

School Board Workshop:

February 10, 2025

Subject:

BHS Fall 2024 Board Report

Presenter:

**Nick Guida,
BHS Activities Director**

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION: Report

DESCRIPTION: Season Summaries

Buffalo High School has officially wrapped up its fall activities for the 2024-25 school year. Our dedicated coaches and advisors have put together brief narratives reflecting on their respective seasons, which are now available for your review. These insights highlight the hard work, growth, and accomplishments of our students throughout the fall.

We'd like to take a moment to express our sincere appreciation for your continued support of activities at BHS. Your encouragement plays a vital role in the success of our students, and we're excited to share these season recaps with you. Thank you for being an integral part of our school community!

FALL ACTIVITIES PARTICIPATION REPORT

2024 Buffalo High School Participants

Activity	Total	Male	Female	# of Coaches	Coach To Athlete Ratio
Football					
Varsity/JV	78	70	8	10	
9th grade	32	32	0	2	
				+ 4 volunteers	
2024 Totals	110	102	8	12	1:9
2023	112	107	5	12	1:9
2022	129	121	8	12	1:10.75
2021	120	116	4	12	1:10
2020	109	105	4	12	1:9
2019	110	105	5	12	1:9
Volleyball					
Varsity/ JV	23	0	23	3	
B-Squad	11	0	11	1	
C-Squad/9th grade	23	0	23	1	
2024 Totals	57	0	57	5	1:11
2023	59	2	57	5	1:11
2022	61	0	61	5	1:12
2021	61	0	61	5	1:12
2020	62	0	62	5	1:12
2019	52	0	52	5	1:10
Cross Country- Boys & Girls				Boys = 1.5 Girls = 1.5	
<i>BCMS</i>	36	21	15		
	0	0	0		
2024 Totals	36	21	15	3	1:12
2023	41	26	15	3	1:14
2022	45	29	16	2	1:22.5
2021	40	25	15	2	1:15
2020	47	31	16	2	1:23.5
2019	59	42	17	2	1:29.5
Girls Tennis					
<i>BCMS</i>	42	3	39		
<i>St Francis</i>	1	0	1		
	0	0	0		
2024 Totals	43	3	40	3	1:14
2023	37	2	35	3	1:12
2022	44	3	41	3	1:15
2021	45	2	43	2	1:22.5
2020	41	2	39	2	1:20.5
2019	43	4	39	2	1:21.5
Girls Swim/Dive					
Varsity/JV	28	0	28		
<i>BCMS</i>	7		7		
2024 Totals	35	0	35	3	1:11.5
2023	24	0	24	3	1:8
2022	24	1	23	3	1:8
2021	29	1	28	3	1:10
2020	30	0	30	3	1:10
2019	37	2	35	3	1:12

Soccer-Boys					
Varsity	27	27	0	2	
JV	17	17	0	1	
B Squad	17	17	0	1	
BCMS	0	0	0		
2024 Totals	61	61	0	4	1:15.25
2023	59	58	1	4	1:14.75
2022	57	57	0	4	1:14.25
2021	56	56	0	4	1:14
2020	51	48	3	4	1:13
2019	52	52	0	4	1:13
Girls Soccer					
Varsity	23	0	23	2	
JV	14	0	14	1	
B Squad	16	0	16	1	
BCMS	6	0	6		
2024 Totals	59	0	59	4	1:14.75
2023	49	0	49	4	1:12.25
2022	64	0	64	4	1:16
2021	52	0	52	4	1:13
2020	52	0	52	4	1:13
2019	49	0	49	4	1:12
Fall Play					
2024 Totals	79	37	42	3	1:26
2023	64	22	42	3	1:21
2022	79	32	47	4	1:19.75
2021	71	21	50	4	1:17.75
2020 (audio)	14	2	12	1	1:14
2019	59	20	39	4	1:14
Adapted Soccer					
BCMS	1	1	0	1	
2024 Totals	1	1	0	1	1:1
2023	1	0	1	1	1:1
2022	1	0	1	1	1:1
2021	3	1	2	1	1:3
2020 (Covid)	0	0	0	0	-
2019	13	6	7	3	1:3.5
PARTICIPATION TOTALS					
2024	481	225	256		
2023	437	217	219		
2022	504	243	261		
2021	477	222	255		
2020	406	188	218		
2019	474	231	243		
<i>BCMS students</i>	7	0	7		
<i>St.Francis students</i>	0	0	0		

