

School Board Meeting:

September 11, 2017

Subject:

2017 BHS Spring Activities Report

Presenter:

**Tom Bauman,
BHS Activities Director**

Suggested School Board Action: None

Description:

Will provide activity updates on the following at the Board Workshop:

- 2017 Spring Season Summaries
- 2017 Spring Season Participation Report
- BHS Activities News

Staff Narratives:

Adapted Softball: Head Coaches Ruth Clarke (13 years), Dave Kaufmann (10 years) Adapted Softball had a really good season. Last year we graduated 5 of our core players, leaving big holes in our offense and defense. We were scrambling to get new athletes interested in participating. We picked up four new players and they have done very well. The season started great with a win against White Bear Lake. Our next four games were against the top four teams in our division. This was a year of firsts. We played the Anoka Mustangs but instead of getting 10 runned, the game was really close and ended 9-8 for us! Our record at the end of the season was 4 wins and 7 losses with 2 games that were really close and could have gone either way. We were 5th in the North Conference and played South Washington for our play-off game. This was an exciting season!

Last year we lost our shortstop and our first baseman. Nathaniel Westphal, an 8th grader, stepped into the first baseman's position and did a great job. Ciera Menk, a junior, moved into the shortstop position and really took control of the field. Her skills and knowledge of the game really blossomed. She has become a really positive leader of the team, encouraging teammates on and off the field. This year we have 2 seniors who will be truly missed - James Gulliford and Kail Dornbusch, our team captains. James has been a super all-around player. We have moved him to many different positions throughout the 6 years he has played for us. He has done a great job wherever we put him. This year he played left field and really helped improve our defense by catching several fly balls. Kail Dornbusch has been our pitcher for 3 years

and has done an awesome job! He is one of the best pitchers in our division and we have been privileged to have him on our team.

We ended our season against a very solid South Washington team. We came ready to play, but South Washington proved to be the better team. We hope to build on the success we had this year, and make next year even better!

Boys/Girls Track and Field: Head Coach Scott Palmer (22 years)

The 2017 Track and Field campaign found favorable weather and the opening of Bison Field East on the campus of Buffalo High School. The Bison Track and Field athletes made great improvement over the course of the 2017 season. At the conference meet many boys and girls had personal bests with strong finishes in many events. The Girls team finished seventh, only 12 points out of third in a strong Mississippi 8 Conference. The boy's team finished in third place. The Section 2AA found the girls team finishing in twelfth place, two third place finishes and a fourth place finish with the top 2 performances advancing to the state meet. The Boys team finished in fourth place sending 2 relays, the 4x400 and the 4x800 and two individuals to the state meet for a total of ten male athletes. At the state meet tenth grader Isaac Basten finished seventh in the 3200, Nick Hanson sixth in the pole vault, the 4x800 tenth and the boys 4x400 after knocking off over 4 seconds to get into the finals, finished in ninth place. The Bison Boys and Girls team both achieved state gold status academically with a total of sixteen track and field athletes honored with Academic All State status.

Girls Lacrosse: Head Coach Megan Scherer (2nd Year)

I consider the 2017 Girls Lacrosse season to be successful not because we ended the regular season 11-2, were Conference Co-Champions, and made it to the Section Semifinals; I consider it a success because of the growth we made together as a team. We knew we were going to be facing adversity this year with teams understanding how we play, having 1 senior, having 1 brand new coach to the sport, *and* having one of the 2 captains break her nose and need surgery in the middle of the season. Throughout the season the young women on the team never let any of these things get in their way.

We began the season with a disappointing loss. Instead of sulking about it the team had a drive and hunger in them that I had not seen previously. We then went on to win 11 games in a row holding all but 2 of those teams to under 10 goals, which can be difficult to do in girls' lacrosse. I chalk that up to the girls' determination, hard work, and trust in their teammates. From there we lost our last game of the season and became Co-Conference Champions with Hutchinson. From there, we received a bye in the first round of sections, beat St. Michael in the second round, and lost to Osseo in the section semifinals.

