

School Board Meeting:

February, 2016

Subject:

2015 Fall Activities Report

Presenter:

Nick Guida

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION: Informational

DESCRIPTION:

Buffalo High School has completed its fall activities for the 2015-16 school year. Coaches have shared a short narrative summary of their seasons for you to review. The report also includes a detailed summary of participation #s including coaching ratios.

UPDATES/PROGRAM NEWS:

1. Girls Soccer Coaching
2. Girls Golf Coaching
3. Mississippi 8 Conference News
4. School Start Times
5. Questions

FALL ACTIVITIES SUMMARIES:

Girls Swim & Dive (Head Coach Rachel Busch, 1st Year)

We kicked off the season with our second annual Training Trip to Clear Lake & Mason City, IA (Coach Busch's hometown). The team stayed at the Girl Scout Camp in Clear Lake and trained at the outdoor aquatic center in Mason City. The girls practiced twice a day, participated in team bonding activities, and worked on their season goals. The team spent additional team bonding time up north at the Schendel Family's cabin. The 2015 captains (Mika Bordak, Rachel Bertram, and Hayley Schendel) did a fantastic job planning the entire cabin event. The three did a great job leading our team throughout the season, showing true class and dedication.

For our coaching staff, we had two returning coaches and three new faces. Coach Busch completed her fifth season with the team, and Shannon Barclay (Dive Coach) completed her second. New faces were Laura Lundeen as assistant swim coach, Angelee Hale (BHS Grad, photographer) as a volunteer assistant swim coach, and John Rice (local law clerk) as a volunteer assistant swim coach. The team was very fortunate to have such a dedicated and caring coaching staff. Coach Pam Brophy led the middle school team, with assistance from Tom Brophy. Those two continue to do

an incredible job building excitement in the middle school program and teaching the girls the foundations of the sport.

The season wrapped up with a 2-5-1 dual meet record. The team finished fourth in the conference. Most girls swam/dove season-best times/scores at the Section Meet. Qualifying for State were Rachel Bertram and Alex Zeiss, both in the 11-Dive event. Rachel finished 5th, and Alex 8th. Rachel and Alex broke many school and pool records throughout the season. Rachel ended the season with her name on the record board for both the school and pool records in the 6-dive and 11-dive events.

As a team, the girls earned the Conference Academic Gold Award and the Section Academic Silver Award. These girls are a joy to work with and we are looking forward to the 2016 season. The captains for 2016 are Natalie Bobick and Emily VanTassell.

Boys Cross Country (Head Coach David Knutsen, 2nd year, 9th in program)

During the 2015 boys cross country season "youth" was the theme. After graduating 12 seniors last season, the underclassmen were going to have to step in and play a major role for the boys team to be successful. Several under classmen stepped up and the boys had a good season. Led by Senior, and state ranked runner, Jacob Kluver the boys team ran very well. They won their home invitational for the 3rd year in a row. The boys placed 2nd by a very narrow margin at the conference meet to St. Michael, and a close 3rd at the Section meet. All conference honors went to Jacob Kluver, Landon Tourville, Isaac Basten, Zac Lane, and Braden Benson. Jacob Kluver was the Section 2AA champion. He finished 19th at the state meet and earned All-State athletic and All-State Academic honors.

Boys Soccer (Head Coach Ben Watkins, 1st year)

After graduating 15 members of a conference championship and school record breaking team in 2015, the Buffalo Boys Soccer team came in with a very inexperienced, largely untested team. The team started with a very difficult non-conference schedule and started the year 0-4, losing three of those games by one goal. When we started our conference schedule, you could tell the good competition raised our expectations as our level of play increased substantially. We ended the year with a 7-9 record, but finished 7-2 in the conference, which was good enough to tie for 2nd place in the conference! So, after having to replace nearly our entire starting lineup and varsity roster, we ended up finishing only one spot lower than last year! The highlight of the year was seeing the team improve incredibly from the beginning of the year and then watching that come to life in a big stretch toward the end of the year. Before the playoffs started, we ended the season on a 5-1 streak, with big wins over rivals STMA (4-0) and Monticello (2-0) to close out the regular season in front of hundreds of fans on a Friday night game in Buffalo. The team had many newcomers come in and make big impacts on the field, and were led by our trio of senior captains, Ben Asleson, Luke Smith, and Henry Lemp. The team had no trouble scoring goals, and only missed the

