



Nugget Boys Golfers Look To Contend This Season

Melissa Stock
Sports Writer



Ben Lofgren and Tim Pederson are entering their 14th season as co-head coaches for the Hawley Boys' golf team. Lofgren was previously the assistant Hawley boys golf coach for five years, so this is his 19th season in golf. Ben and Tim are both sixth-grade teachers at Hawley Elementary.

The team lost three top-notch seniors from last year, Tyler Schacher, Riley Byklum, and Nathan Isaacson. Hawley has several players who could fill those spots, but it all depends on their performance early in the season as to who gets the first shot.

The team captains for the 2018 golf season are Carter Justesen and Satchel Tickel.

Returning to the team this year are Justesen, Tickel, Oliver DeFelici, Cole Cook, Evan Vetter, Marshall Ness, Cale Bickler, Jack Ford, Gunnar Carley, Karter Kopacek and Carter Jensen.

Returning conference/state award winners from the previous year are Justesen, Tickel, DeFelici, Ford, Vetter and Cook.

Justesen and Tickel are the most experienced players, most awarded players, and hardest working players. Justesen returns as the 2017 HOL Conference MVP for having the best golf scores, while teammate Tickel was right on his heels all season long. Both share a burning passion to be their very best every day. They are strong competitors, which is what the younger players



The Hawley Nuggets boys golf team members are, left to right, front row-Mathias Mies, Sam Burkel, Cade Pederson, Braxton Boe, Kris Rasmussen, Gage Fossen, Eli Baasch, Jesse Fox, Nick Groth, Matthew Nelson; row two-Darin Kroshus, Gage Matson, Wyatt Dunham, Cale Bickler, Cole Cook, Carter Jensen, Marshall Ness; row three-Brady Gratton, Evan Vetter, Corey Ringsaker, Karter Kopacek, Wyatt Dayley, Carter Justesen; Back: Jack Ford, Gunnar Carley, Oliver DeFelici, Satch Tickel and Coach Pederson.

need to see. As a team, Hawley's goal is to win the HOL Conference (they won nine of the last 11), and advance the team to the Section 8AA finals and get the team and/or individuals to state.

Hawley, Perham and Barnesville look to be near the top of HOL Conference play.

The Hawley Golf course is definitely one of the team's assets. Hawley allows kids on the golf team to play for free all season long.

Players have shown several times over the years that if they work hard, they will be successful. Support from the course is a primary reason for the team's success.

Perham and Barnesville are also bringing back several strong players.

These will be the teams Hawley will have to strive to beat.

Last year Hawley was HOL Conference runner-up and finished one place away from advancing from sub-section to section finals. Justesen advanced to state as an

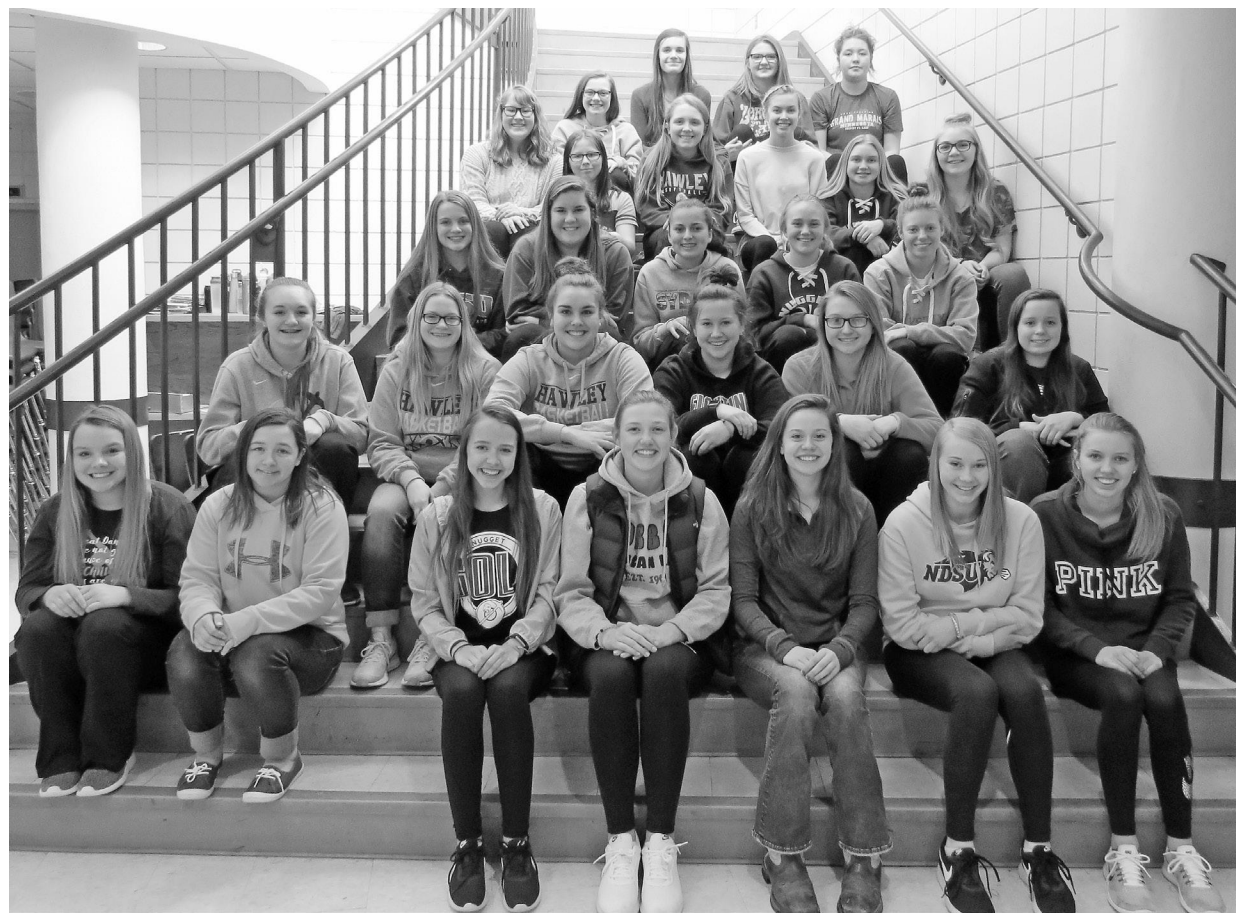
individual and also earned HOL MVP honors last season.

