

SPORTS

VOLLEYBALL

Knights end Buffalo's season

By Rob LaPlante
Sports Editor



STMA's Mikala Henderson (10) attempts a kill through the defensive wall from Buffalo's Cheyenne Tichich (12) and Kaya Garrett (2). (Photo by Rob LaPlante)

A team is allowed two timeouts per set in high school volleyball. In last Thursday's Section 5AAA quarterfinal volleyball match at St. Michael-Albertville, the timeouts used were 6-0 in favor of the road team.

Unfortunately for Buffalo Head Coach Jenn Peterson, timeouts are a stat you usually don't want to lead in.

STMA's speed and power, combined with Buffalo's struggles against the serve led to a relatively easy 3-0 (25-11, 25-10, 25-18) Knights home win.

Outside of an inspired start to begin the third set, the Bison were over-matched from the get-go.

The Knights led 12-6 in the first set and 14-6 in set two. Both leads resulted in Buffalo timeouts.

"The timeouts were for a couple reasons. It was to refocus on serve receive, reminding them to be confident and aggressive, especially that first and second game where we were scrambling a bit," Peterson said. "The main reason was playing as a team. When we did have a good pass, we still felt a little off, so remembering to be confident."

Senior captain Nicole Odeen felt the faster pace from their 3-2 playoff win the previous match against Park Center was the main difference.

"The first couple games was a faster switch than we played in the playoff win," Odeen said. "I don't think we fully anticipated it. We weren't mentally ready to take on the fast-paced game that they had."

With their backs against the wall, Buffalo came out

inspired to start the third set. However, a 5-1 lead quickly evaporated when STMA scored eight of the next 10 points.

Minus their own errors, the Bison had no answer for outside hitter Mikala Henderson, who provides STMA that big swinger, something Buffalo was lacking.

"I feel we were maybe missing one additional person who could put a ball away for us," Peterson said. "We had girls that were being competitive, but all year long it was trying to deal with team and player inconsistencies, and just trying to get on the right page. Earlier in the year we had things laid out, but as injuries progressed, it kind of led to more problems."

Senior Lauren Ehlers was Buffalo's top attacker this season. She was held to just four kills.

Ehlers said a 10-19 season definitely had its ups and downs.

"I think there were frustra-

tions, but this group of girls has been one of the best since I've been on the team," she said. "We had good connections with people. It didn't always connect on the court, but it did off it."

Ehlers is one of six graduating seniors. Odeen is the only senior with more varsity experience.

As a setter, Odeen reached the 2,000 career assist mark in the final weekend of the regular season. She started her career setting up former teammate Kari Zumach, who is a Division-I volleyball player at Indiana of the Big Ten.

The past two seasons, Odeen has had to improvise more, to make up for the lack of power and height from the outside.

"I definitely had to check out the other side, and make sure I'm lining up my hitters with the shorter blockers and setting the better options," Odeen said. "That part was a little tricky, but I think we handled it really well. We had a lot of kills for being how little we are."

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When asked how it felt to see a five-year varsity career come to an end, Odeen had trouble holding back the tears.

"It was very surreal," Odeen said. "I've been playing varsity since I was in eighth grade. Time really flies. I can't believe it's my last game playing for Buffalo."

Section 5-3A Tourney St. Michael-Albertville 3, Buffalo 0

(Thursday, Oct. 24 at STMA)
 Bison 11 10 18 - 0 (39)
 Knights 25 25 25 - 3 (75)
 Bison stats:
 Kills: Kaya Garrett 4; Lauren Ehlers 4; Hannah Dannewitz 1; Maddie Johnson 1; Nicole Odeen 1; Cheyenne Tichich 1; Sydney Beumer 1.
 Set Assists: Odeen 10; Johnson 2; Tatum Kjellberg 1.
 Service Aces: Ehlers 1; Odeen 1; Kjellberg 1.
 Digs: Odeen 7; Kolleen Ebert 3; Johnson 3; Garrett 2; Lindsay Hartman 2; Ehlers 1; Beumer 1; Kjellberg 1.
 Blocks solo: Garrett 2.0; Ehlers 2.0; Tichich 1.0; Ellie Therrien 1.0.
 Knights stats: Not available.

BUFFALO BISON SPORTS SCHEDULE

GOOD LUCK BISON!

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Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
Oct. 31	Nov. 1	Nov. 2	Nov. 3	Nov. 4	Nov. 5	Nov. 6	Nov. 7
BUFFALO BISON FOOTBALL							
	State Tourney Mounds View 7:00						
BUFFALO BISON CROSS COUNTRY							
		State Meet (St. Olaf) 10 a.m.					
BUFFALO BISON GIRLS SWIMMING & DIVING							
		Booflato Spooktacular Noon					Next: Nov. 8-9 Delano Invite Section 5AA Tourney
BUFFALO BISON ADAPTED SOCCER							
					Section 1 Tourney TBA		
BUFFALO BISON DANCE TEAM							
							Next: Nov. 16 Delano Invite 11 a.m.
BUFFALO BISON GIRLS HOCKEY							
							Next: Nov. 14 at Delano 7:15
BUFFALO BISON BOYS HOCKEY							
							Opening Day Nov. 11
BUFFALO BISON GYMNASTICS							
							Opening Day Nov. 11
BUFFALO BISON GIRLS BASKETBALL							
							Opening Day Nov. 11
BUFFALO BISON BOYS BASKETBALL							
							Opening Day Nov. 18
BUFFALO BISON WRESTLING							
							Opening Day Nov. 18
BUFFALO BISON BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING							
							Opening Day Nov. 25

Bold games are at home. All times listed as afternoon/evening games, unless noted. Keep up to date with Buffalo High School cancellations and postponements with the Bison Incomplete weather hotline at 763-682-8180. Schedules are also posted on-line at www.lakeconference.org.