school record for goals scored by 2 goals, with 48 goals. Seniors Dawid Finka and Miguel Arroyo Hernandez tied for the team lead in goals with 11 goals each. We had four players earn first team All-Conference honors: Seniors Henry Lemp, Miguel Arroyo Hernandez, Ben Asleson, and Luke Smith. We also had Dawid Finka and Junior Blake Habisch earn Honorable Mention All-Conference. Miguel Arroyo Hernandez was named the team MVP. The Junior Varsity team had a great season and played fantastic soccer and finished with a record of 11-3-1. Our JVII team finished with a record of 7-5-2. Both teams showed a lot of growth throughout the year. Participation was once again over 60 student athletes.

Girls Soccer (Head Coach Steve Doimer, 7th Year)

Girl's Varsity Soccer finished with a Conference Record of 4-5-0. The Mississippi 8 is becoming a stronger conference each year. Four M8 teams participated in their respective Section Finals. Two of those teams proceeded to the State Tournament.

The Bison Girls played a very difficult Non-Conference schedule again this year in an attempt to prepare our players for the difficult Conference and Section schedule. This can be tough on the players, but they persevered and grew quite a bit during the season. The level of Girl's Soccer is on the rise throughout the state and the areas outside the Metro are starting to narrow the gap that has existed for many years.

Coach Walz completed another successful season preparing players for the next level. Four players who started on JV were able to contribute at the Varsity level on a regular basis during the season and two of those earned starting spots. They gained valuable experience and will become important to our future success.

Coach (DJ) Mcmoil completed his first year with the JVII team. DJ had prior experience coaching at the Club level and played four years at Moody College (NCAA Div II) earning All American status as a Goal Keeper his Junior year. He was able to effectively share that expertise with our young Keepers.

Due to construction we were required to practice off site. The support we received from Jack Strong (BHS Maintenance) and the City Grounds Department was first rate. The Coaches and Players appreciate their efforts.

Football (Head Coach Todd Bouman, 2nd Year)

After finishing last season strong, and a successful off season, we were excited about the upcoming season. The Bison attended a team camp at SMSU in Marshall the last weekend in July which was not only a great experience for our athletes, but a great way for the coaches to evaluate the players. One of the highlights of camp was watching the kids show true sportsmanship both on and off the field. It was a positive environment and we received great feedback from the players. We will continue to attend the camp as a way to promote team building as well as team competition.

We had a very competitive schedule this year. The games stayed exciting despite losing three games by a total of ten points. (Willmar 1, Monticello 8 in OT, Cambridge

1) We also lost a tough, hard fought game against St. Francis. The regular season ended with a victory over Big Lake in the last game ever played at Cummings field.

Our first Class 6A playoff game was a microcosm of our season and what our team was all about. Our kids never gave up regardless of the score and came to practice ready for the next game. Despite our season record, I couldn't have been more proud of this group of student athletes on and off the field. We broke numerous school records on the field, but more importantly we lead our district with a cumulative GPA of 3.21. I am fortunate to coach with such amazing people who truly care about the well being of our kids and helping them grow into young men.

We are all excited about the direction and vision of Bison Football. With the great support of the administration we have an amazing weight room that will benefit not only our athletes, but the entire school for years to come. Finally, watching the construction of the new stadium unfold has been exhilarating. I am grateful to have been a part of the process, and look forward to what it will mean to our athletes, coaches, school, and community. I am very blessed to coach in Buffalo. We look forward to a great future! Go Bison!!