I am incredibly proud of the team as a whole but there are some individual honors that should be recognized. Jilli Hovland was our only senior and she took that to heart. She was always one of the first girls to practice and showed our younger girls what it takes to be a varsity athlete. She works hard on, and more importantly, off of the field. She has left big, big shoes to fill for next year. Sophomore Emma Carlson was one of 13 players in Minnesota nominated for Player of the Year. We also had 5 players receive All-State Academic awards. They needed a 3.89 GPA or better to receive this. They are: Erica O'Borsky, Jayden Perry, Claire Stevens, Danika Tweten, and Erin Welch. Lastly, our All Conference Award winners were Senior Jilli Hovland, Junior Danika Tweten, Sophomore Emma Carlson, Sophomore Callie Stumpfl, and Freshman Madelyn Huebner. We have many wonderful young ladies who participate in the Girls Lacrosse program and I can't wait to see how we can build off of this year of team growth.

Thank you!

Boys Lacrosse: Head Coach Joey Hartfiel (3rd Year)

A successful season for a young a team. Our season started a little slow, but with a lot of excitement in some close games. We had multiple players receiving player of the week nominations at the state level. The team matured and showed great character throughout the course of the season. The team would find themselves behind in a few games, but would show determination coming back to close the gap, and on a couple of occasions, come from behind to win.

Comprised of mostly underclassmen, the future of the lacrosse program should be very exciting. That summarizes on the field.

Off the field, this is by far the best group of student-athletes I have had the privilege to coach. They are respectful, compassionate and supportive. I received numerous compliments regarding many of the young men on this team from community members, school officials and other teams. The team volunteered at the Monticello High School to help set up a resource fair for a non-profit group. They also would take extra time to clean up our new stadium, as well as the fields we would compete on for our away games.

We are a team, we are a family, we are Bison.

Baseball: Head Coach Mike Beilke (14 years)

The Bison finished the year with a record of 11-13. We finished second in the Mississippi 8 Conference with a record of 9-4. Mitch Gabrelcik, Josh Fussy, Cal James, Kurtis Kunkel, and Ramon Vega JR were selected to the All Conference team and Bailey Erickson, Tyler Brown, and Christian Johnson received Honorable Mention Awards. The

Bison received a 6 seed for the section tournament. We defeated the #3 seed Osseo in the first round by a score of 5-3 and lost the second round game to the #2 seed Maple Grove by a score of 5-1. We won the third round with a walk off hit to defeat the #8 seed Moorhead. Our season came to an end with a 12-2 loss to the #1 seed STMA. Brady Bauman, Mikael Brickley, Ethan Lotzer, Nicholas Mueller, Hunter Brings, Josh Fussy, Mitch Gabrelcik, Jake Hendel, Christian Johnson, Kurtis Kunkel, Jacob Strong, and Ramon Vega Jr 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. Go Bison!!!

Softball: Head Coach Brad Zrust (13th year)

It was a great year for us on many fronts. I would like to start out by saying what a treat to play in our new complex. The compliments that I heard from coaches, players and fans were, "I wish we could play in a facility like this full time, this is college-like facilities, what a great game atmosphere. Many more were said and all were positive.

I have been very fortunate to coach a great group of athletes at Buffalo this year. We set out the year to accomplish many goals. I would say we completed about 90% of our goals. Some of the goals were to win conference, win our section, go to state and most importantly have fun while playing the game of softball. These were accomplished.

I will lose 4 great seniors this year who won't be easily replaced. It always starts and ends with their leadership. They have been through the games and battles. You hope it will trickle down to next year's seniors. I believe it will.

In closing I would like to say how lucky Buffalo softball is to be playing on such top notch facilities.

Thanks
Brad Zrust.

P.S. Come check out a game next year if you haven't. I'm quoting Roy Hobbs from the movie the "Natural". This girl is fun to watch as is the whole team.

Boys Tennis: Head Coach Ben Watkins (6th Year)

The 2017 tennis season was really a tale of two seasons. The year started with two tournaments with very high quality competition that bookended our spring break. Because of the timing, we were very shorthanded for both tournaments, which led to us starting the season with a 0-8 record. The team did not get frustrated and they worked hard to make sure we could still have a great season. We ended with a record of 11-14, with a conference mark of 7-2, which tied for 2nd place in the conference.

During the first tournament of the year, we played shorthanded against a solid Delano team and lost 0-7. We have scheduled an annual match with Delano under the lights at BCMS, and played them for our last regular season match of the year and won a very fun and intense match, 5-2. The match was played in front of over 150 fans on a Friday night, which was a spectacular night for tennis and making great memories. That match was able to show the growth that we showed as a team throughout the season.

