

School Board Workshop:

October 10, 2022

Subject:

Spring 2022 Activities Report

Presenter:

Nick Guida, BHS Activities Director

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION: Report

DESCRIPTION: Season Summaries

Buffalo High School successfully completed its Spring activities seasons for the 2021-22 school year. Coaches and Advisors have completed a short narrative of their season for you to review. Thank you for supporting activities at BHS!

Adapted Softball

Head Coach: Diedre Anderson (2nd year)

Adapted Softball had a successful season, not as a result of our record, but because of the impact this team has on its players and coaches. The Coyotes show up to every game and give it their all, while also showing incredible sportsmanship and team player qualities. I am so proud of our 4 seniors: Hannah, Logan, Jordan, and Isaiah for their commitment to the Coyotes.

I keep stats but I don't feel that numbers will ever show the full picture of this team. Each and every one of our players is reminded every day of the barriers they face or the challenges they must overcome that their peers will never know. When the Coyotes show up to a game, those barriers and challenges disappear and these kids get their chance to shine. I'm incredibly proud of every home run Lisa Bull had, and Jordan Ragone for getting on base for the first time ever this past spring. I'm proud of Natalie Payne for catching some ridiculous pop flies, and for Vanessa Kyllonen's ability to read the game and make plays infield. I'm proud of Aubrey Sands for how hard she works every day to develop her skills, and for Isaiah LaBelle for being such a wonderful addition to the team. Go Coyotes!

Softball

Head Coach: Greg Amundson (1st year)

Season Record

4-7 in Lake Conference play

8-14 overall

All-Conference – Seniors Ella Ebert (Pitcher) and Rachael Noble (Shortstop)

Honorable Mention – Senior Rachel Hintze (CF) and Juniors Kyler Hettwer (RF/1B) and Heidi Johnson (Pitcher)

Track and Field

Head Coach: Scott Palmer (28th year as Head Coach)

The spring of 2022 brought some favorable weather and the return of pre-COVID participation numbers to Bison Track and Field. The Girls team boasted 77 student athletes and the boys had 93 student athletes, both numbers far exceed the previous season. The Bison compete in the toughest conference in the state for Track and Field, the Lake Conference. At the Lake Conference Meet, the Bison finished in 7th for both the boys and the girls but were able to score more points than the previous year as well as garner more all conference athletes, with seven All Lake Conference athletes and 6 honorable mention All Lake Conference athletes. The fierce competition week in and week out in the Lake Conference does pay dividends; at the end of the year the Bison Tracksters are battle tested seeing the state's best on a weekly basis. The Bison sent 17 athletes to the state meet hosted at STMA and brought home 10 All State awards. The Bison were represented in the following events; Girls 4x200 (5th), 4x400 (4th), 200 and the 400 (4th). Boys 4x800 (1st), 4x400, 800 (1st), 3200, 1600 and the Discus. Both the Boys and Girls teams posted 8 Bison Top Ten performances each and the girls were able to break school records in the 100 Hurdles, 400 meter dash, 4x200 meter relay and the 4x400 meter relay.

Boys Golf:

Head Coach: Paul Olson (6th year)

The 2022 golf season was notable for multiple reasons. One of the most significant being the sale of Wild Marsh by the City of Buffalo to a private ownership group. Wild Marsh has been the home for Bison golf almost since it opened.

The transition of management took place only a month prior to the scheduled season opening and the start of practices. The relationship and goals were new both for BHS and the owners and initially presented some challenges. After multiple correspondences and meetings, BHS staff, coaches and the owners were able to negotiate a schedule

and agree upon expectations that allowed structured access to the course and some flexibility in scheduling home events.

On league or event days, practice shifted to the Golfmasters Driving Range. League play increased incrementally until mid-May when tee times for practices were most limited. The staff at Wild Marsh always made an attempt to be accommodating while also being mindful of their commitments to leagues. Going forward, pre-season conversations with the owners should take place annually, prior to opening, to negotiate and agree upon terms and conditions for BHS use.

23 students registered for golf. All took part in basic preseason indoor practices. It was made clear that due to time and space limitations at Wild Marsh and a full schedule of V and JV events commencing almost immediately, tryouts would need to be held. Due to the weather and Wild Marsh being closed, the tryouts were eventually held over two days at Buffalo Heights Golf Course. A team consisting of 14 players was selected based upon scores. It consisted of 6 Varsity/6 JV and 2 developmental players.

