

SPORTS & SCHOOL NEWS

Two BHS school records fall; STMA girls finish runner-up

Girls Track/Field

Continued from Page 13A

Feddema nearly broke another team record with a 13th place time of 15.53 in the 100 hurdles. Jackie Kilian holds the mark of 15.40 set in 1985. Feddema's time ranks second-best in team history.

"Going for the 300 record was on the top of the list of things I wanted to accomplish," Feddema said. "I got 46.99 in the conference meet, so I knew I had a shot. It surprised me a bit to break it, only because I was really tired when I started that race from the 4x100 relay finishing two events before that. I was a bit shaky in the beginning of the 300, but I ended fine."

Feddema, Bluiett, Brianna Shroyer, and Elsa Peterson didn't break any team records in the 4x100 relay, but they did make their way to the podium with an eighth-place time of 50.08.

The team was seeded 15th coming into the meet with a previous season best time of 50.98. A good week of practice and a tweak to the lineup resulted in nearly a full second time drop.

"We switched up the order, because we thought we would get a faster time," said Bluiett, who ran the second leg of the relay. Shroyer was the anchor runner at sections. Peterson, who was making her first-career state appearance, ran third. Feddema, who was the lead runner at sections ran anchor.

Buffalo's relay team was first in the opening heat, but a disqualification to Wayzata in the final heat assured they would at least reach the podium.

"I feel at the end of the day, we wanted to get on the podium just because we're the underdogs," Bluiett said. "It lets people know we're better than other peo-

ple might think."

Bluiett and Feddema teamed with twin sisters Josie and Katie Lavato to qualify for state in the same event in 2019. That season they were disqualified, which led to some extra motivation.

"They dropped the baton in 2019," said Head Coach Scott Palmer. "They had all four of them back last year, but there was no season, so for two of them to finish strong this year was awesome."

With the spring season now over, Palmer is hoping for his returning girls to come back stronger for next season, as well as doing a little recruiting on the side.

"Now we tell these girls to tap their buddies on their shoulders and say 'hey, track is cool, let's go out for track,'" Palmer said. "We want some new girls so we can get those numbers back up where they should be."

Home Sweet Home

The STMA girls were leading the team standings midway through Saturday's state meet with 48 points, but two first-place finishes later in the meet by Rosemount led the Irish to the state title with 86 points. STMA ended second with 65.

Winning state at home would have been the icing on the cake for the Knights. STMA was still able to claim state titles in three events.

Gabriella Keefer, Olivia Peal, Raina Simat, and Aaliyah Heine placed first for the Knights with a time of 48.28 in the 4x100 relay. Prior to that event, Peal was state champion with a distance on 18-01.75 in the long jump. Ali Weimer followed a second-place finish to Analee Weaver in last Thursday's 3,200-meter run



From left to right, Waconia's Jordan Grell, Buffalo's Bri Bluiett, and Holy Angels' Ashley Fisher compete in last Saturday's Class AA girls' 100-meter dash. Bluiett set a BHS school record in a time of 12.47. (Photo by Rob LaPlante)

with a first-place time of 4:49.93 in Saturday's 1,600 run.

It was Weimer's first-career state championship in track or cross country. Running at home gave her and her teammates a little extra motivation.

"It's always been a crazy dream of mine to go out there and win it," Weimer said. "I think being on our home track, there was no better time to do it than now."

Five of the top-seven teams in the final girls' standings were Lake Conference teams. STMA was second, followed by Edina and Minnetonka's 56 points. Eden Prairie was sixth at 43. Wayzata was seventh at 41. Buffalo tied for 58th with two points.

STMA won its first conference title as a member of the Lake just two weeks prior to state.

"I think we knew winning the Lake Conference was

achievable, and when we won that, it kind of gave up confidence going into sections and state knowing we can compete with some of the best schools," Weimer said. "It definitely helped us."

Rockets win Class A

With a score of 46, the Rockford Rockets edged Annandale's 42 to take home the Class A title in last Friday's state meet at STMA.

