

School Board Meeting/Workshop:

February 10, 2020

Subject:

2019 BHS Fall Activities Report

Presenter:

**Tom Bauman,
BHS Activities Director**

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION: Informational

DESCRIPTION:

Buffalo High School has completed its fall activities season for the 2019-2020 school year. Coaches and Advisors have shared a short narrative summary of their seasons for your review. This report also includes a detailed statistical summary of participation numbers including coaching ratios.

An Activities Department update will be provided at the board workshop on February 10th.

FALL ACTIVITIES SUMMARIES:

FOOTBALL:

Head Coach Todd Bouman (6th year)

The 2019 Bison Football season was once again filled with many exciting plays and games. Coming off a previous season when every offensive record was rewritten, there were many expectations. Returning only 2 starters on the offensive side, there were many underclassmen that made a huge contribution. We ended the campaign with a 4-4 regular season and were only a few plays from another 6-2 regular season.

Opening the season with a tough loss at Alexandria and another fun filled back and forth game with Elk River put us at 0-2. We finished the season winning 3 of our last 4, which included reviving an old rivalry against STMA in the playoffs and bringing The Muddy Crow back to Buffalo. This victory was a true testament of what this team was about. Resilient, tough and a team first attitude.

Once again we not only succeeded on the field but also in the classroom. As a team we were over a 3.2 GPA which landed us in the gold category for the 5th consecutive season. A job well done. More school and state records were broken this season. In his first season of playing WR, Michael Tweten set all season records in receptions,

yards and TD's. His 95 receptions puts him second in state history for a season. Aidan Bouman finished his career second in state history with 9,578 yards passing and 94 TD's. Also becoming the only QB in state history to have back to back 3,000 yd passing seasons. From our team camp in July at SMSU until our last game at Mounds View, these athletes only cared about one thing, what could they do to help their teammate. Putting everything else before the betterment of themselves. As a coach, this is the greatest compliment you can give anyone, selfless humility!

We had seven named to ALL District honors. Aidan Bouman, Micheal Tweten, Trevor Johnson, Stevie Johnson, Brandon Lampi, Isaiah Karels and Noah Karels. Micheal Tweten was named District MVP Wide Receiver along with Star Tribune All Metro. Aidan Bouman was Academic All State, District MVP, Star Tribune and Kare 11 All Metro for a second consecutive season, and a Mr. Football finalist. Aidan was chosen to play in the MN Football Showcase at US Bank Stadium, and selected to the MN Vikings All State team. Our 5th year in a row having someone represent Buffalo in the High School All Star football game, quite an accomplishment.

With this being my last narrative, I can't help but think of the amazing people that have been there to support our program for the past six seasons. There are so many moving parts to football that people do not understand and I truly appreciate all of the support we get from this great school, administration and community. It has been an honor and a blessing to lead the Bison these past six seasons. It has given my family more joy than many people could ever imagine, and I look forward to following the success of all Buffalo athletics in the future. Thanks again for this amazing ride!

ONCE A BISON ALWAYS A BISON!!

VOLLEYBALL:

Head Coach Jennifer Peterson (4th year)

The Buffalo Girls Volleyball program had a successful year, despite the difficult transition into the Lake Conference. We replaced three coaches this year at the freshman and sophomore levels. Gina Pogue and Jennifer Penney ran the 9th grade teams with a lot of success! 9A took first place in a 12-team tournament at Armstrong and the 9B team took 2nd place in their 8-team bracket! Gina and Jenn did a great job encouraging and preparing the girls to play at a higher level. Autumn Senger, an alumni of ours, joined the coaching staff as the 10th grade coach. They made great strides in their skills and played the best they had all year in their last two matches of the season. Megan Scherer had 11 players at the JV level to start the season, who were very competitive in every match up. The team consisted of only one junior and ten underclassmen (8-10th grade). Although very young, they were very competitive and had several conference wins over some tough teams like Wayzata and Hopkins. They also had a very successful Hopkins tournament, taking 2nd place in a 16-team tournament. And lastly, assistant coach Becky Karna and I led the varsity team to a

