

# Journal-Press SPORTS & SCHOOL NEWS

## NCAA MEN'S TRACK & FIELD

### Former BHS state champ places 11th at D-I Nationals

By Rob LaPlante  
Sports Editor

The Oregon Trail for Drake University sophomore Isaac Basten started in Des Moines and ended 12th to the finish line at Hayward Field in Eugene, Oregon.

Basten's 1,500-meter time of 3:46.12 in the NCAA Division-I Men's Track and Field Championships on Friday, June 11 landed him a spot as a Second Team All-American.

The top-16 runners from Friday's finals earned All-American status. The top-eight made first team, while spots 9-16 were second team. For Basten, an All-American finish follows up his 2019 Class AA state championship in the 3,200 meter run (9:09.96) during his senior year at Buffalo High School.

"State was a great accomplishment, but it really doesn't compare to nationals," Basten said. "In the moment, it probably feels just as good when you win, but at nationals, I'm competing against the best in the world."

Cole Hocker of Oregon won the 2021 national title in the 1,500 in a time of 3:35.35. Yared Nuguse of Notre Dame finished second (3:35.60).

Basten reached Friday's finals behind a gritty effort during the preliminary round on Wednesday, June 9. A sudden burst of speed in his final lap moved him from ninth place to fourth in the final prelim standings.

His time of 3:39.57 during prelims was a personal record in the 1,500 and second fastest in Drake school history. It just missed the men's standard of 3:37.50 for qualifying for the US Olympic Trials.

His strategy to conserve energy until the end goes back to his cross country and track days in high school.

"Most guys like to go out hard at the beginning of the race," Basten said. "I actually like to start out in the back and move my way up. Sometimes the top-end guys waste a lot of energy maneuvering within the pack. I like to stay back about two seconds or so and make my jump in the final lap."

Basten's long-term goal is to someday run professionally. He currently is ranked No. 15 in the nation. Still with four years of eligibility due to being a redshirt

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## CLASS AAA BOYS GOLF STATE TOURNAMENT

# Bunker Thrills

Seven-under par score of 137 lands Ylitalo third on state podium; sets BHS record

By Rob LaPlante  
Sports Editor

If sophomore Arthur Ylitalo someday gets a golf offer from Notre Dame, he will look back to the 2021 Class AAA state tournament as to the reason why.

Grouped in the final pairings heading into the final round on Wednesday, June 16 at Bunker Hills in Coon Rapids, Ylitalo shot the round of his life.

His score of 67 was five-under par 72, which broke his own school record of 69 he set earlier this year for an 18-round score. His 67, combined with his 70 he shot the day before, put him at seven-under for the tournament at 137.

Unfortunately for Ylitalo, he wasn't the only golfer on Wednesday to have a career day. While his 137 was six strokes lower than the 143 posted by Stillwater's Brock Winter, who won the 2019 state title, Ylitalo found himself third overall in the final standings.

Northfield junior Nate Stevens broke the MSHSL state tournament record with a 10-under par score of 134. Stevens and Ylitalo were in the final pairing on Wednesday, along with Moorhead's Joe Kortan and Farmington's Kyler Schwamb.

According to Buffalo Head Coach Paul Olson, Ylitalo was not mentioned as a contender heading into the tournament, but he definitely turned more than a few heads with his performance.

Among those in the crowd were plenty of local and mainstream media, along with Notre Dame Men's Golf Coach John Handrigan, who was there to follow Stevens, who is a Notre Dame commit.

"It was obvious from the first shot that Arthur was going to build on the energy in his group and use it for motivation," Olson said. "After he rolled in a birdie putt on the first hole, you knew it was going to be game on."

Ylitalo had his own personal gallery following him at state. His parents and grandparents were in attendance for both days, as were six of his 10 siblings, and a few of his Bison teammates.

"It was fun to come up here and play well," said Ylitalo, who was sporting a grin afterwards from ear to ear. "I played great golf. To do it with the best guys in the state, and in front of my family was a great experience."

