

# State Golf: Parkston Goes For Third Straight ‘A’ Title

## Preview: Class B Golf Squads Headed To Mitchell

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
[james.cimburek@yankton.net](mailto:james.cimburek@yankton.net)

Even though Parkston graduated what coach Tyler Hockett called a “dream team” after winning the 2013 South Dakota State Class A Girls’ Golf Tournament, the Trojans have not lowered their sights from their goal of a third consecutive state title.

With a former state champion in the fold, there really isn’t a reason to.

Parkston, which has finished first or second each of the past five seasons, will aim to win a third straight title and the fourth in six seasons when the 2014 state golf tournament opens at Spearfish Canyon Country Club today (Monday).

Sydney Bormann, the 2012 individual champion and a third place finisher last year, is undefeated on the season. Her 8-for-8 effort includes two outings against some of the top Class AA golfers.

“She has won every meet this year individually,” Hockett said. “I am looking for Sydney Weber to have a great state tournament.”

Weber, also a sophomore, was 14th a year ago for Parkston. Junior Sierra Stands, eighth grader Jayden Bormann and junior Tiana Kruse round out Parkston’s entry.

With such a young squad, handling the ups and downs of a long two-day tournament will be key, according to Hockett.

“Our girls will need to mentally strong for two days. Spearfish’s course can potentially play really

tough,” he said. “If we can grind it out both days and make each shot count our girls could do really well as a team.”

Sioux Falls Christian, second to the Trojans a year ago, will again provide the toughest competition for Parkston. Vermillion, runner-up to SFC in Region 2A, also hopes to be in the mix.

The Tanagers, who finished ninth a year ago, return sophomore Kayla Stammer, who placed 33rd last season. Sophomore Kate Brockevelt, Vermillion’s top region finisher this season, was also on the state tournament roster but had to withdraw. Freshman Kyleigh Moran, sophomore Emily Schmitz and junior Audry Miiller round out the squad.

Seven other area golfers are en-

tered in Class A, including two each from Dakota Valley, Beresford and Wagner. All seven were state tournament competitors a year ago.

Dakota Valley returns a state placewinner in sophomore Mary High (tied for 14th), as well as senior Natalie Renfro (59th). Wagner sends senior Kathleen Juffer (tied for 50th) and sophomore Megan Zephier (tied for 40th). Beresford sends juniro Taylor Watkins (tied for 95th) and sophomore Sadie Jensen (tied for 40th). Elk Point-Jefferson sends sophomore Tori Johnson (tied for 86th) to state.

The tournament runs through Tuesday. If today’s or Tuesday’s round is rained out, the event will be shortened to 18 holes, as it was last year.

GOLF | PAGE 9



P&D FILE PHOTO  
Yankton's Amber Livingston putts on the No. 18 green during the Yankton Girls' Golf Invitational at Fox Run Golf Course. Livingston is the lone senior for the Gazelles, who open play in the S.D. State Class AA Girls' Golf Tournament today (Monday) at Pierre.

## Gazelles Aim For Top-6 Finish

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
[james.cimburek@yankton.net](mailto:james.cimburek@yankton.net)

The Yankton Gazelles have finished third in the S.D. State Class AA Girls’ Golf Tournament each of the past three season. But the graduation of two of their top golfers from those squads has not forced the Gazelles to lower the bar.

Yankton is aiming for another top-six finish as it enters the 2014 state tournament, which begins today (Monday) at Hillsview Golf Course in Pierre.

“We’ve got a goal of being in the top six, so we can bring home a trophy or plaque,” said Yankton head coach Brett Sime. “We want to play better than we have the last couple of meets. We’re hoping to get 350 or under. If we can do that, we’ll be in the running for the top six.”

Despite having a young team — the varsity and JV roster have a combined one senior and no juniors — Sime has been impressed with the team’s play.

“As a whole, I’m very happy with how the season has gone,” Sime said. “I didn’t know what to expect. After a 380 in our first meet, our worst score of the season has been a 365. Coming in, I didn’t know if we’d get down to 365 all season.”

The Gazelles have all six of their golfers starting on Hole No. 1. As the pairings this year are based on season averages, it means that all of Yankton’s golfers rank in the top-half of Class AA on the season.

