

BHS WINTER ACTIVITIES SUMMARIES

BOYS HOCKEY: Coach Jason Fariman (1st Year)

Our season began with Buffalo hosting our annual varsity and JV Scrimmage Fest where 16 different high school teams (Wayzata, Hopkins, Chaska, Blaine, Crookston, Rosemount, Edina, Maple Grove and Benilde-St.Margaret) from around the state participated at the Buffalo Civic Center during the first weekend of the season.

We finished in third place in the Mississippi 8 Conference with a record of 4-4, and it would not be an overstatement to say we faced one of the toughest non-conference schedules in the state. The last month of the season we played some of our best hockey of the season. On four consecutive Saturdays, we played teams ranked in the state top ten and took each team to the final minutes of the game before being decided. Our team really came together in late January after a team building trip to Grand Forks on our way to play in Roseau. We gave the Rams all they could handle in a 4-3 overtime loss, **which** was the closest Buffalo had ever been to defeating Roseau. We then went on to play #5 ranked Wayzata where we were tied 1-1 until late in the game before they sealed the victory, and we played defending state champ Eden Prairie evenly 2-2 into the final three minutes of the game before losing 4-2 on an empty net goal. In our final regular season game, we led #1 Minnetonka 2-1 until :27 seconds left in the game before they tied it up and then eventually won in overtime. We improved over last year's 3-win season and finished with an overall record of 7-18-1. This record is not indicative of the progress we made during the year and the team we became by year's end. It may appear it was a season of "almosts, and could have beens," but I believe this team established a culture and positive attitude that we can build off of for next season.

Other highlights of the season included team building events like our trip to Grand Forks (on the way to Roseau) to practice at Ralph Engelstad Arena, tour the arena, meet the UND coaching staff and watch UND play Wisconsin. We also had team bowling and curling events and participated in the Duluth Heritage Holiday Tournament. Four players made the all-conference team and three were selected for honorable mention all-conference. We graduated nine seniors and have a promising contingent returning for next season as our JV team was able to compile a 12-10-2 record overall.

A number of our players were also selected to participate in off-season programs sponsored by Minnesota Hockey and USA Hockey. On the Section 8 A/AA 17 Advanced Team, we had Connor Martin and Justin Laven participate, and on the Section 16 team we had Gunnar Goodmanson selected.

We again involved our players in our youth programs assigning players as mentors to youth teams. We continue to do Bison Buddies at each home game.

I am excited for next season as we have a very competitive schedule planned and think the future of the program is bright as we project about 40-45 players trying out next year.

GIRLS HOCKEY: Coach Ray Dahlof-(6 years)

The Bison Girls' Hockey team finished the 2011-2012 season with an overall record of 14 wins 10 losses and 3 ties, the junior varsity team finished the season with 8 wins and 16 losses. Their Mississippi 8 conference record was 5-1-1 which was good for 2nd place. This year's team consisted of 13 players from Buffalo, 11 players from Delano and two from Maple Lake. The participation numbers look good for next year as we graduate four seniors and expect about 10 new players moving into the high school program from the 14U youth program. The Bison showed steady improvement throughout the season; they played better against all of the teams they faced in the second half of the year. In the section 6AA play-offs, the Bison upset Maple Grove in the quarterfinals and lost a close 3-0 game in the semis to eventual state champion Minnetonka. Lindsey Hartfiel, Lindsay Roethke, Katie Rooney and Emily Varner made the M8 all-conference team. Junior, Katie Rooney became the 3rd Bison girl's hockey player to earn all-state honorable mention. She also became the Bison all-time leading scorer with 150 points eclipsing the old mark of 96 points.