successful season, although the win/loss column was 10 and 19, we still were very proud of our team and the other successes made. The competition was very challenging as we actually faced three teams that participated in the State Volleyball tournament this year. The team was led by senior captains Nicole Odeen, Lauren Ehlers, Maddie Johnson and Ellie Therrien. Nicole Odeen reached another significant milestone in her career of over 2000 set assists, which puts her 2nd in the Buffalo record books for most set assists. She also left her mark in the record books for other stats like service aces, digs and hitting percentage. Nicole was named All Conference for the Lake Conference and she will be attending Davenport University playing Division II volleyball next fall. Ellie Therrien, Maddie Johnson, and Lauren Ehlers were given All Conference Honorable Mention awards. Maddie made the career record books for 2nd most career digs and Lauren made the career record books for Buffalo volleyball for 9th in most hitting attempts. Team GPA was high enough to place us on both the All-State and Conference Gold Academic teams. The varsity season eventually ended in the section quarterfinals in another match up against St Michael-Albertville. Next season will bring new challenges as the seniors have left some large shoes to fill. We are very excited for the growth of the program and the future it holds with our underclasswomen!

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY:

Head Coach Dave Knutson (6th year)

Many on the outside thought this would have been a rebuilding year for the boys Cross Country program. The boys team was replacing five of the seven starters from last year's squad. We came into the 2019 season with youth and inexperience but we did have talent and a desire to work and get better. From Day 1, the goal for the boys squad was to win the Section 2AA meet. This group had done a great job of training together over the summer so the coaches felt this was a very realistic, but difficult, goal. Over the last several years, the boys squad has averaged between 45-50 boys each season. This depth has been one of our strengths. Led by Sr. Varsity captains Nick Oak and Luke Lichtenberg, the boys team worked to achieve their goal. As with any young team we had some ups and downs. The boys won the Waconia Invitational (2nd year in a row) and our Buffalo home invitational (9th year in a row). They also finished 5th in the Lake Conference championship meet. Our youth and inexperience showed in that meet, but the boys learned some valuable lessons they would apply at the Section meet. During the season, our #1 runner Nick Oak fell in and out of the State rankings a few times. Being a ranked athlete was a new experience for Nick, and he had to learn how to handle the pressure and expectations of these rankings.

As the season progressed our depth played a key role in the success of our team. Nick was consistently our #1, but several different boys rotated through the #2 through #7 spots. This created a healthy competition each week for our Varsity spots. This year's team did a fantastic job of pulling for each other. Luke Lichtenburg (sr), Frank Emerick (sr), Dillon Huss (jr), Parker Ryan (jr), Jadon Boots (soph), Jared Gregoire (soph),

James Dorado (soph), Zach Meullerleile (soph), and Andrew Macheel (fr), all spent time rotating through the Varsity and JV squads.

Once again, the Buffalo boys team was not the favorite coming into the Section meet. We seem to be underestimated (from the outside) each year. Our depth again showed as Buffalo placed all five of our scorers in the top 20. This pack mentality led to a first-place finish in the Section 2AA meet. This is the 3rd straight Section championship and the 4th straight State meet appearance for the boys squad.

The following week, the boys raced at the State Cross country meet in Northfield. For four of the seven athletes, this was their first trip to a State level competition. The boys ran well and finished 8th overall. This was the 2nd best team finish in school history. Sr. Nick Oak finished 6th overall individually. This tied for the best individual finish in school history at the State Cross Country meet.

By any measure this was a very successful season. The future also looks bright with the number of boys out for the program and the number of underclassmen that stepped up to the Varsity squad this year.

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY:

Head Coach Jill Hanson (33 years)

This was a season of new beginnings and the end of some traditions but more importantly it was a season that was marked by growth, togetherness and fun. Our season began with the splitting of the coaching job. Andrea Carlson came on board to share this season with me. She is a looping teacher at Hanover who was an All-American runner at Jamestown College. Andrea is a highly qualified coach with an elementary mindset. (That is the best kind of mindset.) She looked for the fun in workouts, caring about each runner and doing whatever was needed. It was a good opportunity when kids have several coaches to work with— where one coach can reach a runner where another coach couldn't.

