

School Board Meeting:

May 10, 2010

Subject:

BHS Winter Activities Report

Presenter:

Tom Bauman

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:

None

DESCRIPTION:

Buffalo High School has completed its winter activities season for 2009-2010. This report includes a narrative summary for each winter activity. Coaches and advisors have submitted season summaries for your review. The report also includes a detailed statistical summary of participation including coaching/advisor ratios.

This winter season was like no other at Buffalo High School. We had six activities that were up for reduction in 2008-2009 because of the district's financial shortfalls. Two of those activities, Boys Swimming and Girls Nordic Ski, remained in existence because of diligent self funding efforts. Two other activities, Alpine Ski and Speech, were able to find and exist in cooperative agreements with other schools. Another activity, Drum Line, functioned as a club in 2009-2010 leaving Dance Team was the only experience completely lost from the prior year. With Boys and Girls LaCrosse now at the doorstep for approval to self fund, I will share at the board meeting what I believe to be the season successes regarding these activities, and challenges we face as we move forward considering these types of offerings in our department. Participation numbers appear to remain healthy, but our office is definitely noticing more and more hardships with student fees.

WINTER ACTIVITIES SUMMARIES:

BOYS HOCKEY: *Coach Mike MacMillan – (15 years head coach, 17 in program) The Bison Boys hockey team finished the 2009-10 season with a 7-16-1 with a .500 record in the Mississippi 8 conference. Again the Bison faced-off with some of the top teams in the State playing ten games against the top 15 AA. The Bison continue to play a one round series against the Classic Lake(Edina, Wayzata, Armstrong, Hopkins and Minnetonka). Our other non-conference games included: Roseau, Moorhead, Rosemount and Cloquet. We participated in the Duluth Heritage Tournament in Duluth.*

Overall on the win/loss column not the best season but were in hunt for the Conference title until the last game. We finished with two players being selected to the M8 All-Conference Team, two players selected to the Section 8AA all-star team and 1 to the Minnesota Hockey great 8 team. We also added two players to our JV team who had quit hockey but came back this season.

We lost our first playoff game to Brainerd on the road to end the season 7-4. We graduate 7 players from this year's team.

Our team was selected the Section 8AA all-academic team with a 3.49 GPA and recognized by the MHCA for the accomplishment.

GIRLS HOCKEY: Coach Ray Dahlof—(4 years)

The Bison Girls' Hockey team finished the 2009-2010 season with a final overall record of 13 wins-11 losses and 2 ties. The Mississippi 8 record was 7-5 which was good for a 3rd place tie. The team had many close games winning 4 one goal games and losing 5 one goal games. Seven of the losses were to teams that were ranked in the top 20 in either class AA or A. The team won both of their games in the annual Thanksgiving tournament hosted at the Buffalo Civic Center. They also placed third at the Channel 12 Holiday Tournament held at the Plymouth Ice Center. Led by captains Hannah Champion, Lauren Rosso and Francie Varner the team had a successful year. The Bison lost a close section quarterfinal game in the section 6AA playoffs to Robbinsdale Armstrong by a score of 2-1. Hannah Champion, Prentice Basten and Katie Rooney were selected to the M8 all-conference team. Emily Ackmann, Haley Morningstar, Lauren Rosso and Francie Varner were selected to the all-conference, honorable mention team. Katie Rooney was selected as the team Most Valuable Player. The Bison graduated five seniors; Chelsey Alexander, Miranda DuBois, Hannah Champion, Lauren Rosso and Francie Varner.

Two of the seniors were selected to play in the annual senior classic all star game; Hannah Champion and Francie Varner.

The Bison Girls' Hockey team is a co-op team consisting of players from the following schools; Buffalo, Delano, Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted, Maple Lake and Rockford.

BOYS BASKETBALL: Coach Nick Guida— (7 years head coach, 13 in program)

The 2009-10 basketball season once again proved to be an exciting one. This year's squad finished with a 21-7 record, Section 8AAAA runner-up, and a 4th consecutive Mississippi 8 Conference championship with a 15-1 record.