Hunchback of Notre Dame

School Board Report

Based on the original novel by Victor Hugo

Music by Alan Menken and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz

Fall Musical:

Director: Tracy Hagstrom Durant (44 total years directing high school theater)

Music Director: Zack Carlson-Giving

Choreographer: Debb Bestland

Tech Director: Greg Bestland

Lighting Designer: Greg Bestland

PAC Manager: Joel Strand

Directing Asst.: Drew Elo (former student)

Student Stage Manager: Margot Miller

Student Technical Director: Jacob Bull

Stage Management Consultant: Jamie West (former student, Volunteer)

Costumes: Jodi Klaphake (Volunteer)

Set Building Asst.: Mike Brovig-Trossen (Volunteer)

Musical Synopsis:

What makes a monster and what makes a man? This is the central theme of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, a sweeping, grand-scale musical from Disney Theatrical. Based on the 1996 Disney film and Victor Hugo's 1831 novel, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* tells the story of Quasimodo, the hunchbacked bell-ringer of Notre Dame, and his desire to one day be a part of the outside world. When he summons the courage to attend the Feast of Fools, he meets Esmeralda, a compassionate gypsy who protects him from an angry mob. But at the same time, Quasimodo's master, the archdeacon Dom Claude Frollo, and the new captain of the guard, Phoebus de Martin, fall in love with the beautiful girl. Adding to Quasimodo's struggle is his punishment and derision from Frollo, following years of psychological abuse, and the danger posed by the gypsies, who are willing to kill any outsiders who venture into their secret hideout. But before Paris is burned to the ground, will Quasimodo be able to save Esmeralda from Frollo's lust and anger? Will she return Quasimodo's affection? Who is the true monster of Notre Dame?

This musical is known for its powerful music by Alan Menken (*Little Shop of Horrors*, *Newsies*, *Enchanted*, *Little Mermaid*, *Aladdin*) and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz (*Godspell*, *Pippin*, *Wicked*, *Pocahontas*, *The Prince of Egypt*, *Enchanted*). It is based on the original novel by Victor Hugo (*Les Miserables*) and stays closer to his original themes compared to the Disney animated film.

BHS Performances

Thursday, November 14, 15, 16 @ 7:30 p.m. and November 17th 2:00 p.m.

This year we featured 30 high school actors, a choir of nine students along with 50+ students involved in various crews. We also had an all student pit orchestra supporting us with very difficult music. This year our tech director, Greg Bestland, assisted by several students, created an eye catching set covered in beautiful detail work. HD's overall design concept was to further challenge our students and ourselves by designing a large one unit set. It was challenging and stretched our student technicians. It was an excellent example of students stepping up to the challenge. We were able to stretch our budget with the generous donation of \$500.00 to purchase a GOBO (used on a theatrical light) to project the accurate image of the Rose Window from Notre Dame. We also borrowed many costumes and props from The Academy of Holy Angels. It is valuable to "know people" and be involved in professional organizations. Again this year, our tech crew also had special needs students involved. An adult and para were hired to accompany one student. Our students were extremely supportive and created multiple ways for the special needs student to complete several tasks.

It was an absolute joy to work again with BHS choir director, Zach Carlson-Giving. As Music Director, he prepares the students vocally as well as directing the pit orchestra. He did an excellent job and we are so thrilled to have him back again! 16 students played in the pit orchestra and 35 plus students were involved in the lighting/sound booth and costume/make-up crews. It was a HUGE undertaking for the BHS Theater Program. Thanks to the generosity of several businesses, volunteers (both parents, past graduates and others) and other high school theater programs, we were able to buy, rent and borrow necessary equipment, costumes and props so we could do the production.

The show was a huge hit. Crowd size was very large. The BHS students gave us both a powerful and very professional level production.