Girls Tennis (Head Coach Joel Peterson, 1st Year)

I could not have asked for a better first year as head coach. I was fortunate to have a strong group of seniors who displayed great leadership and work ethic. Some of the season highlights include winning the Buffalo Invite and placing 3rd in the Mississippi 8 standings. Our overall record was 16-5 and it earned us the 3rd seed in the Section 5AA tournament. Although we lost a close quarter final match against Maple Grove, I could not have been prouder of how the team played and represented Buffalo. It was not uncommon to hear from other coaches how impressed they were with the sportsmanship of our girls after matches. Captains Mattie Lubben and Claudia Botzet were a big reason for the team's success and character. They were both All Conference players at 1 and 2 Singles. They also teamed up in doubles in the Section tournament and placed 3rd, falling 1 match short of a state tournament berth. Abby Wyatt and Claire Stevens also earned All-Conference Honors and they were named M8 Doubles Team of the Year. The Junior Varsity under Coach Anna Busch posted a 13-3 record and showed that Bison Tennis will be strong for the next few years.

Volleyball (Head Coach Lauri Zumach, 8th Year)

The 2015 Buffalo Volleyball Season was a rewarding one that showed growth at all levels. We have one new coach on staff at our 9B level as Megan Scherer moved up to coach at the JV level. As a varsity coach, I was able to coach and watch both 9th grade teams and saw noticeable improvement from the beginning of the season to the end of the season. We were able to place all kids that came out this year by putting some of our freshman on the B Squad and Gerice Olson did a great job of getting them to all work together. Our Varsity team started the season as an inexperienced group of players. We had a new setter, new libero, new outsides and only two seniors. It was a

deep learning curve season for the girls and after starting the season 1-10, we turned it around and ended up 14-15 and 2nd in our conference. We placed Kari Zumach, Airvary Bouman, and Taylor Thompson on the All-Conference 1st team and Emma Simonson and Paige Dalbec on the 2nd team. Most importantly, our team GPA was high enough to place us on both the All-State and Conference Gold Academic teams. Paige and Emma also made the All-State Academic Team maintaining a 3.8 GPA or higher since their freshman year. I feel the ground work has been set for a very successful season next year with almost all our players returning to a program that continues to move the right direction!

Girls Cross Country (Head Coach Jill Hanson, 29th Year)

For the girl cross country runners in the state of Minnesota, this was to be a year of new beginnings. The State High School League believed it was time for equality-girls should be running the 5 thousand meter race. 5K was the new mantra for all girls programs. (Some of them thought that was what they were going to be paid.) It is not the first time that the race distance has changed and the runners spent a season adapting.

Our Bison girls really stepped up as far as training. They worked extremely hard and with each passing week, their race times were faster. Because they were now racing 5/8 of a mile longer, their race pace was slower than previous years, (bummer). For our entire team, who worked harder than they have ever worked, their race pace slowed about 20 seconds per mile than a year ago. Coach Knutsen and I scratched our heads many times trying to figure it out and what we came to the conclusion was that many of them were scared of the race distance. They trained faster than they raced. The conclusion is that, like the boys have always had to do, girls need to run summer miles and make them fast summer miles. Strength and commitment are great for one's self confidence.

The raw data for our season is that we finished 3rd in our Conference. All Conference individuals included: Amanda Montplaisir, Erica O'Borsky, Afreefa Seepersaud, and Meredith Reynolds, Our section team finished 8th out of 16 schools, with Amanda finishing 17th, one place short of a state meet berth. Also, the following students were named All Conference Academic: Archie Brallier, Macey McClay, Amanda Montplaisir and Meredith Reynolds.

We have the greatest kids to coach. We have fantastic parents. We need to tweek the culture of our girls; they can all be smart, nice, outstanding wonderful young women, but we need them to want to compete as well.

Run fast, embrace the pain, bask in the glory.

Attachments:

BHS Participation Report