

## **FALL ACTIVITIES SUMMARIES**

### **GIRLS TENNIS:** Head Coach Charley Keifenheim (28 years)

The Buffalo High School Girls Tennis team completed a very successful season in the fall of 2012. The girls played to a 14-6 regular season record and won the M8 conference with an 8-2 record. We owe a large part of our success to our senior leaders, particularly co-captains Mackenzie Rixe and Meghan Bye. These two girls had outstanding performances in their final season with the team and were instrumental in our three 4-3 wins in the final week of the conference season! I don't know if our team has ever had to finish on those terms before to win the conference title. Ellie Botzet and Whitney Nyholm gave strong performances and will be our captains for the upcoming season. Sophomores Jenny Allen, and Maggie Koppi, along with freshmen Mattie Lubben, and Claudia Botzet gave strong performances as well. We are looking forward to next season as we will have some wonderful players coming back who seem committed to excellence.

### **BOYS SOCCER:** Head Coach Jeff Lindstrom (12th year)

Boys Soccer finished the 2012 season with a 7-8-2 overall record and a 5-2-2 conference record finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Mississippi 8. The season was highlighted with victories over Mississippi 8 champions STMA and defending Section 8AA champions Anoka.

Injuries were unkind to the Bison this season. We were never healthy and our talented senior class missed a total of 38 games over the course of the season. Despite this set back, the team remained upbeat and competitive in every game they played. In this way, the team epitomized what Bison activities are about. They played hard through adversity and never made excuses. They hung together as a team throughout what proved to be a trying season. The squad was knocked out in the playoffs by St. Cloud Tech in a shootout.

The team once again captured the Mississippi 8 Academic Conference Championship. Bison Boys Soccer has won the last three Academic Conference Championships. This is also the 8th time in 12 years the team has received this honor. In addition they earned the Class AA Academic Silver Award becoming 1 of only 3 teams in Class AA to receive it this year. This speaks to the athletes' commitment to academics and being student athletes. Eddie Clifton, Adam Mark Bjork, Joe O'Flanagan, and Andrew Mussell were named to the all-conference team.

The JV squad had an outstanding year finishing 9-4-2. The B-Squad also had a strong season finishing at 5-5-0.

### **BOYS and GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY:** Head Coach Jill Hanson (26 years).

Again, the season started out with big numbers, the second year of increased numbers and with our middle school we were close to 90 runners. When you have numbers like that, you will find athletes and that we did.

### Boys-

The boys team won the Big Lake Invite and then won for the first time in my tenure, the Buffalo Invitational. At the conference meet, we prevailed by one point and had a back-to-back conference championship. Dan Pettit, Bo Brailer, and Frank Graham were All Conference with Andrei Casey earning All Conference Honorable Mention. We had strong hopes going into the section meet in that it was at our home course and we had many opportunities to train on the course. It was not to be, as we took 3<sup>rd</sup> place but advanced both Dan Pettit and Frank Graham to the state meet, held the next weekend.

### Girls

We continue to search for more girl runners and need to keep working on that goal. The girls have steadily improved during the season and had their best race at the section meet. At the conference, the girls finished fourth. The girls were lead by All Conference runners, Hayley Downing and Kailey Johnson. Macey McClay was our All Conference honorable mention runner. The girls finished sixth at the section meet and for the third year in a row, Hayley Downing represented the Bison at the state meet.

### **FOOTBALL:** Head Coach Gerard Rohl (21 years, 35 in program)

The Bison Varsity Football Team had some specific goals for this past season. One of our annual goals is to win the Mississippi 8 Conference but we failed. We finished third in the conference and this marks our second year in a row without a conference championship. Another goal our team stated before the season was to finish as Section 6AAAAA champion. We did not meet that goal either as we lost in the first round of the playoffs. Our last specific goal that we did achieve was to defeat St. Michael and bring the world's ugliest trophy home to Buffalo. That trophy, which is aptly named the "Muddy Crow" now, resides here at BHS! We did it with a complete team effort and a school record field goal kick of 46 yards by Senior Eddie Clifton! The Bison Varsity finished the season with a conference record of three wins and three losses. We had an offensive team that set many school records against some very good teams in our conference. At midseason, four of our opponents were ranked in the top eight of the class AAAAAA rankings and three of them were in our conference as well: Moorhead, Rogers, Monticello, and St. Michael. We defeated one and lost to the other three by a combined point total of sixteen. We had some great battles with some very good teams. At the lower levels we saw some great strides for improvement as well.