BOYS BASKETBALL: Coach Nick Guida- (9 years head coach, 15 in program)

Varsity Assistant: Ross Mjelde (9th year)

B Squad: Ben Starns (4th year)

C Squad: Josh Ortmann (1st year)

Volunteer Assistants: Mike Curry (1st year), Brady Matzke (1st year)

The 2011-12 season was another successful season for Bison Basketball. The team finished the season 17-10 with a 9-3 record in conference play. There were many ups and downs just as the journey of most any season goes. Through this journey, the kids never wavered in their "Team Attitude." Once again we played a difficult schedule. We played multiple ranked AAAA schools and held our own with a young team. Some of the highlight games were against the eventual AAAA Champion Osseo Orioles. We were down two possessions late in that game and just couldn't make something positive happen down the stretch. It was a similar situation playing a highly ranked Apple Valley team. We were down three late in the game and couldn't get over the hump. That team boasts one of the top players in the country in Tyus Jones. The Bison played an outstanding game in front of a packed house that night and would love to play against them again in the future!

Team records that were broken this season include season Free Throw percentage. As a team, we shot 75% from the free throw line! Another very positive mark for the season is that the Bison finished 8th in scoring defense in Class AAAA. We pride our program on playing great team defense and once again got that done!

As seniors go, we graduate six kids who all have post secondary plans! Caleb Ruter, Tanner Thielman, Dominic Gilmer, Ryan Olson, Colton Haight, and Trevor Eder will

be missed and will remain a part of our Bison Basketball family! The future for our program is bright as we return a wealth of kids who have varsity experience. We feel as if our program is moving forward and our kids continue to leave a lasting legacy at BHS!

GIRLS BASKETBALL: Coach Scot Sorenson-(Head Coach 8 years, 13 in program)
Assistants: Amanda Adams, Jeff Kylonen, and Nicole Schlicting

The 2011- 2012 Bison girls basketball team was looking to continue the strong play of the past few years. Even though there was a loss of 10 terrific seniors to 2011 graduation, the new faces were not afraid to set their goals high. The most experienced returning player had just five starts under her belt, but she was joined by three others with quality experience off the bench at the varsity level. There were still plenty of questions to be answered and supporting roles to be filled.

The Bison started quite strong with four double digit wins, two on the road and two at home. Then they met their first ranked opponent of the year, on the road at Chanhassen. Chan proceeded to shoot lights out and deliver Buffalo's first loss of the season. The Bison got back on track with a couple of convincing M-8 victories over Becker and Monticello. The girls began a new tradition, attending a three-game holiday tournament at Roseville. New scenery and new opponents greeted our up and coming team. The first game tipped off against a strong Andover team. In a back and forth game that was tied with about seven minutes to go, Buffalo stepped up to score the final 18 points of the game to set up a second round showdown with the home team and #8 ranked Roseville. It was another battle with a raucous crowd in attendance. Buffalo played terrific and squeaked out a four point victory to place them in the championship. They faced another fresh opponent from Wisconsin. Eau Claire Regis, the reigning state champs in the private school class with all five starters back. They were a bit too much on that day and handed Buffalo a second loss. The new year didn't start any easier with a home game vs. Wayzata and on the road at Minnetonka, both ranked opponents. Buffalo earned a split and a top ten ranking of their own. A Friday night road win at Minnetonka sparked confidence in the Bison and lead to a 13 game winning streak that secured a third consecutive conference championship and #1 seed in the playoffs. Buffalo played their first home section game in seven years and defeated Brainerd allowing them to advance. In the semifinals at SCSU, they faced a tough Rogers team for the third time and handled things well to set up a rematch of last year's finals with STMA at St. John's Univeristy. This time STMA had just enough for an overtime upset ending a great season for the Bison.

We had seven seniors on the team this year. Alexa Theilman, Jill Wackler, and Jamie High held the role of captains. Audrey Gilbert, Whitney Anderson, Maddie Rohl, and Sam Paripovich provided great leadership as well. Theilman, Wackler, and High, along with junior Emily Spier, were selected to the M-8 all conference team. Gilbert and Anderson earned M-8 honorable mention. Theilman was the coaches' selection for M-8 MVP along with being named All State honorable mention.

The JV team finished with some strong play and a record of 12-14. Many new roles will again be available as next season comes around.