We had four seniors named first-team all-conference; Captain Jack Stevens, Captain Grant Wykle, Stone Goodmanson, and Cade Stensby all earned the honor. Those four combined to form our #1 and #2 doubles teams for most of the season. Nick Immel, Noah Steinmetz, Josh Skarin, and Turner Marr all earned honorable mention all-conference. Our team MVP was Grant Wykle, Most Improved Player went to 7th grader, Turner Marr, and the BISON Award went to Junior Nick Immel. The players voted for Juniors Nick Immel and Noah Steinmetz to be captains for next year.

We earned the Team Academic All-State Gold award, with an average team GPA of 3.75, and placed 2nd in the conference for GPA. Most of our team was named to the academic all-conference team, and Stone Goodmanson was named Academic All-State.

This was a very special team because of the team chemistry that we had. The players get along incredibly well and include everyone on the team into everything they do. One of the catalysts of this chemistry was the weekend time we were able to spend together at the various tournaments we played in over the course of the season. We played in tournaments in Becker, Elk River, Buffalo, and also our annual overnight trip to Eau Claire. Incredible memories were made and the players were able to represent Buffalo Tennis proudly everywhere they went.

Boys Golf: Head Coach Paul Olson (1st year)

Wild Marsh Golf Course once again served as the home course for the 2017 Bison Boys Golf Team. After school tee times were shared with the girl's golf team on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Due to league play on Wednesday's, practice was limited primarily to the putting greens and several of the bunkers nearest the club house. Buffalo hosted a Boys Mississippi 8 conference meet at Wild Marsh on May 18th.

On several occasions the team also traveled to the golf range at Albion Ridges Golf Course and to Buffalo Heights Golf Course where the team shared practice time with the BCMS golf team. The shared practices served as an opportunity for the BHS team to mentor BCMS players and expose them to high school level golf in hopes that they will continue with the sport upon reaching High School.

During the 2017 season the Varsity Team competed in seven Mississippi 8 Conference meets, six invitational meets at various courses, and an 8AAA pre-section and sectional

meet in Brainerd. The Junior Varsity team competed in seven Mississippi 8 Conference meets. The Varsity team was very competitive in nearly every meet, never finishing lower than 6th and only once recording an 18 hole individual score over 90. Team highlights of the season included finishing 2nd in the conference behind only State 4th place finisher St Michael, recording a team score of 306 at Wild Marsh, and finishing 4th in the Sectional meet.

The Junior Varsity team, under the direction of JV/Assistant Coach Charley Keifenheim, improved markedly over the course of the season and earned a very respectable 4th place finish in the final Conference standings. Several players earned Varsity playing time while others showed potential for next season.

Team members also garnered awards and recognition both on and off the course. In the classroom the Varsity earned a Silver Award for their collective GPA and were only several hundredths short of a Gold Award. Sophomore Nate Persson earned All-Conference Academic honors.

On the course the individual highlight of the season was sophomore River Goodmanson qualifying as an individual for the Class AAA State meet by tying for 3rd in the individual scoring at the Section 8AAA meet. River tied for 56th place in a very competitive field. The team's two seniors, both of whom who have been four year contributors, Tom Russett and Luc Persson, earned Honorable Mention All-Conference awards and were named the team co-most valuable players.

Girls Golf: Head Coach Deb Warpula (2nd year)

This was the first year for new assistant Tim Murray and second season for Debi Warpula. Season start date was March 20, 2017, and it was promising with higher than average temps we found ourselves at Albion Ridges actually hitting golf balls and not just talking about hitting them. We worked together in the early weeks on strength and conditioning in our weight room as a team and both coaches, building not only our strength and endurance but also our relationships and trust, laying foundational work before the stresses of the season would come upon us.

The girls worked hard not only physically, but also mentally throughout the season. They were able to overcome distractions that came their way, such as; weather, personal things, class work and swing tweaks. Their strength and determination is something that you can only fully understand being next to them in the fairway through the highs and lows of each round. They are to be commended at the level of maturity they show day in and day out.

