

Termansen Takes Over Bucks Tennis Program

BY ROGELIO RODRIGUEZ
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For the past two years Matt Termansen has been coaching the Yankton Girls' Tennis team. This spring, Termansen will have the added responsibility of coaching the boys' tennis team.

Termansen is a Yankton native who teaches in the alternative learning center as well as biology for Yankton high school. This will, however, be his final year in Yankton for he has accepted a job in Harrisburg coaching both boys and girls tennis.

The team kicked off the season with their first practice on March 16. Termansen has a positive outlook on this season, largely due to the confidence in the players at his disposal this season.

"I think that we are going to have a very solid team, we have three returning seniors," said Termansen.

Luke Rockne, Jason Shindler, and Paul Fanta are the three seniors that will be charged with leading this team. Fanta is coming off of a shoulder injury but there are high hopes for his quick recovery. Rockne will be this season's number one; he has been playing at the varsity level since his seventh grade year.

Along with the seniors, Termansen has faith that the youth will step and make a big contribution this season.

"We have Hunter Rockne, he's a freshman. He got fifth



Yankton's Luke Rockne

BOYS' TENNIS			
4/7	Roosevelt/at Br. Valley	1 p.m.	
4/10-11	Roncalli Tourn.	noon/9 a.m.	
4/14	at S.C. North	4 p.m.	
4/18	vs. Vermillion/Heelan	9 a.m.	
4/21	Washington/at Vermillion	1 p.m.	
4/23	at S.C. West	4 p.m.	
4/28	at Vermillion	4 p.m.	
4/30	vs. Heelan	4 p.m.	
5/2	Watertown/Mitchell/at Madison	9 a.m.	
5/4	Verm./Pierre/at Mitchell	1 p.m.	
5/5	at Lincoln	2 p.m.	
5/9	Aberdeen/Huron/at Brookings	9 a.m.	
5/11	at O'Gorman	4 p.m.	
5/12	vs. Mitchell/Br. Valley	1 p.m.	
5/15	ESD (Watertown)	9 a.m.	
5/21-23	State (Sioux Falls)	9 a.m./8:45	

in state last year at flight six. He is a very good player," said Termansen.

Nathan List, Ben Mooney, Ethan Klimisch, and Tanner Dykstra are players who Termansen is looking towards to fight for the fifth and sixth

spot. Competition amongst teammates can be beneficial and can hopefully bring out the best in this team.

This season there are a total of 35 boys out for tennis. With so many athletes to handle, it only makes sense that Termansen have an assistant coach. Max Hunoff is Yankton's first ever tennis assistant coach. He works for Beadle Elementary school.

There are some goals rattling around in Termansen's head. These goals are by no means out of reach if his team works hard enough to reach them.

"Our goal is the top three at the ESD conference tournament," said Termansen.

He believes that Mitchell High School, who finished second at state last year, is the clear-cut favorite in the ESD conference. Also, Mitch-

ell did not lose any players this season. Despite their overwhelming opposition, Termansen believes he has the players to challenge for a top three spot.

His ambitions do not end there, however. On top of the top three conference finish, Termansen is envisioning his team in the state tournament.

"Our goal is to finish in the top eight at state," said Termansen.

To achieve these goals, Coach Termansen has decided to focus on improving the team's performance in doubles. Termansen and Hunoff's coaching philosophies are very similar in that they are both geared toward the concept of doubles.

"Doubles is worth a ton of points at the state tournament.. I think if we can get better in doubles then we



Yankton's Jason Shindler

can compete with anyone in singles," said Termansen.

Termansen is doing his best to better the program. Despite this being his final season in the Yankton school district, he believes that the future of Yankton tennis is

bright. Currently there are 12 middle school athletes in the program who all have something to offer. These future stars are coached by two former players, Sarah Rockne

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'Grinder' Beckmann Powers Gazelles

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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In track and field, "grinder" typically is used in reference to someone who makes more than one trip around the track, not a sprinter.

But that is exactly how Yankton head coach Luke Youmans describes senior sprinter Danielle Beckmann.

