

# Gazelles Ready For State Golf Tourney Run

## Yankton Hopes To Contend For Top Finish

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Rain or shine, the Yankton girls' golf team has their sights set on a high finish in Spearfish for the South Dakota State Class AA Golf Championship.

Even though there is a 60 percent chance of rain for Spearfish today (Monday), the championship is slated to get underway at 11 a.m.

Two of the top teams who will be vying for the title are Sioux Falls O'Gorman and the five-time defending champs Brookings.

But Yankton shouldn't be too far out of the mix considering the Gazelles have beaten Brookings three times this year and O'Gorman once.

"If we go out and play like we have been, and if they slip up, then we have a chance," Yankton head coach Brett Sime said. "I think O'Gorman is the team everyone is going after, and Brookings with all of their success, has a bulls-eye on their backs."

Sime said O'Gorman's key will be the team's depth.

The Lady Knights showed their depth at the Greater Dakota Conference as all six of their golfers finished with a score no higher than 87.

"O'Gorman has five to six golfers who can play well, which takes a lot of pressure off their whole team," Sime said.

The key for Brookings will be how the Bobcats fourth golfer shoots.

At the Eastern South Dakota Conference meet, Bailey Hofland finished second with an 81, and Brookings finished 25 strokes ahead of Yankton.

"Brookings top three are pretty solid, so it will matter how she (Hofland) plays," Sime said. "She got second in the conference, but when she doesn't play well, it brings them back to the field."

Sime said the biggest thing he is preaching to his team is to just go out and play well.

"We've had a successful season, and if we play well, I think we should be able to get in the top six at the state tournament," he said. "If things go well, then hope-

fully we will be in the top four." Yankton goes into the state tournament with the third best team score of 348 from the ESD meet.

The Gazelles top four golfers all shot below 90 with the team's fifth golfer, Kaitlyn Erickson, shooting 90.

Yankton has had the same top four golfers score in every meet this year, which Sime said shows the consistency the team has.

"They've been our leaders all year long," Sime said. "I'm hoping for another strong performance this weekend."

All of Yankton's top four have at least one year experience at the state meet, and the lone senior of the group, McKenzie Fitzgerald, has four years of state experience.

She's been around and has been our leader this year," Sime said. "All the girls look up to her."

The other three golfers for Yankton are Hannah Withrow (So.), Taylor Specht (Jr.) and Megan Mingo (Fr.).

"We have a lot of experience, and the girls have played a lot of golf," Sime said. "These girls basically have two years experience under their belts, and that helps them feel at ease."

Not far behind the top four is Erickson (Jr.), who has been close to cracking the top four in many of Yankton's meets.

Sime said her play helps put the rest of the team at ease.

"Her play helps because it takes some of the pressure off the top four," he said. "If they don't shoot what they want to, they know we can take Kaitlyn's score."

Yankton's sixth golfer is freshman Whitney Specht.

The meet will be held at Spearfish Canyon Country Club, which Sime said is a tough course.

"It's one of the harder courses that we play, but it's going to be tough for everyone," he said. "We have been out here the last couple days practicing on the course. We have to realize if we don't shoot well as we have been, that could be normal for everyone."



Yankton senior McKenzie Fitzgerald follows through on a tee shot during a home meet earlier this season. Fitzgerald is the lone senior for the Gazelles, who begin play in the South Dakota State Class AA Girls' Golf Tournament in Spearfish today (Monday).

## Area Teams Among Contenders In Class A Girls' Golf Field

From P&D Staff Reports

RAPID CITY — After battling through a tough region, Vermillion and Dakota Valley will get another shot at top seed Canton and the rest of the field at the 2010 South Dakota State Class A Girls' Golf Championships, set for today (Monday) and Tuesday at Rapid City.

Vermillion (369) and Dakota Valley (388) both enter the tournament from Region 2A, which also boasts overall top seed Canton (362) and second seed Sioux Falls Christian (368).

