

School Board Workshop:

September 8, 2025

Subject:

Spring 2025 Board Report

Presenter:

Nick Guida, BHS Activities Director

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION: Report

DESCRIPTION: Season Summaries

Buffalo High School completed its spring activities seasons for the 2024-25 school year. Coaches and Advisors have completed a short narrative of their season for you to review. Thank you for supporting activities at BHS!

2025 Herd Summer Marching Band

Head Coach: Brain Veith

"The HERD" had another fine season. With 112 members, we were one of the largest bands in MN with perhaps only 3 other bands over 100. The best part of the roster is a group of 35 8th graders - the future looks bright if they all continue in upcoming years.

To quote Mr. Rabehl from his 2024 summary: "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 and continued the great traditions of THE HERD.

Parade	Class Rank	Overall Rank	Number of Bands	Notes
Buffalo	Exhibition			
Foley	3	3	10	
Waconia	3	4	14	Peoples Choice

				Award
Roseville	2	2	9	1st in General Effect
Lake City	2	2	7	1st in Drums
Sauk Rapids	Superior			Festival Ratings Only
Milaca	3	4	18	1st in Music GE
Hanover	No Competition			

Our average score in competitive parades (post Buffalo Days) was 76.4. Many of the scores for every band seemed low this year, but we did break into the superior level several times. The best part of scoring from Buffalo this year was the fact that we were usually in the top two bands for our music performance. Our General Effect scores were also very high for the show that we were putting on with our music and visual design. Our growth area will definitely need to be marching execution (how we move together). This category was low scoring probably because of the inexperience of our young group.

We are comfortable saying that we ended the season ranked 4th in the state - and we were very competitive with the top three in our music and visual design.

The staff was incredibly proud of all the students' performance and citizenship throughout the season. The HERD students did a fantastic job of representing Buffalo, BHM Schools, and the Sport of the Arts - Marching Band!

Bison Baseball

Head Coach: Mike Beilke (22 years)

The Bison finished the year with an overall record of 11-11. Our regular season record was 10-9 and we finished the year with a Lake Conference record of 4-8. One of the highlights this year was watching this team compete in the section tournament. We only had a record of 1-2 but what the record doesn't show is we were tied going into the 7th inning in both of the games we lost. This team competed everyday and was fun to watch!

We saw a huge improvement in our pitching staff and defense. Our ERA, WHIP, Batting Average Against, and BB all went down. The number of batters we struck out went up. We also saw an improvement in our fielding percent as we committed fewer errors.

Teddy Salhus and Caleb Johnson were selected to the All-Conference Team
Carson Adrian, Ty Torgrimson, and Aiden Marconett received Honorable Mention All-Conference Awards

The All Section Team has not been named at this point.

BISON AWARDS

Caleb Johnson was voted Most Improved.

Riley West was voted Most Dedicated.

Nolan Hansen was selected as Rookie Of The Year.

Riley West was selected for the LeRoy Erickson Hustler Award.

Ty Torgrimson and Riley West received the Leadership Award.

Caleb Johnson was selected for the MVP Award.

Batting Champion went to Caleb Johnson

Pitching Award was given to Cole Lindberg

Sam Keuseman, Caleb Johnson, Carson Adrian, Cole Lindberg, Cooper Murphy, Isaac Hill, Teddy Salhus, and Ty Torgrimson 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!!!

Boys Golf

Head Coach: Grady Matthews

Asst Coach: [Todd Manninen](#)

13 students participating

All Conference: Russell Ylitalo, Harvey Ylitalo

Honorable Mention: Nicholas Kubu, Niklas Manninen

State participant: Harvey Ylitalo

Girls Golf

Head Coach: Tim Murray

Asst Coach: Josh Ortmann

We continue to see many golfers come out for BHS Golf. We increased from 22 golfers to 32 golfers this year with many taking on the sport for the first time. Of those 32 golfers, 12 were new to golf and only three of them were freshman. We continue to welcome all ranges and abilities to participate in a life-long sport and be a part of a

team. We had almost everyone compete in a meet (Varsity or JV) and those that didn't spoke about wanting to compete next year. It is a huge risk and seeing our golfers take positive risks is such a huge win for us.

