



BUFFALO HIGH SCHOOL

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TO: Board of Education
Jim Bauck, Superintendent
Mark Mischke, Principal

FROM: Tom Bauman, Activities Director

DATE: 1/12/2009

RE: Buffalo High School 2008 Fall Activities Report

Buffalo High School has completed its fall activities season for 2008. This report includes a detailed statistical summary of participation with coaching ratios, and a narrative summary of each fall activity. Coaches have written the short narrative summary of their seasons for your review. I have also included a Mississippi 8 conference placement sheet for fall activities this past season.

CONFERENCE UPDATE: Stability is a beautiful thing. With lots of conference realignment talk going on around the state, the Mississippi 8 seems as stable as it has always been with it's original 8 schools. The neighboring school districts of Wayzata, Minnetonka, Hopkins, Edina and Robbinsdale Armstrong will soon be looking for new homes since the announcement of the Classic Lake Conference breaking up beginning 2010-2011. If they are assigned in the NWSC, or NSC, the M8 could be affected by having schools such as Elk River or St. Francis wanting to be considered for M8 membership. Zimmerman, with it's small enrollment, admits struggling in the M8. They are publically pursuing other conference options with schools like Mora, Foley, Milaca and possibly Little Falls. There is much to be decided in the next year regarding conference realignment. Buffalo looks to be secure in the Mississippi 8 however.

MSHSL SECTION ALIGNMENT UPDATE: Section realignment is also upon us again with new section assignments scheduled to be announced April 2009. Buffalo currently has most sports and activities in 8AA and in 2AA, Girls Hockey and Boys Soccer are the exception in 6AA. There may be some changes, but Buffalo will likely continue in similar competitive sections for 2009-2010 and 2010-2011.

PARTICIPATION ANALYSIS/BUDGET REDUCTIONS: Right away I noticed the major reduction in participation numbers overall for the fall season compared to 2007. I then realized that the loss of over 100 participants is directly related to the loss of the BHS intramural program which is not listed as it was part of the 2008 failed levy reductions.

Looking at the specific numbers by sport/activity, you will notice what I would consider normal changes in sport participation. Although Football, Cross Country, Boys Soccer and Cheerleading all had reduced numbers, 2008 numbers were more in line with years prior to 2007. All other activities saw an increase in numbers. 2008 also saw an activity fee increase with the failed levy of 2007. Students and families still seemed to manage the fees, but the more hardships and payment plans were requested than normal. The 2008 failed levy will see another increase in fees. This additional increase, along with program reductions for 2009-2010, will leave participation numbers again a bit of an unknown when projecting for 2009-2010.

FALL ACTIVITIES SUMMARIES:

GIRLS TENNIS: Coach Charley Keifenheim (24 years),
The Buffalo girl's tennis team once again had a great season! There were a large number of freshman who showed up and pushed our total number of players to a 4 year high. Our freshman and sophomore classes are large and this seems to be a trend right now for girls tennis. Our varsity squad dominated the M8 Conference by going 7-0 and winning the conference championship trophy. We had a record 7 individual All-Conference award winners this year (Emily Marston, Ali Kiernan, Anna Botzet, Anna Brown, Megan Davis, Sally Nadeau, & Andrea Sande). Unfortunately the season came to a quick end in our tough section play against Orono. We are graduating a great bunch of seniors but are hopeful that our underclassmen will step up next year. We are concerned about the lack of maintenance on our tennis courts. The BCMS courts are in very bad shape and although the high school courts had some filling done, they are very scabby and still have some cracks along the central fence line. Overall we had a great year, thank you for your continued support of our program.

FOOTBALL: Coach Gerard Rohl (17 years, 31 in football)

The 2008 Football season was a very rewarding one for the Bison.

***We captured the Mississippi 8 Conference Championship.**

***We made it to the Section 8AAAAA Championsip Game but lost to our nemesis St. Cloud Tech.**

***We made it 12 wins in a row at home, which is two seasons plus playoffs, undefeated at home!**

***We had a top five offense in the state with almost 4,000 total yards gained in 2008!**

***We defeated perennial AAAAA power house Brainerd at Cummings Field! It is always a great season when you get some championships like the M-8 title, but we really wanted that Section Championship, we just did not play well enough.**

We had some exceptional seniors who over achieved just enough to propel us to a fantastic 9 win 2 loss season!

