

Mingo Confident Entering Final Season With YHS



Yankton's Megan Mingo watches her shot during the 2012 S.D. State Class AA Girls' Golf Tournament. Mingo, who finished second last year, will be trying to secure the Gazelles second-ever individual state golf title when Yankton plays host to the 2013 state championships, May 20-21 at Hillcrest Golf and Country Club.


BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE
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After placing second at the state competition last season, Yankton High School senior Megan Mingo is going into this year's golf season with confidence.

Placing third the year before that, Mingo is hoping to be in the top once again this year.

"I just have to go out there and try," she said. "There are a lot of other great girls in the state right now who are seniors and juniors, so there's going to be a lot of tough competition, but I'll just go out there and try my best. Placing second last year gives me a lot of confidence with that."

But that confidence didn't come without years of work. Mingo said she has been playing golf since she was four years old, even takes lessons during the winter in Sioux Falls to improve her game.



A Cut Above

A look at the resume of Yankton senior golfer Megan Mingo, Eastern South Dakota Conference (ESD) and S.D. State AA Girls' Golf finishes listed with place in parenthesis.

Season	Avg.	ESD	State
2012	77.7	82(4)	74-80—154(2)
2011	81.4	77(1)	81-80—161(3)
2010	85.0	89(13)	90(16)*
2009	92.3	102(32)	86-86—172(15)

* - 2010 State Tourney shortened to 1 day due to weather

Career Highlights

- 9th in SDGA Women's Amateur (2012)
- 5th in SDGA Two-Woman Championship (2012)
- Yankton Invitational Champion (2012)
- 2nd in SDGA Junior Championship (2011)
- 8th in SDGA Adult-Junior (2011)
- ESD Champion (2011)
- 2010 SDGA Junior Golfer Of The Year (14-15 year-old)
- 1st in SDGA Junior Championship (2010)
- 10th in SDGA Adult-Junior (2010)

Gazelles Hope To Utilize Home Course Advantage

BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE
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Despite losing a successful senior to graduation, the Yankton High School girls' golf team is looking forward to a strong season with the major advantage of home competitions.

With the Eastern South Dakota Conference championships, the Yankton Invitational and the state competition all in Yankton, head coach Brett Sime is looking forward to the home course advantage.

"We were a third place team last year, so we're hoping to stay competitive," Sime said. "It's going to be tough in a good field in the state this year, but we're hoping to be in the top six at the



**YANKTON
GIRLS' GOLF**

Date	Event	Time
April 1	Brookings/at Brandon	2 p.m.
April 4	vs. Mitchell/Washington (FR)	1 p.m.
April 9	vs. O'Gorman (FR)	2:30 p.m.
April 16	Lincoln/at Mitchell	2 p.m.
April 19	Yankton Invitational (H)	10 a.m.
April 26	Mitchell Invitational	10:30 a.m.
April 29	Sioux Falls Invitational	9 a.m.
May 4	ESD Championships (FR)	10 a.m.
May 6	vs. Lennox (FR)	2:30 p.m.
May 20-21	State AA (H)	9 a.m.

Home Events: FR-Fox Run; H-Hillcrest

try and get there."

Junior Amber Livingston said the advantage will particularly help the younger team members.

"A lot of our girls who don't have a lot of experience who are going to be coming up to varsity have experience playing on these courses," she said. "It's not like they're going into something they don't know like a different course for a big tournament. It's going to be here, so they'll be more comfortable."

Sime said building off last season's third place finish will also help.

"It's going to hurt to lose Hannah Withrow, but we've got some girls who will play and step up

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Young Bucks Look To Build On 15th Place Finish

BY NICK ROBINSON
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The Yankton Bucks tennis team is looking to improve on their 15th place performance at the state tournament last spring.

The Bucks finished 3-15, placing seventh in the Eastern South Dakota Conference.

Yankton lost two varsity singles and doubles players from a year ago. They return five from a season ago.

Head coach Brady Muth is confident about his team's chances in the ESD this spring.

"We always expect to compete in the ESD," Muth said. "Our athleticism will win us a lot of points this season. The main thing is we want to see improvement from match to match so that we are playing our best tennis at the end of the year."

Yankton senior John Fanta is also looking forward to a successful season.

"I am expecting big things this year for Yankton Buck tennis," Fanta said. "I want to compete on a high level with every team we play. We have set our goals high for a successful season. Our young squad will get valuable experience this year which will be vital to our success in years to come".