Bison Football

Head Coach: Jackson Litterer, 2nd year at BHS; 11th overall coaching HSFB.
Assistant Coaches: Nick Ward, Troy Holland, Chris Gmach, Micah Morris, Tandrell Foster, Josh Lanners, DJ Shefland, Jeremy Halek, Mac Mahmens, LeRoy Erickson, Dan Reil, Josh Butteris, Kyle Ewer, Matt Barter, Wyatt Craft, Eastman Esson

The 2024 Bison Football team finished with a 5-4 record and lost to the Forest Lake Rangers, in the first round of the playoffs.

After starting the season with a loss vs. top-3 ranked Eden Prairie, the Bison won their next 5 games to win the 2024 Maroon 6A Sub-District Title making us back-to-back District Champions (2023, 2024)! The Bison ended the season with losses to top-3 ranked Minnetonka, a state finalist team, and Prior Lake to close out the regular season 5-3, our second-consecutive winning season. The Bison then lost to Forest Lake, the No. 2 seed, in the first round of the playoffs. This season provided many highs along with challenges - each proving to be learning opportunities for our kids as we work

towards next season. We are excited about the continued work of making Bison Football an experience that our kids and their families want to buy into!

Offensively, our rushing attack was led statistically by Noah Wittke (12th grade) who had 819 rushing yards and 9 touchdowns. Through the air, Matthew Jordan (10th grade) led the team in receptions (20) and receiving yards (255), while Logan Vrieze (12th grade) had the most receiving touchdowns (2). Grant Benson (11th grade) was our leading passer, completing 64 passes for 822 yards and 5 touchdowns.

Defensively, Ben Holland (12th grade) and Dolen Brisk (10th grade) led the team in total tackles with 48 and 47, respectively. Max Griffieth (12th grade) and Hans Pederson (11th grade) each had 7 tackles for loss, and Max also led the team with 2 sacks. The defense also caused and created 9 turnovers this season!

On Special Teams, Silas Presteng (12th grade) was a steady kicker finishing the year making 1 field goal and 19-of-20 extra points. Caleb Johnson (12th grade) punted the ball 22 times and averaged 28 yards per punt. Jackson Coss (11th grade) had 1 kick-off return for a touchdown.

The following players and coach voted on and named 2024 Metro Maroon All-District selections:

- *First Team:* Ryan Babatz (12th grade), Noah Wittke (12th grade), Ben Holland (12th grade), Trevor Kotilinek (12th grade), Logan Vrieze (12th grade), Max Griffieth (12th grade), Julian Lee (12th grade) Hans Pederson (11th grade), and Dolen Brisk (10th grade).
- *Honorable Mention:* The following five players were Honorable Mention All-District selections: Isaak Herzberg (12th grade), Cooper Murphy (12th grade), Kallen Prell (12th grade), Grant Benson (11th grade), and Hendrix Gatz (11th grade).
- *District Players and Coach of the Year:* Ryan Babatz, Offensive Lineman of the Year; Hans Pederson, Defensive Lineman of the Year; Coach Nick Ward, Assistant Coach of the Year

The Bison Football Program also gave out seven team awards at the end of the season. At each level of the program, players voted for an MVP for their level. The following players were named team MVP: Ryan Babatz, Varsity MVP; Tyson Moore (10th grade), JV MVP; Thomas Jordan (9th grade), Freshman MVP. The other four team awards were also player-voted, and each award is directly tied to the four core values of the Buffalo Bison Football Program (Character, Toughness, Relentless, Investment). The following four players were a Bison-Branded Award recipient: Max Griffieth (Character), Ben Holland (Toughness), Ryan Babatz (Relentless), and Ben Holland (Investment).

Ryan Babatz was also selected to play in the Minnesota High School All Star game at the US Bank Stadium, home of the Minnesota Vikings, on December 14th at 1:00 PM.

Bison Boys Cross Country

Head Coach David Knutsen
(11th year Head coach, 18th year in the program)

Coming into the 2024 boys CC season there were very high expectations. This was a very talented and experienced group of boys. Led by Seniors Wesley Wistrom, Dexter Huss, Jacob Macheel, Kumail Akram, Logan Kolasa, and Daniel Jungworth the group had the potential to continue the tradition of being competitive at the Conference, Section and State level. The Bison were ranked #8 in the class AAA preseason coaches polls.

