

School Board Workshop:

September 9, 2024

Subject:

Spring 2024 Activities Report

Presenter:

Nick Guida, BHS Activities Director

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION: Report

DESCRIPTION: Season Summaries

Buffalo High School completed its spring activities season for the 2023-24 school year. Coaches and Advisors have completed a short narrative of their season for you to review. Thank you for supporting activities at BHS!

Baseball

Head Coach Mike Beilke (21 years)

The Bison finished the year with a record of 5-18. We finished the year with a Lake Conference record of 2-10. One of the highlights this year was winning a section game.

After a number of major injuries we found ourselves with a relatively young lineup. What our record doesn't show is how we competed throughout the entire season. We lost two games by walk-off singles, one extra inning game, a 0-1 loss, and four games by three runs or less.

One of the things that pleased me the most about this team is the maturity, the ability to compromise, their resiliency, and leadership. We had to overcome many challenges. We had four season ending injuries. All of these players found a way to contribute from the bench, keeping a book, running the scoreboard, leadership, and pretty much everything the team needed. Thank you players for your leadership that helped our team continue to compete in every game.

Teddy Salhus and Jack Henry were selected to the All-Conference Team
Dolen Brisk and Nolan Mullenbach received Honorable Mention All-Conference Awards
Jack Henry and Riley West were selected to the All-Section Team.

BISON AWARDS

Teddy Salhus was voted Most Improved.

Riley West was voted Most Dedicated.

Riley West was selected as Rookie Of The Year.

Riley West was selected for the LeRoy Erickson Hustler Award.

Jack Henry and Wyatt Hicks received the Leadership Award.

Jack Henry was selected for the MVP Award.

Batting Champion went to Teddy Salhus

Pitching Award was given to Nolan Mullenbach

Wyatt Hicks, Jack Henry, Gunnar Jonasson, Olli Niemela, and Tristan Moore will all be lost to graduation.

Thank you to the seniors for your outstanding attitudes and leadership. We are very excited about the players we have returning for next season. We have a wealth of young talent returning. We have several pitchers with varsity experience returning for next season. I really enjoyed coaching this group of young men. Go Bison!!!

HERD Marching Band

Head Coach: [Scott Rabehl](#)

"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.

Boys Golf

Head Coach: [Charley Keifenheim](#)

Asst Coach: [Todd Manninen](#)

I was asked to come out of retirement and once again coach the boys golf team this spring. I had some reservations but my wife and my supervisor at the golf course told me to go ahead if I wanted. Todd Manninen told me that he would be my assistant and point person at the high school. So, I returned from Florida and was coaching a few days later. We had 26 boys show up and we knew that we would have to reduce the squad by 10 eventually. The early spring allowed us to get out on the course a few times before spring break. With qualifying rounds done and cuts made, we started our competitive season. We found our stride in early May and took 2nd place (behind top ranked Edina) in the conference tournament! In the section tournament we had one guy advance to the state tournament. Russell Ylitalo placed 34th of about 90 players at the state tournament. It was a very fun season. The guys were great. Thanks to Mr Guida, coach Manninen, and Holly Husom who acted as the team mom.

Girls Golf

Head Coach: Tim Murray

Asst Coach: Josh Ortmann

The Spring 2024 golf season saw 22 girls come out for the season. As with many years, the weather certainly impacted the beginning of the season. But golf is not just about the skill on the course but about learning life-long skills for success beyond the course and the girls (and coaches!) were able to fight through the adversity to find the small wins in order to work toward the big wins later.

Nine girls lettered in golf as they competed at the varsity level (in alphabetical order): Lexi Hanzlik, Anna Kugler, Clara Larson, Josie Lindquist, Mackenzie Mjelde, Avery Olson, Julia Pack, Hayley Rohlin, and Carolyn Rokke. In the Lake Conference, we finished in 6th place earning two All-Conference selections in Anna and Hayley. They also

represented Buffalo High School on the second day of section golf at GreyStone in Sauk Centre.

Something that I feel very strongly about, as I continue to write this in my write-up: Every athlete and golfer understands the importance of the effort and work that they need to put in. Finding balance in athletics with academics, friendships, family and other interests is a life lesson that we can practice and learn through golf.

We thank the very large group of seniors for their leadership, laughs, and kindness. Anna, Clara, Josie, and Julia are off to do amazing things and we are excited to see all the great things they are yet to accomplish!

Coach Josh Ortmann and Coach Tim Murray had a wonderful group of girls and strived to find the small and big wins throughout the season.

Boys Lacrosse

Head Coach: [Noah Vanderkooi](#)

The Boys lacrosse team had a successful season on a year with a lot of change. This year we had many players in roles that were new to them. The year prior we graduated all of our top offensive performers, a division 1 defenseman, and our starting goalie. We saw some great improvement out of individual players.

Player 2023 2024

Chales Jerde 13 Points 41 Points

Owen Lange 5 Points 38 Points

Blake Beckman 7 Points 23 Points

Jack Vanderkooi 10 Points 33 Points

Our players found a way to step up into larger roles in all positions on our team and managed to have a good season despite having one of the hardest schedules in the state. We finished with 6 wins and 9 loses including a 13 -14 loss to Chanhassen in the section semi-finals. Out of our 15 games, 7 of those games were against teams ranked in the top 10 in the state.

