

Athletics Report
Board Report
May-June

Middle School Athletics

Track

20-30 kids were consistent at the end of the year while we had about 5-10 going to high school practice so we can introduce them to the high school program and that high school work ethic. Track for Browning faced a problem with participation because we have the numbers and the schools we compete against do not. Our MS conference had to put a stipulation on every event and allow only 4 athletes per event. This was a struggle for a lot of our kids because they wanted to compete in certain events but had to make the top 4. Although we have the numbers in participation, it is becoming a problem for event holders and ourselves in the sense of development and time management.

May 10th, 2025 we finished the season and we competed well but our numbers dropped off to half of what we started. We did not place against Class B schools & 1 Class A school which is what our conference is made of. (Both Girls & Boys did not place)

Softball

We had 21 consistent participants practice as we had 7 join 2 weeks late but were dedicated to play. This league is a legion league and we are the only MS team in the league as the other teams are made up of community volunteering. We are happy to be a part of this league and our girls show a lot of promise as they do score and have competitive games.

Playoffs began Tuesday, May 27, 2025 and we played in the playoffs and was eliminated after 2 games in a double elimination tourney.

The season was great and we had a lot of enthusiasm behind the sport which will feed into our High School program which needs it now.

High School Athletics

Spring Sports

Track

Browning hosted our first track meet May 1st in ArrowHead Stadium. It was a great event as our Browning staff stepped up and helped run the event. Running a track event requires around 16-20 people helping with all events. 8-10 timers, 8 jumping event markers, exchange judges, and our gunner. Our kids enjoyed the event as well as our guests and it gave a great opportunity to our athletes to showcase their skills in front of their home crowd. Divisionals

ended May 17th and we had many in the top 10 qualify for state. The highlight of the entire event was our Unified team taking 2nd and we are pretty proud of that. 1 athlete scored all our points in the Unified competitions.

The State track meet started on May 24, 2025. Competitively we had 15 qualifying athletes that ended up competing in the state meet. At Divisionals we had 5 all conference athletes make the podium and at state we had 2 All-state athletes make the podium. We also had 1 unified athlete compete at state which was the first year they combined unified into the State Event.

We are planning on hosting 3 track meets next year and we will be ordering what we need to be able to host and also put in for bids when it comes to the Class B-C Divisional. The 3 track meets we plan on hosting are invite only with one being a time trial. The 3rd track meet we want to host will be an All Native Classic style event.

Softball

Weather at the beginning of the year was detrimental in our participation as we had to cancel all but 2 home games for the season. This was a big bummer to our girls as the snow played a huge factor in our hosting events.

Moving into May our softball numbers went down to 10 girls and we had to have our manager take part and play. We offered to move up 8th graders and they all declined to play up to that level. We had a few girls step up from the manager spot like I said and did really well. The girls solidified a win this year which is very good for how they started. The girls ended their season happy and excited for next year.

Baseball

Weather was a problem and field readiness was also a problem in hosting events as we had to move many of our home games around and reschedule in order to keep things safe for our athletes. Baseball lost out on 2 home games this season.

As we move into May we have consistently around 15-20 showing up for practice and that number changes daily. They were excited about the new field and were happy to play their first home game on their own field. Although dugouts aren't done and we do not have bleachers yet, the team has had a lot of smiles about practicing and playing on their own field.

Baseball had a tough time finishing their season as they weren't happy with their performance. We did not have finished dugouts or bleachers in the stands but the team and our guests all enjoyed the turf baseball field.

Unfortunately, we did not finish the season and backed out of the last tournament of the season as we only had 5 remaining at practice to end the year. Much of this was because of Senior Dinners and graduation.

Tennis

Moving into May we have had to cancel every March tennis event. The girls backed out or had other involvements take priority. Out of the 7 girls playing we are down to 1. That 1 girl wants to play in tournaments but she is in close up and we had to back out of 2 events as she will be in Washington DC.

Our 1 participant did not want to go to Divisionals and we entered 0 athletes for Tennis.

The program did not move and it would be suggestive to move on from Tennis.

Overview of Programs

I want to share some thoughts regarding our current approach to program development. This is a broad overview of one sport but translates to all sports. As of now, Tennis is our only sport that is suffering to a degree of helplessness.

Due to lack of fundamental training and early introduction to certain sports at the lower levels, we are facing significant challenges at the high school level in sports such as tennis. Without proper foundational development including universal terminology, essential skills, and sports specific movements, our student-athletes are being placed into competition levels they are not adequately prepared for.

Given these circumstances, I believe it would be in the best interest of both the school and our athletic program to consider eliminating tennis. Participation in tennis has been minimal, and those who do join often participate in other sports, which ultimately impacts their development and performance in those areas. Additionally, our current facilities do not adequately support a competitive tennis program, further limiting our ability to provide a meaningful experience for student-athletes.

By making this adjustment, we can focus our resources on sports where we have both the necessary participation and infrastructure to develop our student-athletes effectively.

While things may look good on paper, we've seen that once we actually dive into the day to day operations of the program, trouble areas begin to surface. This reveals a disconnect between initial planning and actual execution. Unfortunately, when a program suffers due to this misalignment, it doesn't happen in isolation; it can create a ripple effect that negatively impacts other programs as well.

This is an area we need to actively work on. It's important that we identify these gaps early and ensure that what we're building on paper truly translates into effective and sustainable real-world performance. Strengthening this alignment will not only benefit individual programs but also support the broader success of our school district and give our student athletes a reality of how sports works at all levels.

Summer Off-Season Training

Due to the fact that we lost our 21st Century Grant that paid for our off-season camps, we will be receiving support from Tribal Health and the help of 2 council members Shelly Hall and Lyle Rutherford. We still have not received the money from the tribe/tribal health but until then we are moving forward best we can by donating time and keeping our resources available to the kids.

I have hired 2 gym/weight room monitors who are also our best trainers this summer to help with off season progress for any kid that is willing to work on their athleticism. Eddie RunningRabbit and Roy McNabb will be available all summer.

These men have the gym open from 8am to around 7pm.

As of now we have around 15 kids off and on working out and we definitely need more if we want to see team progression.

All coaches are recruiting and trying to keep kids busy.

Boys Basketball has had around 20+ playing in tourneys

Girls Basketball has had around 18+ coming to open gyms (many are freshmen)

Golf has a few playing weekly and daily on the course

Football started open field and we will see what their numbers will look like

Cross Country has a consistent 8+ working on their trade

Volleyball has around 12 playing randomly at government square with no coach

We have 1 representing us in Hawaii at a National Cheer Camp

Wrestling has about 5+ going to wrestling camps

Soccer has been playing league soccer against Helena, Kalispell and many more

Track will have a camp in July

Softball and Baseball are both struggling for involvement and participation

Rodeo has been super busy all over the state and we had 4 qualify for Nationals.