Buffalo Gun Club

Jackpot Results (Sunday, October 27, 2019)

Class	Name	Total	Prize
A1	Don Wilness	48x50	\$27.00
A2	Mark Jelkin	47x50	\$18.00
B1	Jeff Bertelson	43x50	\$27.00
B2	Mark Jelkin	43x50	\$18.00
C1	John Podergois	42x50	\$27.00
C2	Mark Peters	42x50	\$18.00
D1	Walt McHenry	38x50	\$27.00
D2	Gene Lack	38x50	\$18.00

• 36 entries (tiebreaker long run from back)
 • \$180 payouts • \$1,455 yearly payouts

FALL TRAP LEAGUE STANDINGS

TEAM	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	TOTAL	AVG
The Reloaders	99	99	94	98	97	98	96	95	776	97.00
Berg Buffalo Auto	97	98	96	95	95	96	96	98	771	96.38
BGC #1	97	94	96	96	96	97	99	92	767	95.88
Yosemite Sam's	96	96	95	92	93	92	94	93	751	93.88
Grumpy's	92	97	90	94	89	96	94	93	745	93.13
Rusty Nuts West	92	96	94	96	90	89	96	90	743	92.88
Trueman-Welters	89	93	89	95	95	90	92	90	733	91.63
BGC #2	90	96	91	90	91	85	92	96	731	91.38
Neil's Floor Covering	94	94	89	90	92	86	95	91	731	91.38
Dave's Bar and Grill	86	91	90	93	94	91	93	90	728	91.00
BGC #3	90	88	93	84	95	90	88	94	722	90.25
Pond Dwellers	84	90	93	92	92	88	90	86	715	89.38
Sparkies	71	84	86	87	89	92	83	86	678	84.75
Crow-Hassen Nursery	88	93	89	91	94	69	70	68	662	82.75
Chippers	73	92	87	76	78	72	77	83	638	79.75
In the Busch	67	80	87	80	70	61	64	57	566	70.75
TBD										
TBD #2										

Bold teams received \$100

Football

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enth all-time. None came bigger than the game's opening score to Johnson.

"I think it set in a bit when we scored that touchdown to Trolls (Johnson)," Bouman said. "I'll forever remember that moment. After throwing that, I looked at the crowd and seeing that energy, I've never seen before. We fought and fought, and I'm so proud of our defense for playing how they did."

Buffalo's linebackers and safeties were huge all game in preventing STMA from getting chunk yardage, particularly from the rushing.

The Knights only rushing score of the game came on fourth down at the Buffalo one-yard line.

"We came in with the approach that we were just going to stop the run," Gaughan said. "We wanted to make them pass, and we did just that."

Twice, STMA had chances to make big plays in the passing game, but both times resulted in overthrows. The second would've been a long touchdown pass to speedy receiver Brandon Langdok, who beat his man downfield, but fell to the ground after suffering an injury.

After a 3-0 start, the Knights went 2-4 over their final six games.

"Playing that West Metro Sub-District just added up on us," said STMA Head Coach Jared Essler, whose

team was out seven starters with injury. "Once Langdok went down, we were out eight. He's our speed receiver and kind of our man coverage beater. I'm not making injuries an excuse. Credit to Buffalo, they had a plan and they executed."

The Knights were also without leading rusher David Collins, who averaged 101.9 yards per game in the regular season.

Despite missing some key players, STMA made things interesting when they closed the gap to 17-14 with 6:39 to play on a 16-yard touchdown pass from Kolby Gartner to Kale Hoselton. Essler's Knights have been in their share of close games and miracle playoff comebacks – for and against in recent seasons. But on this night, Bouman and the Bison's offense made sure no miracles would happen, as they were able to kill the clock following STMA's final score.

"We played eight fourth-quarter games this year. Our schedule meant we were always in a tight one," Essler said. "We won a bunch of really close ones. This one kind of had that feel to it again, and thought we may pull a rabbit out of the hat again, but credit to them, they made a bunch of third-down conversions."

Essler credited Buffalo's quarterback for making life

Boys Cross Country

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the only seniors that ran this year's section race. Huss is a junior, Dorado, Gregoire, and Boots are sophomores. Macheel is a freshman.

"This team to make it to state this year is very impressive," Hanson said. "Our alternates would make varsity teams at a lot of places. Obviously, we're not at the level as a Wayzata or Edina, but we are certainly at a higher level."