Our stated goals each year are to win the home meet, compete well at the Conference meet, win the Section 8AAA meet, and place as high as possible at the State meet. With these goals in mind, we came into the season with a great summer of training and a good focus on the tasks ahead of us.

Our first 5k of the season was the St. Olaf showcase meet. The boys ended up 2nd to Minnetonka. This was the best team finish at this meet in school history. Next was the Bauman/Rovin invitational at Gale Woods. This is another high-quality meet with State ranked teams. Again, the Bison finished 2nd with the best team finish in school history. The early season meets were led by Wesley Wistrom and Dexter Huss. We had some work to do 3-7 if we wanted to compete with the top teams, but the boys were putting in the work and focusing on getting better as a team. We then went to Brainerd and ran in the Section 8AAA preview meet. For the 4th straight year the Bison boys dominated this meet. Wesley Wistrom was the medalist and the Bison put our top 5 all in the top 10 finishers.

Because we had the potential to run in the State meet the boys Varsity had to skip our home meet this year to run in the Roy Griak invitational which is held on the Les Bolstad golf course at the U of M. This is also the state meet course so we wanted more experience competing on the race course. It was a rough day for the Bison. Times were not what we were expecting and we did not run as a team. It was a good lesson. The next race was New Prague. The boys decided they were going to run as a pack to try to bring our 4-7 runners as close to the 17:00 flat mark as possible. Dexter Huss set the pace and Wesley and Jacob encouraged the other 4 athletes the entire race, pulling them along and working as a group. It was fun to watch, and other coaches and parents were impressed by the teamwork that all 7 athletes displayed. The results matched the effort as the Bison won the meet with an almost perfect score of 18.

The Lake Conference meet was next. The Bison placed 4th. The 1st 3 teams were ranked 1-3 in the State so we felt good about this performance. Dexter and Wesley earned All Conference awards. Our 4-7 athletes were starting to make some steps so we were encouraged by the performances at this meet. Coming into the Section 8AAA meet the Bison boys were the heavy favorites. They did not disappoint. Dexter Huss was the medalist of Section 8AAA with a personal best time of 16:08. The boys placed all 5 scorers in the top 10. 4 of the 7 boys ran personal bests at the meet. This was the

4th straight year the boys have won the Section 8AAA title and the 8th straight year as a Section champion.

The following week was the State meet at the Les Bolstad golf course at the U of M. The boys were looking to improve their performances from last year's State meet. Unfortunately as a group we didn't start the race well and had some ground to make up as the race progressed. The boys did improve on last year's 15th place finish by placing 13th. Not the finish that was expected. Distance running is a sport that will allow you to see great improvements and can humble you quite quickly. Even though this group did not achieve all of their goals they can be very proud of their season. The growth in not only physical abilities, but also the growth in leadership skills from our Seniors was very evident as the season progressed. This program has built a tradition of hard work and success. They represented that tradition very well.

Bison Girls Cross Country

Head Coach: Amber Sedbrook (2nd year Head Coach Girls Cross 3rd year in Program)
Assistant Coach: Alicia Berkeness

Our goals in the girls program were to continue improving our team building and performances. We were hoping for another state appearance this season. Our number one runner this year was 9th grader Cady Macheel with 8th grader Gabriella Broadhead close behind.

The girls team made huge gains again this season in times and placing at meets. Our seniors took the lead in our success this season: Anna Wuollet, Samantha Thomson, Eden Johnson, Miley Farniok, and Hope Bjornson. The section meet was hosted in Brainerd and we had two girls qualify for state as individuals for the second year in a row! Unfortunately, our team missed out on going to state as a team, but everyone still had strong performances at sections. Cady and Gabriella had outstanding performances at the state meet along with the boys team and it was a great experience for everyone. I was extremely proud of the girls this year. They worked very hard all year, showed steady improvement and we are super excited to see how the program grows in upcoming years. We have a strong team and the pieces are starting to fall into place!

