

**School Board Meeting/Workshop:**

**August 27, 2012**

**Subject:**

Spring Activities Report

**Presenter:**

**Tom Bauman**

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**SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:**

None

**DESCRIPTION:**

*Buffalo High School has completed its spring activities season for 2011-2012. This report includes a narrative summary for each spring activity. Coaches and advisors have shared the summaries of their seasons for your review. The report also includes a detailed statistical summary of participation including coaching/advisor ratios.*

Activity Updates

*A resolution to accept 4 new schools into the Mississippi 8 Conference will be considered. A meeting for the coaches/advisors of the 10 schools for 2013-2014 will be held at Monticello High School on September 19.*

*A coaches/advisors evaluation system is in place for 2012-2013. It already has been communicated and distributed to Fall coaches.*

*In this report we have also added some year-round activity reports from advisors. My hope is to give a flavor of what is going on in those great "activities" at BHS.*

**Spring Play:** Director Tracy Hagstrom Durant (20 years) Deb Bestlund (1<sup>st</sup> year)

The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Production of Macbeth (yes that really was the title), a hilarious farce comedy..... Very funny show...sort of a play like the movie Waiting for Guffman. Bad community theatre. Really funny.....Thanks for attending.....

**Girls Softball:** *Coach Brad Zrust (8 years)*

The season we had can be put in a game of streaks. We started out real fast in winning our first 4 games, but this was followed up by a 5 game losing streak. As a Coach of this year's team, you see many different emotions that come with a season like this. There was a lot of confidence early on followed by a lot of frustration. I know as a coach, it was a learning experience for me, as well as the girls in that you can never take anything for granted in a season in which you have high expectations.

We finished in 3rd place in the conference. Our next step was the playoffs in which we won our first game against Minneapolis-Southwest. We then took on a team from Orono that was 19-1. Our team gave them everything they wanted in losing 2-1 and leading them for 4 out of seven innings.

Now as the season has ended I look back at our conference play and play-offs and see how much our team grew from those early season struggles. They learned to battle and not give up. I saw our girls became tougher mentally. As a Coach, that is something that you are encouraged to see for next year in that we have two seniors this year.

These girls grew up not only on the field this year, but also off of it. Hopefully they will be able to take this season and apply it later on down the road when life is not always easy. Athletics builds a lot of character and they found that out.

Once again it was a joy in coaching the purple and white.

**Baseball:** *Coach Mike Beilke (9 years)*

The Bison finished the year with an overall record of 6-14, and a conference record of 4-8. One of the highlights of the year was winning the Sam Munoz Memorial Game with a walk-off game winning hit. We had 7 players receive conference awards. Senior Colton Haight, Senior 3B/P JD O'Donnell, and Sophomore RF/P Andrew Iverson were named to the All-Conference Team. Senior C Colton Haight was named Mississippi 8 Defensive Player of the Year. Junior 3B/P Brennan Gilyard, Junior SS Jared Wycoff, Junior P/2B Jason Senger, and Senior LF Nick Mattson received Honorable Mention All-Conference. We are very excited about the players we have returning for next season. We will have six starting position players and four starting pitchers returning. Go Bison!!!

**Boys Golf:** *Coach Charley Keifenheim (13 years)*

The number of boys trying out for the golf team was down this spring. We only had 15 athletes compete and fortunately we did not have to make any cuts. With four returning varsity players, we competed well with the top teams in the conference finishing 3rd. Dan Bollant and Hunter Bruhn received all-conference awards and the remainder of the varsity squad (Gunnar Goodmanson, Tommy Olson, Jake Ramsey, and Josh Fishman) all

received honorable mention. We play in the section tournament in two weeks and hope to compete well like we did last year (2nd place).

**Girls Golf:** *Coach Riti Sanderson (22 years)*

The girls golf team had another successful season in 2012 despite not having a senior on the squad. Once again we were the Mississippi 8 Conference champions. This is the 7th year as Mississippi 8 Champions and 8th in a row having finished in first the prior year in North Suburban Conference. Lexi Bollant, sophomore, led the team as an individual breaking several school records as well as state high school record with a low score of 67, 5 under on par 72 course. Other leading scorers were Madi Jewell, freshman and Lauren Schultz, sophomore. All three received all conference awards. Kirsten Olson, freshman, and Sarah Walters, sophomore, received honorable mention award. All academic conference awards were presented to this group as well as Laura Dirks, junior. Our Section 8AA tournament was held on June 4 and 5. The Bison advanced Lexi Bollant to state for the second year in a row. Many other girls played very good golf at sections, but fell short of advancement.