The Bucks will lean on sophomore Luke Rockne, who went 13-6 in singles last year, already has three years of varsity experience under his belt.

Fanta feels that even though he doesn't have the experience, as a senior he must step up into the leader role.

"I may not be the best tennis player on the court but I feel like it is my duty to make sure everyone is playing at their highest level even when faced with adversity," Fanta said. "I will do my best to keep the team focused on bringing home a state championship to this great community."

Paul Fanta, a sophomore, will see a great amount of time on the court this spring. Along with them, juniors Ben Jensen and Brandon Frick will add experience to the roster.

In order to be successful, the Bucks will rely on their athleticism, which they haven't had for the past couple of years.

"We will have to stay focused during practice and gradually keep improving as the season goes on," Fanta said.



BUCKS: John Fanta

The 'Achilles Heel' for the Bucks will be their inexperience, only having one senior and lack of depth.


Yankton has had a great off-season and few weeks of practice.

"Our kids have done a good job of playing in the Yankton Tennis Association summer and winter leagues," Muth said. "When you couple that with the amount of court time they have accumulated on their own they have put in a lot of time preparing for the season."

The Bucks will have stiff competition from defending state champions Sioux Falls Washington and the rest of the ESD.

"In the ESD Brandon Valley will be good along with Pierre and Watertown. Sioux Falls O'Gorman will be good again as well as RC Stevens," Muth said.

The Yankton Bucks kick their season off with a triangular against Sioux Falls Roosevelt and



**YANKTON
BOYS' TENNIS**

Date	Event	Time
April 2	Brandon Valley/at Roosevelt	1 p.m.
April 9	at S.C. North	4 p.m.
April 13	vs. Madison/Stevens	9 a.m.
April 16	vs. Washington	4 p.m.
April 18	vs. S.C. West	4 p.m.
April 23	at Vermillion	4 p.m.
April 25	at S.C. Bishop Heelan	4 p.m.
April 27	Mitchell/Watertown/at Madison	9 a.m.
April 30	at Lincoln	4 p.m.
May 2	vs. Vermillion	4 p.m.
May 4	Aberdeen/Huron/at Brookings	10 a.m.
May 6	at O'Gorman	4 p.m.
May 7	Brandon Valley/at Mitchell	1 p.m.
May 10	ESD (Brookings)	9 a.m.
May 16-18	State (SF/Brandon)	9/8:45/8:45 a.m.

Home Matches At YHS/SAC Tennis Courts

Brandon Valley on April 2 in Sioux Falls.

You can follow Nick Robinson on Twitter at [twitter.com/theFRANCHISE_9](#).

Young, Talented Group Back For Yankton Track & Field Squad

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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The Yankton track and field team did not have its best state meet a year ago. The boys finished 10th with 31 points and graduated all but a few relay legs from its placewinners. The girls finished 12th with 23 points.

But the continued improvement of those returning athletes this past off-season, along with an influx of young talent, has the Bucks and Gazelles excited about the 2013 season.

"We have a good group of young kids. For me that's a positive," said Yankton head coach Luke Youmans. "We lost a lot of leadership at the top with not having those upperclassmen, but hopefully we'll keep those numbers up through the course of the season."

On the girls' side, Yankton returns all three individual placewinners — senior Kelsey Fitzgerald (3rd in high jump), junior Whitlee Larson (3rd in 800) and freshman Savannah Woods (4th in 3200) — as well as its placewinning 400 and 800 relays. Senior Jessica Wirth, junior Brenna Fitzsimmons and sophomore Danielle Beckman were on both relays. Junior Hailey Luken was on the 400 relay.

"We've got a great girls' group coming back," Youmans said. "We have a talented group of upperclassmen. Put them together with a young group that's also talent and we have the makings of a great squad."

Wirth, Fitzsimmons and Beckmann highlight the sprint corps, with Wirth off to a great start as a senior, earning top-eight finishes in the 60-meter dash in both of Yankton's indoor meets in Vermillion.

"The funnest part of that first meet was watching those girls in the sprint group," Youmans said. "The days of Yankton not having



GAZELLES: Annie Kruse (center)

a good group of sprinters has come to an end. We're starting to over kids that have gone from competitive to potential state placewinners."

Fitzgerald jumped 5-4, just off her career best of 5-6, in her first two high jump competitions. Luken made the finals of the 60-meter hurdles at the Bob Prince Indoor and a semifinal berth at the Dan Lennon meet.

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