For 2022, there were 5 Varsity Intra-Lake Conference competitions. Three of them were "double-duals" with 3 teams competing together at the home course of one of the teams. Coaches were expected to schedule the events by working with the course and the other two teams. The other two events were a conference mid-year and final. BHS hosted the Mid-Year event at Wild Marsh. The balance of the season included invitationals or "competitions" with nearby schools. The final Varsity schedule consisted of 15 competitions.

The Lake Conference does not schedule events for Junior Varsity golf teams. It was thereby incumbent upon the coaches to develop a JV schedule. BHS JV coach Mark Pokorney was able to schedule 12 competitions that included dual meets and invitationals. With that number of meets, the coaches were also able to provide multiple opportunities for all 14 players.

Team highlights for the season included a very impressive 3rd place finish in the final Lake Conference standings highlighted by a 2nd place finish in the Conference finals at Baker National. Three Conference teams were rated among the top teams in the State, (Edina captured the State title), making for an elite level of competition. Conference standings are determined by points awarded during the season and the finals. Two Bison players, Arthur Ylitalo and Jayce Hansen, earned All-Conference awards while Harvey Ylitalo earned Honorable Mention.

Other season highlights included 1st place finishes in 3 multi-team Varsity invitationals. The BHS Varsity team's lowest finish was 5th. The team established what is believed to be a school record low team score of 291, (a team's 4 lowest scores of it's 6 count). Junior Arthur Ylitalo shot a competitive round of 66 which is also believed to be a school record. The JV had a very respectable season team low score of 349 and placed in the top 10 at multiple large events.

Girls Golf

Head Coach: Tim Murray (2nd year as Head Coach)

After a year in the Lake Conference, the Buffalo Bison Golf team came into the season with a desire to use past experiences to have another successful season. We had a core group of golfers on Varsity that was joined by JV golfers that were ready to compete and play at the varsity level. Once again, we found success through several different metrics, despite the win/loss record not always showing success.

The team consisted of 19 golfers, with 8 new to the team. Unlike last year, we had a more consistent varsity core. This year, we had 7 golfers compete at the varsity level: Aspen Adams, Kendra Carey, Anna Kugler, Natalie Mix, Mackenzie Mjelde, Hayley Rohlin, and Raegan Wurm. All of these golfers earned a varsity letter. We had four seniors this year: two that had previous BHS golf experience in Grace Murphy and Claudia Staut; and two that joined to have a positive end to their High School career in a life-long sport: Elisabeth Krinke and Payton Tweten.

Every year, our team discusses what "being successful" means; both to them as an individual, and as a team. Almost immediately, the team identifies that success is not defined by the wins and losses, first-place finishes, or "winning it all." Each golfer identified various golf skills as well as team measures in which they could define success. From, "learning to hit a shot out of the sand," to "understanding how a penalty is counted," to "enjoying time outside with friends," to "making it to the second day of Sections." We had a wide-range of successful goals and many of them were met.

We also found success competitively when we finished second in a conference match at Oak Ridge Country Club, a successful finish at Rogers' Invitational, and a day-two showing at sections at Rich Spring Golf Club. Throughout the year, the team remained positive despite not always finishing as good as they felt they could - but when it mattered, they played awesome at sections. It had been a few years since the team

made it to day two of sections and it was a great way to cap off another successful season.

I want to end this year's recap the same way that I ended last year's recap: We will continue to work hard and prepare to compete in our conference and section against the best golfers across the state and we will continue to look for successes on and off the course. It was an amazing season with amazing girls that continue to amaze both Coach Murray and Coach Conroy with their positivity, perseverance, patience and purpose. We can't wait for what 2023 has in store for us all!

Baseball

Head Coach: Mike Beilke (19 years)

The Bison finished the year with a record of 3-17. We finished the year with a Lake Conference record of 2-10. One of the highlights of the season was beating the number 2 and 5 ranked teams in the state. Evan Soeffker and Tristan Moore were selected to the All-Conference team and Logan LaPlante and Carson Schwartz received Honorable Mention All-Conference Awards. Paul Brown was voted Most Improved. Evan Soeffker was voted Most Dedicated, Captains Award, MVP, Pitching Award and Hitting Award. Tyson Moore was selected as Rookie of the Year. Dawson West was selected for the Hustler and Ultimate Teammate Awards. Tristan Moore received the Captains Award. Evan Soeffker was selected to the Metro West All Star Team. Evan Soeffker, Paul Brown, Max Hartke, Doug Bartlett and Dawson West will all be lost to graduation. Thank you to the seniors for their outstanding attitudes and leadership. We are very excited about the players we have returning for next season. We have a wealth of young talent returning. We have several pitchers with varsity experience returning for next season. I really enjoyed coaching this group of young men. Go Bison!!!