WRESTLING: Coach Ben Wandmacher- (1st Year)

The 2011-2012 season saw the Bison wrestling program making more strides towards once again becoming a competitive program. The Varsity squad still dealt with forfeits at some open weights, but as a team, the boys had many quality matches earning enough points to start winning matches again. One of the most memorable wins came at Team Sections where the team won its first round match against Rocori. The Bison were the underdogs in this match. The boys wrestled their hearts out to get that first round win. The Bison were then defeated by Willmar who went on to win the section. Another highlight was the fact that the team had seven top four place winners at individual sections. Four of those place winners advanced to the state tournament at the Excel Center in St. Paul. Those wrestlers advancing to state were senior Lucas Mock, senior Tanner Maus, junior Jonathan Wirkkala, and eighth grader Adam Treptua. Coach Ben Wandmacher recently resigned from being the head coach after stepping in as the head coach on short notice after Chris Lembeck resigned right before the season started. We will be looking for his predecessor this spring to keep the momentum going in Bison wrestling.

GIRLS GYMNASTICS: Coaches Martha Driscoll-Nelson (28 years), Jon Holtz (17)

“Hard to believe after such a great season last year, but... the coaches all report that these last couple of seasons were the most fulfilling they have ever had. Great kids, great attitudes and many new skills were attained this season. We improved our standing in the conference from last season and grew as a team and individuals.”

The Bison Gymnasts were led by senior captains Paige Habisch, Leeza Kennedy, Frannie Pearson and Taylor Haider. We will miss their leadership. The team won Academic Gold Honors and were Section 8AA Academic Champions with a cumulative GPA average of 3.833. Winning Mississippi 8 All Conference Gymnast: Taylor Haider on vault, winning Mississippi 8 Honorable Mention: Paige Habisch as an all-around gymnast, Michaela Perz on balance beam and Mallorie Habisch on vault. Winning All State Honorable Mention on Vault (season average 8.84), Beam (8.66), and Floor (8.80) - Taylor Haider.

What we will miss most of all in the upcoming season is Jon Holtz, who after 17 years of exemplary coaching, spotting, caring and guidance, has retired. Although we will sincerely miss Coach Holtz, we are so glad his last season of coaching was awesome!! We look forward to next year, as we have many sophomores and even 8th graders with Varsity experience!!

ONE-ACT PLAY: Director Tracy Hagstrom - (20 years)

The Amish Project

By: Jessica Dickey

20 students participated in the One-Act Play program during the 2011-2012 season. This year, director Tracy Hagstrom Durant, selected another interesting "social issue" production. Originally written as a one woman show, it is based on real events, real people, and real pain. For many of us, the knee jerk reaction is to blame, judge and hate. We are somewhat programmed to think that way...and it is easier to do so. But *The Amish Project* asked us to do something completely different...to look into the mind and heart of a broken man who made a horrible mistake...and then to look into our own heart and mind as we deal with the concept of forgiveness. This show provided an opportunity to learn from an amazing people, the Amish, and follow their lead of forgiveness and compassion. Who doesn't need a little of that? Each of the children involved in this production have been changed..., I have been changed. Once again our theatre students worked diligently and produced another winning show. Education beyond the blackboard took place.

About The Play- *The Amish Project* is a fictional exploration of the Nickel Mines schoolhouse shooting in an Amish community, and the path of forgiveness and compassion forged in its wake. *The Amish Project* made its original debut at the New York International Fringe Festival in the summer of 2008 and instantly generated buzz in the theatre community. *The Amish Project* went on to a workshop production at the Cherry Lane Theatre in New York City, and on June 10, 2009, officially opened Off-Broadway at Rattlestick Playwrights Theater to rave reviews-"extraordinary...remarkable...compelling" (*The New York Times*). Due to its success, the run was extended.

