

Yankton Girls' Soccer Team Hopes To Move Up After Program-Best Fourth Place Finish

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article was originally published in our Aug. 20 edition. It has been modified to reflect competition since its publication.

BY CLAY STODDARD
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The Yankton Gazelles soccer team had a landmark year in 2010, being the first team in Yankton girls' soccer history to win in the first round of the state tournament. The fourth-place finish by the Gazelles will give a benchmark to the 2011 team.

With a 6-5-3 overall record for the 2010 season and a great showing at the state tournament, the Gazelles this year will have their work cut out for them with the loss of nine seniors.

"I have graduated nine seniors from last year, so we have some shoes to fill back on defense," head coach Kevin Buckman said. "We are missing Angie Dvorak (two time All-State), we had Riley Paulsen (first team All-State) as a senior, Laura Buckman (second team All-State, currently playing at the University of South Dakota) and Rachel Weinandt (second team All-State), so we are going to miss the seniors."

Yankton will be looking for new seniors to fill that void both on the field as well as in a leadership role.

"We have had our seniors step up and organize some two-a-day practices until school started. So our seniors have really taken control and it is really exciting to see," Buckman said.

"We do have some very good incoming players, I know we lost some but we also have some kids coming in who have some varsity experience," added Buckman.

The senior leaders for the Gazelles will be led by second team All-State goalkeeper, Courtney True. True was the starting keeper for the Gazelles last season. Maggie Bisgard will start her fourth year on the varsity squad and play both defense and midfield.

"True has some good experience and she will be a very good goalie for us. Bisgard is going to be excellent, she has some good experience," Buckman said.

Jen Granflaten with her third year on the varsity pitch will play striker. The final senior for the Gazelles is Rachel Ruffinott, who will play wing and striker.

"We also have a pretty good group of seniors coming up, a few of which have some varsity experience," Buckman said.



GAZELLES: Courtney True

The juniors on the team will be led by Morgan Bakke, who will play defender and make up the heart of the defense. Megan Ford will play some midfield and some striker.

"Bakke is filling in some big shoes out there," Buckman added.

Carli Al-Azzeh will be back on defense. Brianna Newman will contribute at both striker and midfield. Katie Greenway will be playing in the net and also at striker. Kennedy Winterringer will round out the juniors at striker and wing.

Morgan Tessier will be the lone sophomore for the Gazelles, playing both defense and midfield.

"We are going to have some freshman probably starting this year, with our numbers being a bit low and with the loss of the nine seniors they will be thrown into the fire," said Buckman.

Danielle Beckman will be back on defense, Taylor Ruter will play midfield and defense, and then Kendall Lillie will be playing midfield for the Gazelles.

"With the freshman the

biggest deal with them is the speed of play. They have been playing in U-14 and are jumping up to U-19 speed. We have done some things in practice that will help them pick up the pace. They have really stepped up to the challenge," said Buckman.

With the loss of a strong base of seniors and the addition of new blood into the team dynamics, the Gazelles are looking to build a strong group of girls this year.

"I think that the key is going to be for us this year is how much time is it going to take us to catch some chemistry, when you have seniors playing with freshman. We are starting to form bonds and we are starting to play together pretty good. I am surprised at how quickly they have come along," Buckman said.

The Gazelles opened their season with a loss to Aberdeen, then bounced back with a 1-0 victory over Brandon Valley.

The team is looking forward to the season and growing throughout, Buckman said.

"I told the girls that they can achieve whatever they believe they can do, I think if we make it to the state tournament we can win our first round," he said. "We are looking to where we are going to be at the end of the season."



TANAGERS: 2010 Vermillion Boys' Team

Tanager Runners Set High Standards For '11

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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VERMILLION — The Vermillion boys' cross country team had the team success last year, qualifying for state. The Tanager girls' team has the star power, with one of the top individual runners in the state. Both are hoping to improve their standing in Class A.

