



BOYS

Vermillion had their share of bumps along the road in 2008-09. The Tanagers struggled in conference play and finished with 6-14 record. A five point loss to Dakota Valley in the District Tournament ended the season.

Jay Drake is ready for year two as head coach of the Tanagers and says his team will have to work hard to make up for the loss of some key players from last year.

“A huge key for us will be for our athletes to build on their varsity experience from last year. We will have to defend very well and rebound the basketball, which is a concern for us after losing two posts from last year’s team. We also must do a better job of holding onto the ball this season.”

Cole Andre (Sr., 6-2) and Kylene Freidel (Sr., 6-2) are the lone starters who remain from last year’s team. Both possess a scorer’s touch and are strong on the glass. Jason Rasmussen (Sr., 5-10), Aaron Steele (Sr., 5-9), and Erik Ulstad (Sr., 5-10) will battle it out for starts at guard while Tyler Husby (Jr., 6-0) will compete at forward. Some other names that are likely to appear in box scores include Sam Ekstrom (Sr., 5-11), Riley Vlasman (So., 6-3), Jaron Sorenson (Jr., 6-3), and Austin Krier (Fr., 5-10).

“We will not have much height and will lack a post presence both offensively and defensively. We need to do a good job on the boards which is a concern,” adds Drake.

The Tanagers might struggle early in the season, but as soon as the younger places can get accustomed to Varsity, the quicker we’ll see results.

2009-10 BOYS SCHEDULE

Dec-11	Harrisburg	A
Dec-15	Lennox	H
Dec-18	South Sioux City, NE	A
Dec-29	Tea Area	A
Jan-02	Winner	A
Jan-07	West Central	A
Jan-08	Parkston	A
Jan-15	Lennox	A
Jan-19	Elk Point-Jefferson	H
Jan-21	Sioux Falls Christian	A
Jan-23	Dakota Valley Classic	
Jan-26	West Central	H
Jan-28	Dell Rapids	H
Feb-02	Beresford	H
Feb-05	Madison	A
Feb-09	Dakota Valley	A
Feb-12	Harrisburg	H
Feb-15	Wagner	A
Feb-18	Madison	H
Feb-26	Canton	A

PREDICTED WINS:

6

2009-10 GIRLS SCHEDULE

Dec-11	Harrisburg	A
Dec-21	Madison	A
Dec-29	Tea Area	A
Jan-02	Winner Snowball Classic	A
Jan-05	Sioux City East, IA	A
Jan-08	Parkston	A
Jan-12	Madison	H
Jan-14	Lennox	H
Jan-19	Elk Point-Jefferson	H
Jan-22	Lennox	A
Jan-23	Dakota Valley Classic	A
Jan-28	West Central	A
Jan-29	Canton	A
Feb-02	Beresford	H
Feb-04	Dell Rapids	H
Feb-08	West Central	H
Feb-09	Dakota Valley	A
Feb-12	Harrisburg	H
Feb-15	Wagner	A

PREDICTED WINS:

7

GIRLS

Vermillion is coming off of a tough season where the Tanagers were only able to come up with three wins. Even more frustrating, was that a handful of losses were by less than ten points. The final loss of the season came at the hands of Elk Point-Jefferson in Districts.

Nick Mayer is ready to step into the head coaching role and is looking forward to his chance to coach the Tanagers.

“I am excited about our team this year. We have kids that love the game of basketball and we are willing to work hard to achieve their goals. We have a very difficult schedule and that should make us a better team.”

The Tanagers have a nice mix of new and veteran talent suiting up this season. Sierra Allen (Sr., 5-11) is a two-year starter who can kill you from inside the paint or hit the perimeter shot. Sophie Nehlich-Arobba (Sr., 5-6) is a solid point guard who has great court vision and can set up her teammates with ease. Sara Day (Sr., 5-11) has been fighting injuries, but should be back to 100% this year. Hannah Nehlick-Arobba (Sr., 5-7) is a versatile forward/guard who can score, rebound, and frustrate opponents with her defense. Morgan Erickson (Jr., 5-55) is a solid inside/outside player. She can drive the paint or stop and pop with great accuracy. Lexi Regnerus (So., 5-9), Kayla Munger (Sr., 5-9), Beth Szymonski (So., 5-7), and McKenzie Huska (Jr., 5-5) will be battling for starting and bench minutes.

The Tanagers have a nice mix of seniors, juniors, and sophomores who are going to mix well on the court. The result will be close games going the way of Vermillion and a nice improvement over last season.