

SPORTS & SCHOOL NEWS
GIRLS TENNIS

Bison open season 2-3 at two invites

Five matches in two days come against three section opponents at Champlin Park, Coon Rapids invites

By Rob LaPlante
Sports Editor

The Buffalo girls' tennis team got an early look at some of the competition this year in Section 5AA.

With back-to-back invites to open the season last weekend at Champlin Park and Coon Rapids, the Bison opened with a pair of defeats last Friday to section opponents Champlin Park and Rogers.

The opening match of the season saw Buffalo get three of the seven points in a 4-3 loss to Champlin Park. One of those points was a 6-2, 6-2 victory by Anna Lee over Alex Reppier at the top-singles spot.

Bison doubles teams took two-of-three points. Alaina Lee and Ellie Stonecipher won a 10-2 super-set tie-breaker at No. 1 doubles. Lee and Stonecipher battled back after losing the first set 6-2, but forced the tiebreaker with a 6-3 win in the second set.

Buffalo's Aspen Adams and Megan Steinmetz also battled back at the No. 3 pairing. They dropped the opening set 7-5, but took the final two sets 6-4 and 10-8 in the super-set tiebreaker.

Match two of the invite saw a veteran Rogers squad earn a 5-2 victory. The Royals won three-of-four singles matchups and two-of-three doubles. Anna Lee defeated Abby Johnson 6-1, 6-1 for the lone singles win. Alaina Lee won her first set 6-1 over Anna Luksik at the two spot, but trailing 4-3 in set two, fatigue kicked in and Lee lost by injury default.

Adams and Steinmetz again won their No. 3 doubles match 6-4, 7-5. Adams, a junior, and Steinmetz, a sophomore, are new to this year's varsity lineup. Steinmetz did see some exhibition matches a year ago.

"Aspen and Megan have little to no varsity experience," said Head Coach



Aspen Adams (front) and Megan Steinmetz (back) teamed for a three-set tiebreaker win at No. 3 doubles in Buffalo's 4-3 loss last Friday at Champlin Park. Buffalo is 2-3 in the first five matches played this season, but Adams and Steinmetz have posted a perfect 5-0 record as doubles partners. (Photo by Rob LaPlante)

Alex Revenig. "I was really proud of how they competed and pulled off both close matches."

According to Revenig, Buffalo's 0-2 record at the invite isn't anything to panic about this early in the season, even if it comes against

two section opponents. "It's important to get good section results for post-season play," Revenig said. "But I know this team has lots of growth coming. We won't be the same team when we get to post-season play."

Buffalo did notch a key section win with a 6-1 victory over the host school in last Saturday's Coon Rapids Invite.

The Bison dominated the Cardinals in singles play, winning all four matchups by 6-0, 6-0 scores. Anna

Lee, Kiley Herbst, Grace Murphy, and Lauren Berg each played in the top-four spots, respectively. Alaina Lee and Stonecipher won 6-0, 6-1 at the top-doubles spot. Adams and Steinmetz won 6-2, 6-1 at the third position.

Buffalo went 2-1 at Coon Rapids. The other win was a 4-3 victory over Cretin-Derham Hall. Hibbing went a perfect 3-0 during the day, which included a 4-3 win over the Bison.

CDH and Buffalo split the four singles points with Anna Lee defeating Lily Cade 6-2, 7-5 at the top spot. Elise Lubben won at No. 3 singles 6-4, 6-4. Alaina Lee and Stonecipher, along with Adams and Steinmetz each won their doubles matches.

Anna Lee's 6-0, 6-1 win at No. 1 singles over Hibbing's Annika Lundell improved Lee's record to 5-0. The same can be said for No. 3 doubles partners Adams and Steinmetz, who won their match over the Bluejackets 3-6, 6-2, 6-3. Buffalo's third point in the match was a 6-3, 1-6, 6-4 victory at No. 3 singles by Elise Lubben.