We had nine letter winners this year: (returning golf letter winners) Lexi Hanzlik, Mackenzie Mjelde, Avery Olson, and Hayley Rohlin, (first-time golf letter winners) Taylin Bechtold, Alyson Bormes, Emma Forsberg, Marley Honsey, and Carolyn Rokke. We are very proud of their accomplishments on the course as well as their leadership on the team and at BHS. In the Lake Conference, we finished in 6th place with conference wins against Hopkins and Eden Prairie. Our All-Conference selection was Hayley Rohlin. We had three day two participants at Headwaters Golf Course in Park Rapids, Minnesota in Aly Bormes, Mackenzie Mjelde, and Hayley Rohlin.

Golf is not always seen as a physically demanding sport. However, golf is technically demanding and mentally demanding. We are building athletes and golfers that understand the importance of effort, perseverance, honesty, and so many other important traits. We also work to find a positive balance in athletics with academics, friendships, family, and other interests and how those things can be learned through the game of golf.

We thank our seniors who represented the principles that BHS looks for in student-athletes; demonstrating leadership, laughs, and kindness towards teammates. Mackenzie, Hayley, Carolyn and Leeloo move on to do amazing things and the BHS golf program is excited to see what they have yet to accomplish.

Coach Josh Ortmann and Coach Tim Murray had a wonderful season with an amazing group of girls who strived to find how to make a difference on a team and find the small wins and big successes during a short and sometimes very busy season.

Boys Lacrosse

Head Coach: [Noah Vanderkooi](#)

The Boys lacrosse team had a successful season this year, we finished 8-7 with all of our losses coming to teams ranked in the top 15 in the state, including 4 teams that made it to state, and the eventual champion Edina. We went through a lot of change on the defensive side of the ball, only returning 1 starting defensemen from the previous year. But even with all that change we still were able to put together a successful season on the defensive side of the ball. Our offense also performed well, averaging 10 goals per game after graduating our two best offensive players last year. We also experienced some really great growth from younger players, bringing in 16 freshmen, which is the largest class we have had in my time here, and they had a very successful JV season, and several freshmen were able to make it into varsity games this season.

This year we had 31 players compete in a Varsity game, versus 26 players last year. Of the 31 Varsity participants about a third of them were Freshman or Sophomores this year. Overall we had a very successful season, making it to the Section Semi Finals where we unfortunately fell short, but I am encouraged by the growth I saw over the course of the season.

Our senior class had a lot of good kids, but a lot of challenging personalities. What I am the most proud of is the culture change that is starting to take place, when I took the job last year, I had a lot of players who were constantly negative / fighting with each other and overall just having a poor attitude. This year it wasn't perfect, but by the end of the year we really turned a corner and are on the right track for having the kind of culture I can be proud of. I expect that culture shift to continue to go in the right direction as we move into next year, and I am very excited for what the future holds for our program.

Player Performance:

3 All section selections

6 All conference selections (3 first team, 3 honorable mention)

Top offensive performers:

Will Webber - 32G - 5A - 37P (NCAA Div 3 Commit)

Owen Lange - 22G - 19A - 41P

Coy Meyer - 20G - 15A - 35P

Blake Beckman - 20G - 10A - 30P

Cooper Cebulla - 11G - 11A - 22 P

Top Offensive Returners for 2026:

Thomas Munger - 9G - 2A - 11P

Parker Youngquist - 7G - 13A - 20P

Top Defensive Performers:

Earl Kruschke - 31 Ground balls - 21 Caused turnovers (NCAA Div 3 Commit)

Jay Bimson - 13 Ground Balls - 9 Caused turnovers (NCAA Div 2 commit)

