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Parkston Takes Fourth Straight Title, Tanagers Fourth

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN
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A fourth place finish at the Class A State Tournament may not have been what the Vermillion High School girls golf team was hoping for, but it is an improvement over last year's fifth place.

The Tanagers shot a combined score of 787 over the two-day tournament May 18-19 at Madison Country Club putting them one stroke behind third place Mobridge-Pollock's 786. Madison was the state runner-up with 778 and Parkston shot to its fourth straight state title with 731.

The Trojans were holding on to its title at the end of day where the weather looked more like winter than spring.

"It's extremely cold and windy today (Monday)," said head Parkston coach Tyler Hockett. "Probably the worst we've played in all year. We do try to play when it is bad because we know the state tournament could be just like this."

The preparation paid off as the defending champs ended the day in first place at 375, a comfortable 20-stroke lead from second place 395 put up by Madison. West Central came in at 403 and Vermillion was fourth with 408.

Parkston also saw a familiar sight in the individual scores with Sydney Borman and Sydney Weber holding on to the one and two spots.

Borman shot 12 over par for an 83 and first place in the first round and Weber came in at 86, tied for second with Sioux Falls Christian's Kate Wynja.

"The conditions were definitely brutal. While we were warming up it was snowing," Borman said. "We practice in all conditions and (our coach) always says 'You never know what the state tournament weather is going to be like' and it definitely paid off practicing in that (kind of weather)."

Vermillion's Kate Brockevelt held the top spot for the Tanagers shooting 96 and finishing day one at twelfth place. Kyliegh Moran came in tied for 14 with 98, Kayla Stammer shot 103, Emily Schmitz had 111 and Audry Miiller 115.

"Because of how well we played at regions, we were put into better groups here at state, so we were also playing with girls who are better than us," Stammer said, who finished second at regionals with 79. "That made me even more nervous before we came into it because I knew the other girls I was playing with were a lot better."

Round two of play began Tuesday at 10 a.m., delayed one hour from 9 a.m. due to the threat of frost.

"We started when it was snowing and we finished and it was still cold," Stammer said. "It was really bad. The weather was terrible and so my golf was terrible."

On day two, Parkston cruised its way to its fourth straight title winning the field by 47 strokes.

The Trojans shot a combined score of 731 ahead of second place Madison, who shot a combined 778.

"We had to persevere through a lot of things, just like every other golfer did today, but I was glad with how we carried our heads on our shoulders today," said head coach Tyler Hockett.



BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/ FOR THE PLAIN TALK

The Vermillion High School girls golf team holds up the fourth place plaque at the Class A State Tournament at Madison Country Club May 19.

Left to right: head coach Kirk Hogen, Kate Brockevelt, Emily Schmitz, Kayla Stammer, Audry Miiller and Kyliegh Moran.

Third place went to Mobridge-Pollock with 786 and Vermillion came in one stroke behind at 787 for fourth place.

"Getting fourth by one stroke kind of sucks and we all know we can take one stroke off here or there," said Vermillion's Kyliegh Moran. "I don't want to say we're happy with what we got, but we're ok with what we got."

Parkston also saw a repeat one, two finish in the individual scores with Sydney Borman in first with 83 for day one, 82 on day two and a combined 165 for the tournament and teammate Sydney Weber in second with 86, 81 and a combined 167.

"These girls love the game of golf," Hockett said. "They practice and play it all year round."

Samantha Langford (87, 82, 167) of Madison finished third and Mary High (88, 84, 172) came in fourth.

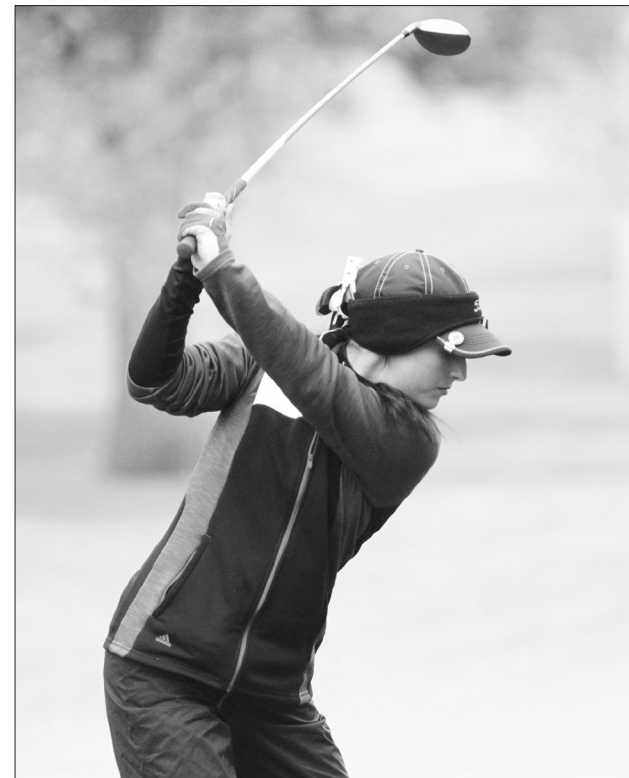
Moran earned an 11th place medal shooting an 98 in round one, 84 in round two and 182 overall.

"I started off really well and I had a couple bad holes but I shook it off," Moran said. "It's the best round I've had at this course, so it was pretty decent for me."