Each and every year teams go through adversity. This year's team is no exception. On November 22nd we had a tragedy happen to our family at BHS with the loss of Jon Kramnic in a terrible car accident. Jon was very close to a number of the players in our program. Along with the loss of Jon, we had a number of injuries early on which challenged our depth as a team. With those challenges, along with a competitive schedule, we started the season 2-5 in our first 7 contests. As frustrating as it seemed for the kids at times, we never wavered from our goals. Everyday this group stepped on the floor with the idea of improving individually and collectively as a team. What a great

feeling it was when our hard work started to pay off. We went on a 10 game winning streak to “right the ship.” Throughout this time, you could see the kids grow into a “team” that cared about each other on and off the floor! After a tough Pat Sonju Memorial game loss to highly rated Cooper, we went on to win 9 more games in a row right into the section final game against Tech. We had beat Tech a few weeks earlier but this was not our night. For the second straight year they knocked us out of the playoffs in the section finals.

It was a great game in a great atmosphere at SCSU. It also marked the last game for six seniors: Brent Kettenacker, Aaron Duske, Lucas Hein, Zach Hartung, Brandon Bares, and Erik Starr. These individuals are leaving a championship legacy. With 21 wins, this group will go down as one of the most successful teams in Buffalo High School history.

*****After our April 11th banquet, you can access all season records and awards on the courseweb site. Here is the log on information:***

Students / Athletes: go to “<http://courseweb.buffalo.k12.mn.us>” on your web browser.

In the top right hand corner of the page there is a Login link. Click it.

This will take you to the Login page. Here type in your student Username and password that you use to login at school.

The next page will have a menu of course categories. Click on the Activities link under Buffalo High School. Then click on the Bison Boys Basketball link.

You will be required to enter a “key”. This is the only time you will need to use that key. It is “bison”. You now have access to the Bison Boys Basketball web site.

Parents / Supporters: got to “<http://courseweb.buffalo.k12.mn.us>” on your web browser. In the top right hand corner of the page there is a Login link. Click it.

This will take you to the Login page. Click on the “Log in as a guest” button. The next page will be a menu of course categories.

Click on the Activities link under Buffalo High School. Then click on the Bison Boys Basketball link.

You will need a “key” to gain access. This key will be needed every time you login as a guest. It is “bison”. You now have access to the Bison Boys Basketball web site.

GIRLS BASKETBALL: Coach Scot Sorenson—(Head Coach 6 years, 11 in program) Assistants. Amanda Hastings, Jeff Kylonen, and Todd Roddenwald: The 2009 - 2010 Bison girls basketball team started the season with a tough road game at Elk River. Both teams have gone through major changes in their line-up due to graduation. The Bison return just three key players from the previous year and are relying on a strong group of juniors to fill the void. They held on to a four point lead to start the season with a win. The good play continued as the Bison participated in the “top seed” game in the M – 8 vs. Central lakes shootout. They played highly touted Alexandria. Buffalo came away with a 67-60 victory and had a great start to their season. Buffalo earned another tough victory at STMA just before the holidays and went into the new year undefeated in the conference. Strong effort carried us through the middle of the season and this group with only one senior was playing great basketball. They secured the first ever conference championship with a win at Big Lake in February. Their dream of repeating as section champs was thwarted in the semifinals as Buffalo took on Brainerd for the fourth year in a row and were downed 57 – 54 @ Apollo. A great season was rewarded with some individual awards. We had four players make the all-conference team, Sr. Kristin Jeske,

Jrs. Molly Muntifering, Malorie Schmidt, Kendra Wycoff, along with Jr. Rachel Mussell on the honorable mention team. Our captains this year included our only Sr. Jeske, and for the first time three Jrs. Muntifering, Mussell, and Kendra Wycoff. The strong group of underclassmen helped our JV team go undefeated for the year under first year, interim coach Amanda Hastings.