Sawyer Sawdey - 11 Ground Balls - 7 Caused turnovers

Owen Schmidt - 34 Ground Balls - 7 Caused turnovers

Grant Beckman - 15 Ground Balls - 2 Caused turnovers

Gavin Lindell - 167 saves - 54% save percentage

Max Wurm - 6 Saves - 67% Save percentage

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Grant Beckman - 15 Ground Balls - 2 Caused turnovers
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Next year we will have a lot of experience to replace, especially on the offensive side of the ball, but we have great players with experience ready to step up into a larger role in the 2026 season. On Offense we have two really great returning players to lead our offense in Parker Youngquist and Tommy Munger, both of which had great seasons last season and are getting a lot of interest from NCAA recruiters this summer. We also will retain most of our starters on defensive with Jay Bimson (Maryville Lacrosse Commit) stepping into the role of number 1 defender which he is well prepared to do. We also have a lot of promising rising sophomores who will see a lot of time this year. The future of Buffalo Lacrosse looks great and I look to continue the success we have had.

Girls Lacrosse

Head Coach: [Krista Crandall](#)

64 students participating in 3 levels (Varsity, JV & B squad)
All Conference: Bailey Mischke, Hattie Toussaint, Mackenzie Phillips
Honorable Mention: Rory Meyer, Calista Weiche, Daneka Eng
Played in 13 games in the season.
Played in Section play-offs losing in section semi-finals to Elk River.

Girls Lacrosse ended the season with a record of 11-4 with our highest standing in the Lake Conference, and our 4 losses cut to a margin of three goals or less. 11 goals separated these young women from an undefeated season. The team ended number 10 in the state - another milestone for the program. Two of our Seniors, Bailey Mischke and Hattie Toussaint, crossed the 100 goal benchmark and with Toussaint we graduated our second D1-bound athlete.

We won Gold All-State Academic for a team GPA of 3.943 and we had 4 All-State Academic award winners.

The shift that has happened in this program over the past 3 years is one of higher expectations, for ourselves, for our teammates, and for the future.

Looking ahead to 2026, coaches are selecting a tougher schedule, and are expecting even more teamwork and even higher athlete-driven expectations. We have a group of about 6 athletes between 10-12th grade leading the charge this season, not as captains yet, but for the love of the program and the game. The future of the program is undefined, and bright with the leadership and passion shown by these young women. We have had our 3rd D1 commit this off-season - Daneka Eng - and she's chosen to

commit herself to service as she'll be attending the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Softball

Head Coach: Kennedy Youngren (Year 1)

The Bison softball team finished their season 2-20, going 0-12 in the conference. Coming into the season as a new head coach, after the girls had already experienced 3 new coaches in 4 years created a distanced relationship between the team and coaches, seemingly signalling distrust from the older (senior) group.

The Bison opened their season by winning their home opener and the remaining game after, before losing their stud senior pitcher, Vienna Bechtold, to an ACL tear, requiring surgery. We found ourselves in a pitching predicament with Kenley Bechtold, sophomore, stepping up to the plate to take the new starting pitcher position from her sister. Mia Haugen, early & eager, started catching nearly every inning of the season as a stud sophomore and these two give us huge excitement about what's to come in the next two years for the Bison softball program.

One of the things that excites me the most about this team is the underclassmen potential. The sophomore (now junior) class has huge talent and potential, along with chemistry on and off the field. They've got an incredible willingness to win, be taught, and coached well. They do an incredible job building each other up and bringing the voices in the dugout and on the field, while being respectful. They're hungry to be in the weight room, stay late for practice, and arrive early. They're bringing the culture to the program that I'm trying to create: "Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard."

We will start the 2025-2026 season with 1 starting senior (Avery Bjorklund), returning junior catcher (Mia Haugen), pitcher (Kenley Bechtold), and 2nd baseman (Payton Millerbernd). We'll have big shoes to fill after losing Alyana Feekes at shortstop. We've got some fun potential in the 8th-10th grade classes with Lily Reil (3B), Colette Oppegard (CF/SS), Jayda Allen (RF), and Addison Glurr (LF/SS) coming up, too.

All-in-all, this was a very challenging season but with the current roster, headed into the 2025-2026 season, I'm incredibly excited for what's to come and who will be on my field.