**Adapted Softball:** *Coaches Ruth Clarke (8 years) and Dave Kaufmann (5 years)*

This year was a rebuilding year. We were very short in numbers, with only 10 players. Only 2 players graduated last year but we lost a couple more due to relocation. We did gain three new players; Heidi Halonen, an eleventh grader, Allie Mattson, an eighth grader, and Trevor VanHorne, a seventh grader. We needed to spend more time on fundamentals and finding the best player for each position. The team really improved as the season progressed. We came close to winning but it eluded us until the first playoff game. We played Minneapolis Edison and won 19-16. Then we came up against Dakota United and lost 6-16 but they came together and played their best game of the year. This year our captains were Rachel Schmidt, Tessia Silbernagel, and Lindsay Wahlstrom. Their positive leadership really helped to encourage the team and keep them focused. All-Conference went to Rachel Schmidt and Honorable Mention went to Tessia Silbernagel. We have no seniors this year and are looking forward to having experienced players next year. Our goal has always been to keep improving, not only in the number of wins but also in our skills and playing together as a team. Next year we will have to do some serious recruiting.

**Boys Tennis:** *Ben Watkins (1<sup>st</sup> Year)*

The boys tennis team had a successful spring, and have been frustratingly close to making a big jump in the conference and section standings. Close (3-4) losses to Sartell and STMA hurt the team in seeding and post-season chances. They finished 3rd in the conference for the 2nd year in a row with an 8-8 overall record and a 4-2 mark in the conference. The season ended with a loss against a very strong Becker team in Section 8AA play. Our three captains, Jack Becker, Adam Hartung, and Andy Hartung, have led

the way for us and all three earned first-team all-conference honors. Senior Trevor Eder and Junior Chris Polzine earned honorable mention all-conference honors. Senior captain Jack Becker has had a solid year at #1 singles beating some very tough opponents, while taking on the other teams' best player every match. He will play in the section finals on May 29. Andy and Adam Hartung have played the majority of the season together at #1 doubles and have had incredible success, with a record of 15-2. They paired together to win the Hutchinson Invite against some excellent competition. They, too, will be playing in the section finals on May 29 and, along with Jack, have aspirations of heading to the state tennis meet. Junior Chris Polzine has stepped up his game to play most of the year at #2 singles. He had some big wins for us, which was highlighted by his 2-0 start to the year against some excellent players. Trevor Eder and Austin Brandes played most of the year together at #2 doubles and were an excellent surprise in how well they played together and became a force for the Bison. The #3 singles spot was filled most often by freshman Andrew Christenson. Andrew improved tremendously throughout the year and his shot-making, big serve, and patience won him some important matches, including two match-deciding wins! Ethan Fabel and Kevin Zheng became a very consistently tough #3 doubles team throughout the year. Ethan's experience and prowess at the net, combined with Kevin's ability to set up opponents with top-spin allowed them to beat many opponents. Jordan Danielson was thrown into the fire on the varsity team this year and never flinched. His positive attitude and great work-ethic allowed him to keep improving, while playing many more experienced players. His year was highlighted by a big three-set win at #3 doubles with Kevin Zheng. Digory Anderson paired with Austin Maffei for most of the year at #4 doubles and they had great success together. Both improved and attacked the net effectively. The team is looking to improve throughout the off-season and will not be satisfied with anything short of a conference title in 2013.

**Boys/Girls Track and Field:** *(Scott Palmer 17 years)*

The Buffalo boys and girls teams were both very fortunate in the 2012 campaign to have outstanding numbers. Both squads boasted over one hundred athletes. The track season opened on March 12<sup>th</sup> and found perfect spring weather, which quickly turned cold and wet in April but once the calendar hit May warmer weather was back and with warmer weather great performances. At the Section True Team meet the boys found themselves the section champion and an opportunity to head to the state true team meet, something they had not been able to accomplish since 2009. The girls found themselves in a very respectable fourth place only 20 points out of second. At the State True Team meet the young boys squad was able to gain some experience and be apart of some outstanding competition. The Boys team finished in ninth place at the state true team meet.