"She is one of the hardest working kids in our program," he said. "She's just a grinder – everything she does is full out. She trains hard, she races hard and she spends her off-season (from track) in other sports."

Beckmann has taken the same toughness and tenacity that made her a second-team all-state defender for the Gazelles soccer team last fall to the track this season. At the Bob Prince Indoor on March 17 she finished fifth in the 400 and helped the Gazelles to a runner-up finish in the 800 relay. Six days later at Dan Lennon she finished fourth in the 400 and anchored the Gazelles to fifth in the 1600 relay.

"My times are right where I want them to be right now," she said. "I need to keep working on conditioning. If all goes to plan, it should be a really good season."

BECKMANN | PAGE 4



Yankton's Danielle Beckmann gets out of the blocks to open the girls' medley relay at the Dan Lennon Invitational on March 23 at the DakotaDome in Vermillion. Beckmann helped the Gazelles to two relay medals at state a year ago, but aims to bring home individual hardware this season.

Stephenson Aims For Strong Finish

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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Charlie Stephenson walked away from the O'Gorman High School track, site of the opening day of the South Dakota State Track and Field Championships in 2014, with a bad taste in his mouth.

The Yankton hurdler spent the next nine months getting tougher and stronger in both mind and body with the goal of not letting that happen again in his senior season.

"It's been amazing to see the transformation so far," said Yankton head track and field coach Luke Youmans, "both with what he's done physically and what he's done to be a great competitor."

Stephenson missed finals in the 110-meter hurdles by .05 seconds and in the 300-meter hurdles by .34 seconds, finishing 10th in each qualifying event. He also ran on the Bucks' 400-meter relay that missed finals by .06 seconds, placing ninth.

"I left the state meet, and I wasn't satisfied with how it went," he said. "I think on the mental spectrum I needed to learn how to compete athletically, just put the mental and physical together."

Stephenson spent the fall with the Class 11AA champion Bucks football team, recording 26 tackles, two interceptions and six pass break-ups. As a starting defensive back he was expected to be on top of his game and to have a "short memory" if things went wrong.

When the calendar turned to winter, Stephenson took to the ice for the Yankton varsity hockey team. He scored one goal and tied for the team lead with six assists.

"It helped me build the confidence that I was looking for in the mental aspect, being someone that 10 other guys had to rely on on every play on defense," he said. "Hockey provided me another opportunity to stay in shape and try to be a senior leader. I wanted to stay in sports, stay competing."

Youmans credits Stephen-



Yankton's Charlie Stephenson flies over the final hurdle on the way to victory in the boys' 300-meter hurdles at the 2014 Eastern South Dakota Conference meet.

son's off-season activities with helping him prepare for his final track season.

"Everything Charlie has done – competing in multiple sports, in multiple seasons – has helped him learn to be a competitor," Youmans said.

While Stephenson's stronger hurdle race in past years has been the 110-meter event, he plans to pay a lot of attention to the 300-meter event this year.

"I still like the 110s more – there's less thinking – but I want to put more focus into the 300s," he said. "I think I have a better chance in that event."

At the same time, Stephenson will be utilized more in the relay races. At the Dan Lennon indoor meet on March 23, he helped the Bucks to strong finishes in both the 800- and 1600-meter relays.

"Just like we don't want kids to be in one sport, we don't want them to be one-dimensional athletes in track and field," Youmans said. "Charlie has found success in a few events, now he wants to

try relays. It's a trickle-down effect: you find out that you can be good in one event, and you can use those tools in a lot of other things."

Besides preparing himself for the 2015 season, Stephenson has also played a part in preparing future Bucks for success.

"There is a lot of mentoring to be done here, and we ask our seniors to show the younger kids what being a teammate is about," Youmans said. "Charlie is carrying on that tradition we have of great athletes helping younger kids become great athletes."

With all the work Stephenson has put into this final season, Youmans wants to see him go out on a positive note.

"Charlie has everything it takes to cap off a great senior season," he said. "I want him to finish strong."

You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at twitter.com/JCimburek. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net

YHS Track

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on their eighth place finish from a year ago.