Rockford placed first in the 4x100 and third in the 4x200 relay events. Sara Byers, Aliyah Robran, Elise Biorn, and Cassia Cady finished in a time of 49.88 for the state championship 4x100 squad. The same four posted a time of 1:45.45 in the 4x200.

Cady was also state runner-up in the 100 dash in a time of 12.25.

Annandale's Nyalaaam Jok was champion in the high jump (6-00) and long jump

(20-00.50). Finishing second in the long jump (19-01.75) was Maple Lake's Maggie Larson, who won the state title in the triple jump (40-10.50). Maple Lake finished 12th in team scoring with 22 points.

Class AA State Tourney (Girls)

(Thurs-Sat, June 17-19 at STMA)

• Top-9 medalists

Team scores (Top-10 of 58 & Area): 1. Rosemount 86; 2. St. Michael-Albertville 65; 3. Minnetonka 56; 4. Stillwater 48; 5. Eden Prairie 43; 6. Wayzata 41; 7. Prior Lake 38; 8. Park Center 36; 9. Spring Lake Park/St. Anthony Village 24.5; 10. Monticello 21.5; 11. Buffalo 2; 12. Dassel-Cokato 2.

Individual results (Champ & Area)

100 Meter Dash: 1. Maddie Dahlien (Edina) 11.99; 2. Aaliyah Heine (STMA) 12.07; 3. Bri Bluiett (Buffalo) 12.47.

200 Dash: 1. Maddie Dahlien (Edina) 24.45; 2. Aaliyah Heine (STMA) 25.30.

400 Dash: 1. Maddie Dahlien (Edina) 55.48; 2. Thalia Mendoza-brunotte (Monticello) 1:00.21.

800 Run: 1. Zoie Dundon (Burnsville) 2:10.54.

1600 Run: 1. Ali Weimer (STMA) 4:49.93.

3200 Run: 1. Analee Weaver (Stillwater) 10:15.26; 2. Ali Weimer (STMA) 10:21.41; 3. Gabby Witschen (Monticello) 12:02.23.

100 Hurdles: 1. Ava Cinnamo

(Rosemount) 14.49; 10. Kezia Lee (Dassel-Cokato) 15.36; 13. Lauren Feddema (Buffalo) 15.53.

300 Hurdles: 1. Ava Cinnamo (Rosemount) 44.01; 8. Kezia Lee (Dassel-Cokato) 45.25; 13. Lauren Feddema (Buffalo) 46.80.

4x100 Relay: 1. STMA (Gabriella Keefer, Olivia Peal, Raina Simat, Aaliyah Heine) 48.28; 8. Buffalo (Brianna Shroyer, Brianna Bluiett, Elsa Peterson, Lauren Feddema) 50.08.

4x200 Relay: 1. Park Center (Shadaizhalynn Chatman, Laubental Ben, Shynika Chatman, Laubentra Ben) 1:42.39; 2. Monticello (Sasha Steinbach, Natalie Emmerich, Thalia Mendoza-brunotte, Emelia Skistad) 1:43.75; 4. STMA (Gabriella Delgado, Gabriella Keefer, Jacqueline Bergeron, Hannah Kvant) 1:43.99.

4x400 Relay: 1. Edina (Skyler Kieffer, Emma Hudson, Wesley MacMiller, Izzy Engle) 3:34.75.

4x800 Relay: 1. Wayzata (Grace Weber, Grace Mignone, Grace Link, Teegan Anderson) 9:08.02.

High Jump: 1. Niayma Holloway (Eden Prairie) 5-08.

Pole Vault: 1. Julia Gherardi (Hibbing) 12-06.

Long Jump: 1. Olivia Peal (STMA) 18-01.75.

Triple Jump: 1. Samantha Barrett (Prior Lake) 39-06.25.

Shot Put: 1. Hadley Streit (Mounds View) 41-04.25.

Discus: 1. Jordan Hecht (Rosemount) 134-11.

