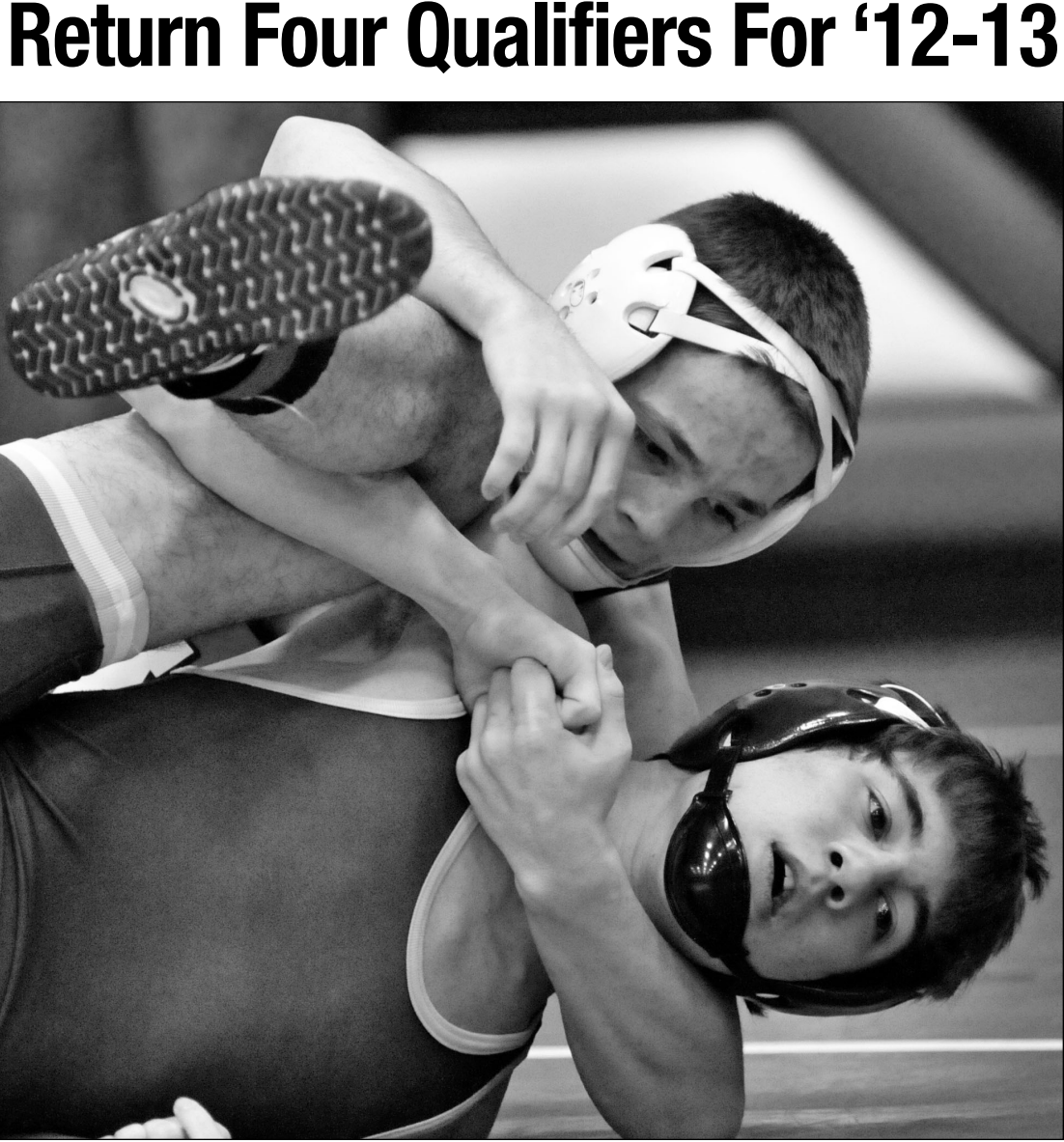
"The big goal is always to place as a team at the state tournament, but until we can fill the out the lineup we will focus on individual performances," Bye said.

Vermillion hosts four meets this year, three triangulars and one dual. The first home meet was scheduled for Dec. 4 against Madison and Tea Area.

This year's Region 2A tournament will be held February 14-15 in Sioux Falls at Lincoln High School while the Class A state tourney is scheduled for February 22-23 in Watertown.

"The future is bright for this team," Bye added. "I look for the Tanager wrestlers to be a very competitive squad in the upcoming years."

You can follow Chris Riley on Twitter at [twitter.com/ChrisCRiley](https://twitter.com/ChrisCRiley)



TANAGERS: Brett Bye (top photo), Carter Kratz (bottom photo)



## VHS Boys

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1988 and 1989. Dakota Valley, which finished second to St. Thomas More in Class A a year ago, came out of Vermillion's district. District rival Elk Point-Jefferson and Region 4A foe Harrisburg also have strong programs returning.

"We feel that we've taken steps, and that hopefully we should be competitive," Drake said. "We still have to get better on defense, get better at rebounding and do a better job of taking care of the ball."

Vermillion opens the season today (Friday) against Harrisburg.

You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at [twitter.com/aceman904](https://twitter.com/aceman904)

## VHS Girls

From Page 5

and we want to finally play a game so we can see where we fall. Hopefully we end up with a win, but if not we'll figure out ways we can improve for the next time."

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