Kate Brockevelt finished with 96, 101 and 197 overall, Kayla Stammer had 103 and 96 for 199, Emily Schmitz shot 111 and 102 for 213 and Audry Miiller shot 115 and 98 for 213.

After improving one place from last year, the Tanagers are looking to build on that for next year.

"Next year, we're only losing (Miiller)," Moran said. "So, us top few girls can improve a lot and we can be a top runner for next year for sure."



BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/ FOR THE PLAIN TALK

Vermillion's Kate Brockevelt tees off at the Class A State Golf Tournament at Madison Country Club on May 19.

Former Air Force Guard Mooney Lands At USD

BY JEREMY HOECK
Press and Dakotan

Matt Mooney had plenty of suitors for his talents over the past seven weeks.

The 6-foot-3 guard from Chicago had received his release from the Air Force men's basketball program and began looking for a new destination – somewhere where he could spend the next four seasons, one as a redshirt and three as a difference maker.

One of the first schools to jump on the Mooney train? The University of South Dakota.

Fast forward to last week when Mooney visited the Vermillion campus for three days, a visit that eventually led him to verbally commit to the Coyote program on Monday.

"After visiting South Dakota, I just realized that it was the place for me. It sunk in right away," Mooney said in a phone interview Tuesday.

Mooney, who listed Colgate (N.Y.) and Evansville on his final list, played in 29 games last season for Air Force, which competes in the Mountain West Conference. He averaged 6.9 points in 19.2 minutes per game.

Mooney will have to redshirt the 2015-16 season at USD, but will then have three seasons of eligibility. He will join fellow transfer Trey Dickerson (Iowa) as eligible additions for the 2016-17 season.

While on his visit last week to Vermillion, Mooney was able to see first-hand the ongoing construction of USD's 6,000-seat basketball and volleyball arena, which will open in time for the 2016-17 season.

"The new facility looks like it'll be phenomenal," he said. "That's exciting. The

campus is really nice, and being a school of ten thousand is pretty cool."

As part of his visit to USD, Mooney was also able to spend time with current Coyote players Casey Kasperbauer and Logan Power, which no doubt helped attract Mooney to the program.

"It's a place I could see myself for a couple years, with those kind of people," he said.

Spending time, even if for a few days at the time, around USD head coach Craig Smith – known by now to Coyote fans for his energy and enthusiasm – certainly didn't hurt Mooney's decision. Smith guided the Coyotes to a 17-16 record last season and the program's first-ever win in the Summit League tournament.

"There's no doubt he's bringing the program in the right direction," Mooney said. "His drive and commitment, and he believes in his players and himself and his coaching staff."

"He's one of those guys you want to be around every day."

What does Mooney bring to the table?

"I think I can score the ball, and I know they want me to score the ball; be a playmaker," he said. "I'll try to get stronger, but we've got some guys coming in. I think we've got a lot of good pieces."

As for what he'll be coming into at USD, Mooney said he was at least a little familiar with the Summit League. Not only did he joke that he's well aware of the USD vs. South Dakota State rivalry, Mooney was an AAU teammate with Kory Brown, a standout at North Dakota State.

Also Monday, USD officially announced the addition of Tyler Borchers, a 6-foot-6 forward from LeMars, Iowa. He had previously committed to the program two weeks earlier.

Vermillion Hosts Pitch, Hit and Run Competition

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN
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Vermillion youth had the chance to show off their baseball and softball skills at this year's "Pitch, Hit and Run" event put on by Vermillion Parks and Recreation on May 14 at Barstow Park.

"It's with the major league baseball and it's the equivalent to the "Punt, Pass, Kick" for the NFL," said Tyler Trageser, Vermillion's recreation technician.

Four participants took turns throwing pitches, running bases and hitting off a tee for the chance to move on to the sectional competition in Mitchell.

The most accurate pitches, the fastest runner and the farthest hits were judged to name a winner in each category as well as an overall winner.

This is the local one here and they get to move on to a sectional one and then to a state one and then if they win at the state one, they get to compete at the national one at the all-star game and that's at Cincinnati this year," Trageser said.

The competition is for anyone ages 7-14 and is broken down into four different age groups, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12 and 13-14.

After Vermillion hosting the sectionals for the previous two years, this year it will be held on May 24 at Cadwell Park in Mitchell.

Tanagers Compete At Dakota XII Meet

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN
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The Vermillion High School track and field team traveled to Madison on May 14 to compete in the Dakota XII Conference meet and came away with a ninth place team finish for the girls and 10th place finish for the boys.

Maddie Lavin contributed 14 of the Tanagers 34 points for the girls' team with a second place finish in the 1600 meter run (5:18.12), which broke the previous meet record of 5:20.03 by Hailey Streff of Madison, and third place in the 800 meter run (2:23.39). Dakota Valley's Marisa Schulz ran a 5:12.30 in the 1600 for first place and the new meet record.

The girls' 4x400 meter relay team of Rachel Brady, MaKenna Koble, Katie Kost and Lavin ran a combined 4:14.50 for third place. The 4x800 team off Brady, Melissa Mikkelsen, Kost and Lavin finished fourth at 10:24.94.

For the boys' side, the 1600 meter sprint medley team of Andrew Pietrzak, Matt Bierle, Logan Peterson and Jon Rosales ran for first place with a time of 3:46.23 and the 4x800 meter relay team of Peterson, Justin Sorenson, Landon Smith and Parson Covington took fourth with 8:54.29.

The Tanagers will travel to Spearfish and Rapid City May 29-30 for the Class A State Meet.