This year's state meet takes place Saturday, Nov. 2 at St. Olaf in Northfield. The girls race begins at 10 a.m. The boys begin at 11 a.m.

Section 2AA Tourney (Boys)

(Thursday, Oct. 24 at Gale Woods Farm)
 - Top-2 teams advance to state; Top-8

runners not on winning teams advance to state.

Team scores (17 teams): 1. Buffalo 62; 2. Mankato East 82; 3. Chanhasen 98; 4. Worthington 100; 5. New Prague 171; 6. Marshall 183; 7. Delano 197; 8. Chaska 250; 9. Mound-Westonka 289; 10. Shakopee 279; 11. Waconia 284; 12. Mankato West 313; 13. Hutchinson 324; 14. Jordan 352; 15. Orono 358; 16. Dassel-Cokato 390; 17. St. Peter 523.

Medalist (117 total runners): 1. Nicholas Scheller (Chanhasen) 15:39.1.

State qualifiers (8 total runners): 1. Nicholas Scheller (Chanhasen) 15:39.1; 2. Zachary Long (Chanhasen) 16:02.1; 3. Adam Koller (Worthington) 16:02.8; 6. Zach Matzner (Marshall) 16:31.5; 7. Christian Liet (Worthington) 16:32.4; 10. Symon Keiser (Jordan) 16:46.2; 12. Ben Scheller (Chanhasen) 16:52.0; 13. Mikele Walu (Worthington) 16:54.6.

Bison places overall: 14. Nick Oak 16:11.8; 2-9. Jared Gregoire 16:36.1; 3-11. Jadon Boots 16:49.0; 4-18. Luke Lichtenberg 17:08.9; 5-20. Andrew Macheel 17:11.0; 6-23. Dillon Huss 17:14.6; 7-30. James Dorado 17:36.6.

difficult on the defensive end.

"We knew the quarterback was special. We knew he was really good," Essler said. "We tried to mix some coverages and some different rush techniques. But you know what, he's seen it all. He's seen all the looks and different coverages – man, zone, and we knew he was going to make some throws."

Coach Bouman said the win ranked right up there as far as biggest of his play-

ing or coaching career.

"I told the guys on the way over here tonight, I've been in some big games in my life at all different levels, but I didn't say 'if, I said 'when' we win tonight, this is going to be one of my top-five wins in my whole life," he said. "I had goosebumps when I was talking about that then, and I have goosebumps when I'm talking about it now."

Sweet-16

The Bison's win advanced

them to this Friday's sweet-16 round of the 31-team, Class 6A field.

Buffalo will play at No. 2 seed Mounds View (7-2) at 7 p.m.

The Mustangs defeated Burnsville 34-0 in last Friday's opening round. The Mustangs are also a pass-heavy squad, along with boasting a solid defensive core.

Mounds View will come in as the heavy favorite, but Buffalo players are enjoying playing the spoiler role.

"Coaches will put up a good game plan, and I feel we can go in there and beat them," Gaughan said.

"It's the same approach. We're going to be an underdog, no matter who we play in this Class 6A field," Aidan Bouman said. "They don't think we can play 6A football, but tonight we showed we can. They are a good team, but we're ready."

Class 6A State Tournament Buffalo 17, St. Michael-Albertville 14

(Friday, Oct. 25 at STMA)
 Bison 0 10 7 0 - 17
 Knights 0 0 7 7 - 14
 Scoring:
First quarter
 No scoring.
Second quarter
 B – Trevor Johnson 17 pass from Aidan Bouman (Parker Vajda kick), 2:34.
 B – Vajda 34 field goal, 0:00.
Third quarter
 B – Luke Gunderson 54 pass from Bouman (Vajda kick), 11:08.
 STMA – Ben Fiedler 1 run (Riley Purcell kick), 3:45.
Fourth quarter
 STMA – Kale Hoselton 16 pass from Kolby Gartner (Purcell kick), 6:39.
Individual stats:
Bison leaders:
 Passing – Aidan Bouman 32-47-366, 2 TDs, 2 INTs.
 Rushing – Isaiah Karels 9-24; Luke Gunderson 2-7; Aidan Bouman 4(-2).
 Receiving – Trevor Johnson 10-130; TD; Luke Gunderson 5-103, TD; Michael Tweten 6-49; Isaiah Karels 10-76; Will Pool 1-8.
Tackles – Brandon Lampi 9; Ty Zwack 6; Isaiah Karels 5; Ryan Gaughan 5; Noah Karels 4; Trevor Johnson 4; INT; Wyatt Olson 3; Matthew Henson 3; Luke Gunderson 2; Avery Shun 2; Villads Stokholm 1.
Knights leaders:
 Passing – N/A.
 Rushing – N/A.
 Receiving – N/A.
 Tackles – N/A.
Buffalo records: 5-4 overall; 4-3 North Central Blue District. Next: Class 6A State Tournament, Friday, Nov. 1 at Mounds View, 7 p.m.



Luke Gunderson (left) and Aidan Bouman (right) race to the sidelines to celebrate with teammates, just moments after posting a stunning upset at STMA. (Photo by Rob LaPlante)