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**[Borowicz back to lead Vikings](#)**

By Mike Meiler [Niagara Gazette](#)

Niagara Gazette — Despite a middling finish in last year’s Niagara Frontier League, the Grand Island Vikings held something over their local counterparts’ heads: One of theirs played longer than anybody else.

Kevin Borowicz, then a sophomore, finished third in the sectional tournament and was the highest-finishing underclassman, shooting 119 over 27 holes and earning a bid in the state tournament.

He was the only Niagara-area golfer to earn a spot on the Section VI State Championship team, where he finished tied for 78th with a 36-hole 173.

Borowicz and last year’s No. 1 Aaron Schauger are among six returning starters back in blue and white. Schauger joins Jacob Sweeney and Jake Lawley as returning seniors, while Borowicz, Tom Corrao and Frank DeRubes are returning juniors. Grand Island coach Craig Warthling said he expects to improve in league play this season.

“We had tryouts last week and (Sweeney) and Corrao were doing real well, hitting in the 30s,” Warthling said. “They didn’t do that last year.

“Last year it was Kevin and Aaron and then we went anywhere from 40s to 50s. If I can get a solid No. 3 or 4 in there to help my No. 1 and 2, we should do well.”

**Niagara Falls Wolverines**

The Wolverines return four key members from last year’s squad, including a trio of juniors in James Spanbauer, Jeremiah Gamble and Dave Yarger. Spencer Ventresca comes back as the lone senior on the team.

“We really haven’t lost as many guys as other guys have,” Niagara Falls coach Jack Pero said. “We definitely hope to improve. Everybody’s been very positive early on.”

Pero also said that the Wolverines will carry one of the bigger teams under his tenure this year due to more quality players coming out.

“Everybody looks good,” he said. “We had one of the larger turnouts than we have in years past when we were carrying 12 or 13 kids. Now we have about 20, There’s been lots of kids from middle school coming into high school that want to be on the team.”

Pero expects three freshmen to see ample time in his top eight this year. Cody Bielec was on the team last year, while Zach Schuster and Cole Gaffney are in their inaugural years.

#### Niagara-Wheatfield Falcons

The Falcons lost four of the top players from last year's top NFL team in sectional qualifiers Alex Kammerer and Nick Matos as well as graduated seniors Billy Lumadue and Dillon Hayes.

Matos was only a junior last year but left this season to play with the Jr. Sabres. Head coach Tim Codd said it'll be tough to replace that many golfers, but added that his team is up to the challenge.

"So far, we're doing alright," Codd said. That's a big gap to fill in when you lost your top four, but these guys know that they have to step into those spots."

This year's team will be led by seniors Zach Dubuc, John Liberti, Tyler Couch and Jeff Janese, as well as junior John Anderson.

Codd added that he has a couple of middle schoolers on his roster, highlighted by eighth grader Noah Wrazin, who made the team last season, and seventh grader Nick Peters.

#### Lewiston-Porter Lancers

The Lancers finished sixth in the NFL last year with a 4-10 record. They'll return three juniors in Joe Laurendi, Justin Quinn and Robert Dibacco.

Head coach Jason Lesh said he's not sure how much his team will improve this year, but said he expects to be better in the future.

"We have some freshman coming out that could make the team stronger in the future," Lesh said. "We're just not sure where we are now yet."

#### Starpoint Spartans

Quite possibly the area's strongest team, the Spartans return all but one player from last year's undefeated ECIC North Small Division champions.

The loss of last year's No. 1 Kyle Griffin (SUNY Delhi) will be tough to overcome, but coach Dave Schopf said his team's impressive depth should ease the loss.

"This is the deepest team I've ever had," Schopf said. "It's tough because you're only allowed to designate eight scorers, but throughout the year I'll probably use 10 or 11 guys."

Schopf will look to seniors Joe Petri and Tyler Durkin, who he said are interchangeable as his No. 1 and 2, to lead the team.

“Both have been playing since eighth grade and bring a lot of experience to the table,” he said.

Also expected to make an impact are juniors Will Hoffman, John Zaccarella and Andrew Murchison, as well as sophomore Sean Brown.