Ylitalo's 137 ranks third in elite field

Boys Golf

Continued from Page 13A

group but posting the lowest round of the final day with a 65 was Minnetonka's Ian Meyer. He finished one-stroke lower than Ylitalo to place second at 136. Stevens came into the final round tied with Edina's Jake Wetzler for the lead through the opening 18 holes with a 68.

A birdie on the opening hole on the final day put Stevens one stroke ahead of Wetzler, and despite a tough field, Stevens led the final day throughout. Ylitalo was never more than three strokes off the lead on either day of the tournament.

"Competing with Stevens and being neck-and-neck the whole round with him was so fun," Ylitalo said. "It's tough to get a stroke on him. He's consistent every hole. It's fun playing with him, but it's tough to get ahead of him."

With four holes left and a three-stroke deficit, Ylitalo did make up a stroke with a birdie on the 14th and 15th holes. A rare Stevens bogey on hole 14 put him at eight under, but a birdie on 15 put him back to nine under. Stevens hit a 20-foot putt uphill to save par on hole 16. A bogey there would have put Ylitalo one back with two holes left. On the same hole, Ylitalo had a shot for his own birdie, but with a 30-foot putt downhill, he elected to play it safe.

"It was a slippery putt, so I wasn't sure," Ylitalo said. "I was just going to lag it up there and two-putt and get away with a par there."

Both golfers hit par on hole 17. Stevens went 10 under with a birdie on 18. Ylitalo nearly bogeyed the final hole, but hit a long putt to save par.

"I'm not sure how many people knew how close Arthur came to being the state champion," Olson said. "Stevens essentially closed it out with a great par save on 17 and birdie on 18 but until then it was up in the air."

The field had an incredible 10 players finish the

tournament under the par 144 course. The top-eight golfers receive all-state medals. Any other year, Ylitalo's score of 137 would have tied the previous Class AAA state record for tournament score.

Asked about all the low scores, Ylitalo credited two days of good weather.

"The conditions were so good," he said. "It was two perfect days - no rain, barely any wind, perfect temps. It was nice."

Ironically, Ylitalo's start to the tourney didn't get off to a great start. His practice round on Monday, June 14 was a struggle, and his opening shot of the tournament in day one ended up in the trees.

"First tee, I had a pretty bad shot," said Ylitalo, who finished day one tied for fourth place with a two-un-

der par score of 70. "After that I settled in and felt comfortable."

For only being a sophomore, nobody was more impressed with his composure in the spotlight than his head coach.

"His round quickly turned into one of the best examples of scrambling I have ever seen. He was confident no matter where he was on the course, telling me multiple times that 'I got this,'" Olson said. "He hit only one fairway and six greens, however good players are able to rely on other parts of their game when they might be struggling otherwise. In that round, Arthur's short game was phenomenal, he finished with 23 putts with only 11 putts on the back nine."

Ylitalo's final line from the two-day tournament included 21 pars, 11 birdies and four bogeys. The same ball he hit in the trees on his opening hole was the same ball he used to end

the tournament.

"It's just so cool. It's the best I ever shot," Ylitalo said. "It will be a tough act to follow up, that's for sure."

Class 3A State Tourney (boys)

(Tues-Wed, June 15-16 at Bunker Hills)

• Top 8 individuals medalists

Team scores: 1. Maple Grove 301-283-584; 2. Edina 298-302-600; 3. Eastview 302-305-607; 4. Farmington 306-303-609; 5. Alexandria 304-309-613; 6. Chaska 305-310-615; 7. Mahtomedi 318-314-632; 8. Duluth East 348-322-670.

Individual scores (Top 8)/Area: 1. Nate Stevens (Northfield) 68-66-134; 2. Ian Meyer (Minnetonka) 71-65-136; 3. Arthur Ylitalo (Buffalo) 70-67-137; 4. Mason Roloff (Spring Lake Park) 71-69-140; 5. Joe Kortan (Moorhead) 69-71-140; 6. Josh Galvin (Maple Grove) 70-70-140; 7. Leo Geller (Mankato West) 73-68-141; 8. Carson Herron (Minnetonka) 73-68-141; 9. Ian Simonich (Moorhead) 70-71-141.