Overall, our team had a great season, especially when it comes to dealing with all the major changes from last year. We had a brand new coaching staff and a starting lineup that had minimal experience in being the starters for our team. I think the future of

Buffalo lacrosse is bright, and we have a great returning group that have experienced enough adversity to make us more resilient and prepared to succeed in the upcoming seasons.

Girls Lacrosse

Head Coach: [Krista Crandall](#)

Team and program showed great growth in skill and IQ this season. Our sophomore goalie hit a career total of 500 saves, and our younger players are contributing at an impressive rate. Season record was 9-7 and as the culture and team continue to grow so does the expectation and the potential. As the coach, I see this program as capable of whatever they decide for themselves and at times we are our own biggest competition. This next season we will be working on our connectivity and team focus. With such a short and jam-packed season, the risk of burnout is high, and we are excited to have had little of that this season compared to years past. This is an incredible group of young women and I'm honored to work with them.

Softball

Head Coach: Karly Persson (2nd year)

Season Record: 4-19 (2-10 Lake Conference Record)

	All Conference	Hon Mention
Softball	Morgan Zelenak (12)	Giorgio Zenari (12)
	Cadence Lindquist (12)	Kaitlyn Violet (11)

Boys Tennis

Head Coach: [Jordan Danielson](#)

The 2024 boys tennis season was my second season as the V head coach. My assistant coach Simona Potočková returned for her second year in the boys program. Hunter Fasching was the new JV coach, while Tom Kuzma returned again as a volunteer coach. We also had the privilege of adding Nick Immel as a volunteer coach. This plethora of coaches led to some of the best on court instruction for our players that we have ever been able to offer. We were able to work with players one on one during many of our practices, better preparing them for the matches ahead.

Last year saw nine seniors graduate, most in the V lineup, leaving many holes to be filled this spring. We were fortunate to bring back our top players from last year, led by senior captains Sam Shaffer, Nolan Mahannah and Noah Klenken. These three athletes put in a tremendous amount of time and effort to their own offseason training, but also to meet with me monthly to discuss leadership, season goals and details. They were a truly phenomenal group to work with and did all that I ever asked of them as leaders and teammates in our program. Our coaches and players were really blessed by their personalities and commitment to the team.

Overall, we finished with an 11-12 record including highlight wins over Monticello (4-3 under the Lights at BCMS) and Champlin Park during our Rochester overnight tournament, which was also a really key highlight of our season. Under difficult circumstances, our team lost a close match to STMA the day before leaving for Rochester. Our team was highly discouraged losing to a big rival that we felt like we were better than. Rochester provided an escape during the middle portion of the season just to be together as a team, share a meal and play games together. The following morning, we beat Rochester Century and then pulled off a huge win against a very good Champlin Park team. The boys really enjoyed our trip and it remains an important part of our season.

In sections, our team lost in the quarterfinals to Becker, an extremely close match that we just came up short on. Becker was the eventual section champs and we knew if we could beat them we'd have had a great chance to make state. In individuals, Sam Shaffer and Nolan Mahannah teamed up as our top doubles team finishing second in the section and booking their trip to state! This was the first time since 2012 that Buffalo sent a team to the state tournament! After a tough first round match against #1 seed Orono, the boys bounced back for a victory over Cambridge-Isanti for the Bison's first state tournament match victory since 2008! The boys returned the following day to play on the last day of the state tournament in which they lost in the consolation semifinals to Edina in another close match. Overall it was an incredible season and I can't wait to see how much the boys improve heading into next year!

Track and Field

Head Coach: Scott Palmer

The 2024 track and field season saw 180 male and female student athletes come out for the team to compete in the best track and field conference in the state of Minnesota, the Lake Conference. Week in and week out, the Buffalo track and field

athletes competed against the top competition the state has to offer, which allowed us to turn in many top performances throughout the season. On the girls side we set two new school records in the 4x800 meter relay (9:24.61) members consisted of Cady Macheel, Miley Farniok, Avery Larson and Hannah Braun as well as the 1600 meter sprint medley (4:44.35) members consisted of Kate Siemek, Harlow Tierney, Jeanette Bermudez and Cady Macheel. On the Boys side new school records were turned in by Ryan Babatz in the shot put (56-6), and Caleb Crawford, Jerome Thomas, Landon Carrell and Saul Rhodes in the 4x100 (42.73), and Saul Rhodes in the 100 meter dash (10.73). In total we added 24 male and female athletes to the top ten performance all time list at Buffalo High School. The Bison had Nine All Lake Conference athletes Cady Macheel, Miley Farniok, Avery Larson and Hannah Braun in the 4x800, Andrea Rodenwald Shot Put, Saul Rhodes 100, Ryan Babatz shot put, Joel Benson Discus, Sam Studnicka Pole Vault. Six Honorable Mention All Lake Conference winners, Kate Miriovsky pole Vault, Ellie Cassady shot put and discus, Marlee Walker Shot put, Landon Carrell 400 and 4x100, Jacob Macheel 800 and 4x800, Wesley Wistrom 1600. Eighteen athletes qualified for the state meet and 10 of those athletes earned All State recognition, those athletes were Saul Rhodes 100, Ryan Babatz shot put, Jacob Macheel, Dexter Huss, Collin Berg, and Wesley Wistrom 4x800, Hannah Braun, Miley Farniok, Avery Larson, Hannah Braun 4x800. Finally, the Bison tracksters garnered 20 Academic All State Athletes and as a team both the boys and girls team took home the highest academic team award receiving a gold standard - the girls finishing with an impressive 3.99 GPA.