2011-2012 Season Performance Record

Mississippi 8 Conference Starred Performance

Emma Hage, Andrew Jacobsen- Mississippi 8 All-Conference Cast

Caleb Zumach- All Conference Tech Crew

Erica Hoops, Julia Bothum, Kaelie Lund- Mississippi 8 All-Conference Cast Honorable Mention

Liza Davis, Cali Kvistad- All-Conference Tech Crew Honorable Mention

Sub-Section 2AA – 1st place

Section 2 AA Finals – 1st place

State One-Act Play Festival Competitors

BOYS SWIMMING: Coach Pam Brophy (head coach 3 years, 6th year in program)

The 2011-2012 Boys' Swim & Dive season was successful both in terms of participants and personal performances. We had a dozen new athletes join the team and only one was a current club swimmer. Despite this lack of experience, our JV athletes were a tremendous addition to the program. Their dedication and hard work resulted in 7 of them earning a Varsity letter, and 100% of them dropping time at *JV Champs* where they finished a strong second behind STMA. During Sections, three new school records were set and 85% of our swimmers dropped time. Two of our divers reached the medal podium, as did eight of our swimmers. Jack Elliott swam a state qualifying time in the 100 Fly to advance to the State Meet. At the State Tournament, Jack continued to drop time and set a new school record on his way to a 13th place finish. We had four athletes selected for All Conference and five for Honorable Mention, in addition to having 14 members of our program earn All Academic Awards. In addition to these team accomplishments, the Boys Program hosted the Conference Relay meet and instituted a "mixed team" relay event that will become a part of this event in the future. We held our third annual Alumni Meet over Winter Break and had 14 former athletes join us for relay events and a pool side pizza party. Boys Swim & Dive also hosted our second annual Border Battle Invitational Swim & Dive Meet, and had a mid-winter "Hawaiian" dual meet with Watertown. All four of these events were great fun for the athletes, fans, and visiting teams.

Most importantly, our athletes continued to learn the value of perseverance, commitment, and teamwork. As a self-funded program again this year, our swim family worked at the Buffalo Triathlon, hosted the Buffalo Days Fly In Breakfast, put on a Spaghetti Dinner (complete with a silent and live auction), and sold Chuck-A-Ducks and Border Battle t-shirts, to raise the money to have a program for the 2011-2012 season. The life-lessons gained from these opportunities go far beyond their successes in the pool and on the boards.

It was a pleasure to work with this exceptional group of young people who do such an excellent job of representing their school community!

KNOWLEDGE BOWL: Coach Peggy Pasche (22nd year)
Assistant Coach Doug Voerding

The 2011-12 Knowledge Bowl team consisted of 21 students in grades 9-12. These students were divided into five teams for practice and competition. With 12 students graduating last year, about half of the students on our team were newcomers to high school Knowledge Bowl. Our competitions were against anywhere from 15-76 teams. All of the Buffalo Knowledge Bowl teams finished in the **top** half of every single meet we competed in, with Team #1 (with all juniors) winning the first place trophy in Buffalo, North Branch, Albany and both Conference meets. The other teams were very close behind, with the JV team of four ninth graders taking first place in all but two of the JV portion of the meets. We hosted our annual Buffalo Knowledge Bowl meet in January, with 75 teams from 22 schools competing.

The Buffalo team won the Mississippi 8 Knowledge Bowl tournament for the 7th year in a row. The team beat 2nd place Rogers in the two-meet event. Because of their first place finish, five students from Buffalo were named as All-Conference members: Senior Alex Rooney and Juniors Cassidy Brown, Michael Hank, Mark Lee and Levi Walls.

At sub-regions, team #1, with team members mentioned above, advanced to Regions, after finishing in 6th place in a very tight large-school division competition. After a week of intense practice, the team improved their performance and qualified for the State meet with a third place finish at Regions. This is the tenth time a Buffalo Knowledge Bowl team has advanced to state in the past 12 years. The State Meet will be April 12 and 13 at Cragun's Resort in Brainerd, where those same five students will compete against the 23 other teams in Class AA.

