

# VHS golfers gung-ho for upcoming season

By Scott Bormann  
For The Plain Talk



Junior Paul Schwasinger plays a shot just off the fairway during practice.

Scott Bormann/For The Plain Talk

The confidence of the Vermillion varsity boys' golf team was sky-high during its first practice of the 2014 season.

They are eager to start competition on Monday, and they are ready to take on all comers.

Their first test comes Monday at the West Central Invitational.

"The season should be fun," sophomore Cooper Williams said. "Another year of experience under our belts should give us a great advantage."

Vermillion head coach Kirk Hogen believes that his team's past of a number of competitive matches could only help them this year.

"The experience of some of the boys will help with our success in the big matches this season," Hogen said. "With all seven returning letter-winners fighting for the varsity spots, this gives Vermillion an advantage."

There will be plenty of tests for the team throughout the season.

"I am very confident about how our team will do this year," Hogen said. "I feel that we have the toughest region and toughest conference in the state."

The team resolve and expectations are clear throughout the team.

"We expect to send five (golfers) to Regionals," senior Andrew Heine said.

Heine was voted last year's most-improved player.

"West Central should be a good eye-opener for us," junior Paul Schwasinger said of the team's opener. "Going right out of the box

with so many good teams will be a great test. We should compete really well."

Hogen is happy how his golfers stay focused on their individual games, yet coach and support each other to improve.

"We can't worry about that last shot, or what other teams are doing," he said. "I can't come up with a defensive game-plan, or worry about what strategies other teams have come up with."

The squad's laser-like focus is embodied by last year's Most Valuable Player, Williams.

"Cooper's mental toughness gives him the ability to succeed on the golf course as well as the point-guard for

our basketball team," Hogen said. "It was fun to see his success in both roles as a freshman last year."

"Coming in as a freshman last year," said Williams, "I feel that I'm much better prepared this season."

Juniors Sam Craig and Cole Anderson echo this confidence for this season making the team's mental approach a unified one geared toward success.

Hogen loves to develop the young golfers into the leaders of the future and will have that opportunity with freshman Cody Mattes and eighth-grader Ryan Whisler, along with seventh-graders Brody Martinez, Sam Ward and Billy Radigan, and sixth-grader Hunter Lavin.

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Alderman Ward seconded the motion. Motion carried 9 to 0. Mayor Powell declared the motion adopted.

12. Consensus Agenda - None

13. Adjourn

285-14

Alderman Clarene Meins moved to adjourn the Council Meeting at 8:05 p.m. Alderman Collier-Wise seconded the motion. Motion carried 9 to 0. Mayor Powell declared the motion adopted.

Dated at Vermillion, South Dakota this 4th day of August, 2014.

THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF VERMILLION, SOUTH DAKOTA

BY \_\_\_\_\_  
John E. (Jack) Powell, Mayor

ATTEST:  
BY \_\_\_\_\_  
Michael D. Carlson, Finance Officer

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## DakotaDome to showcase new bleachers this fall

By Alan Dale  
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Ah what new toys have the University of South Dakota athletic administration given its student body to play with at Coyote football games in the DakotaDome? Well, OK, not every fan that attends a Coyote game will actually get an individual Bobble Head doll or a chia pet, but all of those who attend a USD football contest will get to do his or her own impression of 'Stomp the Yard.'

Except it will sound more like a bang and a clang as this fall the new bleachers along the home side will offer a more... heavy metal feel.

Out with the wood and in with metallic.

"The bleachers we removed were original to the Dome and served us well," USD athletic director David Herbster said. "They had been showing their age for some time now (35 years) and replacing them benefits us in several ways. They will be safer

and more manageable to take in and out.

"Aesthetically, it is a big improvement and cleans up the look on the west side. It now offers students/fans that sit on that side six points of access compared to really two which we had been utilizing."

Herbster believes the new seating arrangement may take away about 150 potential seats, but the look, safety, and accessibility may end up bringing in more bodies on the tradeoff.

"We lose about 150 seats in the process, but what we gain is access and the ability to navigate in and out of those seats," he said. "I can't guarantee we had those 150 people in those seats, because we couldn't get the people in there. To get in the middle you had to climb over people because they were no aisle ways, there were no walkways."

In addition to entering the stands from the ground level on either end, which is how they had been accessed, USD

has created a walkway above from either end as well as two entrances from behind.

It will allow better flow in and out of the bleachers, according to Herbster.

"With the construction of the arena, the normal south doors we used for student entrance will not be accessible," he added. "We are moving the student tailgating to the field north of the Dome and the students will then enter through the doors by the west garage door. From there, the students will have easy entrance to the stands."

Coyotes' head coach Joe Glenn is pleased with the progress of the new bleachers and what they have to offer.

"I think it's a plus and it's another section of red and white and adds to the fashion of our university," Glenn said. "It rises up a little bit and as our kids are saying now. The fans will get noisy pounding on the bleachers. So it should be good for college football.

"It does look good."

There will be no stairwells on the front side of these bleachers and they will not come as close to the field like the replaced bleachers.

"There was a player safety concern there as we have had several players over the years run into the stairways that projected out towards the field," Herbster said. "Needless to say, our team is very excited about the new bleachers and so is the rest of the Missouri Valley Football Conference."

The players are pleased with the new look.

"I think they look sweet and it looks more uniform," junior wide receiver Nick Meyer said. "I think the fans are going to be excited because it gives us more of a professional look."

"It will be a lot louder than the wood bleachers with the fans stomping on them and getting it echoing in (the DakotaDome). The team is excited."

## USD From Page 3B

number of bombs to put the back row on its heels. Williamson said there is a reason for this and not by design.

"We put a stipulation on them if they missed their serves it wouldn't allow them to score points as a team," Williamson said. "So I think that brought out a little bit of fear in them because they don't want to make that mistake. We preach to them to serve aggressive all the time regardless if the score is 0-0, 15-15, or 24-24. They need to put the other team in tough situations."

Williamson was happy with the initial days of practice for her first team

she has led as a collegiate head coach.

"I am happy," she said. "Days three and four are usually pretty tough. They are tired and sore and have done a lot more volleyball than they had the last three months. They are putting in a lot of hours right now. In the past we have had a lot of fatigue that has affected our game play and not being able to make improvements."

"In this day four we have girls wanting to stay after practice to run another drill. They want to keep going. I know they are tired and sore, but they are willing to keep getting better and not use fatigue as an excuse."

Setting chemistry  
Jessen is feeling pretty good finding the right formula with her other

hitters.

"Coming early helped a ton just getting connections with the team and the other hitters," Jessen said. "(The older players) haven't compared me to previous setters and they have been very patient with getting the system down. In the beginning I spend a lot of time watching film and studying the hitters."

Jessen graduated from high school in January and that allowed her to practice with the team this spring. Senior middle blocker Melissa Firtko is impressed so far with the team's young setter.

"She came early and it would have been heck if she had come now," Firtko said. "So we got everything in and she's doing great."

It's a block party

The middle has looked sharp in preseason practices with a number of touches, tips, and stuffs to round out a nice block party that would make Pitbull jealous.

"We are all doing good and getting the touches we need to get," Firtko said. "It will get better as the season goes on. Blocking is huge and is a big part of the game. It helps our defense because if we set up good it will give them a chance to get to a lot of balls."

Jessen is happy with the defense up front.

"We are able to read where they are going on their blocks and adjust," Jessen said. "We are working really well as a unit right now."

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