We finished with 66 young men on our Varsity Roster, 44 on our Sophomore Roster, and 42 on our ninth grade team. The Sophomores had a fine season and ended up with a 7 win 1 loss record. (Rogers was undefeated) Our Ninth grade teams had a 500 season but posted some real improvement by years end.

Now we are in the recruiting season and the Bison will have several seniors playing college football in the near future. Bruce Manz, Bobby French, Jacob Dick to name a few!

BOYS and GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY: Jill Hanson (22 years).

We had a good season for both teams this season and again it was a year with more kids running for Buffalo then ever before. At one point we had over 40 kids running, that was awesome. Will Florsheim joined our team as the middle school coach and he did a fantastic job. He led his squad to Boys Conference Championship and coached the Conference Champion in Dan Petit. Our only winning team meet was with the boys at the Grasshopper Invitational but there were few meets where we did not have the individual medalist. Zach Mellon had a sensational Cross Country season finishing 1st in every meet but two. Jacque Thaemert led the charge for the girls program never finishing below the top ten except at the State Meet. Our boys team tied for the Conference Championship but lost it in a tie breaker. Our girls were expected to take 3rd and they took 3rd. Just when we thought a loss could not hurt anymore our boys missed going to State by 2 points losing to Willmar 122- 124. We did have 4 representatives at the State meet. Zach, Jacque, Megan Ackerman and freshman sensation Stephen Thibodeaux. Our boys team will be hit big by graduation. But we do have some outstanding young runners waiting to take their place. On the girls side, we did not graduate anyone and we should come back stronger next season. Bison Cross Country is on the rise.

VOLLEYBALL: Lauri Zumach (1st Year)

The 2008 Bison Volleyball Season was a learning experience both for the players and coaching staff. We had a new varsity coach and assistant, Katie Rhodes returned as the JV coach after a year off on maternity leave, Rebecca Burrell did an incredible job taking over the 9th grade position, and Jane Backes returned at the 10th grade or B squad level.

The Varsity team ended with a 10-17 record, 4-4 in the Mississippi 8 conference. We returned only 3 players with strong varsity experience and needed to do a lot of training and adjusting throughout the year due to injuries, etc. But, we had a good nucleus of sophomores step in and gain valuable experience that will only help our program in the next couple of years. Shelby Quady, our junior setter surpassed the 1,000 assist mark and Senior Apryl Schmitz gained the 2nd spot on the all time dig list. This was the first year we actually held a fund raiser which was quite successful so we plan on doing it again next year. We also plan on getting out of the Apple Valley overnight tournament and participating in the Delano tournament along with Benilde St. Margaret and our own invitational. As a team we also won the Mississippi 8 Academic Championship and the State Gold award with the top ten GPA's on our varsity team all being a 4.0. Next year we return 4 players with varsity experience but need to fill in a lot of spots as we graduated 7 seniors.

GIRLS SOCCER: Coach Andres Ordonez (3rd Year)

What a year for the Girls Soccer program at Buffalo High School. The team made its first ever state tournament appearance playing quite well, but falling short to state runner-up Eden Prairie by a score of 1-0. The road to the state was very exciting seeing the team playing their best soccer late in the season. After finishing 3rd in the competitive Mississippi conference, the team opened section play hosting Bemidji. The game was dominated by the Bison who won easily 5-0. In the 8AA semi-finals, the girls continued their jumping out ahead of Elk River 3-0 by halftime and also winning that game going away. The section final game against Brainerd at SCSU had the girls facing a 2-0 halftime deficit, but they scored 3 second half goals to win the section title 3-2. The excitement for girls soccer continues with 63 girls participating at 3 levels. Like in many sports, the girls success this year may bring numbers even higher in 2009. The program will lose some key seniors to graduation, but will return plenty of talented and now experienced underclassmen to make another run in 2009-2010. A head coaching change will also take place for the 2009-2010 season. (Submitted by Tom Bauman)

BOYS SOCCER: Coach Jeff Lindstrom (8 years)

The Boys Soccer program had another successful campaign in 2008. 71 athletes participated in soccer. We fielded 3 teams. The varsity finished 8-8-2 and won the Mississippi 8 Conference championship for the first time finishing 5-1-1 in conference play. This marks the 5th season Buffalo has had a record of .500 or better. JV finished the season with an 11-3-1 record. B-Squad finished the season with a 4-6 record. Albert Gutknecht, Trevor Flynn, Luke Marty, Jon Kramnic, and Michael Peterson received all-conference honors for their efforts. Eric Bunting, Trent Hulett, and Alec Ackmann received all-conference honorable mention honors. Coach Lindstrom was named conference coach of the year.