Defending state champion Parkston (388) is tied with Dakota Valley and Hot Springs (388) for fourth, while Wagner (423) is seeded 12th.

Thirty-one schools and 108 golfers are entered in the tournament. Canton's Kylie Gaughenbaugh, who tied for fourth place last year, posted the best qualifying score, an 80.

Here is a look at each area school with entries into the field. Teams are listed in alphabetical order.

### Dakota Valley

After a fourth-place finish at the Region 2A tournament, Dakota Valley will get yet another crack at the same teams at state.

The Panthers are tied with Hot Springs and Parkston with a qualifying team score of 388, a position that should bode well for the four golfers, according to head coach Paula Wilson.

"Our region was pretty salty again, as it has been for a while now," Wilson said. "But I think our girls can finish in the top five. We've had a really good season. We've been right around that top three or four mark."

Freshman Katie Barbee boasts the quartet's top region score at 91, five strokes ahead of senior Lindsley Ellis and six ahead of freshman Shyler Funck. Senior Holly Goeden is Dakota Valley's fourth golfer, at 104.

"We had some region scores that were a little higher than usual, but we're very confident with our group," Wilson said. "Lindsley's mark (97) was her first time breaking 100 this season, so hopefully that shows we're balanced."

In what could be a tight battle between Canton, Sioux Falls Christian, Vermillion and Dakota Valley at state, the Panthers are looking to improve on last year's sixth place finish.

"We're excited to get back to state and see what happens," Wilson said. "Our seniors are anxious to close their careers on a high note."

### Elk Point-Jefferson

The Huskies boast a pair of juniors who will look to crack the top 20 at the state meet.

Cassie Hilbrands (90) and Kelsey Leif (94) both did exactly that at the Region 2A meet last week, against a field that included some of the state's best golfers.

Leif tied for 20th place at last year's Class A meet.

### Parkston

The defending Class A champions return four of the five members of its team, with freshman Logan Wagner, who placed seventh, the lone player not making the return trip to state.

The Trojans do return four state-experienced golfers, two of which placed at state a year ago, freshman Jordan Bormann (tied for eighth) and Samantha Mogck (13th). Senior Sami Kollman and sophomore Mariah Mogck also return from the 2009 title team.

Freshman Taylor Bormann fills out the Trojan quintet.

### Vermillion

Following a seventh-place finish in last year's state tourna-

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## Andes Central, Area Teams Look To Climb Girls' Golf Rankings

From P&D Staff Reports

ABERDEEN — Several area golfers will compete in the South Dakota State Class B Girls' Golf Tournament, today (Monday) and Tuesday at Lee Park Golf Course in Aberdeen.

Deubrook Area is seeded first with a region score of 279, one shot ahead of Clark. Kelsey Goens of Deubrook Area has the top qualifying score, a 79.

Here is a look at the area teams and golfers participating in the state tournament, listed in alphabetical order.

### Alcester-Hudson

The Cubs will be represented by senior Leah Rommerein, who carded a score of 117 at Region 3B.

### Andes Central

In the last two years, Andes

Central has improved from seventh place to fourth place at the state tournament.

Now, the Eagles will look to continue that climb in 2010.

Andes Central returns all four players from last year's top-five team — junior Jenna Winckler, freshman Kellie Winckler, as well as seniors Cheyenne Long and Janie Konyek.

The Eagles are seeded 10th after carding a team score of 310 at the Region 4B tournament.

Jenna Winckler, tied for 13th last year, leads at 91, followed by sister Kellie Winckler, 17th a year ago, at 94. Long (126) and Konyek (127) round out the quartet.

### Bon Homme

The Cavaliers will send junior Gina Ludens to state after she recorded a region score of 114.

### Centerville

Led by returning Haley Ellis, the Tornados will be represented by a pair of golfers at state this year.

Ellis qualified with a region score of 107. She finished with a two-day score of 256 at last year's state meet.

Senior Heather Hecht also qualified, with a 117.