Not paired in the final

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Bison sophomore Arthur Ylitalo shot a school-record 5-under par score of 67 during the final day of the Class AAA state tournament on June 16 at Bunker Hills in Coon Rapids. Ylitalo's tourney score of 7-under par 137 was good for third overall. Both his single-day score of 67 and overall final of 7-under were BHS school records. (Photo by Rob LaPlante)

### Arthur Ylitalo Scorecard: Par 144 | Total 136 | Score -7 | 3rd Place

Tuesday, June 15 at Bunker Hills Golf Club

Round 1: Par 72 | Total 70 | Score -2

Hole	Yards	HCP	Par	Gross	Hole	Yards	HCP	Par	Gross
1	415	3	4	4	10	415	6	4	5
2	354	7	4	4	11	530	12	5	4
3	150	17	3	3	12	172	16	3	3
4	464	9	5	5	13	347	18	4	3
5	371	13	4	4	14	534	4	5	5
6	515	11	5	5	15	427	2	4	3
7	208	15	3	3	16	386	8	4	5
8	440	1	4	4	17	220	10	3	4
9	378	5	4	3	18	372	14	4	3
Out	3295		36	35	In	3403		36	35
				Total					6698
									72
									70

Wednesday, June 16 at Bunker Hills Golf Club

Round 2: Par 72 | Total 67 | Score -5

Hole	Yards	HCP	Par	Gross	Hole	Yards	HCP	Par	Gross
1	412	3	4	3	10	413	6	4	4
2	348	7	4	4	11	530	12	5	5
3	140	17	3	3	12	165	16	3	3
4	470	9	5	4	13	351	18	4	4
5	365	13	4	4	14	545	4	5	4
6	515	11	5	4	15	420	2	4	3
7	200	15	3	4	16	380	8	4	4
8	430	1	4	4	17	220	10	3	3
9	370	5	4	3	18	370	14	4	4
Out	3250		36	33	In	3394		36	34
				Total					6644
									72
									67

## CLASS AA GIRLS TRACK & FIELD STATE TOURNAMENT

# Buffalo sees two records fall at state

Feddema, Bluiett enjoy big day

By Rob LaPlante  
Sports Editor

In the biggest meet of the season, four members of the Buffalo girls' track and field squad produced big-time results in last Saturday's Class AA state tournament at St. Michael-Albertville High School.

Juniors Lauren Feddema and Bri Bluiett broke two team records that stood for over a decade.

Bluiett's time of 12.47 in the 100-meter dash broke the previous record of 12.51 set in 2009 by Olivia Haggerty. Bluiett's time was good for 14th place.

Feddema's time of 46.80 in the 300-meter hurdles was 13th best, but broke Carly Hanson's previous team record of 46.84 set in 2003. Feddema shaved nearly a

half a second off her section time of 47.28 she posted June 9 at Waconia

None of Bluiett or Feddema's placings were good enough to land a spot on the podium. The top-nine in each event received medals. Despite no medal, both runners felt a sense of accomplishment afterwards.

"We knew we wouldn't necessarily be with the top finishers, so we came in with the mentality that we wanted to PR (personal record)," said Bluiett, who broke her own PR time of 12.90 set at sections. "We just wanted to try our best and see how good we could do."

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Bison junior Lauren Feddema placed 13th in the 300 hurdles during last Saturday's Class AA state meet at STMA. Feddema missed out on an all-state finish, but her time of 46.80 broke the Bison girls' school record. (Photo by Rob LaPlante)

## PRCA RODEO

### Buffalo Rodeo GM looking to build tradition

By Rob LaPlante & Gretchen Kirchmann

There's a new committee that's looking to put "Buffalo" back into the Buffalo Rodeo.

"Expect big things," said Executive Director and General Manager Greg McDonald, who started to reorganize the committee in 2019.

"This rodeo is the gem daddy of all pro rodeos in this state."

Buffalo Rodeo dates back to 1955 and is Minnesota's oldest Pro Rodeo. This year,

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