It was another year of a great class of freshman. Each year the new kids come in eager to work and earn those varsity positions. This year we even brought up an 8th grader, Brooklyn Hart, who amazed us with her talents. Our seniors did a fantastic job at bringing those newbies into the fold and making them part of the team. Also, what was really amazing was to watch those seniors turn up their competitiveness— much more focused on their running while keeping their attention to the "team". They organized many activities outside the practice day and included everyone. As far as the competitive season, we had a season that we have not had in a number of years. If you look at meet placement you might disagree, but the approach they took as competitors was amazing to watch. They became more confident, more focused, and developed that ability to endure pain. We call that embracing the pain. When you think you have given all you can, you give a little more. Your team needs you. They would amaze even

themselves on what they could do. At our final season race, sections, we had discussions of the chance to make state. We have not had that talk in a number of years.

We ended up 4th in the section with a runner, Brooklyn advancing to state. It was fun!!! The end of several traditions came this past season. After 30 years, the team will no longer head north for Camp Run. That camp is one of our best experiences and it will continue, but just not in Longville. The running, the skits, the stupid games will continue, just in a different location. Sad for me but not for some people will be the ending of the Homecoming football run. For me, that was always a way to impress the town on how far our kids can run while bringing the spotlight to the team at a crowded football game. But I suppose the roads are more crowded than they were back in 1988 when we ran our first football run. And, it is the end of my Cross Country coaching career, a career that has been the greatest opportunity a person could ask for. I have had the chance to work with the greatest kids at Buffalo High School doing what I think is one of the greatest activities, running, where you can choose any path you desire and get paid for it. WOW! Thanks for the adventure: It was a great run

GIRLS TENNIS:

Head Coach Scott Larson (4th year)

The girls Tennis team had 33 athletes from grades 9-12 this fall. We had a great team bonding trip to Duluth for three matches early in the season with great parent support coming up to cheer us on. We opened the Lake Conference season against Edina and Minnetonka, two of the best programs in the state and quickly were introduced to our new conference.

Highlights for the year included winning the Irish Invitational in Rosemount, capturing the first Lake Conference win for any sport with an exciting 4-3 win over Wayzata at home, celebrating the high school careers of three seniors coming to a close with our senior appreciation match against St Cloud Tech, having a doubles team win the Section tournament and advance to State where they won their first round and lost a very close three-set match in the quarterfinals. Team captains this year were seniors Ella Stevens and Ohnica Melenich. Our other contributing varsity senior player was Hillary Hovland. The sister combination of Anna Lee, our #1 singles player and Alaina Lee, our top doubles player teamed together and were the team that advanced to the State Tournament.

The condition of our eight outdoor tennis courts at the high school continue to be an issue for our program. Cracking and holes on every court are impacting play. It is my opinion that the courts are in need of a complete resurfacing to repair the damage. The eight BCMS courts are in great condition at this time.

GIRLS SWIM & DIVE:

Head Coach Rachel Busch (5th year)

Another great season was had in the pool! In the second week of the 2019 season, we had our week-long Purple vs. White competition which included an overnight trip to Great Wolf Lodge in Bloomington, MN. Throughout the first three weeks of the season, the Captains led us in developing team goals, we all discussed the importance of living drug and alcohol-free lives, and we strengthened our family-like community through a variety of in-water and out-of-water activities. The beginning of the season also brought discussions on our four pillars: be accountable, be dedicated, be grateful, and be respectful. Throughout the bulk of the season, the coaching staff read aloud The Energy Bus by Jon Gordon and the team discussed and implemented the 10 rules for riding The Energy Bus. The 2019 captains, Zoe Carik, Julia Gleason, Sydney Polzin and Kennedy Stromberg did a great job leading our team of 36 throughout the season, showing true class and dedication. The team made five goals for the season: (1) Have good sportsmanship and encourage others. (2) Don't be energy vampires – drive your own bus! (3) 3.75 GPA as a team. (4) Work hard and try your best. (5) Good communication. They did a fantastic job at working toward these goals and nearly accomplished all of them. The only goal they missed was the team GPA where they earned a 3.74.

For our coaching staff, we had six returning coaches, two of which were new. Coach Busch completed her 9th season overall and 5th year as the Head Coach. Stefan Walker (Volunteer Swim Assistant) completed his fourth, Laura Lundeen (Swim Assistant) completed her fourth, Kelli Nadeau (Part Time Swim Assistant) completed her second, Kelsea Smith (Part Time Swim Assistant) completed her second, and Kelsey Ortmann (Part Time Strength) completed her third. The new faces were Tim Walker (Part Time Swim Assistant) and Quincy Kabe (Dive Coach), who filled in for Shannon Barclay while on maternity leave. The team was very fortunate to have such a dedicated and caring coaching staff.

