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Tanners Ready For State Competition

Former Coyote Huffer Signs With Falcons



ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/ FOR THE PLAIN TALK

Vermillion's Audry Miiller battles tough winds at the last hole of Monday's Region 2A golf meet at Bakker Crossing in Sioux Falls.

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High winds during the Region 2A girls golf meet in Sioux Falls didn't faze Vermillion High School as the Tanners shot for first place Monday at Bakker Crossing and a trip to the state meet.

"Our team always seems to play so much better when it's bad out," said junior Kayla Stammer. "We don't know why, it's just like a mental thing that our team has. When it's bad weather we all play good."

Vermillion shot a combined 342, more than 20 points lower than the second place score of 365 put up by West Central. Sioux Falls Christian

finished third shooting 376. The top three teams in the region qualify for the state meet.

"The weather was so bad, but we got started and we all started off really well. We were getting bogies and pars, so we did good," said Stammer. "Last year, during this time, it was worse (weather) and we shot about the same scores."

Stammer shot a 79 on the day for the top Vermillion score and second overall at the meet. Dakota Valley's Mary High took first with a 77.

Vermillion's Kylie Moran shot an 82, Kate Brockevelt had 85, Emily Schmitz a 96 and Audry Miiller a 97.

"I dealt with the wind pretty well," Moran said. "Better than I thought I

was going to."

Not only did Vermillion qualify for the state meet as a team, but all Tanners who golfed Monday will head to Madison to compete as individuals.

"It definitely boosts our confidence," said Moran. "It gives us a better outlook on state knowing that we can play this well."

Vermillion isn't planning on riding the win into the state meet. The team knows what they have to work on if they want to keep up with the heavily favored Parkston team.

"Our chipping and putting is not very strong right now," Moran said. "We get on the green but we don't get very close to the hole. So, if we could get that closer to the hole that cuts off two or three putts a hole. That would bring down our scores a lot."

The girls are still confident in their game going into this weekend meet in Madison.

"We could definitely be (one of) the top two or three teams," Stammer said.

The state meet is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday at Madison Country Club with start times yet to be determined.

Region 2A State Team Qualifiers: Vermillion (VHS), 342; West Central (WCHS), 365; Sioux Falls Christian (SFCHS), 376.

Individual State Meet Qualifiers:

1. Mary High, DVHS 77; 2. Kayla Stammer, VHS 79; 3. Kate Wynja, SFHS 80; 4. Kyleigh Moran, VHS 82; 5. Kennedy Fossum, CHS 85; 6. Kate Brockevelt, VHS 85; 7. Alexa From, WCHS 85; 8. Tori Johnson, EPJHS 86; 9. Anna Perrenoud, SFCHS 87; 10. Megan Hinker, LHS 89; 11. Amanda Westwick, WCHS 90; 12. Sadie Jensen, BHS 91; 13. Janell Healy, WCHS 94; 14. Emily Schmitz, VHS 96; 15. Lauryn Driscoll, WCHS 96; 16. Audry Miiller, VHS 97; 17. Makenna Krysl, DVHS 97; 18. Emily Beitzel, CHS 98; 19. Alyssa Zirpel, LHS 100; 20. Natalie Poppens, TAHS 101; 21. Brooke Ehlers, CHS 101; 22. Taylor Watkins, BHS 101; 23. Elizabeth Petersen, BHS 102; 24. Ashley Lamfers, SFCHS 102; 25. Amanda Lofland, CHS 103; Kacie Jacobsen, CHS 104.

Tanners Bats Come Alive, Top Panthers

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A six-run fifth inning proved to be the difference Monday afternoon in Dakota Valley when Vermillion High School baseball topped the Panthers 8-5.

The Tanners we held scoreless going into the fifth inning and were down five runs, but came back with six in the frame.

"Up until the fifth inning we really weren't doing a lot of things very well," said head coach Jason Gault. "I think our heads were down. I think we were feeling a little defeated (after Friday's loss)."

Nate Robertson led off the fifth inning

by getting on base after being hit by a pitch that brought up Jake Odens who singled.

"(Robertson) takes a dose for us, gets down to first and then we do a nice job of hitting the ball right side. (Odens) slaps a line drive over the top of the second baseman's head and that kind of starts it," Gault said. "From there we get contagious. Hitting starts to get contagious, nobody wants to make that out and that's when it starts to get fun."