Kristin Jeske became Buffalo's all time great three point shooter, taking over the top spot in both percentage and makes for a career. It was an excellent year and we have some hungry young athletes working to do it again next year.

WRESTLING: Coach Paul Arens—(5 years)

The Bison wrestling team began the 2009-2010 season with many new faces. After graduating eight seniors from the 2009 squad, Bison wrestling was headed for a rebuilding year. Most of the varsity wrestlers were 9th and 10th graders who had little varsity experience. The team experienced a great deal of on the mat training which led to a much improved squad towards the end of the season. The team also suffered injuries to some key wrestlers throughout the season. Senior Brady Maus had injured his knee in the first months of the season and was unable to finish the season. Freshman Mike Simeon also suffered an injury late in the football season which kept his match count down to only 15 matches. The season was not without highlights. We had a number of wrestlers finish high at the section tournament. Senior Timmy Ruter won the section tournament and advanced to the state tournament. Junior Tanner Robasse and freshman Mike Simeon both place second but failed to qualify for the state meet after losing their true second matches. Freshman Cederic Jimenez, sophomore Lucas Mock, and sophomore Tanner Maus all placed in the top six at the section meet. Timmy Ruter finished his senior year on a high note placing 4th at the state wrestling meet. He also set the Bison school record for career wins with 147.

The 2009-2010 season saw its share of ups and downs. With so much youth competing at the varsity level and a strong youth program there is little doubt that the Buffalo wrestling team will be strong again in the future.

GIRLS GYMNASTICS: Coaches Martha Driscoll-Nelson (26 years), Jon Holtz (15)

The Bison Gymnastics coaches will all tell you that we had the most fun we have ever had in all of our years of coaching. The team consistently brought great attitudes and a strong work ethic to practice every day. We could not ask for more. While it was not the team's best year for scoring, several records broken. The JV team score was set this year and the individual Beam score was also broken. The Bison finished in the middle of the Mississippi 8 conference. Once again state power houses Cambridge Isanti, Becker and Big Lake finished at the top.

Nadja Vragovic won the honors of All Section Team for beam and All- Conference Honorable Mention on beam.

Amber Doebler was All-Conference Honorable Mention on bars.

Paige Habisch was All-Conference Honorable Mention on floor.

Two other gymnasts were named to the Academic All-Section Team, Leeza Kennedy and Katie Kemp.

Overall, it was an amazing year, we all look forward to next year as we only graduate one senior. (Brittany Knight)

ONE-ACT PLAY: Director Tracy Hagstrom—(18 years)

Nickel and Dimed, By: Joan Holden

Based on *Nickel and Dimed, on (Not) Getting by in America* by Barbara Ehrenreich

20 students participated in the One-Act Play program during the 2009-2010 season. This year, director Tracy Hagstrom Durant, selected another interesting, educational and very current production. *Nickel and Dimed* is a very timely play that examines the difficulty of living on minimum wage in America and the effects it has on individuals and families. It seemed to fit quite well into what we are currently experiencing in the US and also hit home for local Buffalo, Hanover and Montrose residents. It was a life altering experience for our students. Once again our theatre students worked diligently and produced another winning show.

Nickel and Dimed Synopsis: Can a middle-aged, middle-class woman survive, when she suddenly has to live on \$7 an hour? Maybe. But one \$7-an-hour job won't pay the rent: she'll have to do back-to-back shifts, as a dietary aid and a waitress. This isn't the first surprise for acclaimed author Barbara, who set out to research low-wage life firsthand, confident she was prepared for the worst. Barbara Ehrenreich's best-seller about her odyssey is vivid and witty, yet always deeply sobering. Joan Holden's stage adaptation is a focused comic epic shadowed with tragedy. "A rare example of theater that tries to open people's eyes to the way life is lived in the real world—and maybe even rouse them to action." —Time Magazine