The season wrapped up with a 3-6 dual meet record, finishing 6th in the Lake Conference. We finished 3rd at True Team Sections, one place lower than 2018. For the second year in a row, we scored enough points to be chosen as a wild card team for the True Team State Meet, where we finished 10th of 12 teams. The team swam and dove well at the JV Conference Meet, with many personal best times and scores posted. The majority of girls swam/dove season-best times/scores at the Section Meet, where we finished 3rd as a team. For the fourth year in a row, there was at least one girl in finals for each event at Sections; we had 90% of swimmers racing in finals.

Participating in the State Meet were six girls: Kolby Schendel (10th), Brianna Shroyer (9th), Ellie Carik (10th), Sydney Polzin (12th), Julia Gleason (12th), and Elle Kaiser (11th). Alternate was Hayley Crosland (9th). The 200 Medley Relay (17th) was composed of Kolby Schendel, Brianna Shroyer, Ellie Carik, and Sydney Polzin. The 200-free relay (14th) team was Kolby Schendel, Sydney Polzin, Julia Gleason and Elle Kaiser.

Individually, Brianna Shroyer competed in the 200 IM (24th) and 100 Breaststroke (10th). The team finished 28th overall with 13 points.

For Conference awards, Brianna Shroyer received All-Conference and Elle Kaiser, Sydney Polzin and Kolby Schendel received All-Conference Honorable Mention. As a team, the girls earned the Section 8AA Silver Academic, missing gold by 0.01 points. Additionally, school records were set in the 200 IM (Brianna Shroyer), 200 Free Relay (Kolby Schendel, Sydney Polzin, Julia Gleason, and Elle Kaiser), 100 Backstroke (Kolby Schendel), and 100 Breaststroke (Brianna Shroyer).

We had many successes on the scoreboard this season, but most importantly, I am extremely proud of these girls for who they are and how they positively represent themselves, their team, and the entire BHM community. This team is truly a family and it is fun and rewarding to be on the girls' swim and dive journey with them. The entire team was a joy to work with and we are looking forward to the 2020 season. The captains for 2020 are Elle Kaiser, Lily Leahy and Alayna Mills. Go Bison!

BOYS SOCCER:

Head Coach Joe Pokorney (4th year)

Assistant Varsity coach: Josh Tierney (1st year)

JV coach: Jordan Danielson (2nd year)

JV2 coach: Paul Olson (3rd year)

Varsity Season Overview

Boys soccer had a challenging yet positive year in 2019. Transitioning to the Lake Conference put us into arguably the most competitive soccer conference in the state. Four of the seven Lake Conference teams spent significant time in the AA Top 10 rankings, including eventual State Champion Edina. We played a double-round-robin conference schedule, where 12 of our 16 regular season games were played against conference teams, and finished with a record of 0-14-2. Despite this record, the majority of our games were closely contested and competitive. Our players and coaches maintained a positive outlook throughout the schedule, finding ways to work hard and have fun at every practice. Playing against the best competition in the state made it very clear that we had room for growth, and we got better throughout the season. The section tournament ended with a 3-1 loss to #1 seed Brainerd in the opening round. We were highly competitive in this game and certainly had chances to win. In summation, the season was difficult -- no question -- but it also provided plenty of valuable lessons and moments to celebrate. Our varsity team was led this year by nine graduating seniors, including captains Jason Yatckoske and Parker Vajda, as well as junior captain Carson Smrz.

Awards/Honors

All-Conference honors went to seniors Jason Yatcoske and Parker Vajda. All-Conference Honorable Mention awards went to senior Luke Quiring, junior Carson Smrz, and sophomore Carver Tierney. Coach Pokorney was selected as Section 8AA Coach of the Year.