Individual scores 2019 (Top 8)/Area: 1. Brock Winter (Stillwater) 70-73-143; 2. Trey Fessler (St. Michael-Albertville) 72-72-144; 3. John Langlois (Lakeville South) 73-72-145; 4. Logan Hamak (Sartell-St. Stephen) 70-75-145; 5. Carl Berghuit (Edina) 73-73-146; 6. Connor Glynn (Waconia) 70-76-146; 7. John Tucker (Edina) 74-73-147; 8. Muzzy Donahue (St. Thomas Academy) 70-77-147; 9. Christian Labrador (St. Michael-Albertville) 75-77-152; 10. Walter Ylitalo (Buffalo) 75-81-156; 11. John Russett (Buffalo) 83-85-168.

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

Bison Post 270 goes 3-1 at Sioux Falls Tourney

By Rob LaPlante
Sports Editor

The Buffalo Bison Post 270 American Legion Baseball team is off to a 5-1 start this summer. Three of those wins came this past weekend in the Dakota Classic Tournament in Sioux Falls, where Buffalo posted a 3-1 record in pool play.

Evan Soeffker highlighted the week-end road trip, which began with a 9-0 victory last Friday over Blue Springs (MO) Post 499. Soeffker struck out nine over five innings to record the shutout win.

The only blemish on the weekend came in last Saturday's opening game in which Sioux Falls East Post 15 recorded a 3-0 win. The loss prevented Buffalo from advancing to the tournament's bracket play. Sioux Falls East would go on to win Monday's championship game 7-3 over Renner.

Buffalo finished the tournament in pool play, posting a 10-2 win Saturday against Beresford (SD) Post 72 and 3-1 win last Sunday over Omaha Gross (NE).

Grant Limke got the win against Beresford Post 72. He allowed five hits and struck out seven over five innings. Limke is a 2021 graduate of Holy Family but a Buffalo native.

Limke has been a welcome addition to the legion team. The victory was his first as a legion player with the Bison. Offensively, he is hitting .625 as Buffalo's

leadoff man.

"He grew up playing with a lot of these guys since they were little kids," said Head Coach Jack Strong. "We're glad to have him. He's a heck of a player."

Sunday's 3-1 win was called due to weather after three innings. Caleb Johnson was the starting and winning pitcher for Buffalo. Soeffker put Buffalo up 1-0 after a half inning with a solo homer. It was his first-career home run with the Bison.

This was Buffalo's first time playing at Sioux Falls in recent history. Typically, they travel to Omaha where they spend time playing in the Omaha Tourney, as well as attend the College World Series.

"We skipped Omaha this year, because we were unsure if there would be a College World Series," Strong said. "Sioux Falls is a good tourney, too. The weekend for us was pretty much all baseball."

Junior Legion Post 270

Playing their first season in the South Hennepin League, the Buffalo Junior Legion Post 270 team is off to a 2-8-1 start.

Buffalo's two wins to date were 12-2 over Richfield on June 11 and 8-2 over Elk River on June 18. Taylor Morrisette was the winning pitcher against Elk River. Caleb Johnson got the win against Richfield.

This year's Junior Post 270 team is coached by Mark West.



Buffalo Head Coach Paul Olson (left) gives sophomore golfer Arthur Ylitalo (right) a fist bump following a save for par on the final hole of the Class AAA state meet at Bunker Hills. Ylitalo finished the final day shooting a school record 5-under par. (Photo by Rob LaPlante)

Buffalo Gun Club

Upcoming events

Thurs-Sun, June 24-27	Closed for Buffalo Rodeo
Wednesday, June 30	Summer Trap League, Week 12
	5 p.m. - dusk
Thursday, July 1	Summer Trap League, Week 12
	5 p.m. - dusk