Bison Girls Soccer

Head Coach: Josh Soukup - 13th Season

Assistant Coaches: Carrie Schmitt, Mike Walters, Sam Haryn, Kelli Barth and Shelby Halderson

The 2024 season, again, was the most successful season in the history of girls' soccer. We finished with our highest finish ever in the Lake Conference (4th) with a 2-1-3

conference record. 5 of the 7 teams in our conference played in a section final game to go to state, including two head-to-head matchups and an all-Lake Conference state final between Edina and Wayzata. We finished with an overall record of 12 wins 2 losses and 5 ties. Our only regular season loss came to the eventual 3A state champions, Wayzata. We lost in our second consecutive section final game to STMA 1-0 in overtime. We have not lost in our last 22 non-conference games. We finished the season ranked 10th in the state coach's poll and 9th in QRF (first time ever to my knowledge).

We set records for most wins, least loses, highest win %, goals scored, goals allowed and shutouts. This team embodied what it means to be a Bison Girls Soccer team by living out our 4 pillars every day. They truly were grateful, competitive, resilient and proud.

2024 Captains: Olivia Luc (12), Hannah Braun (12), Zia Wulf (12) and Jeannette Bermudez (11)

2025 Captains: Jeannette Bermudez (12), Sophie Alderman (12), Cate Reineck (12), Kennedy Herrboldt (12) and Hayden Arvola (11)

2023 Team Awards:

All-State: Natalie Flynn (2nd team) and Zia Wulf (2nd team)

Star Tribune's Top 25 Minnesota Soccer Players: Emma Marzean

All-Conference First Team: Natalie Flynn, Zia Wulf and Emma Marzean

All-Conference Honorable Mention: Sophie Alderman, Cate Reineck and Hannah Braun

Ms. Bison Soccer: Zia Wulf

Game Ball: Natalie Flynn

Best Defensive Player: Hannah Braun

Best Offensive Player: Natalie Flynn

Most Improved: Ella Danielson

Ms. Gritty: Jeanette Bermudez

Golden Boot (most goals): Natalie Flynn

Silver Boot (most assists): Sophie Alderman

Bronze Boot (Pts by a defender): Jeanette Bermudez

Bison Girls Swim and Dive

Head Coach: Jocelyn Woytcke

The Girls Swim and Dive Team had a great 2024 season. To recall a few highlights:

Team Bonding Activities - We are so proud of all of the seniors and captains for helping plan and organize these activities. The mini golf and bowling were definitely a highlight

of the season as the girls got to know one another better and the scavenger hunt at the beach turned into a great and incredibly creative competition.

Practice - We had a lot of tough sets, some tears and jaw dropping moments, but also a lot of laughs and memories made. We were thankful to have our new ab mats to add to our pre-swim workout.

Dual Meet Season - We competed against some tough teams again this year, but used that to our advantage as we trained for championship meets. We ended with 3 dual meet wins this season and were incredibly close to beating Moorhead in our first meet of the season.

Spring Lake Park Invite - We placed 2nd for the second season in a row and got to celebrate with the much anticipated cake as a reward.

Themed Relay Meet - Highly anticipated and so much fun. We received so many compliments by visiting parents about the girls and how much it is enjoyed.

True Team - We moved from a 7th place finish last year to a 4th place finish this year. Way to go girls! We got the lay of the land for sections and new athletes to the team were able to see what a big championship meet would be and feel like. We loved seeing some improvements early on in the season and great team spirit.

JV Champs - This was such a fun meet! Not only high energy and positivity, but the support shared among the team was incredible to see. This year, the meet was hosted like a major championship meet, which was exciting to be a part of. We saw some MAJOR time drops and it was so encouraging to see the team supporting one another.

Sections - We moved from a 6th place finish last year to a 4th place finish this year, edging out Moorhead by 1 point. We saw amazing improvements all around!! Every single athlete dropped time in at least one of their events...some a LOT of time. We saw a lot of podium finishes and again, great support of one another, and great team spirit.

State - This year two swimmers qualified for the state competition - Emily Larson in the 100 Breastroke and Avery Lowe in the 100 Fly. Emily finished 13th in the state and Avery finished 17th. What an awesome meet to showcase their hard work at the end of a great season.