Other Program Highlights and Information

52 student athletes tried out for three teams (Varsity, JV and B) and all 52 athletes were placed on a roster: 17 on Varsity, 17 on JV, and 18 on B. Our JV and B teams faced a great deal of competitive challenge from the new Lake Conference schedule. JV finished with a 2-13-1 record. B squad had one win over Monticello and one tie with Edina. Both lower level teams rose to the challenge of a difficult schedule, and played some of their best soccer at the end of the year. Again, it was a year of learning and growth for everyone involved in our program. We experienced plenty of adversity, but in many ways we also became stronger people and a stronger program.

GIRLS SOCCER:

Head Coach Sarah Rodenwald (4th year)

The 2019 Bison Girls soccer season was filled with ups and downs. Entering the Lake Conference, which consistently fields top 10 teams in MSHSL AA soccer, proved to be a tough task for our players. In spite of this, the team's attitude remained positive, and we were able to focus on tangible accomplishments and opportunities for growth. The regular season ended with a record of 3-13, with the varsity team going 0-12 for its conference schedule. There were many highlights within that: a regular season victory against Rogers, which we had not recorded since 2011, some great fights in the Lake Conference, including losses to Eden Prairie (1-2), Hopkins (0-1), playing defending state champion Minnetonka to a 1-2 battle until the last 20 minutes of the game, and two very competitive matches with St Michael-Albertville. The team was led this year by senior captains Jada Habisch and Kaylin Strike, as well as junior captain Carly Kauffman. Kaylin once again led our team defensively, and Jada was our best offensive threat, leading our team in points this season. Strike and sophomore Lauren Feddema earned All-Lake Conference honors, and junior Lauren Boyd, junior Carly Kauffman and Habisch were named All-Conference honorable mention. Overall, in the Lake Conference, 14 players earned spots on the All-State teams, so earning all-conference this year was pretty impressive. For the third time in four years, our season ended with a 0-1 section 8AA quarterfinal loss.

Off the field, our program continued to see positive growth. Our season theme was "Be Your Best", and our players embraced the opportunity to play soccer and be together. We once again spent a night packing meals at Feed My Starving Children, enjoyed team and program dinners, and went to numerous high school activities together. Academically, our girls improved on last year's academic showing by posting a cumulative GPA of 3.81.

This offseason, the girls are looking to improve their showing in the Lake Conference by getting faster and stronger. There will be a very strong senior class coming back for 2020 and they are excited to compete once again in such a strong conference.

The coaching staff included Carrie (Walz) Schmitt in her 10th season, Josh Soukup in his 4th season, and Andy Frechette in his 3rd season. At the conclusion of the 2019 season, I made the difficult decision to step down as head coach of the Bison. I want to take this opportunity to thank all who have impacted me during my campaign: the players and their families, my coaches, Tom Bauman and the entire Activities Department, the BHS administration and the Buffalo soccer community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the school board for their support!

FALL MUSICAL:

Guys and Dolls

Based on a story and characters by Damon Runyon
Book by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows
Music and Lyrics by Frank Loesser

Spring Musical:

Tracy Hagstrom Durant (28 years) and
Nick Lostetter (3 years), Co - Directors

Music Director: Zack Carlson
Choreographer: Debb Bestland
Tech Director: Greg Bestland
Lighting Designer: Greg Bestland
PAC Manager: David Kilgore
Student Choreographers: Jillian Elton and Julia Carter
Student Stage Manager: Alayna West
Student Technical Director: Frank Emerick
Stage Management Consultant: Jamie West
Costumes: Laurie Hoops, Jodi Klaphake (Volunteers)

Musical Synopsis:

Set in 1950's Times Square, *Guys and Dolls* is about a couple of big city gamblers and the women who love them. It tells the overlapping stories of high-roller Sky Masterson, who falls in love with mission worker Sarah Brown, and lovable rascalion Nathan Detroit, engaged for 14 years to Miss Adelaide, a headliner at the Hot Box Club. Nathan runs a famous floating crap game, and an ongoing plot line involves his quest for a safe place for the game as Adelaide continues her quest to convince him to marry her. Meanwhile, Sarah, mistakenly believing that Sky set up an illegal game at the mission, tries to fight her affection for the charismatic crapshooter. - [Broadway.com](https://www.broadway.com)

BHS Performances: November 21 - 23 at 7:30 PM and November 24 at 2:00 PM.