The Mississippi Eight Conference meet was another highlight for the Bison. The Girls team finished second to a very strong Monticello girls team and in the process of finishing second set two conference records. Emily Spier threw the shot put 38-5.25 and the Girls 4x100 relay consisting of Jordan Skarin, Amanda Letsinger, Alexa Thielman and Amber Doeblen ran 51.34 breaking the previous record held by last year's 4x100 meter relay team. The Boys were able to win their ninth conference title in a row by out-

scoring STMA 184 to 142.5. The Bison Boys set 3 conference records in the process. Tyler Olson ran 49.33 in the 400 to break the old record set by fellow Bison Ted Greenprice back in 2006. Mitch Valli vaulted 14' 1" breaking the old record of 14" and finally the 4x400 meter relay team of Andrew Gutknecht, Michael Swearingen, Josh Alden, and Dan Pettit ran 3:26.62 to break another Mississippi 8 conference record held since 2006. The Bison were poised to head into the Section 2AA track meet. They once again advanced a number of boys listed above in the individuals and relays at state, and this year the girls advanced the most entries to state in school history. A list of those athletes is posted at our school website.

**Boys Lacrosse:** (*Larry Hunter 1<sup>st</sup> year*)

The Buffalo lacrosse team had another challenging spring in which the team had finished with only 2 wins on the season. As the high school program moves forward, my goal as the head coach will be to work closely with the youth program to develop faster, stronger, and more skilled athletes. Though this year's team lacked many of the afore mentioned qualities to be competitive, the team maintained a high level of "spirit" throughout the season and understood that "class" was the most important quality to possess while representing the Bison. One example I have of the boys demonstrating spirit and class was during a practice that overlapped the start of the Girls Varsity, JV, and Underclassmen softball games. Though the boys were practicing on a field far enough behind the 3 active softball fields, and could have gone easily unnoticed; upon hearing the first notes of the National Anthem and without being prompted, all the boys stopped practicing and removed their helmets. Though I was on the other side of the field, the hair on the back of my neck stood up from the events that followed. As soon as the final note of the Anthem was played, the boys simultaneously yelled "Bison"! At that time, the girls on the Bison softball teams who were totally unaware that the boys stopped their practice, turned to them and rewarded them with enthusiastic claps and cheers. The boys clapped and cheered back prior to returning to the side of the field where I was located. Once there, one of my players asked "Coach, are you upset that we did that"? I responded, "No...I couldn't be more proud". From my perspective as a coach; it wasn't simply that they stopped for the National Anthem, but rather that these gentlemen recognized the significance of showing common courtesy to their fellow athletes during their pregame rituals. On that day, both the boys and the girls involved shared a moment of respect and support for one another and were rewarded by one another's positive feedback. Those who were fortunate enough to turn and witness this "first class event" got to see a group of disciplined young men adhere to the standards we would expect from all of our Bison athletes and fans. Wins and losses aside, this was the highlight of my season.

**Girls Lacrosse:** (*Andrea Lund 2nd year*)

The Buffalo Bison lacrosse team showed an impressive season of strength and skill. The girls won 9 games and lost 4. Our winning games were against St. Michael (11-6),

Becker(10-7 and 14-9), Mound(11-8), Elk River(18-14), Andover(22-8) St. Cloud Tech(18-9). We lost against Anoka, Mahtomedi, White Bear and Orono. Most of the games we lost were very close. In Mahtomedi's game we did not have our goalie and that made a difference. We had a player step up for that and we were grateful. We were seeded 6th in sections this year. That was very impressive and we were proud of the girls. We made it into the first round beating Orono 16 to 14. We lost against Minnetonka. Tonka was impressive. This year we will lose 11 seniors. It will leave be big loss to us for many reasons. We had a great relationship and bonded through the years. I hope their passion for lacrosse will continue through college and later in life. Our senior captains this season were Rachel Stenson and Kayla Lowell. Other seniors included Amanda Krcma, Abbie Larson, Claire Parsons, Haley Adams, Emily Ackman, Ellen Koppi, Leah Koppi, Angela Robasse, and Katie Liebert. It has been my honor coaching all of these girls through the years. Best of luck to them in all that they do and much success in their futures. As for the rest of us, next year will be a rebuilding year. Anyone interested in playing next year is most welcome. Go Bison!