"Coaching golf is all about the kids and the game," Lofgren said. "Golf is a sport that requires hard work, persistence and determination, but it's a lot more than that. Sportsmanship and golf etiquette are components that will last well beyond the few years they compete as high schoolers. Golf is a fantastic life-long sport that can be enjoyed with family and friends."

The 2018 Hawley Nugget Boys roster:

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Cole Cook | 12 |
| Carter Justesen | 12 |
| Marshall Ness | 12 |
| Satchel Tickel | 12 |
| Cale Bickler | 12 |
| Wyatt Dayley | 12 |
| Oliver DeFelici | 12 |
| Gunnar Carley | 11 |
| Jack Ford | 11 |
| Karter Kopacek | 11 |
| Corey Ringsaker | 11 |
| Carter Jensen | 11 |
| Ian Lilleby | 11 |
| Nick Groth | 9 |
| Braeden Hager | 9 |
| Matthew Nelson | 9 |
| Samuel Stigen | 9 |
| Jesse Fox | 9 |
| Evan Vetter | 8 |
| Wyatt Dunham | 8 |
| Gage Matson | 8 |
| Darin Kroshus | 8 |
| Reid Ames | 8 |
| Sam Burkel | 8 |
| Brady Gratton | 8 |
| Kris Rasmussen | 7 |
| Eli Baasch | 7 |
| Gage Fossen | 7 |
| Ian Kronbeck | 7 |
| Jayden Hamernik | 7 |
| Mathias Mies | 7 |
| Braxton Boe | 7 |
| Cade Pederson | 7 |

Nugget Girls Golf Team Tee Off With Experience And Determination



The Hawley Nugget girls golf team members are, left to right, front row-Kinessa Deltner, Maggie Huesman, Riley Larson-Adams, Lauren Sellin, Zoe Dauner, Kyndra Halvorson, Faith Justesen; row two-Hailey Bigger, Morgan Kroshus, McKenna Karsten, Emily Schirrick, Kaitlyn Kopacek, Sydney Cook; row three-Skye Johnson, Jada Ford, Kelsey Sparrow, Jada Mickelberg, Madi Andring; row four-Anna Kronbeck, Abby Moothart, Kensie Larson, Faith Stafki, Tallyn Ranstrom, Sidney Gerner; back row-Clair Keith, Maya Kruger, Gabby Sjolvold and Mercedes Burnside. Not pictured are Taylor Reep and Maddy Heidinger

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education teacher at Hawley Elementary School.

"This year's main asset is the number of varsity players I have returning as well as the number of returning junior varsity players," Gunkelman said. "These girls have been on the course with other varsity players and know what to expect and how to perform. Also, there are a lot of JV players who could be on the varsity and this will give the team some depth, something we have not had before. It should also motivate the girls to give it their all during every practice because there are other girls who are vying for their spot on the varsity."

"This year, the team to beat will be Perham. They were the HOL champs last year and are bringing back most (if not all) of their starters. They were a solid team last year and Gunkelman expects the same competition from them this year.

The team's goal this year is to claim the top spot in the conference. Almost all of the varsity players from last year are returning and if they can put up the scores they are capable of, Hawley will have a chance at winning the conference. Hawley hopes to have one girl or more advance to the section tournament and even the state tournament.

"All the varsity girls bring

something unique to the team," Gunkelman added. "The varsity consists of girls from 8th to 11th grade, and each person will be a leader in her own grade. I see the co-captains being the most prominent leaders on the team and showing the other players how their years of experience and determination have

paid off. I am looking forward to this season because the team has some pretty strong golfers. These girls are capable of shooting the scores required to become the number one team in the conference. If I can get these girls to believe in themselves like I do, some pretty awesome things could happen."

2018 Hawley Nugget Girls roster:

| | |
|----|--------------------|
| 12 | Dauner Zoe |
| 12 | Huesman Maggie |
| 12 | Larson-Adams Riley |
| 12 | Sellin Lauren |
| 11 | Andring Madi |
| 11 | Kroshus Morgan |
| 11 | Schirrick Emily |
| 11 | Karsten McKenna |
| 11 | Burnside Mercedes |
| 11 | Kopacek Kaitlyn |
| 11 | Sjolvold Gabby |
| 11 | Stafki Faith |
| 10 | Cook Sydney |
| 10 | Justesen Faith |
| 10 | Kruger Maya |
| 10 | Halvorson Kyndra |
| 10 | Deltner Kinessa |
| 9 | Sparrow Kelsey |
| 9 | Ford Jada |
| 9 | Keith Claire |
| 9 | Kronbeck Anna |
| 9 | Johnson Skye |
| 9 | Reep Taylor |
| 9 | Heidinger Maddy |
| 9 | Bigger Hailey |
| 8 | Larson Kensie |
| 8 | Ranstrom Tallyn |
| 8 | Mickelberg Jada |
| 8 | Gerner Sidney |
| 8 | Moothart Abby |
| 8 | Nelson Vaida |





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