Leading the way for Yankton is sophomore Becky Frick. Twelfth at state a year ago, she will tee off in the second group of the day, ranking her among the top-eight golfers in the state.

“We knew she would be our leader in scoring,” Sime said of the sophomore. “She’s coming off a great freshman year.”

Senior Amber Livingston, 24th a year ago, has also been a team leader.

“Amber has a lot of varsity experience,” Sime said. “The only thing that concerns me is that she is at the national Science Olympiad conference this week, and probably won’t touch her golf clubs again until Sunday night after graduation.”

Sophomore Alicia Gregoire, also a part of last season’s state tournament team, sophomores Payton Pierce and Ashley VanMeeteren, and freshman Linze Cowman round out the state meet roster.

“They all have counted for varsity at some point this season,” Sime said.

The Gazelles have played twice on the Hillsview Course, both in the Pierre Invitational and in the Eastern South Dakota Conference championships. In the Pierre Invite, Yankton shot a season-best 342. At ESD, the Gazelles shot 365 on a day where 342 was the winning score.

“We played really well the first time,” Sime said. “Then at conference, I don’t know what it was, but all the teams seemed to not have low scores.”

Hillsview is a shorter course, a par-71 from the women’s tees.

“It’s not a super-long course,” Sime said. “Their big greens seemed to wreak havoc during ESD. A lot of girls didn’t hit the green in the right spots, and there were a lot of putts being had.”

The two-day event runs through Tuesday in Pierre. If rain wipes out either Monday or Tuesday’s play, the event will be shortened to one day.

You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at [twitter.com/JCimburek](https://twitter.com/JCimburek). Discuss this story at [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net)

Track & Field | Eastern South Dakota Conference Championships

# Seniors Lead YHS To Second

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK  
[james.cimburek@yankton.net](mailto:james.cimburek@yankton.net)

BRANDON — What a difference a year makes.

Last year, the Yankton girls were a distant third and the Yankton boys were fifth in the Eastern South Dakota Conference Track and Field Championships. At this year’s meet, held Saturday in Brandon, both squads finished a close second and were hungry for more.

“We’ve made big improvements. If you look at the overall picture, we’ve come a long ways in the last couple of years,” said Yankton head coach Luke Youmans. “In the last couple of years, we were not competitive on a team scale.”

Host Brandon Valley swept the team titles, beating the Yankton girls by 25 1/3 points and the Yankton boys by 15 1/3 points. The Pierre girls and Watertown boys each placed third.

Yankton won just two events a year ago, both on the girls’ side. This year, the Gazelles and Bucks each won four events, and both teams had several other top finishes.

Seniors played a key role for both Yankton squads, accounting for all three individual wins on the girls’ side and three of the four individual wins on the boys’ side. The other girls’ victory came in the 3200 relay, which included two seniors.

“Our seniors did some great things. I was so happy as a coach to see so many of them on the podium, and they contributed in so many other places as well,” Youmans said. “Our upperclassmen were tremendous, not only in scoring, but in leadership.”

Highlighting the senior girls was Augustana recruit Annie Kruse, who won both the 1600 (5:02.98) and 3200 (10:57.44). Her 3200 time broke an ESD meet mark established by former Gazelle Ramsey (Kavan) Fitzsimmons.

“I was hoping to break that record, and I did that today,” Kruse said. “It really helps boost my confidence. I know I’ll be one of the top runners in the mile and two-mile.

“I’m excited to be able to race against everyone at state.”

Youmans said that the start of that record day began with a disappointing day on that same track nearly a year ago.

“I remember standing in this stadium after state last year. We talked about how disappointed she was right there, and that she had to make a decision about what she was going to do in the next 12 months,” he said. “She’s an incredible worker, and you can see how that work has paid off. I am proud of her.”

Kruse was also a part of the Gazelles’ 3200 relay (9:32.11) victory, along with fellow senior Whitlee Larson, junior Lauren Graves and sophomore Savannah Woods. Larson was also an individual champion, claiming the 800 (2:18.34), and was a part of the Gazelles’ runner-up finish in the 1600 relay (4:05.94).