"Our starting point is really high," Youmans said. "If you take what we've done and continue to build on it, all of a sudden we look like a team that has the pieces to be a little more competitive, not just individually, but as a team."

The Gazelles return 10 state meet competitors, six of which took home hardware a season ago, led by seniors Danielle Beckmann and Lauren Graves, who each took home honors in two relays. Graves also helped a third relay qualify for finals while Beckmann qualified in two individual events.

Junior Savannah Woods and sophomores Madason Tessier, Rebecca Moser and Emma Stewart also return after each earning two medals at state last season. Also returning with state meet experience are juniors Danielle Salvatori and Adrienne Kusek, sophomore Lindsey Hale and freshman Madison

TRACK & FIELD			
3/17	Bob Prince (Vermillion)	5 p.m.	
3/23	Dan Lennon (Vermillion)	noon	
4/2	Harrisburg/at Brookings	noon	
4/7	SC East/at Washington	4 p.m.	
4/11	Brandon Valley Inv.	10:30 a.m.	
4/14	Mitchell/at Br. Valley	4 p.m.	
4/18	Corn Palace Relays	9 a.m.	
	Sioux City Relays	8 a.m.	
4/21	SFW/OG/BV	4 p.m.	
5/1	O'Gorman Inv.	10 a.m.	
5/1-2	Howard Wood Relays	TBD	
5/7	First Dakota Relays	2 p.m.	
5/16	ESD (Brookings)	11:30 a.m.	
5/21	Last Chance (SFW)	4 p.m.	
5/29-30	State AA (Sturgis/RC)	10:30/10	

McClure.

Seniors Lindsay Larson, Janae Osborne, Bailey Sejnoha and Erica Westerman also return for the Gazelles.

"The girls have quite a few pieces back. We didn't totally clear out the cupboard," Youmans said. "We lost a few pieces but, year in and year out, we keep finding a few to step up."

A number of talented young athletes have the veterans pumped up as well.

"We're definitely excited for what the younger kids, the new kids can do," Beckmann said.

While Youmans does not want to heap undue pressure on the team, he feels they

can be in the running for a combined team title.

"Right now it's not too early to put a bug in the kids' ears of being the combined team champions," he said. "They're not there yet, but they have to have something to work towards. I want them to work as hard as they can collectively to see how good our Yankton team can be."

Yankton finished the indoor season on April 2. It opens the outdoor schedule with a triangular at Sioux Falls Washington on April 7.

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**Avon
Track & Field**

April 7	Scotland Inv.	2:30 p.m.
April 14	Wagner Relays	2 p.m.
April 17	Avon Inv.	4:30 p.m.
April 21	South Dakota-Nebraska Challenge (Tyndall)	2 p.m.
April 24	Jim Flevares Relays (Tyndall)	4:30 p.m.
April 27	Great Plains Conference (Bonesteel)	1 p.m.
May 1	O'Gorman Inv.	10 a.m.
May 1-2	Howard Wood Dakota Relays (Sioux Falls)	TBD
May 5	Little Missouri Valley Conf. (Tyndall)	2:30 p.m.
May 12	Fort Randall Conf. (Lake Andes)	1 p.m.
May 15	Ethan-Parkston Relays (Parkston)	9:30 a.m.
May 21	Region 6B (Corsica)	11 a.m.
May 29-30	State Meet (Rapid City)	TBD

Boys' & Girls' Golf

April 2	Southeast S.D. Small-School (Fox Run, Yankton) ..	9 a.m.
April 7	Mt. Vernon-Plankinton Inv. (Lakeview, Mitchell) ..	10 a.m.
April 10	Burke (boys)/Gregory (girls) Inv	10 a.m.
April 16	Scotland (boys)/Avon (girls) at Tyndall Inv.	10 a.m.
April 24	Platte (girls)/Burke (boys) Inv.	10 a.m.
May 1	Avon (boys in Tyndall)/Springfield (girls) Inv.	10 a.m.
May 4	Pre-Region 4B (Yankton)	TBD
May 8	Region 4B (Yankton)	9 a.m.
May 18-19	State B Meet (Yankton)	TBD