**Business Professionals of America (BPA): Advisor: Brenda Deikman**

BPA is an activity for any student but particularly helpful for students pursuing careers in business, management, office administration, information technology and other related career fields. This year, 18 members joined BPA with 11 of them competing in 19 of the 62 competitions offered at Regionals.

Regions were difficult this year for Buffalo since we had no returning seniors to lead the way, but 8 students still prevailed and advanced on to state in Spreadsheet Analysis, Insurance Concepts, Business Meeting Management, Administrative Support Concepts, Human Resource Concepts, Financial Math Analysis, Prepared Speech, Extemporaneous Speech and Video Production.

From State, two members advanced to Nationals: Marah Moy and Aaron Hamann. Nationals was held in Chicago, IL where we were able to be very competitive with Marah placing 16<sup>th</sup> out of 702, 17<sup>th</sup> out of 464 and 27<sup>th</sup> out of 643 in her 3 competitions. Aaron was also a top 20 finisher with a 14<sup>th</sup> placement out of 431 and 17<sup>th</sup> out of 412 in his competitions.

These placements are very impressive and next year is already forecasted to be a great year with everyone returning. Hopefully many more students will reach nationals which will be held in Orlando, FL.

**BHS Singers & Treble Singers: Director- Michael Walsh**

BHS Singers and Treble Singers again had an active year in general and spring season, specifically, including participation in the local and Region 2AA Solo & Ensemble Contests, and performances in the World Music and Arts Finale Concerts. In addition,

BHS Singers had performances at the Regional Student Council convention (hosted at BHS), the Academic Excellence luncheon sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and at the Music Showcase concert. Both BHS Singers and Treble Singers participated in both vocal jazz and chamber choir categories at the Region 2AA Solo & Ensemble contest and each group receiving superior ratings in all categories.

### **Tri-M Music Honor Society**

Tri-M hosted their annual spring induction and Solo & Ensemble Awards night. 31 new Tri-M members were inducted and 165 students received medals and/or certificates for their participation in the Region 2AA Solo & Ensemble Contest which Buffalo hosted on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Buffalo had 111 solos & ensembles in the contest of which there were 79 Superior ratings and 29 Excellent ratings. Five of the twelve judges recognized performances from Buffalo as the Best Performance in their site.

### **Students Stepping Up: Advisor: Tracy Hulley**

SSU is an organization that promotes chemical-free leaders in our school. Our goals are simple – to remain chemically free, to be a positive role model to students in District 877, and to participate in whatever activities your schedule allows you. This year nearly 400 students took the SSU pledge! Of those 400 students, 125 were Elementary helpers and went to an elementary school in our district for an hour each week to help in a variety of ways – one on one, with small and large group activities, or in any way the teacher needed that week. 100 SSU members also helped with the middle school Courage Retreat in November. Other activities over the course of the school year were the school wide Clue Game, Feed My Starving Children fundraiser, helping with Parkside and Discovery Carnivals, sending Valentine’s Day hugs and kisses, making Christmas cards for Veterans, and selling Veterans Day buttons.

### **Junior Class Cabinet: Co-Advisors Tracy Hulley and Nancy Eiyneck**

JCC members this year were Amanda Letsinger, Dave Rayl, Drake Wohlenhaus, Emily Klatt, Mariah Brings, and Olivia Wyatt. JCC hosted a staff breakfast, planned the Homecoming Fun Night Volleyball Tournament, and planned this year’s Prom. This year’s Prom was held in St. Cloud at the River’s Edge Convention Center. The Prom theme was “Worlds Collide” and 640 students attended. Next year Prom will be held in St. Cloud on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **Student Care Committee: Advisor Lynn Andrews**

SCC 2011-12 projects have included the Coats for Kids Drive, Random Acts of Kindness Mailbox where we honored 6 students with BHS t-shirts, Annual Spring Egg Hunt,

reaching out to teen moms for Mother's Day and 72 "Care Kits" to those who have been ill, lost family members to death, exchange students and Valentines to those who needed a perk.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

Spring Activities Participation Report