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Good Luck Nuggets!

- NUGGET PRIDE -

Nuggets Boys Golfers Return Top Tier Talent This Season

By Melissa Stock

Ben Lofgren and Tim Pederson are entering their 22nd season as co-head golf coaches for the Hawley Boys' golf team. Coach Lofgren has been in the Hawley golf program for 28 years overall as he was the JV coach for six seasons prior to being at his current position. Ben and Tim also coach the Junior Varsity and Junior High golfers. They both are both sixth grade teachers at Hawley Elementary. The team also has three volunteer coaches: Blair Gilberts, Brayden Aldinger, and Dane Hinkle.

There is a mix of team leaders. Getting into our top six players will be extremely competitive as we have another fantastic crew of hard-working and talented players. The balance of experienced players, youth, and a few newcomers will make for a very interesting and exciting spring season.

The boys will miss seniors from last year's HOL conference winning team and crew that advanced to the Section 8AA Finals. Brayden Aldinger, Dane Hinkle, and Carter Sparrow led an amazing group of seniors a year ago. Returning



The Nugget boys golf team members are, left to right, front row-Chase Mickelson, Russell Lage, Aston Reid, Wyatt Lindberg, Cole Thayer, Grant Halland, Jude Haugen, Hayden Howard, Everett Steckler; middle row-Kaden Kirsch, Luke Brisbois, Johnathan Dahlen, Liam Pederson, Kohen Riedberger, Jack McIntyre, Adam Ostrowski, Ryder Boit, Carter Anderson, Trevell Stock; back row-Coach Tim Pederson, Hayden Andring, Caleb Halvorson, Hoyton Larson, Jackson Gunkelman, Charles Gunkelman, Nicholas Dickson, Loagan Baker, and Coach Ben Lofgren.

players looking to make an impact on the varsity team include Liam Pederson, Hayden Andring, Jackson Gunkelman, Parker Stotts, Hudson Midthun, Charlie Gunkelman, Adam Ostrowski, Ryder Boit.

Returning conference/state award winners from previous year: Hudson Midthun, Parker Stotts,

Liam Pederson are return HOL Conference award winners. Hudson Midthun also advanced to state and shot two rounds in the 70s at state as an eighth grader.

Team captains are Liam Pederson, Hayden Andring, Jackson Gunkelman are the older guys that will serve as team leaders.

Hudson Midthun and Parker Stotts are additional leaders as their work ethic, team-first mindset, and performance on the course speaks for itself.

The top goal is improvement. The team has been blessed with hard-working, talented players with supportive families for many

years. Coaches are looking for each player to improve their golf game through hard work, better decision making, and playing as much golf as they possibly can. Team goals included trying to win our 15th HOL Conference title in 19 years, advance to the Section 8AA finals once again, and advance our team or individuals to the state tournament once again this season.

"Hard work ethic, determination, desire to improve, a fantastic home golf course, supportive parents, and a tremendous community to play golf in are a few major assets our team has to win," said coach Lofgren.

The staff sees their toughest competition being Barnesville, Perham, Staples-Motley, and Frazee

"The Hawley boys golf team would like to thank the Hawley Golf Club for their support along with the parents for encouraging their sons to be a part of the Hawley golf team. Our long standing tradition of success starts with the kids, their families, and the people behind the scenes giving them the opportunity to be their very best," said Coach Lofgren

Team roster includes:

Liam Pederson	12
Nicholas Dickson	11
Loagan Baker	11
Hayden Andring	11
Jackson Gunkelman	11
Caleb Halvorson	11
Ryder Boit	10
Jayce Merckens	9
Kohen Riedberger	9
Charles Gunkelman	9
Hudson Midthun	9
Adam Ostrowski	9
Parker Stotts	9
Hoyton Larson	9
Johnathan Dahlen	9
Russell Lage	8
Aston Reed	8
Carter Anderson	8
Grant Halland	8
Wyatt Lindberg	8
Cole Thayer	8
Everett Steckler	8
Trevell Stock	8
Luke Brisbois	8
Jack McIntyre	8
Jude Haugen	7
Kaden Kirsch	7
Chase Mickelson	7
Hayden Howard	7

Hawley Nugget Girls Golfers Ready For Fun Year

By Melissa Stock

Coach Ben Gunkelman will be entering his 17th year coaching girls golf in Hawley and his 14th year as the head coach. Ben is a Science teacher at Hawley High School. Peter Wollin will be entering his seventh year as assistant coach. Peter is a Math teacher at Hawley High School.

The returning varsity golfers for the Nuggets are Josie Schenck, Kiara Moy, Rylee Erickson, and Carley Ambuehl.

Hawley's team captains for the 2026 season are Josie Schenck, Kiara Moy, and Rylee Erickson.

Leading our team will be Josie who brings focus, determination, and dedication to our team. She puts in countless hours during the summer and will be our top golfer this year. Kiara, Carley, and Rylee will bring enthusiasm and work ethic to every practice. Emmy Cox and Madi Hoff are both freshman this year who are excited for the upcoming season and will also bring work ethic and eagerness to this season.

"I have some girls who put in a lot of time over the summer and are looking to showcase their new talents. The girls seem to have a dedication to golf this year that will be beneficial overall as we strive to achieve our goals," said Coach Gunkelman.



The Nugget girls golf team members are, left to right, front row-Siri Tickel, Ava Arnold, Kylee Geray, Ingrid Olson, Harper Jelinek, Presley Ward; middle row-Nora Schenck, Macy Pederson, Emmy Cox, Rylee Erickson, Ellie Odland, Ella Hanson, Carly Ambuehl; back row-Madi Hoff, Kiara Moy, Lily Nelson, Kendra Hill, Anna Ruarus, Marie Lowry, Josie Schenck, and Harper Odland.

Returning conference/state award winner from last year are: Josie Schenck received an all conference award last year.

This year the team is focusing on "lost strokes" (i.e. what part of the game do I need to focus on?). We are hoping by focusing on specific parts of each golfer's game, we can see big improvements throughout the season. We would also like to finish in the top three in the HOL as well as advance to the section tournament as a team.

When asked "Who do you consider the team to beat in the conference?" Coach Gunkelman responded with "To be honest, I don't really know who is going to be the team to beat. A lot of the teams lost some pretty good seniors, so the conference championship is up in the air as far as I am concerned. There could be a newcomer on a team that shifts the balance. Golf, as a team, is always tricky to predict."

The team lost Sophie Cook, Hailey Jelinek, and Emma Sannes. Sophie and Hailey have been cornerstones in the program for years so it will be a different season without them. I am excited to see Josie Schenck, Kiara Moy, Rylee Erickson, and Carley Ambuehl step up into leadership roles.

The record from last year's

conference standing and accomplishments was the team took second in HOL Conference, Sophie Cook tied for second at the Section golf meet, and Sophie Cook placed second at the state tournament.

Coach Gunkelman went on to say "This should be a fun and exciting season and I look forward to seeing some talented golfers on the team and I am excited to see how they improve this year."

Team roster includes:

Carley Ambuehl	11
Ava Arnold	7
Emmy Cox	9
Rylee Erickson	11
Kylee Geray	12
Ella Hanson	9
Kendra Hill	9
Madi Hoff	9
Harper Jelinek	7
Marie Lowry	10
Kiara Moy	11
Lilith Nelson	7
Harper Odland	8
Ellie Odland	10
Ingrid Olson	8
Macy Pederson	12
Anna Ruarus	11
Jocelyn Schenck	11
Nora Schenck	7
Siri Tickel	7
Neva Triedwasser	9

Good Luck Nugget Golfers!



Good Luck and Good Job Nuggets!

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