### Freeman

With a pair of new golfers in the mix, the Freeman Flyers still have eyes on a top 10 finish at state.

Freeman, 10th a year ago, is seeded 12th after carding a team score of 322 at the Region 3B tournament.

Region champ Courtney Lickteig, a junior, leads the Flyers at 87. She will be joined by freshman Shelby Bauer (114), senior Hillary Stern (121) and

seventh-grader Megan Egan (121).

### Freeman Academy

Senior Chelsea Wentz returns to the state tournament for the second straight year after shooting a 120 at regions.

### Hurley

Senior Ariel Pastian will look to continue her solid play from regions into the state tournament.

Pastian qualified with a 99 from Region 4B, where she finished third overall.

### Irene-Wakonda

Though Irene-Wakonda qualified four underclassmen to the state tournament, the Eagles bring experience to Aberdeen.

The Eagles, seeded 14th, finished second at Region 3B with a team score of 337.

Freshman Maggie Kribell leads the way with a 108, followed by eighth-graders Sydney Nielsen (114) and Josie Huber (115). Sophomore Melissa Hessman, tied for 25th at state a year ago, enters with a qualifying score of 120.

### Platte-Geddes

Molly Olson returns to state for the Black Panthers, and will be joined by teammate Maggie Forley.

Forley, a junior, carded a 112 at regions, with Olson two strokes back.

### Tripp-Delmont

Senior Caitlyn Roth will again be Tripp-Delmont's only representative at state.

Roth, who tied for 27th a year ago, qualified with a region score of 106.

## Platte-Geddes Boys Look To Defend Class B Golf Title

From P&D Staff Reports

ABERDEEN — Defending champion Platte-Geddes will be challenged to repeat its 2009 title as the rest of the 55 schools and 125 golfers take the course at the 2010 South Dakota State Class B Boys' Golf Championships, set for today (Monday) and Tuesday in Aberdeen.

Platte-Geddes returns two golfers from that title foursome, including third-place finisher Shay Nelson and 19th-place finisher Calby Plooster.

The Black Panthers enter as the 12th seed, with Deuel posting the top qualifying scorer at 227. Chester Area, Garretson and Howard all come in at 232. In other area teams, Parker is seeded 10th (256).

Here is a look at the area teams and golfers entered in the tournament. Schools are listed in alphabetical order.

### Alcester-Hudson

A year after being the Cubs' only state representative, Nathan Johnson will be joined by teammate Damian Schouten at the state tournament this year.

Johnson, a junior, qualified after shooting a 94 at regions. Schouten, a senior, also advanced to state thanks to a round of 101 at regions.

### Andes Central

Senior Ryan Cooney qualified for state after shooting an 84, fifth place, at the Region 4B tournament.

Cooney finished in a tie for 42nd place at state a year ago, but only a day two score of 92 kept him from a higher place.

### Avon

The Pirates will be represented by senior Marshall Cihak at the state tournament this year.

Cihak, who carded an 83 at regions, finished in a tie for 24th at state a year ago.

### Bon Homme

Senior Brad Cihak and freshman Lincoln Stoebner will represent the Cavaliers in Aberdeen.

Cihak recorded a region score of 91, while Stoebner qualified with a 93.

### Centerville

Senior David Diercks qualified

for the state tournament with a region score of 101.

### Freeman

Flyers' freshman Arron Lickteig will be gunning for an individual state title after finishing second to former teammate Josh Korn by six strokes a year ago — when Freeman finished second.

Lickteig won the Region 3B Tournament with a score of 78, a mark that seeds him among the top 10 in the state.

### Gayville-Volin

The Raiders will send two golfers to the state tournament, in senior Nick Huber and Ben Sonichson.

Huber carded a 99 at Region 4B, while Sonichson shot a 101.

### Marion

Junior Braden Schmidt qualified for state after shooting a round of 87 in regions.

### Parker

Coming off a Region 3B title, the Pheasants are looking to make some noise on the state level.

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