

SPORTS & SCHOOL NEWS
GIRLS LACROSSE

Dominant half lifts Bison past Becker

Buffalo posts 13-2 section quarterfinal home win over Bulldogs; St. Michael-Albertville rematch comes in semis

By Rob LaPlante
Sports Editor

The final score couldn't have been more lopsided than the 13-2 home win the Buffalo girls' lacrosse team posted in the Section 8 quarterfinals Wednesday, June 1, against Becker.

Eleven of the Bison's 13 goals came in the opening half. The second half ended with a 2-1 advantage for the home team. The lack of offense in the final 25 minutes had a little to do with some improved play by Becker's goalkeeper. The other had to do with a switch in personnel and offensive mindset.

"The goal wasn't to run the score up, it was to play good lacrosse and work on things that will be critical in competitive games," said Head Coach Peter Robson. "We were slowing it down a little bit and trying to get everybody in the game. We played our entire roster. I don't think it was so much letting the pressure off the gas pedal as much as giving our team different looks. We still were able to keep pressure on the other team."

Offensively, the second-seeded Bison wasted no time early on to jump on the seventh-seeded Bulldogs.

Bella Weiche opened the scoring just 15 seconds into the contest. Bailey Mischke made it 2-0 at the 1:38 mark. The lead grew to 4-0 on goals by Ellie Toussaint and Scarlett Peterson. Becker scored its first goal with 11:08 left to play in the half, but Buffalo answered with four more unanswered goals to bring an 11-1 lead into the half.

Mischke scored three of her four goals in the game in the first half. Only a freshman, her 29 goals through 14 games rank second on the team



Buffalo junior Ellie Toussaint (4) fires a shot on goal during the Bison's 13-2 home playoff win June 1 over Becker. Looking on is senior teammate Bella Weiche (2) and Becker defenders Jazlyn Toedter (15) and Isabella Duncombe (1). Toussaint scored twice in the win. (Photo by Rob LaPlante)

to Toussaint's 43. Mischke scored six goals a year ago as a first-year varsity player.

"I think one of the biggest changes this year from last is my confidence is higher," Mischke said. "Just knowing I have the support from my team, in that they want me to succeed, gives me a lot of confidence."

Mischke felt the week

leading into the playoffs created an even closer bond with her teammates. Buffalo played the final game of the regular season without its coaching staff.

"I think, just staying together and keeping a positive mindset about everything helped us get through that," Mischke said.

As the No. 2 seed, Buffalo

was guaranteed at least two home games as long as they kept winning. The Bison's win setup a semi-final home game played Tuesday, June 7, against No. 3 seed St. Michael-Albertville. Results of this game will be recapped in next week's paper.

Going in, the Bison were confident. They won a 12-9 home game earlier this

season against the Knights. Win or lose, the fact it's a home game makes a big difference.

"St. Michael is a long-time rival, and it's an exciting game to have at home," Robson said. "Obviously, this is an amazing field and we love playing here. The energy from our home fans is a huge plus for the girls."

Section 8 Quarterfinals

Team	G	A	Pts
Buffalo 13, Becker 2 (Wednesday, June 1 at Buffalo)	1	1	2
#7 Bulldogs	1	1	2
#2 Bison	11	2	13
Goalies	Saves		
Rory Meyer-W	5		
Marlee Walker	6		

Storm wipes away state hopes

Boys Lacrosse

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edge after three quarters.

The lead grew to 12-3 with fourth quarter tallies by Youngquist, Hunter Dalum, and Ashton Pedersen. Orono scored its only goal of the second half with 3:45 to play, but Carlson's fourth tally rounded out the scoring.

Layne Kology scored three times. Ethan Nuss had a goal and four assists. Braden Moseley made 15 saves in goal to record the win.

In a record-setting year for offense, it was the 13th time in 14 games Buffalo has held its opponent under 10 goals, something Valli and his defenders take pride in.

"It starts with Braden in goal. He's been playing amazing this year," Valli said. "We're lucky enough this year to have a really good offense. Our defense has been really good this year with sliding."

The defense was put to the ultimate test in Monday's playoff loss to Chanhassen. The 19 goals by far were a season-high against.

The Storm built an early 4-1 lead, thanks to three goals from Carter Van Holland, who ended the night with six goals and two assists. Chanhassen staved off two different comeback attempts late in the opening two quarters.

Goals by Jerde and Valli pulled Buffalo within 4-3 after one quarter. Trailing 10-4 late in quarter two, Kology's second goal of the game, followed by a Youngquist tally made the score 10-6 at half.

"At the beginning of the game, I thought for sure we could pull this off," Kology said. "But they possessed the ball really well. It's hard to score when you don't get the ball."

The Storm scored four unanswered goals in the opening three minutes of the third quarter, but this time, Buffalo had no answer. Chanhassen would later score five more second half goals, while allowing none.

hung in early, but defending all game led to a lopsided second half.