This year's musical brought back some wonderful memories. *Guys and Dolls* was the first show produced in the PAC in April of 1997. Our theatre students had been begging for a "big, traditional musical", so after weeks of research and negotiation (that is really true...we have quite an exhaustive process to find the right show for us), the directorial team settled on this classic favorite. We featured 30 high school actors along with 75 students involved in various crews and the pit orchestra. Tickets were available in the high school office and at Gartner's Hallmark at a cost of \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00; they were also available at the door. This year our tech director, Greg Bestland, assisted by several students, created an eye-catching set covered in beautiful detail work. We were able to stretch our budget with the generous donation of three set pieces from the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis. We further challenged our students and ourselves by redesigning those set pieces, therefore personalizing them to our production design concept. This process stretched our student technicians. It was an excellent example of students stepping up to the challenge. 35 plus students were involved in the lighting/sound booth and costume/make-up crews.

Again this year, our tech crew also had multiple special needs students involved. A para was hired to accompany one student. One other student was accompanied by dad to every set building session. He is an experienced carpenter and served as an excellent mentor to our students. Two other students functioned quite well on their own.

Nick Lostetter and I are a good directorial team. We bring different strengths to the experience and learn from each other. It was an absolute joy to work with Zach Carlson, the BHS choir director. As Music Director, he prepares the students vocally as well as directing the pit orchestra which involved 16 students. Debb Bestland, choreographer, and Greg Bestland round out our team. We could not do the high-quality production without each of us. *Guys and Dolls* was a HUGE undertaking for the BHS Theater Program. Thanks to the generosity of several volunteers (both parents, past graduates and others) and other high school theater programs, we were able to rent and borrow necessary equipment, costumes and props so we could do the production.

This year Hagstrom Durant and Lostetter decided to again enter the BHS production in the Spotlight Musical Theater Education Program/Contest through the Hennepin Theater Trust (Mpls.). The Spotlight program provides many benefits to BHS. We received "pre-adjudication" and technical adjudication (focused only on our student technicians) during our dress rehearsals. Our performances were judged by three professional actors/directors/technicians. We should receive our results before our December break. We hope to once again be performing at the Spotlight Showcase being held at the State Theatre in Minneapolis on June 8 or 9, 2020. We are very proud to represent the BHM school district in this endeavor.

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

ADAPTED SOCCER: Coach Ruth Clarke (2nd year, 18 years in Adapted Athletics)

This was the second season for the Adapted Soccer team. Monticello provided five players, STMA sent over three players and there were six athletes from Buffalo. With new skills to be learned by the athletes, we had a daunting task facing experienced teams. With a handful of practices before the season started, we started our season with a solid win against the Columbia Heights-St Anthony Village Strikers. The regular season ended with 2 wins, 1 tie and 7 losses, finishing with a playoff game against Mounds View. The team really improved over the season which was proven with a really close exciting game against Mounds View, who had beat us soundly earlier in the season.

This year, our team consisted of 14 athletes, 2 student managers and 3 coaches. The athletes from Buffalo were seniors Kyle Kauffman; juniors Brandon Powers, Mackenzie Davis and Lexi Georges; and sophomore Jordan Ragone. Buffalo had one new athlete, an 8th grader, Lisa Bull. STMA athletes were senior Derek Vetsch and newcomer, Jane Schmidt. St. Michael also added an 8th grader, Peter Roelike. The Monticello athletes were senior Justin Garaghty, junior Meghan Garaghty and newcomer Hannah Strom and sophomore Brenden Garaghty. Monticello added another new athlete, Logan Sinclair, an 8th grader. Team student managers were junior Rylee Simmang and senior Erika Michaels. One big development was getting 3 coaches, one from each school. Tim Horan, a Special Education teacher from St. Michael, joined us along with the assistant coach from adapted softball, Frannie Pearson. She is an English teacher in Monticello. Head coach was Ruth Clarke from Buffalo.

All three schools were represented by our team captains; Kyle Kauffman, Justin Garaghty, and Jane Schmidt, and Derek Vetsch. The four of them worked together and showed great leadership. They were responsible for leading the team warm-ups, setting up the field, and putting all the equipment away. They did a great job encouraging and supporting the team on and off the field.

The team really improved as the season progressed. We are looking forward to many more great seasons.

ATTACHMENT(S): Participation Report