Awards - The section team was awarded academic gold for their combined GPA of 3.81. We had two All-Conference awards given to Avery Larson and Emily Larson. Three Honorable Mention Awards were given to Gaia DeYoung, Sufi DeYoung, and Avery Lowe.

It was a great season and we are so proud of all of our athletes. We will miss our big group of seniors, but look forward to welcoming new girls to the team this fall.

Thanks,
Jocelyn

Bison Boys Soccer

Head Coach: Jordan Danielson (7th year)

Asst Coaches: V Assistant: Marc Mens JV: Joe Ortmann 9A: Alex Loukinen Assistant:
Ashlyn O'Conner

2024 was a chaotic, exciting, new and incredibly exciting year for the boys soccer program. I took over as the new head coach at the end of June after six years coaching in the program. We added three first time coaches to our staff and everyone coached in a new role this year. It made for a really exciting but slightly chaotic time of transition throughout our summer camps and into our fall season. But this didn't dim the excitement the players and coaches felt for this fall and our new chapter together.

This season was one of the most successful seasons in Bison Boys soccer history. We set the best ever record to start a season at 6-0 and best record through ten games at 8-1-1. We tied for most wins in a season in program history with 11 and set the record for fewest losses with four. We beat STMA for the first time since 2016 (going 0-13 in that time frame) and after a 0-3-39 record in the Lake conference, broke through for our first three wins (EP, Hopkins & STMA). Our three regular season losses came against top ten opponents, all on their field. We made the section championship game for the first time since 2005, before losing 0-1 to Bemidji. We finished the season with an 11-4-4 record.

Beyond all that we have an incredible group of boys that are leaders on the field and off. This was headed by our senior captains Elliott Elton, Tyler Thompson and Isaac Brandstrom. Elliott, Isaac and Wyatt Anderson won All-conference awards (first time we have had three since joining the Lake Conference). And Tyler, Gavin Johnson and Trevor Panek earned All-conference Honorable Mentions. Wyatt also earned the first All-State recognition for our program since 2007 and is only the third player ever to win it.

Even with all we accomplished on the field, our team is hungry and excited for more. We return many of our top and key players and the boys have already started working towards next year. Our goal is to take things one step further and qualify for the state tournament for only the second time in program history (2004).

Bison Girls Tennis

Head Coach: Simona Erickson (3rd year)

Assistant: Katie Holmes

This past season was really special for me and the team. We are losing 7 seniors that were a part of our varsity roster, which is a huge hit for us since the varsity roster has only 12 spots.

Fall of 2025 is going to be a learning curve for a lot of younger players and I am trusting our returners to show them the ropes and what it means to be on the varsity roster.

As you know, the Lake Conference is a really tough conference to be in when it comes to any sport but especially tennis. We were 2-4, winning against STMA and Hopkins, but losing to Edina, Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, and Wayzata.

We were 12-13 overall for the season. We had some pretty good wins against Litchfield, Monticello, and Andover. I would love to have a positive result this next season.

One of our seniors, Ashley O'Malley, had a significant amount of wins this past season. She has mostly played #2 singles with a record of 18 wins out of 25 matches. This is incredible considering the conference we are in.

I cannot wait to see what the next season is going to look like for us!!!
GO BISON!

Bison Volleyball

Head Coach: Steve Novacek (1st Year)

Assistant Coach: Kristina Sloan

JV coach: Lauri Zumach

B Squad Coach: Aivary Bouman

9A Coach: Rachelle Roushar

9B Coach: Terri Sixta

Despite our record of 7-16, the team had an unbelievable season. After graduating 10 seniors and having 2 returning varsity players from the previous year. We were building a brand new team to compete in arguably the toughest conference in the Midwest. Of our starting rotation we had 1 of 7 starters who had seen varsity playing time in 2023. This presented challenges at times but this also gave us an opportunity for unbelievable growth through the season. The girls continued to work hard, learn and we showed significant growth through the year!

Starting out we were learning new systems, new expectations and new ways to think about the game and new ways to learn to play the game. It seemed every week that went by we continued to grow, develop our volleyball IQ and we eventually got to a point where we were playing at a very competitive level. We played Wayzata extremely tough at their place and we took St. Michael to 4 sets at home toward the end of the season and played some of our best volleyball. Once we got into our section play we were able to defeat Brainerd at home in a great 5 set match.