Next year, the teams will have two new coaches, as both Pasche and Voerding are retiring from teaching and coaching at the end of this school year. The teams coached by Pasche and Voerding won every Mississippi-8 championship possible since the conference was formed seven years ago, along with seven earlier North Suburban Conference championships. They have competed at the State Meet 11 times in Pasche's tenure, making them one of the most successful programs in the high school.

GIRLS NORDIC SKI: Coach: Tim Heisel (10th year, 20 in program)

Finally, we once again have conference membership for the Nordic Ski Program at Buffalo High School. After six years of independent status, 2011-2012 marked the first year for the Buffalo High School Nordic Ski Program in the new Granite Ridge Conference. (Little Falls, St. Cloud Cathedral, Mora, Milaca and Buffalo) The Mississippi 8 Conference does not have enough schools participating to have Nordic Skiing recognized as a M8 conference activity. Consequently, our girls participate in the GR Conference followed by participation in MSHSL section competition. The boys, currently a club activity at Buffalo High School, are also allowed to participate in the GR Conference for no additional fee for membership. However, the boys do not participate in MSHSL sections as it is not an official school activity offering, registering annually with the league like the girls. Individually, we had some strong performances on the snow and both the boys and girls teams were recognized as Granite Ridge Conference Academic Champions for performance in the classroom based on highest overall class rank determined by school Grade Point Average at their schools. Tim Heisel and Nicole Gmach have both informed me they will not be returning to coach in 2012-2013 for different reasons. If Buffalo High School continues to offer the activity; the recruitment process for a coach will begin immediately.

MOCK TRIAL: Coach Evan Ronken (2nd year)

Assistant Coach: Jason Swanson

Attorney Volunteer Coach: Karen Wolff

This year's case was a civil lawsuit in which a police officer sued his/her former department over 1st amendment rights. The officer, Rook E. Greenwood, believed that he/she was improperly fired for a post made on a social networking site that was critical of the police chief. The department maintained that the firing was based purely on Greenwood's job performance. The mock trial team had to be prepared to argue both sides of the case. There was more student interest than available spots in Mock Trial this year, which forced the team to have tryouts and cuts for the first time. 23 students made the Varsity and JV teams, including three seniors.

Both teams performed very well throughout the season. The Varsity team placed 2nd at the Apollo Invitational and was a championship team, against the state's best competition, at the Lakeville North Invitational. In Regional competition, the Varsity team beat Elk River (twice), Cambridge-Isanti (twice), and Sartell to advance to the state tournament. The JV team beat Elk River, Cambridge-Isanti, and Annandale before losing to Cambridge in a Round 4 rematch. At the state tournament, Buffalo placed fifth, beating Lakeville North and Centennial High School. The team lost to the eventual and returning state championship team of Breck High School. Earning individual best performance awards at the state tournament were seniors Beth Macnab and Maya Bolduan.

We kicked off the winter season with the return of the mini-clinic for kids ages 6-12. The fundraiser event was held on Saturday, December 18th after being rescheduled due to inclement weather.

SPEECH: Coach Mike Worcester- (8th year, 3rd year in Co-op with STMA)

The BHS Speech Team competed for a third year as part of a co-op with St Michael-Albertville High School. We were once again known as "St. Buffaville" for competition purposes. With nearly a dozen active competitors, the BHS students held their own throughout the season, representing the school and community very well at every turn. Due to changes in the makeup of the Mississippi 8 conference, there was not a conference tournament this year. We hope to see its return next season as new teams are added, all of whom have strong programs that would make for a competitive and rewarding tournament. We certainly hope the co-op can continue and provide the opportunities for our students to take part in this rewarding activity. Buffalo will once again host an annual speech invite in 2012-2013, and our school was recently honored and selected to host the 5AA Section Tournament in 2012-2013.

ALPINE SKI: (3rd year in co-op with St. Cloud)

Buffalo High School students Kelly Zelko and Zach Pitcock once again participated in the program. I am anticipating they will be participating again in 2012-2013.