The varsity squad did make it back to state this season, the second straight year for this team, and third year in a row for girls Bison golf. Also, I would like to highlight the fact that our number one JV player, Emma Schultz, took first overall in the JV

Conference championship (a two-day totaled from mid-conference and finals) and so Bison Golf continues to be strong.

To grow young women to be strong and confident is a challenge, but for me personally, I would like to thank each one on the school board and Mr. Bauman, for this opportunity given me to help in this endeavor. As I navigate the waters of coaching and managing all the details of this group, I walk away from this season proud of Mr. Murray, and so very proud of this group of young ladies. They are incredible and the support shown this season from all of you - appreciated. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
Debi Warpula

SPRING MUSICAL: Director Tracy Hagstrom (25 Years)

Pippin - Music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz and book by Roger O. Hirson.

Original production directed and choreographed by Bob Fosse.

Music Director: Michael Walsh

Choreographer: Debb Bestland

Tech Director: Rebekah Herdklotz

Lighting Designer: Greg Bestland

PAC Manager: David Kilgore

Student Choreographer: Ingrid Nelson

Student Stage Manager: Ciarra Fagerlie and Grace Happe

Costumes: Leann Miller and Laurie Hoops (Parent Volunteers)

Musical Synopsis:

Pippin features an acrobatic troupe of performers, led by the charismatic Leading Player. The ensemble cast tells the story of Pippin, a young prince who longs to find passion and adventure in his life. To prove his loyalty to his distracted father, King Charles, Pippin goes to war. But when the Leading Player convinces the prince to fight tyranny, Pippin kills Charles and takes over the throne. Realizing his mistake, Pippin begs the Leading Player to bring his father back to life, and she obliges. Pippin then falls in love with Catherine, a widow with a young son, and (much to the Leading Player's chagrin), Pippin struggles to decide whether he should settle down and pursue a peaceful life or continue to make magic with the dazzling troupe of performers.

BHS Performances

Performances were April 27, 28 and 29 at 7:30 PM and April 30 at 2:00 PM. Tickets were available in the high school office and at Gartner's Hallmark at a cost of \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00; they were also available at the door. This year we featured a cast of 32 high school students in our production, along with another 10 additional BHS students who developed and were featured in the lobby as circus performers, welcoming theatre patrons as they entered BHS. 40 students were also involved in

the set crew; this is the largest set crew we have had in years. 14 students played in the pit orchestra and 15 additional students were involved in the lighting/sound booth and costume/make-up crews. It was a large undertaking for the BHS Theater Program due to multiple special effects and specialized costume requirements but it was the right time to tackle this production. Thanks to the generosity of several volunteers (both parents, past graduates and others) and other high school theater programs, we were able to rent and borrow necessary equipment, costumes and props so we could do the production.

This year Hagstrom Durant decided to again enter the BHS production in the Spotlight Musical Theater Education Program/Contest through the Hennepin Theater Trust (Mpls.). Our performances were judged by three professional actors/directors/technicians. We received Outstanding Achievement in Musical Theatre (highest award given), Outstanding Overall Production, Outstanding Overall Performance, Outstanding Overall Ensemble Performance, Outstanding Acting by an Ensemble, Outstanding Overall Technical Team, Honorable Mention Performance for Movement/Dance by an Ensemble, Honorable Mention for Vocal Performance by an Ensemble, Honorable Mention Student Orchestra, Honorable Mention Costume Crew, Honorable Mention Technical Crew and Honorable Mention Lighting and Sound Boards Operators. Several individual students also received awards (listed below). We received our honors on Monday, June 12, 2017 at the Spotlight Showcase Program at the State Theater in Minneapolis.

The show was a huge hit. Crowd size was very large. The BHS students gave us both a powerful and very professional level production.

Individual Awards

Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role:

- Katie Swartzner as Leading Player
- Brandon Bednarek as Leading Player
- Jonah Schmitz as Leading Player
- Jack Soden as Pippin

Honorable Mention for Performance in a Supporting Role:

- Mallory Rabehl as Catherine
- Emily Twardy as Fastrada

Technical Leadership:

- Ciarra Fagerlie
- Grace Happe
- Ingrid Nelson
- Harrison Bjorback

Evaluator Shout-Out:

- Carson JS Reichardt
- Calista Cherches

Attachments:

- 2017 Spring Participation Report