All Conference - Sophomore Libero - Addison Pajari

All Conference Honorable Mention:

- Senior - Outside Hitter - Natalie Mix
- Junior - Middle Hitter - Danika Rosenau
- Junior - Right Side - Kendra Harris

Bison Team Awards:

- MVP - Natalie Mix
- Most Improved - Brianna Eggers
- Hustle Award - Ellen Miriovsky
- Defensive Award - Addison Pajari
- Best Teammate - Danika Rosenau
- Bison Volleyball Award - Ellen Miriovsky

Bison Volleyball Players Moving on to Play

- Natalie Mix - Moorhead State University

Looking ahead to next season we have a solid foundation of returners coming back to play and we will be working hard this off-season and this summer to continue to grow. I feel we will be in a better position to be competitive in our section, knowing that our section graduated some very talented seniors and knowing we are bringing back some great athletes. With our conference continuing to get more competitive and improve the level of play, it will be a good challenge to see how high we can climb this year and to see how well we can rise to a challenge.

The HERD Summer Marching Band

Head Coach: Scott Rabehl

Season Summary HERD 2024

“The HERD” had another fine season. With 101 members, we were one of the largest bands in MN with perhaps only 2 other bands over 100.

Scores, this year, were wildly inconsistent, bouncing all over the place. We would be 2 points worse than a band one night, then 6 points better the next. There were parades with incredibly strong lineups of bands, in which not a single group received a superior rating. This made it very difficult to gauge our progress. Competitive results seemed to have a lot more to do with who was on the judging panel than it did with the performance level of the bands. Watching parade video was the only reliable measure, and it indicated steady improvement throughout the season. With less rehearsal time than every other group (this is intentional...allowing more kids to participate), we continue to be highly ranked.

Competitive Summary

Score

Placement

Specials

Buffalo

71.7

Exhib.

If we'd have been in competition "The HERD" would have been 2nd out of 7 bands.

Foley

81.7

3rd out of 8 bands

1st in Class AAA, 1st in Music, 2nd in Marching, 3rd in General Effect

Milaca

76.8

5th out of 15 (only 1 band crack the 80's...Superior) This isn't "truthy" judging
Finished between 2nd and 5th in Captions and Sub-Captions with the highest being
Music Effect (2nd)

Sauk Rapids

74.0

No scores for other bands, just Ratings. Every single band got the same Ratings:
Excellent. No usable info from this judging panel.

Roseville

80.9

2nd out of 9 bands. We defeated Waconia for the first time in the 37 year history of the
band.

1st in Drum Majors, 2nd in Marching and Winds, 3rd in Music and General Effect, 4th in
Color Guard. A tremendous showing!

Lake City

87.3

1st out of 5 bands

1st in Marching and Drumline, 2nd in Music, General Effect and Color Guard.

Hanover

Exhib.

Exhib.

Not judged

Our average score in competitive parades (post Buffalo Days) was 80.18: into the Superior box even with those two parades with almost no Superior Ratings. The last two events, Roseville and Lake City, launched the kids high into the comparative head-to-head standings for the season. 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. I could make a weak case for 3rd, but I could also make a pretty good argument that there are two other bands that are really about the same as us. However, look back at what I said about the unreliability of judging results this year. So, the best, most accurate competitive summary I could give is, we are in very good company, and I am satisfied. I think our kids work incredibly hard, and it shows. Their "performance level" is astounding.

It was great to have Ms. Ward as our guest at the Milaca parade this season. It is hard to understand what these kids do without seeing them in action. And, I'm not just talking about the way they perform. I am talking about their "way of being". These kids do what needs to be done, when it needs to be done, whether they want to do it or not. To see them in action is a "well-filling experience" for any adult who believes in the character of our young people. It is confirmed through the behaviors of this fine group of marching artists. You are ALL (Administrators, District Office personnel and School Board members) invited to join us at any parade in the future. Just let me know if you are interested, and I will contact you with the details of the upcoming season.