"It was great to get this many matches in right away to start the season," Revenig said. "It's a great way to grow as a team, see where people are, and try some different lineups."

The Bison continued their run of invites to open the season with a quadrangular against three Duluth Area schools on Wednesday, Aug. 25 at various sites. Buffalo faced Duluth East, Hermantown and Marshall. Details of this invite were not available due to deadline.

**Champlin Park Invite
Champlin Park 4, Buffalo 3**
(Friday, August 20 at Champlin)

Singles: No. 1 - Anna Lee (B) def. Alex Reppier (CP) 6-2, 6-2; No. 2 - Veranique Poquette (CP) def. Kiley Herbst (B) 6-2, 6-2; No. 3 - Debbie Ogdahl (CP) def. Erica Kyllonen (B) 6-1, 6-4; No. 4 - Annabelle Johnson (CP) def. Katherine Berg (B) 6-1, 6-1.

Doubles: No. 1 - Alaina Lee/Elle Stonecipher (B) def. Yulia Horton/

Vanessa Pham (CP) 2-6, 6-3, (10-2); No. 2 - Alyssa Ostendorf/Lauren Knutsen (CP) def. Grace Murphy/Elise Lubben (B) 6-1, 6-0; No. 3 - Aspen Adams/Megan Steinmetz (B) def. Sophie Langel/Luci Rote (CP) 5-7, 6-4, (10-8).

**Champlin Park Invite
Rogers 5, Buffalo 2**
(Friday, August 20 at Champlin)

Singles: No. 1 - Anna Lee (B) def. Abby Johnson (R) 6-1, 6-1; No. 2 - Anna Luksik (R) def. Alaina Lee (B) by injury def. (Lee led match 6-1, 3-4); No. 3 - Bella Hoffarth (R) def. Kiley Herbst (B) 6-1, 6-3; No. 4 - Bryn Hoffarth (R) def. Ellie Stonecipher (B) 6-2, 6-1.

Doubles: No. 1 - Raegan Kimbler/Morgan Poirier (R) def. Grace Murphy/Elise Lubben (B) 6-0, 7-5; No. 2 - Paige Vreeman/Elizabeth Sticker (R) def. Katherine Berg/Erica Kyllonen (B) 6-1, 6-4; No. 3 - Aspen Adams/Megan Steinmetz (B) def. Leah Hatcher/Ava Stritesky (R) 6-4, 7-5.

**Coon Rapids Invite
Buffalo 6, Coon Rapids 1**
(Saturday, August 21 at Coon Rapids)

Singles: No. 1 - Anna Lee (B) def. Abby Ness (CR) 6-0, 6-0; No. 2 - Kiley Herbst (B) def. Nina Wiemholt (CR) 6-0, 6-0; No. 3 - Grace Murphy (B) def. Lilly Newton (CR) 6-0, 6-0; No. 4 - Lauren Berg (B) def. Grace Graham (CR) 6-0, 6-0.

Doubles: No. 1 - Alaina Lee/Elle Stonecipher (B) def. Kelsie Goldman/Emily Nickolaus (CR) 6-0, 6-1; No. 2 - Mary Olson/Zoe Scheck (CR) def. Elise Lubben/Katherine Berg (B) 5-7, 6-3, (10-2); No. 3 - Aspen Adams/Megan Steinmetz (B) def. Gabby Newton/Carly Hafferman (CR) 6-2, 6-1.

**Coon Rapids Invite
Hibbing 4, Buffalo 3**
(Saturday, August 21 at Coon Rapids)

Singles: No. 1 - Anna Lee (B) def. Annika Lundell (H) 6-0, 6-1; No. 2 - Megan Bussey (H) def. Kiley Herbst (B) 7-5, 1-6, (11-9); No. 3 - Elise Lubben (B) def. Claire Rewertz (H) 6-3, 1-6, 6-4; No. 4 - Bella Vincent (H) def. Erica Kyllonen (B) 6-3, 6-0.