The Freshmen A team ended their season with several big wins and showed improvement against teams that they had faced earlier in the season. This team posted a three win and four loss record. The Freshmen B team did some great things as well. All of their games were very close and they completed their season with a five win and two loss mark. Our sophomore team, with several key players on the Varsity, had a season marked with injuries to key players. But when healthy and by season's end, this sophomore team had really improved and their last four games were extremely close contests with the conference leaders. Our Bison JV team had a great year. They ended the 2012 campaign with a five win and two loss record. With big wins over St. Michael and Cambridge, the JV team played with a high level of confidence against all foes this past season.

The 2012 Bison got better each and every week. I can really thank my veteran coaching staff for this; we really have a group of coaches now that can adjust to almost any situation or opponent that presents itself. New coaches this season included Josh Ortmann and Vince Welch. Both of these gentlemen added a high degree of knowledge, leadership and role modeling to our 2012 staff.

#### Numbers

During this past season we had a Varsity team of 53 players, which included two sophomores and one freshman. The overall numbers in our program totaled 119. That includes grades 9-12. This compares to last year when we had 123. Our highest number of participants I can remember is about 143 players in our program during the 2003 season.

#### Future

We are excited about our new Football conference which will include the following 12 teams:

Buffalo, Cambridge Isanti, Rogers, STMA, St Francis, Duluth East, Big Lake, Chisago Lakes, Monticello, North Branch, Princeton, Duluth Denfeld

This new football conference will be split into two halves, the largest six and the smallest six. Each team's schedule will be completed by playing across into the other group. This will make for familiar foes year in and year out. The schedule and the rivalries will lead to a very competitive, tradition rich football conference. Thank you!

**VOLLEYBALL:** Head Coach Lauri Zumach (5<sup>th</sup> Year, 1<sup>st</sup> year returning)

The Bison Volleyball program ended their 2012 season with a 21-7 record. We had three returning varsity players and a relatively young squad experience wise. The team was comprised of four seniors, two juniors, and four sophomores.

Highlights from the season included winning the Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted tournament, Benilde-St. Margaret tournament, sharing a piece of the M8 Conference title, and beating Hutchinson in three in the first round of Section 2AAA playoffs.

All teams in the program showed much improvement throughout the season. Our own 9<sup>th</sup> grade team took second in their home invitational. This was due to hard working athletes and even harder working and dedicated coaches. Heather Kwoka and Gerice Olson coached 9<sup>th</sup> grade, Samantha Redepenning had the B squad, Josh Erickson coached JV, and Becky Karna helped me in assisting varsity.

The team had two seniors who earned All-State academic honors which means they had to maintain a 3.8 or higher GPA since the start of their sophomore year. This honor went to Emily Spier and Jerika Decker. Kylee Zumach, Hannah Daniel, and Sammy Johnson were honored with All-Conference recognition along with Emily Spier and Natalia Velenchenko earning honorable mention. Kylee also earned 1<sup>st</sup> team AAA All-State honors.

It was a very successful season for the Buffalo Volleyball program in several ways on and off the court. We had great girls that were a joy to coach and were good students and good kids outside

of the gym. I'm looking forward to getting back in the gym to work with them again. The future is bright for Buffalo volleyball!

**GIRLS SOCCER:** Head Coach Steve Doimer (4th Year)

Girls Varsity Soccer completed our most difficult year to date with a 4-9-3 record. Of the nine losses, four were in overtime. We struggled scoring, but were strong in the middle and defending thirds of the field. Our Goal Keeper had a great senior year and was a large part of our defensive success and low goals against average.

Assistant Coach Greeley has implemented unique physical training strategies that resulted in fewer injuries and an acceptable level of fitness. Coach Greeley was also responsible for team building and leadership exercises which carried us through some tough losses. The players did not get discouraged, focusing on "how close" and competitive we were in each contest. We took the field this year with less experience than in the past, but each player exhibited leadership at one time or another placing the team first. Every Varsity player fulfilled the requirements to earn a Varsity Letter. This was the first year this happened. The scoreboard is important, but not a good measure of the development of our young people.