Vermillion opens the 2011 season today (Aug. 26) at the Beresford Invitational, beginning what coach Kelly Fischbach hopes is an even better season for the Tanagers.

"Our numbers are down a little, but the kids we have there really want to be there," she said.

The Tanager boys boast four of the six runners who helped Vermillion finish tenth in the state meet, all juniors.

"They really want to build on that," Fischbach said. "Colin Olson is coming off a breakout track season, and I look for him to take more of a leadership role. Nathan Ford is another great leader who works his tail off. William Card is hoping to follow in his brother's footsteps and have a great final two seasons. Matthew Hirsch is also back and ready to go."

Sophomore Jayce Huska and freshmen Jacob Ford, Regan and Brett Bye have also been among the frontrunners for the Tanager boys. Junior Tanner Anderson, sophomores Alex Osborne and Joe Swanson, freshman Daniel Douglas, eighth graders Jon Rosales and Owen Swallow, and seventh Logan Peterson have also been competing for spots on the varsity or JV.

Peterson already has a distinguished record in the Vermillion



TANAGERS: Blair Gilkyson

school system, even though he has yet to put on a Vermillion High School uniform.

"Three years ago, he broke the fourth grade half-mile record," Fischbach said. "That record had been set by (former Pierre and South Dakota State standout) Brad Lowery."

Brett Bye, in his first season out for cross country, has split his time with the Tanager football team, while others have also been practicing with the Vermil-

lion soccer team.


"We're one of the few schools that has soccer," Fischbach noted. "We offer quite a lot of sports in Vermillion, and we don't always have enough kids to go around."

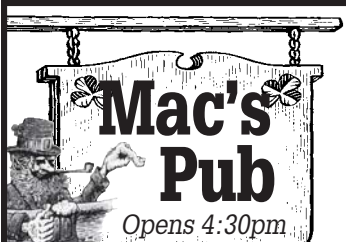
The Tanager girls are also doing some sharing, as their top returning athlete, junior Blair Gilkyson, is also playing volley-



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From Page 4

play some good defense, I think that will be the key to where we are going to finish.

"We have some good depth on the JV squad, and may see some of them up on varsity depending on who wants to step it up," Cabalka said.

The Gazelles went 1-1 on Aug. 21 to open the season.

"We have always felt that when you have good batting and get the ball in play things hap-

pen, but more importantly defense wins the game, and that should be our strength," Cabalka said.

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Gayville Volin Raiderettes Volleyball					
8/30	Marion	A	10/1	TVC Tourn.	Alcester
9/1	Alcester-Hudson	A	10/4	Irene-Wakonda	H
9/6	Centerville/Scotland		10/6	Irene-Wakonda/Menno	
	Centerville			Wakonda	
9/8	Freeman	H	10/8	G-V Invitational	H
9/13	Viborg-Hurley	H	10/18	Marty/Omaha Nation	H
9/15	Freeman Academy	A	10/22	Andes Central Tourn.	
9/20	Canistota	H	10/24	Avon	H
9/29	TVC Tourn.	Centerville	11/1-4	District 8B Tourn.	

Avon Pirates Football					
8/26	Tripp-Delmont-Armour	A	9/23	Scotland	A
9/2	Hanson	Sioux Falls	9/30	South Central	H
9/9	Gregory	A	10/7	Corsica-Stickney	H
9/16	Andes Central	H	10/14	Marty Indian	A

Avon Lady Pirates Volleyball

8/27	Bon Homme	A	9/22	Irene-Wakonda	H
8/30	Parkston	H	9/27	Scotland	H
9/1	Andes Central	H	10/1	Marion Tourn.	
9/6	Tripp-Delmont-Armour	H	10/3	Beresford	H
9/8	Centerville	H	10/4	South Central	A
9/13	Wagner	H	10/13	Freeman	A
9/15	Hanson	A	10/21	Menno	H
9/17	Bridgewater-Emerly Tourn.		10/24	Gayville-Volin	A