Doubles: No. 1 - Abigail Sullivan/Mercedes Furin (H) def. Alaina Lee/Elle Stonecipher (B) 1-6, 6-1, 7-6 (7-4); No. 2 - Kasey Jo Renskers/Lola Valeri (H) def. Grace Murphy/Katherine Berg (B) 6-4, 6-2; No. 3 - Aspen Adams/Megan Steinmetz (B) def. Opal Valeri/Lucy Gryzbowski (H) 3-6, 6-2, 6-3.

**Coon Rapids Invite
Buffalo 4, Cretin-Derham Hall 3**
(Saturday, August 21 at Coon Rapids)

Singles: No. 1 - Anna Lee (B) def. Lily Cade (CDH) 6-2, 7-5; No. 2 - Morgan Redden (CDH) def. Grace Murphy (B) 6-1, 6-1; No. 3 - Elise Lubben (B) def. Maddie Hertle (CDH) 6-4, 6-4; No. 4 - Maria Lewis (CDH) def. Lauren Berg (B) 7-5, 6-3.

Doubles: No. 1 - Alaina Lee/Elle Stonecipher (B) def. Anna Holm/Audrey Graham (CDH) 6-1, 6-1; No. 2 - Megan Delsing/Ryan Courtney (CDH) def. Katherine Berg/Kiley Herbst (B) 5-7, 6-3, (11-9); No. 3 - Aspen Adams/Megan Steinmetz (B) def. Nora Barrett/Ava Wieland (CDH) 6-4, 6-2.

GIRLS SWIM/DIVE PREVIEW

First-year head coach returns talented lineup

Swim/Dive

Continued from Page 11A

"Swimming against the teams, it really pushes us," said Taylor Swearingen, one of four senior captains on this year's squad. "For me, it showed success doesn't always need to be about winning. Instead, all of us were out there getting our personal best. I think that's a success in itself."

Swearingen will be joined as captain along with Schendel, Ellie Carik, and Rachel Lawrence.

Lawrence is the lone returning diver from last year's varsity team. Alayna Mills graduated and Lauren Studnicka returned to volleyball. Diving Coach Shannan Barclay has plenty of other options, however. Kate Miriovsky and Olivia Samuelson were on last year's JV squad. They also have a talented newcomer in freshman Kyra Hendrickson, who was a student manager last season.

For Swearingen, whose goal this year is to focus on the breaststroke event, being an assigned leader is something she feels come natural for a team that has focused on positivity under Coach Busch.

"I think we have a lot of super-positive girls," Swearingen said. "We all know how to uplift each other, even if maybe one person is having a bad day. We overcame a lot of obstacles last season, and it really pushed us to be a better team."

Knowing she inherits such a close-knit group, along with the familiarity of being a new coach that's been with the program should make the transition smoothly.

"That's a big success for us, is having that comfort level. There's already a coach they are familiar with stepping into that head coaching role," Smith said.

"It helped tremendously that they came into the season last year with really positive attitudes. They were all together in what was happening last year. Yes, there were some qualifications for state last year, but they held their posture very well and nobody got disappointed. I was very proud of them."

With the chance of a normal season upcoming, this year's schedule will welcome back the state tournament, as well as three invites. It will also welcome back something that was missing all of last season, minus one home meet in which the parents were allowed to watch.

"It will be really nice to have the parents and the fans in the pool supporting us again," Swearingen said. "We really missed the cheering and all the smiles." Buffalo's first competition is a 5:30 p.m. home meet on Thursday, Aug. 26 against Moorhead. Fans are expected in the building to begin the season.