2009-2010 Season Performance Record

Bobby Person and Michael Patchen – Mississippi 8 All-Conference Cast

Michael Deisting – All-Conference Crew

Margaret Polzine – All-Conference Cast Honorable Mention

Sub-Section 2AA – 3rd place

BOYS SWIMMING: Coach Pam Brophy (1st year head coach 4th year in program)

The 2009-2010 Boys' Swim & Dive season was the most successful in the team's 6-year history. Our dual meet record was 7-2, which resulted in a tie for 2nd place in the Mississippi 8 conference. We had two second place finishes at Invitational Meets, which is the highest tournament placement for our team. At sections, the boys earned a record 13, top-8 medals, for an overall 5th place finish. Three athletes advanced to state as a result of their strong section performances. Tanner Bauman set an 11 dive team record with his second place finish at sections. He went on to place 11th in diving at state to

become Buffalo's highest-level state athlete for Boys' Swim & Dive. Blake Solberg placed 4th in diving at sections and finished 20th at State. David Zaske set a new team record in Breaststroke with his 2nd place finish at sections and went on to place 17th at State. Over 90% of our athletes dropped time and/or improved scores in post-season competition. 46 swimmers and divers made the "Top 15" list for the season, and team records were set in 7 out of 12 events. Our program had 5 All Conference Selections, 3 Honorable Mention All-Conference Selections, and 7 All Academic Conference recipients.

More importantly, our athletes learned the value of perseverance, commitment, and teamwork. As a self-funded program this year, our swim family bagged groceries, had a garage sale, served pancakes, hosted dances, took photos with Santa, tasted muffins, served fish, bussed tables, washed dishes, served spaghetti, sold adds, sold pizza cards, sold chuck-a-ducks, volunteered at the Triathlon, and cleaned two abandoned home sites to raise the money to have a program for 2009-2010. The life-lessons gained from this opportunity go far beyond their successes in the pool and on the boards.

It was a pleasure to work with this exceptional group of young people who do such an excellent job of representing their school community!

KNOWLEDGE BOWL: Coach Peggy Pasche-- (20th year) Assistant Coach Doug Voerding

The Knowledge Bowl team consisted of 29 students in grades 9-12. These students were divided up into teams of 4 or 5 in practice and competition. With many juniors and seniors on this year's team, the varsity sometimes had 5 teams competing at meets. These competitions were against anywhere from 15-70 teams. The top Buffalo team placed **first** in **every single meet** this year except one of them. Competing in the Chaska Invitational against the top teams in the metro area, Buffalo team #1 ended up a close **third**.

The Buffalo team also won the Mississippi 8 Knowledge Bowl tournament (for the 5th year in a row). The team set a record in scoring the most points ever by a Buffalo team and beat 2nd place Zimmerman by 88 points. Because of their first place finish, 5 students from Buffalo were named as All-Conference members: Seniors Michael Bonde, Gina Filo, Neil Gleason, Jensen Maiden and Junior Jonathon Hank.

At sub-regions, both of the Buffalo teams advanced to the Region meet, with team #1 placing **first** and team #2 placing **sixth** in the large school division. At Regions on March 18, Team #1 again took **first place**, beating 2nd place Rogers by almost 20 points and advanced to State for the eighth time in the last ten years. Team #2 just missed going on to state when they were defeated by St. Cloud Tech by 2 points. The State Meet is in mid-April at Cragun's Resort in Brainerd, where the five students mentioned above will compete against the top 24 teams in Class AA. Four of those 5 students make a return trip to state, where they finished in 8th place last year.