Larson said that the challenge of a long competitive day, like ESD, is staying focused.

“You definitely have to maintain a positive attitude and stay fo-



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D  
Yankton's J.J. Hejna takes off during the boys' long jump at the Eastern South Dakota Conference track and field meet on Saturday in Brandon. Hejna finished second, one of his four top-two finishes on the day.

cused on your goals,” she said. “If you go in without a goal, you’re not going to accomplish anything.”

While Larson is excited about her future at South Dakota State, she is not entirely ready for her final season as a Gazelle to end.

“I’m ready to graduate, but I’m not ready to veer away from this environment,” she said.

Also in the distance events, Woods placed fourth in the 3200 (11:50.47) and sixth in the 1600 (5:20.86). Eighth grader Madison McClure was third in the 3200 (11:35.44). Eighth grader Tessa Folkers (2:32.06) and junior Erica Westerman (2:34.13) were sixth and eighth in the 800, with Folkers placing out of the slow heat.

Junior Danielle Beckmann shined in the sprints for the Gazelles. Besides anchoring Yankton’s 1600 relay, she finished second in the 200 (26.62) and fourth in both the 100 (13.12) and 400 (59.35).

Breaking the elusive 60-second barrier in the 400 was a highlight of the day, she said.

“That was so huge,” she said. “I started the season at 61.6, but I thought from the beginning that I had a shot to do it.”

The junior, though, thought that Saturday would not be the day it happened.

“I thought I got a slow start,” she said. “But it shows that my hard work is paying off.”

Senior Brenna Fitzsimmons was sixth in the 100 (13.34).

The Gazelles put three athletes in the finals of the 100-meter hurdles, with senior Hailey Luken (15.60) second, freshman Madason



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D  
Yankton's Annie Kruse, right, and Madison McClure set the pace early in the girls' 3200-meter run at the Eastern South Dakota Conference track and field meet on Saturday in Brandon. Kruse won the event, breaking a meet record set by former Gazelle great Ramsey (Kavan) Fitzsimmons 10 years ago. McClure placed third, with teammate Savannah Woods fourth.

ESD | PAGE 9

## USD Men Rally To Tie Bison For Summit League Title

BY JEREMY HOECK  
[jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net](mailto:jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net)

Not many teams, no matter the sport, have gone up to Fargo, North Dakota, and walked away with a win of any kind.

In track and field, for one, that just doesn’t happen.

That is, until Saturday when the University of South Dakota men rallied from a 32-point deficit with five events left to tie the vaunted North Dakota State Bison for the team crown at the Summit League Outdoor Track & Field Championships.

“Winning a championship in Fargo, unless you’ve taken a

team up there, you have no idea. It’s daunting,” USD men’s head coach Dave Gottsleben said Sunday.

“But our kids didn’t waver a bit, that’s what I’m most impressed with.”

Following three consecutive second-place finishes behind NDSU at the outdoor meet, the Coyotes rallied to sweep the 2014 track titles — they previously won the indoor title.

Both USD and NDSU finished with 260 points, despite the Bison being favored to win

SUMMIT | PAGE 9

## Bucks Fall In Region Tourney

SIoux FALLS — The Yankton High School baseball season ended in the opening round of the Region 2A Tournament on Saturday, as the Bucks dropped a 7-0 decision to Sioux Falls Roosevelt at Ronken Field in Sioux Falls.

O’Gorman beat Roosevelt 2-1 in the championship, and will join Sioux Falls Lincoln, Pierre and Brookings in the state tournament, May 24 in Mitchell. O’Gorman had beaten Mitchell 6-4 in the opening round Saturday afternoon.

For Yankton, Colin Muth, Austin Johnson, Adam Walter and Lane Sawatzke had hits.

Johnson took the loss, with Sheldon Gant allowing one run in 4 1/3 innings of relief.

Yankton finished the high school season with a 13-12 record.



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D  
Yankton catcher Adam Walter tries to catch a throw to the plate as Sioux Falls Roosevelt's Jason Spicer, 24, comes in to score during their Region 2A matchup on Saturday at Ronken Field in Sioux Falls. Roosevelt won 7-0, ending Yankton's season.