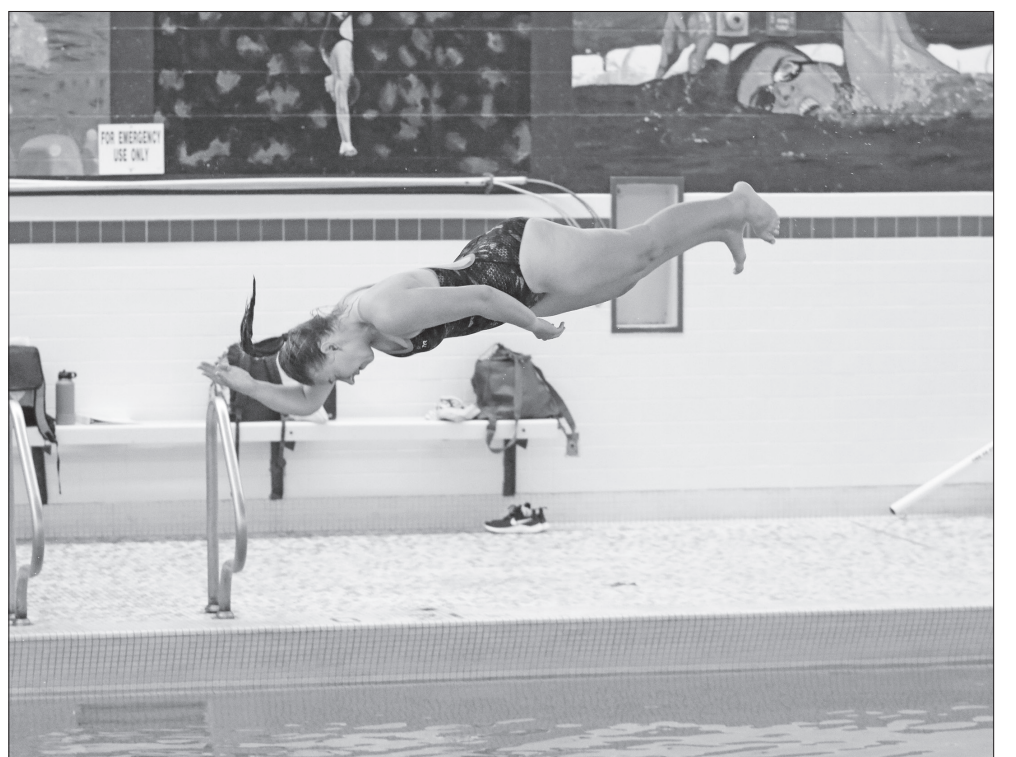
Kolby Schendel would have qualified last season for state in three events for the Buffalo swim/dive team. Schendel is one of four captains on this year's squad.

**2021 Schedule
Girls Swim/Dive**

Month	Date	Time
August	26 MOORHEAD	5:30 p.m.
September	2 HOPKINS	5:30 p.m.
	9 Minnetonka	5:30 p.m.
	14 Dassel-Cokato	6 p.m.
	18 Watertown-Mayer (Invitational)	10:30 a.m.
	23 Wayzata	5:30 p.m.
	30 Edina	5:30 p.m.
October	7 EDEN PRAIRIE	5:30 p.m.
	14 STMA	5:30 p.m.
	19 MONTICELLO	5:30 p.m.
	26 BUFFALO RELAYS	5:30 p.m.
November	6 BUFFALO DIVE (diving invite)	12 p.m.
	12 Section 8AA Prelims (Sartell-St. Stephen)	TBD
	13 Section 8AA Finals (Sartell-St. Stephen)	TBD
	19-20 State Meet (U of M Aquatic Center)	TBD
2020 records:		
	3-5 overall	
	2-4 Lake Conference (5th place)	
	Section Tournament:	
	2nd place - 367.5 points	
Head Coaches:		
	Kelsea Smith - Swim (1st year)	
	Shannon Barclay - Dive	
Assistant Coaches:		
	Gina Pogue, Hayley Schendel	
Captains:		
	Kolby Schendel, Rachel Lawrence	
	Taylor Swearingen, Ellie Carik	



Kelsea Smith (standing) gives directions at one of the team's practices during opening week. Smith begins her first season as head coach. (Photos by Rob LaPlante)



Rachel Lawrence is the lone returning varsity diver and senior captain on this year's team.