By Jan Rahn
Managing Editor

With some varsity experience and “coachable girls,” Troy Kemling is looking forward to the 2012 girls golf season which kicks off in Bayard this week.

There are some tough teams in their district, said Kemling, and the girls will meet those teams Thursday (today).

Kemling is looking to junior Carra Johnson to lead the team consisting of five juniors, one sophomore and two incoming freshmen.

“She provides leadership to the team and is willing to help out the younger players,” Kemling said. “Carra has an optimistic attitude.”

Three golfers besides Johnson have experience as returning letter winners.

He can count on the girls encouraging and supporting each other—what he considers a strength of the team. His concern is the lack of preparation during the summer.

“The girls didn’t play this summer like I had hoped they would,” said Kemling. “We also have more competition for varsity positions this year.”

He said he hopes the girls decide to rise to the challenge and focus on improving their golf game each day.

“Whatever the gap is at Bayard (between us and Chadron, Dundy County and Ogallala) our goal is to close the gap by the end of the season,” said Kemling.

“Our younger players are going to challenge for a varsity spot, which should only make us better.”

A key meet for the girls is the mid-September meet in Ogallala, which Kemling says will show the girls how much they've improved and how far they still need to go—because the district meet will also be held in Ogallala the beginning of October.

Returning letter winners besides Johnson include juniors Capri Meyer, Hailey Sletten and Shania Stickley. Also on the team are fellow classmate Alexis Schmidt, sophomore Rachel Carrig and newcomers Renae Goodwin and Mandy Reichert, who is being eyed for a possible varsity slot.