GIRLS NORDIC SKI: Coach: Jill Hanson—(10 years, 7 years head coach)

We completed our inaugural self funding program feeling good about the program. Snow fell early and we had enough snow to have a great season of skiing right outside our back door at the high school. Tim Heisel had invested in a top of the line 4wheeler which was more like a snowmobile and he kept our trails groomed much of the season. Teams were very happy for us that we continued to be a Nordic ski team. Our team continues to improve and be a team to contend with in our competitions. We won several team championships, and placed 2nd in several others. We did not have the individual skier but we focused on the team effort. Often at races we would finish 4,5,6,7. We placed 5th in the sections with the girls placing close together but still behind the elite teams. We are planning on competing again next season and should really see improvement as our girls are another year older.

MOCK TRIAL: *Coach Laurie Raymond— (16 years)*

Assistant coach was Evan Ronken and attorney coaches were Karen Wolff and Kari Willis. The season went from October to March.

The first competition at Lakeville South was not team awards but awards for best lawyers and witnesses. Receiving an outstanding lawyer award was Graham Wyatt and receiving an outstanding witness award was Lindy Jensen.

The first tournament was held at the University of MN tournament in January. Individual lawyer awards were given to Graham Wyatt. Receiving an individual witness's award was Katarina Randall. The team also placed 6th overall.

We won the Mississippi 8 Conference title, 5th year in a row.

THEY BEAT MONTICELLO FOR THE TITLE. RECEIVING ALL CONFERENCE AWARDS WERE ATTORNEY'S GRAHAM WYATT, BETH MACNAB AND WITNESS COLM MACNAB. RECEIVING CONFERENCE HONORABLE MENTION WAS ATTORNEY KIAN STACK AND WITNESSES LINDY JENSEN AND KENZIE HAIGHT.

The varsity competed AGAINST Elk River in round five and won. There was an addition error by one judge and it was first announced Elk River had won and they re-count and it was announced Buffalo had won.

They participated at the State Competition that was held in Minneapolis on March 9th and 10th. In round one they beat St. Peter, round two they beat Albert Lea and in round three they beat Woodbury. The Bison made it to the championship round and lost to Breck High School. They ended up second in State.

In the last five years the Bison have won State, placed second twice and placed 7th once. At the end of the season, Coach Laurie Raymond announced her retirement. She has coached mock trial for 16 years. Her successor will be Evan Ronken.

WINTER CHEERLEADING: *Coach Barb Christensen-- (5th year):*

The season was off to an early start this year with several of the cheerleaders participating in both Fall and Winter. The squad focused on boy's basketball games and community involvement along with hosting a mini-clinic for kids ages 6-12. We had a fun-filled day with activities including team building games, cheers, dances, and a final performance that evening at the boy's basketball game. Each participant received a t-shirt, megaphone, and certificate as part of their \$15 enrollment. We received nothing but positive feedback and plan to host another event in the summer. The girls worked together again with the Chamber of Commerce in welcoming businesses and spectators at the Community Expo in February. Unfortunately, the season came to an end once again with the boy's basketball team loss in the section final game.

SPEECH: *Coach Mike Worcester—(6th Year-1st year in Co-op with STMA)
11 Buffalo participated in Co-op with STMA. 3 Buffalo participants advanced to state making that the most in school history, Luke Weinzetl, Jennifer Engnell, and Madelyn Roseen. Many unanswered questions remain left to answer surrounding this activity structure this year. Finances, Accounts and Fees, Coaching, Transportation have all been a challenge this year. A more clear direction needs to be identified next year for the co-op to continue.. I found out this year that a non-athletic activity, in the form of a co-op, is very different than an athletic activity of which I am much more familiar with.*

BOYS AND GIRLS ALPINE SKI: *(1st year C-op with St. Cloud)
4 Buffalo participated in Co-op with St. Cloud. Senior William MacMillan and BCMS student Kelly Zelko were both letter winners for the St. Cloud team. Sophomores Paul McAlpine and Zach Pitcock of Buffalo also participated. The activity cost was \$150 dollars to participate and students and families provided transportation to practices and events.*

Both participants of these activities in co-ops were granted letters or certificates, and the appropriate awards from Buffalo High School.