Carter Kratz then hit an RBI double scoring Robertson, followed by another RBI double by Joe Miller that he stretched into a triple off a throw to home. Miller

brought home Odens and Kratz bringing the score to 5-3.

The next batter, Jack Brown, hit an RBI single and a few batters later Robertson hit a routine fly ball with the bases loaded that was dropped by the Dakota Valley second baseman and scored Travis Weber and Brandon Mockler for a 6-5 lead.

"It goes to show you that all it takes is one inning to get back into something," Gault said.

Vermillion scored its final two runs in the sixth inning off RBIs from Brown and Mockler.

"The talk we had after the game was that we have to have the ability to stay positive through those tough moments," Gault said. "We can't hang our heads and we have to pick our teammates up because before you know it, it goes from 5-0 to 5-4 in a hurry. So, I was proud that they really buckled down."

Brown went 3-for-4 in the game with two RBIs and Mockler went 2-for-4 with one RBI.

Odens had the start on the mound and pitched four innings giving up five runs on six hits with two walks and one strikeout.

"I thought Jake had a decent outing. We didn't play great defense behind him," Gault said. "You throw hard, you do your job and that's getting ground balls and you get some guys behind you that aren't fielding it for you and that's a tough situation."

Kratz replaced Odens to start the fifth and went three innings giving up two hits with five strikeouts.

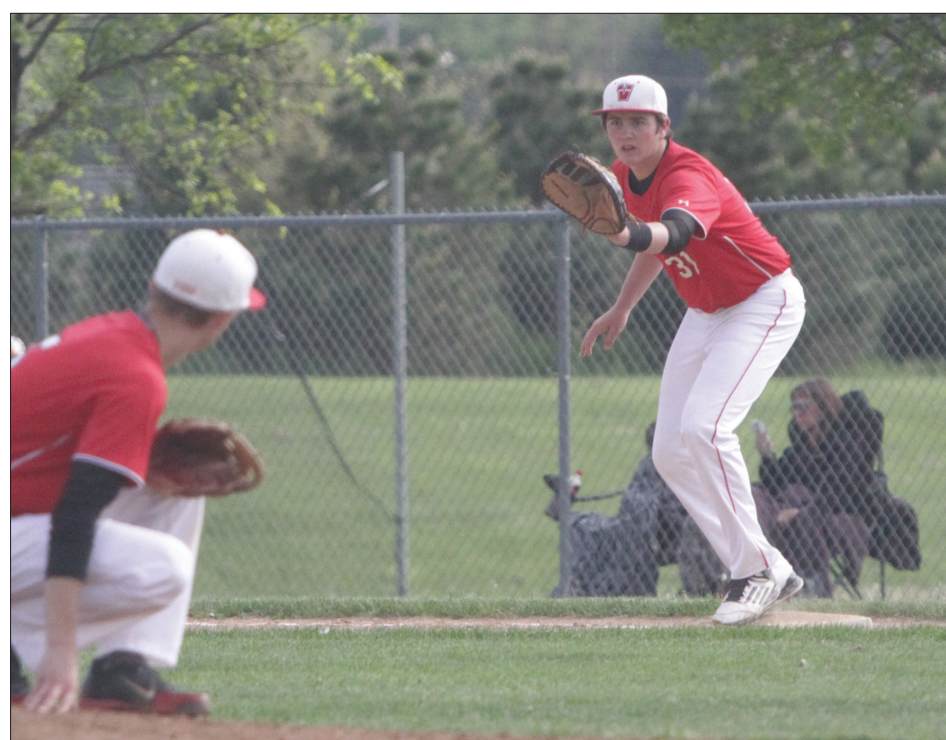


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Vermillion's Carter Kratz makes contact with a pitch in the Tanners 8-5 win over Dakota Valley Tuesday afternoon.

"(Odens) was getting up in the pitch count and we're fortunate to have a real gutsy baseball player in Carter Kratz who got in and we like to have him with the baseball," Gault said. "He's just a go-getter. He's a competitor and he's somebody that can be a strikeout pitcher late in the game and he did that."

Vermillion, 8-3 overall and 8-1 in the region, plays its final regular season game at Beresford High School as a make-up to Sunday's game that was rained out. The first pitched is scheduled for 5 p.m. Friday.



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Vermillion first baseman Hunter Christopherson makes a catch at first for an out while pitcher Jake Odens watches during Tuesday afternoon's win over Dakota Valley.