GIRLS SWIM & DIVE: Coach Ryan Rehnstrand (9 years)

2008 was a very successful season with a 10-3 record. The girls took 1st in two invitationals and placed second on a third. At the Section 8 AA meet the team placed fifth out of 8 teams. The point margin between 3rd and 5th place was less than 10 points. We did not qualify anyone for the state meet for second year in a row, but out of the 22 Buffalo section swimmers, over half of them were 7-9th graders. We also had a 90% taper, which means that most of the swimmers had their best times of the year at sections. We had over 63 swimmers and divers participating 7th-12th grade and we also had 25 6th graders in our Learn-to-swim program. This is our best turn-out in swimming in five years. In the Mississippi 8 Conference we took 2nd place with a 7-1 record. We ended up with 5 All-Conference, 3 Honorable Mention, and several All-Academics. We also took second in the Team All-Academic. I am very pleased with the season we had. I can't believe how successful our team was with such young ladies. I am already looking forward for next season, and so are the girls.

FALL CHEERLEADING: Barb Christensen (4th year) The cheerleaders spent the summer months preparing material and participating in community events such as Chamber of Commerce golf tournament, Buffalo Days, Hanover Harvest Festival and Montrose Days. The 18 member squad was lead by senior captain, Dani Vetrano and continued on the tradition of developing life long relationships with every student at BHS. The highlight of the season included community service projects at area churches and working with the elderly. Although the girls dress in uniform only for football games, their familiar faces and high spirited energy could be seen at nearly every BHS event promoting school spirit and supporting the student body. The commitment to developing life skills continues to be the heart of the program. Each member of the squad is a representative of the essential characteristics of love, empathy, sensitivity and respect.

FALL PLAY: Director Tracy Hagstrom Durant (17 years)

Technical Director Tim Kiernan

The fall theatre production was a play with Minnesota roots. Written by MN playwright, Kevin Kling, *The Ice Fishing Play* is a dark comedy that attempts to capture the essence of life in Northern Minnesota. In an ice fishing house on a lake in northern Minnesota, Ron, an ice fisherman extraordinaire, struggles to catch "the big one" only "the big one" doesn't just mean the biggest fish in the lake. A funny, vibrant exploration of the struggle to connect in a world of blizzards, frozen minnows, memories and miracles. A glimpse of the secret inner world of that mystical icon, the ice fisherman.

An acting ensemble of 12 students filled the stage entertaining and challenging audiences to think. A crew of 29 technical theatre students working with lighting, set building, props, make-up and costumes rounded out a wonderful performance. The playwright attended Saturday night performance and addressed the audience at the conclusion of the play. He was very complimentary of the entire production. He said the set was the nicest one he had seen. He was impressed with the way the students handled this challenging theatrical piece and that they didn't shy away from the dark ending. It was also rewarding to hear him compliment director, Tracy Hagstrom Durant, on the changes she made to the script (adding character, splitting roles, tempering the language and subject matter, etc).

This play was a "thinker," designed to bring about dialogue as it tackled some difficult subjects. It also was a wonderful opportunity to laugh at ourselves. Very nice sized crowds filled with PAC for three performances. Another rousing success!