Boys Tennis:

Head Coach: Ben Watkins (11th Year)

The 2022 Buffalo Boys Tennis team was very possibly the most successful and talented team that has come through our school in the past 13+ years. The group of graduating seniors has accounted for more career victories than any other graduating class I have had. They ended the year with a team record of 15-9, however 8 of the 9 losses were at the hands of teams ranked inside the top 10 in Wisconsin or Minnesota, and 3 of those losses were 3-4 losses that were incredibly close matches!

Some season highlights included early season wins against Washburn, St. Paul Harding and Elk River, which was the first time Buffalo has beaten perennial powerhouse Elk River in over 30 years! The success did not stop there. The team also had convincing wins over very good Brainerd, St. Cloud Tech, Alexandria and Rogers teams, but the most telling stretch of the season came toward the end of the year when Buffalo played against STMA, Monticello and Delano within a two-day span. Buffalo beat each team 7-0 without losing a single set against any of our rival schools. It was a really fun two days!

Sam Shaffer (10th grade) repeated this year with the most singles wins (14), while junior Andrew Lotthammer won 18 doubles matches, which paced the team. Andrew had the highest winning percentage on the team, but was followed closely by Sam, Patrick Lubben and Andy Shaffer, who all had very successful years.

Award winners for this year's team consisted of Turner Marr and Andy Shaffer, sharing the team MVP, freshman Daniel Jungwirth was voted as the most improved player, and senior captain, Patrick Lubben, was voted as the Bison/Team Spirit Award recipient. Turner Marr, Andy Shaffer and Sam Shaffer each earned 1st team all-conference honors, especially prestigious in the Lake Conference, while Patrick Lubben and Gavin Wyatt earned honorable mention.

Once again, the team earned the All-State Gold award, with a team GPA higher than 3.75, which ended with an average team GPA (top 10 high school GPAs of our section roster) of 3.95 - the highest I have ever had, which really speaks to how hard these guys work in the classroom and the incredibly high standard they hold themselves to!

It was an incredible year with a group of student-athletes that refused to give up and continued to improve throughout the season with hard work and great attitudes. I am incredibly proud to coach this group of young men - they inspire me with how well they treat their opponents and each other.

Boys Lacrosse

Head Coach: Chad Hayda (3rd year as Head Coach)

Asst Coaches: Justin Linderholm, Tyler Bruder

Season Recap:

We had an undefeated regular season record of (13-0) sweeping the Lake Conference and winning the Conference Championship. We ended with a loss to #2 ranked (at the time) in the state Chanhassan finishing the year (14-1).

Layne Kology led the state in goals with (73) and Ethan Nuss led the state in assists with (52). Griffin Valli was 4th in state in Forced Turnovers (56) and Connor Youngquist was 7th in state with (46) Forced Turnovers. Lane was All American, Griffin was 2nd Team All State. Griffin, Ethan, Layne and Hunter were All Section (2) as well. Owen (5.45), Layne (5.8) and Ethan (5.2) all had north of 5 Pts/game. I was Section 2 Coach of the Year.

Buffalo records broken in 2022:

- Layne broke the Buffalo single season goals record set by Owen the year before (now at 73)
- Ethan broke his own single season assist record (52)
- Griffin broke his own single season forced turnover record (56)
- Hunter broke the single season Ground balls record (105)
- Layne is now the all-time Buffalo leader in goals with (117) (Owen graduated 3rd all time with (102))
- Ethan is 2nd all-time in assists (95)

Girls Lacrosse

Head Coach: Peter Robson (5th year)

The Bison finished their season with a 2-4 record in Lake Conference action (5th place) and an overall record of 8-8. The highlight of the season was playing the eventual state runner up, Elk River in the section finals. The Bison were lead by top scorer Eleanor Toussaint.

Here are other individual highlights:

All section 8 1st Team, Eleanor Toussaint

All section 8 2nd Team, Bella Weiche

All conference Lake Conference- Eleanor Toussaint, Bella Weiche, Maddie Mootz

All conference honorable mention: Mckinlee Knutson, Aurora Meyer, Bailey Mischke

Team Spirit - Ella Vajda

Most Improved - Kaya Garrett

Offensive MVP - Bella Weiche

Defensive MVP - Maddie Mootz

Summer Marching Band

Director: Scott Rabehl (Director .. 18 overall)

Unbelievable. That's all I can say about this year's band. The math says it all. We had our smallest band ever in 2021 (86 including 29 "super seniors") and bounced back with

123 members in 2022. This means this large band was almost half rookies. We had a tremendous amount to learn and very little experience to build on. Yet, our season was fantastic by any standard. Attendance was terrific. The leadership team met their sections “where they were at” and moved them forward one step at a time...literally.