AWARDS:

Mia Haugen: Hardest Worker, All-conference honorable mention

Kenley Bechtold: MVP, Rookie of the Year, all-conference, all-section

Payton Millerbernd: Most-improved, All-Conference honorable mention

Boys Tennis

Head Coach: [Jordan Danielson](#)

The 2025 boys tennis season was my third season as the V head coach. My assistant coach Simona Erickson returned for her third year in the boys program and Hunter Fasching returned for his second year as the JV coach. Tom Kuzma, Nick Immel and Kevin Umhoefer all spent time as volunteer coaches supporting the program. I am grateful to serve with such a wonderful and knowledgeable staff. Their commitment to the boys and their development was great to see. This many coaches improved our ability to offer detailed on court instruction for each of the players every day.

Unlike last year, we returned most of our team from the previous year (12 of 15 from the section roster), but lost our top players, including state qualifiers Sam Shaffer and Nolan Mahannah. This meant the boys would need to step up their game and move to more challenging places in the lineup.

Our season was led by senior captains Daniel Jungwirth, Noah Leimer and Mitchell Friesz. Like the previous year's captains, 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. They served their teammates well and had a special focus on including the new and younger players into team activities to make sure everyone felt welcome and included.

Overall we finished with a 5-14 record with key wins over Cambridge-Isanti, Alexandria and Monticello. Though we struggled with our overall record, the boys continued to compete every day and improve their game. They were a ton of fun to work with and had great personalities to be around. Though we play in the most difficult conference in the state the boys found ways to embrace the little things against these teams. One highlight for me was the reaction of our #3 singles player during his match against Edina when he won a single game. He was as fired up as I saw anyone during the season. And it was an accomplishment worth celebrating as our team managed to secure just six total games against the would be threepeat state champs.

In sections we made a strong run at Becker in the quarterfinals before losing the deciding match 4-6 in the third set for a 3-4 loss. As disappointing as that was, it was an incredible day watching the boys compete to the best of their ability and really challenging a talented opponent.

It's a great group to be around and I am grateful for continuing to be able to lead this program forward.

Track and Field

Head Coach: Scott Palmer

The boys' and girls' track and field teams had an impressive and memorable season. The boys started strong with a first-place finish at the Roseville Invitational, followed by a solid fourth-place showing at the Section 8AAA True Team meet. Their hard work culminated in a second-place finish at the tough Lake Conference Championship meet, where they scored 121 points, and a third-place finish at the Section 8AAA meet. Along the way, the boys made their mark on the school's all-time performance lists, setting two new school records: Ryan Babatz in the shot put with a toss of 63' 6.5" and Joel Benson in the discus with a throw of 173' 0". The team also recorded 14 top-ten performances and had 8 athletes earn All-Conference honors— the most in Lake Conference history. Seven athletes were recognized as Academic All-State, meeting performance criteria while maintaining a GPA of 3.6 or higher. Joel Benson finished third in the state in the discus, and Ryan Babatz became the state champion in the shot put.

The girls' team also showed remarkable resilience and growth throughout the season. They placed fifth at the Lake Conference meet with 66.5 points, fourth at the Section 8AAA True Team meet in Brainerd, and fourth at the Section 8AAA meet. The girls broke five school records: Rose Lamberts in the 100-meter dash (12.22) and the 300-meter hurdles (44.50), Hannah Braun in the 800-meter (2:14.44), Courtney Kotish in the pole vault (11'), and the girls' 4x800-meter relay (Cady Macheel, Miley Farniok, Avery Larson, and Hannah Braun) with a time of 9:15.47. The girls also posted 16 new top-ten performances and had 5 athletes named to the All-Conference team, with 11 recognized as Academic All-State honorees. Rose Lamberts finished fifth in the 300-meter hurdles at the state meet.

Both teams were honored with the Gold Standard Team Academic Award, with the boys' section participant GPA averaging an outstanding 3.90 and the girls' an impressive 3.99. This season showcased the dedication, talent, and academic excellence of our athletes.

ATTACHMENTS:

- BHS 2025 Spring Activities Participation Report