"They had the mid-field depth, and we didn't today," Hayda said. "We didn't have the ball all game, so we got tired really early. That's when the floodgates started happening, and it went downhill in the second half. Deep midfield teams like Chanhassen have always given us problems."

Even after suffering a rare loss, moods weren't too down after the season-ending defeat.

Kology and Nuss will lead a strong returning senior class in 2023. Nuss finished the season leading the state with 52 assists. His 78 points also finished among the state leaders. Buffalo also returns juniors Dalum, Moseley, Valli, and Malaki Hansen.

Buffalo graduates five seniors that helped post a 14-1 season and its first Lake Conference title. Carlson scored over 100 goals over his career. Helmbrecht also graduates, as does Pedersen and Tanner Huebner.

"A year like this really boosts our confidence, but the seniors will be missed.

They played a really crucial role this year," Kology said.

"This senior class changed Buffalo lacrosse," Hayda said. "They were the ones who put us over the edge. We wouldn't be where we are without them. They really changed the culture here for what winning looks like."

Section 8 Semifinals

Team	G	A	Pts
Buffalo 13, Orono 4 (Thursday, June 2 at Buffalo)	0	3	0
#6 Spartans	0	3	0
#3 Bison	3	3	4
Buffalo	G	A	Pts
Owen Carlson	4	2	6
Ethan Nuss	1	4	5
Layne Kology	3	0	3
Connor Youngquist	2	0	2
Ashton Pedersen	1	1	2
Griffin Valli	0	2	2
Hunter Dalum	1	0	1
Charlie Jerde	1	0	1
Goalies	Saves		
Braden Moseley-W	15		

Section 8 Semifinals

Team	G	A	Pts
Chanhassen 19, Buffalo 6 (Monday, June 6 at Chaska)	3	3	0
#3 Bison	3	3	0
#2 Storm	4	6	5
Buffalo	G	A	Pts
Layne Kology	2	0	2
Ethan Nuss	0	2	2
Griffin Valli	1	1	2
Owen Carlson	1	0	1
Charlie Jerde	1	0	1
Connor Youngquist	1	0	1
Goalies	Saves		
Braden Moseley-W	10		



Layne Kology celebrated one of his two goals in Monday's 19-6 playoff defeat at Chaska against No. 2 seed Chanhassen. Kology's two goals ended his junior season with a team record and state leading total of 73. (Photo by Rob LaPlante)

BRIEFS

Bison Backcourt Club hosting 1st annual BBC golf tourney

The Bison Backcourt Club (BBC) is hosting its 1st Annual Golf Tournament on Thursday, June 23, at Albion Ridges Golf Course in Annandale.

Over the course of the last two years, BBC has had to cancel or change its home traveling tournament structure due to Covid. These tournaments were the largest fundraisers for the traveling and high school programs. Due to this, and the budget shortfall this created, BBC has decided to try a new venture with the golf tournament.

The golf tournament is open to the public and will feature a Silent Auction. Registration is now open by clicking the "BBC Golf Tournament" under the "Tournaments" tab on the BBC website.

Cost is \$125/person, or \$500/foursome. Price includes: Range balls, golf, cart, and lunch. Check in for the June 23 date is 7:30 a.m. A shotgun start begins at 8:30 a.m. Lunch is served from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Buffalo Gun Club

Buffalo "300" Doubles ATA Event (Sat., June 4)

Event 1: 100 Doubles 1st Lewis Class

Class	Name	Total	EVENT CHAMPION
A	Alexis Kubista	99x100	
B	Don Wilness	87x100	
C	Mark Peters	81x100	

Event 2: 100 Doubles 2nd Lewis Class

Class	Name	Total
A	Laure Zumbusch	95x100
B	Leo Houle	87x100
C	Dwayne Noren	80x100

Event 3: 100 Doubles 3rd Lewis Class

Yards	Name	Total
A	Eric Munson	98x100
B	Chris Larson	87x100
C	David Maples	83x100

• All winners received Custom Jim White Belt Buckle

Upcoming events

Thursday, June 9 Summer Trap League Week #10, 5 p.m. (End of first half of summer league)

Saturday, June 11 ATA Marathon Event, 9 a.m.

Sunday, June 12 Buffalo Gun Club-CLOSED

Wed., June 15 Summer Trap League Week #11, 5 p.m.

KRWC Sports Radio

AM 1360

Broadcast schedule

Thursday, June 9 Class AA State Softball Quarterfinals St. Cloud Cathedral vs. Maple Lake, 9 a.m.

Thursday, June 9 Class AA State Softball Quarterfinals Monticello vs. Mankato West, 11 a.m.

Thursday, June 9 Class AA State Softball Quarterfinals Maple Lake & Monticello games TBD

Thursday, June 9 Section 8AAAA Baseball Finals STMA vs. TBD, 4:30 p.m./7 p.m. (if needed)

Fri.-Sat., June 10-11 Class AA State Softball/TBD