As always, we had one of the largest bands in the state...only two bands were larger. And, with less rehearsal time than every other group, we continue to be highly ranked. Although we don’t have a state championship in parade marching, I am comfortable saying that we ended the season ranked 4th in the state of MN once again. I am satisfied with that finish. Our colorguard, once again, matched up to the performance level of the winds, the drumline, and the overall marching skill of the rest of the band. This allowed us to jump into the top 5 last year, and stay there this year.

Competitive Summary

	Score	Placement	Specials
Buffalo	76.6	Exhib.	If we’d have been in competition “The HERD” would have been 2nd out of 8 bands.
Foley	79.6	Grand Champions out of 10 bands	1st in Class AA, 2nd overall in Drumline, 2nd overall in Color Guard, 1st in Winds, 1st in Music, 1st in Marching and 1st in General Effect
Sauk Rapids	87.1	Grand Champions out of 9 bands	Festival Ratings system so we don’t have scores of other bands.
Lake City	85.4	2nd out of 6 bands	2nd in everything but Drumline (3rd in that) behind Litchfield...season Champion in MN
Roseville	83.8	3rd in Class AAA, 4th overall out of 11 bands...the top 3 bands in MN placed ahead of us	4th in everything but Drumline (5th in that) behind Litchfield, Waconia and the 728 Cadets (all-district band from Elk River)
Breckenridge, CO	Exhib.	Exhib.	
Frisko, CO	Exhib.	Exhib.	
Hanover	Exhib.	Exhib.	

Our average score in competitive parades (post Buffalo Days) was **83.98**, far into the **Superior** box. This is the highest average score in the history of the band.

Our trip to Colorado was amazing. These kids travel well and represent our communities the way we would like them to. Along the parade routes they were met with mouth-open wonder by folks in Colorado...these small resort communities had never seen anything like a high-powered Minnesota parade band. (Language ahead...) I heard "holy crap" over and over again as I walked along with the kids. People ran out in the street to take selfies with the band in the background. Everywhere we went, I collected compliments on the performance skills of our students...and on the way they carry themselves. They are mature, polite and respectful to everybody they meet.

Spring Play: *The Curious Savage*, by John Patrick

Co-Directors: Debb Bestland (12 years) and Tracy Hagstrom Durant (28 Years)

Tech Director: Greg Bestland

Student Lighting Design: Adam Gusel

Student Stage Manager: Amelia Butler

Student Sound Design: Abigayle DeWolfe

Student Lightboard Operator: JoJo Nosbush

Synopsis: The *Curious Savage* is the story of an elderly widow named Mrs. Savage, whose husband has left her \$10 million dollars. She intends to give the entire fortune away to people who wish to pursue their "foolish dreams," but her stepchildren strongly object. To prevent her from doing away with their family's wealth and ruining their legacy, they have her committed to a sanatorium called The Cloisters, and it is among the gentle residents there that she finds her true family. *The Curious Savage* is a warm comedy that compares the kindness and loyalty of psychiatric patients with the greed and hostility of so-called "normal people."

The spring play was performed on April 21,22, and 23, 2022. A cast of 12 Actors performed supported by 35 students involved in the various aspects of technical theatre including costumes, props, set building and painting, publicity, makeup, etc. Several supportive parents assisted in a myriad of ways, making possible a production of the highest quality. Very nice-sized crowds filled the PAC for three performances. Another rousing success!

The Curious Savage was a heartfelt show designed to make you laugh, cry, ponder and wonder. It also focused on essential lessons for today...friends are more important

than possessions. Our students were stretched to grow in their awareness of and portrayal of people very different from the ones they are usually with.

Cast:

Florence: Kenzie Donovan
Hanna: Harper Lostetter
Belle: Zoe Donofrio
Fairy May: Brielle McLearen
Jeffrey: Harrison Klaphake
Mrs. Paddy: Madelyn Benzer
Ethel Savage Olivia Thomes
Titus: Lucas Bokusky
Samuel: Ben Krinke
Lily Belle: Neve Elo
Dr. Emmet: Kenneth Eskuri
Miss Willie: Kylie Cox

Special appearance: 5-year-old Grayson Lierman (Florence's son)