Junior Varsity led by Carrie Walz finished with a record of 7-7-2. Coach Walz has excellent tactical understanding and did an excellent job training players and preparing them to play at the next level.

9th grade (C-squad) led by Jennifer Heebink had a fine season with a record 7-4-3. Coach Heebink primarily focuses on individual player development then field tactics. Her players made great strides from the beginning of the season. I expect to see many of her players on the Varsity field.

BHS should be proud of the young ladies participating in the soccer program.

**GIRLS SWIM & DIVE:** Head Coach Melissa Miller (3rd year)

The Girls Swim and Dive team completed another phenomenal season. A major highlight was sending six athletes to the State Meet including a diver. Emily DeVore, Jenna Muntifer, Becca Haggerty, Lauren Kaminski, Ashlee Hale and Mika Bordak were among those competing. Our Medley Relay took 24th, Emily DeVore took home two 12th place finishes in the 50 free and the 100 free, Becca Haggerty took 26th in diving and our 200 Free Relay ended the meet with a 21st place finish. We also had many girls place on the podium at Sections where we took 3rd.

We had a record turnout this season with over 70 participants on the team. Our final record was 9-3 for dual meets. We defeated Monticello for the first time since 2005 but fell short to STMA for the Conference Title. Our coaching staff continues to be impressed with the incredible progress our JV2, JV, Varsity and Diving teams make. We are graduating 12 seniors and will miss them all. We are already looking forward to next season. Thanks

**FALL CHEERLEADING:** Head Coach Kristen Lane (1st year)

The cheerleading program at Buffalo High School was in transition during the 2012 season. After a number of meetings, discussions, and information gathering from surrounding districts, the Fall Sideline Cheer program and Competitive Cheer programs separated for the Fall of 2012. For many reasons, Competitive Cheer has now become a club activity running year round. Fall Sideline Cheer remained a Buffalo High School Activity and finished at the end of the Fall season. 2011 coach Erin Miller followed the Competitive Cheer program and is currently their coach. Erin could no longer commit to running both programs. This left the activities department in search of a new Fall Sideline Cheer Coach. After an unsuccessful two week recruiting process, school counselor Kristen Lane stepped up to take on the Fall Cheer coaching role for one season.

Most participants also followed the Competitive Cheer path. Fall Cheer had the fewest number of participants it's had in years. I believe it is directly related to the loss of competitive opportunity in the program. With coaching vacancy issues, new rigorous training requirements for cheer coaches, and decreasing student interest, I believe that the Fall Cheer Sideline program needs to be evaluated for 2013 for continued existence.

**FALL PLAY:** Director Deb Bestland (1<sup>st</sup> year)

Fall Play: Snow Queen

Synopsis: Kay is playing with Gerda when a tear from the Snow Queen's mirror becomes lodged in his eye, forcing all the thoughts that make him sad to become magnified. Unable to face the world, Kay retreats to the South Pole with the Snow Queen where all his pain is replaced by numbness. Armed with the power of hope and love, Gerda braves many obstacles, including a giant squid, a river, and a Robber Maiden, to find and save her best friend. Set in New York City, this play puts a new spin on Hans Christian Andersen's classic tale.

The play was cast with 16 students, half with speaking parts and the other half as puppeteers. The set was a simple design but simple is not always easy. The two-dimensional, sixteen foot tall trees were a challenge to create. The platforms were set in the shape of a pinwheel and ramps flowed up and down from the various heights.

The students were challenged with using scooters to travel the space and with the use of several different types of puppetry in addition to projected scenery.

In addition to the actors, 20 other students participated in the technical aspects of the show including sets, costumes, masks, make-up, puppetry, projected scenery and lighting for the show. The lighting and projections were challenging to students used to some simplicity. The light bars held almost every light we own. The affect in the show allowed us to transition the story without stopping to reset anything. There was never a blackout nor was there an intermission. Before and after the show there were snow related craft projects and games for families. Refreshments were sold after the show since there was no intermission. On Wednesday, November 14, the show performed for over 300 elementary students from the area. The show was well received and teachers reported using the theme to introduce and work with issues of emotional health and

support. Thursday, Friday and Saturday performances averaged 350-400 and response from the community was positive as well.