FALL ACTIVITIES PARTICIPATION REPORT

2008 Buffalo High School Participants

Activity	Total	Male	Female	# of Coaches	Coach To Athlete Ratio
Football					
Varsity/JV	58	58	0	5	
B-Squad	43	43	0	2	
C-Squad	40	40	0	2	
2008 Totals	141	141	0	9	1:15
2007 Totals	157	157	0	9	1:17
2006 Totals	134	134	0	9	1:15
2005 Total	148	148	0	9	1:16
Volleyball					
Varsity/ JV	22	0	22	2	
B-Squad	11	0	11	1	
C-Squad	19	0	19	2	
BCMS	2		2		
2008 Totals	54	0	54	5	1:10
2007 Totals	52	0	52	5	1:10
2006 Totals	54	0	54	5	1:10
2005 Total	54	0	54	4/5	1:10
Cross Country- Boys & Girls					
BCMS	37	25	12		
	2	1	1		
2008 Totals	39	26	13	3	1:13
2007 Totals	52	32	20	3	1:17
2006 Totals	44	25	19	3	1:15
2005 Total	35	17	18	3	1:11
Girls Tennis					
BCMS	30	0	30		
	2	0	2		
2008 Totals	32	0	32	2	1:16
2007 Totals	22	0	22	2	1:11
2006 Totals	32	0	32	2	1:16
2005 Total	35	0	35	2	1:17
Girls Swim/Dive					
Varsity/JV	36	0	36		
BCMS	27	0	27		
2008 Totals	63	0	63	4	1:16
2007 Totals	54	0	54	4	1:13
2006 Totals	52	0	52	4	1:13
2005 Total	45	0	45	3	1:15
Soccer-Boys					
JV/Varsity/C	69	69	0		
2008 Totals	69	69	0	3	1:26
2007 Totals	79	79	0	3	1:26
2006 Totals	71	71	0	3	1:27
2005 Total	51	51	0	2	1:25
Girls Soccer					
JV/Varsity/C	66	0	66		
2008 Totals	66	0	66	3	1:22
2007 Totals	53	0	53	3	1:18
2006 Totals	53	0	53	3	1:18
2005 Total	47	0	47	2	1:23
Fall Cheerleading					
2008 Totals	16	0	16	1	1:16
2007 Totals	20	2	18	1	1:20
2006 Totals	11	1	10	1	1:11
2005 Totals	12		12	1	1:12
Fall Play					
2008 Totals	12	5	7	1	1:12
Musical 2007 Totals	96	29	67	6	1:16
2006 Totals	21	8	13	1	1:21
Musical 2005 Total	30	14	16	1	1:30
Special Olympics - Bowling					
2008 Totals	11	7	4	2	1:5
2007 Totals	10	7	3	2	1:5
2006 Totals	13	8	5	2	1:6
2005 Totals	10	4	6	2	1:5
PARTICIPATION TOTALS					
2008	503	248	255		
2007	634	325	309		
2006	529	273	256		
2005	490	249	241		
BCMS STUDENTS TOTAL	33	1	32		

Mississippi 8 Fall Results 2008

Girls Cross Country

1. Monticello	35
2. Becker	46
3. Buffalo	70
4. STMA	116
5. Cambridge-Isanti	156
6. Big Lake	159
7. Rogers	164
8. Princeton	202

Academic Champion - Becker

Boys Cross Country

1. Cambridge-Isanti	51
2. Buffalo	51
3. Rogers	52
4. STMA	66
5. Big Lake	113
6. Monticello	162
7. Princeton	215
8. Becker	inc

Academic Champion - Big Lake

Girls Soccer

1. STMA	7-0
2. Rogers	5-2
2. Monticello	5-2
4. Buffalo	4-3
4. Cambridge-Isanti	4-3
6. Zimmerman	1-5-1
6. Big Lake	1-5-1
8. Becker	0-7

Academic Champion - Cambridge-Isanti

Boys Soccer

1. Monticello	5-1-1
1. Buffalo	5-1-1
3. Rogers	5-2
4. Zimmerman	4-3
5. STMA	3-4
5. Cambridge-Isanti	3-4
7. Becker	1-6
7. Big Lake	1-6

Academic Champion - Rogers

Girls Swimming/Diving

1. Monticello	6-0
2. Buffalo	5-1
3. Big Lake	4-2
4. STMA	3-3
5. Cambridge-Isanti	2-4
6. Princeton	1-5
7. Becker	0-6

Academic Champion - Becker

Football

1. Becker	6-1
1. Buffalo	6-1
3. Rogers	5-2
3. STMA	5-2
5. Cambridge-Isanti	4-4
6. Princeton	3-4
7. Monticello	2-5
8. Big Lake	1-6
9. Zimmerman	0-7

Academic Champion - Cambridge-Isanti

Girls Tennis

1. Buffalo	7-0
2. Monticello	6-1
3. STMA	5-2
4. Becker	4-3
5. Rogers	3-4
6. Cambridge-Isanti	2-6
7. Princeton	1-6
8. Big Lake	0-7

Academic Champion - Cambridge-Isanti

Volleyball

1. STMA	8-0
2. Rogers	7-1
3. Big Lake	5-3
3. Monticello	5-3
5. Buffalo	4-4
6. Cambridge-Isanti	3-5
7. Princeton	2-6
8. Becker	1-7
8. Zimmerman	1-7

Academic Champion - Buffalo