

KB YEAR END

By Doug Voerding

The first question of the first tournament at Buffalo High School way back in January was "Most thermal energy in the atmosphere moves by what form of heat transfer? Answer: convection.

The last question of the season at last Friday's state tournament was "Who originally received a land grant from the Mexican governor for the area that became the California state capital? Answer: John Sutter.

And, in between were more than three thousand questions at practice and at several regional tournaments.

The Buffalo High School Knowledge Bowl celebrated their accomplishments, another Mississippi 8 conference title and a successful third place finish at the state tournament, at a special awards get-together Monday night.

Coach Lacey Schramm talked about how every student is so important in Knowledge Bowl. "They all bring something important to the table. When one is missing, we know it. It shows."

"From the start of the season on December 3," continued Schramm, "these students were learning more than extra knowledge. They were developing relationships and learning how to work with each other. Those team relationships made for a very successful season."

Assistant Coach Sarah Rodenwald told the students and their parents about how the Knowledge Bowl season was a new coaching experience for her. "As the soccer coach, I train the kids and then I am there at the game. With Knowledge Bowl, I coach the kids and then at the meets I am reading questions in another room like the other coaches. I wanted to be in those rooms cheering them on! Cheering for my team was a little different with Knowledge Bowl. It was a great year!"

The coaches awarded six special awards. The Rookie of the Year was Tyler Maxson. Ryan Bowers was awarded the Strength for the Future plaque. Most Improved was Tommy Dirks.

Robbie DuBois received the Senior Award. Aaron Hamann received the Coach's Award, and Mark Lee was named Most Valuable.

Mississippi 8 All-Conference were Cassidy Brown, Aaron Hamann, Michael Hank, Mark Lee, and Levi Walls. Conference Honorable Mention were Ryan Bowers, Tommy Dirks, Robbie DuBois, Jacob Nosbush, Nathan Pierre, Jonathan Thielen.

Receiving their third Knowledge Bowl school letter were Cassidy Brown, Michael Hank, Levi Walls, and Olivia Wyatt.

Receiving their second Knowledge Bowl school letter were Ryan Bowers, John Braun, Kevin Danielson, Laura Dirks, Tommy Dirks, Robbie DuBois, Aaron Hamann, Mark Lee, and Nathan Pierre.

Receiving the first Knowledge Bowl school letter were Johanna Butler, Samuel Hamann, Max Jude, Abigail Kunze, Tyler Maxson, Jacob Nosbush, Abigael Nowak, Chase Schottler, Cody Theien, Jonathan Thielen, and Logan Thomas.

Receiving participation certificates were Alex Igolkin, Josh Petit, Nathan Pierre, and Jed Wallace.

KB SEASON PREVIEW 2012 - 2013

By Doug Voerding

It's a new year and a new season for the Buffalo High School Knowledge Bowl team. And the team has a new coach, a new assistant coach, and fourteen new members joining fourteen returning members.

"You all have unique abilities," said Coach Lacy Schramm at a recent practice, "to create great teams here at Buffalo High School. We are working together to achieve success this year."

Schramm, who along with assistant coach Sarah Rodenwald, has been working with the 28 students for the past month to get them ready for the first meet of the 2013 season, a home meet right here at Buffalo High School this Saturday.

Friends, family, and the public are invited to the meet which begins at 9:00 a.m. with the 60-question written round. The four oral rounds, open to all, begin about 10:00 a.m. More than twenty regional schools with as many as 70 teams are expected this Saturday.

The students have also invited their favorite teachers to watch the meet.

Teams for the first meet had not been set before vacation, because, as Schramm told the students, "It's a process. You all bring something to the table, always have something to add to the whole team, and have a position here."

Schramm is expecting to assemble five or six teams for the Buffalo meet. Knowledge Bowl teams can have up to five members for the written round and no more than four students at the table during the oral rounds.

However, as a new coach, Schramm is not certain who the strong regional competition will be. In the past, Buffalo's strongest competition has been teams from St. Cloud Tech, St. John's Prep, and Rogers.

Returning from last year are seniors Cassidy Brown, Michael Hank, Mark Lee, and Levi Walls who placed seventh at last year's state tournament. Joining them are returning seniors John Braun, Kevin Danielson, Laura Dirks, Robbie DuBois, and Olivia Wyatt. Also returning are juniors Aaron Hamann and sophomores Ryan Bowers, Tom Dirks, Nathan Pierre, and Jonathan Thielen.

New to Knowledge Bowl are seniors Tyler Maxson, Abigail Nowak, Joshua Petit, and Cody Theien; juniors Alexey Igolkin, Logan Thomas, and Rebecca Wood; sophomore Johanna Butler; and ninth graders Samuel Hamann, Max Jude, Abigail Kunze, Jacob Nosbush, Brett Otten, and Chase Schottler.

Following the Saturday Buffalo meet, the season schedule for the team is

Saturday, January 12 – Albany

Tuesday, January 24 – first conference meet at Big Lake

Saturday, January 26 – Elk River

Saturday, February 2 – North Branch

Saturday, February 9 – Princeton

Saturday, February 23 – Rogers

Thursday, February 28 – second conference meet at Big Lake

Friday, March 1 - JV tournament

Saturday, March 2 – Monticello

Friday, March 15 – Varsity sub-region tournament

Monday, March 18 – Varsity region tournament

April 11 – 12 – state tournament

BUFFALO KB ROGERS for J-P February 28, 2013

Photo One:

Buffalo Knowledge Bowl Team Two has been in the background this season, but their work has not gone unnoticed. At every meet this season, the team has been in the top ten. On Saturday, the team took fourth place at the Rogers invitational tournament. Above are, from left, Logan Thomas, Robbie DuBois, Aaron Hamann, Tyler Maxson, and Cody Theien. Thomas, Maxson, and Theien are all new to Knowledge Bowl this year. (Photo by Doug Voerding)

Photo Two:

The members of Buffalo Team Four are all new to Knowledge Bowl this year. The team has been consistently improving throughout the season. Above are Alex Igolkin, Brett Otten, Josh Petit, and Jed Wallace. (Photo by Doug Voerding)

By Doug Voerding

As the 2013 Knowledge Bowl invitational tournament season nears the end, the Buffalo High School teams are facing tougher and tougher competition.

On Saturday at Rogers, it came down to two points: two more correct questions would have given both Varsity Team One and Junior Varsity Team One the win. For both teams, it meant settling for second place and a stronger resolve to be ready for the upcoming subregion and region tournaments.

Buffalo's Varsity Team One of Cassidy Brown, Michael Hank, Mark Lee, and Levi Walls started the meet after the written round tied for first place with Sartell. The team dropped to 8th place after a disappointing second round score of 9 points. But the team got back to second place after a huge score of 21 in the third oral round. At the end of the fourth round, the team was again tied with Sartell, but when the bonus points were added, Buffalo ended up in second with a score of 111 to Sartell's 112.

Said Lee, "It was a close one. It came down to the last round and to the last question. If we had gotten that question, we would have won because the tie-breaker was on our side."

"That Sartell team was good today," said Levi Walls, "but we continued to build throughout the day. We did not slow down. Our high score of 21 in the third round shows that."

"We need to work on the buzzer," said Lee. "Sartell beat us on the buzzer every single time. Fortunately for us, they didn't always know the answer, but we need to work on faster buzzing."

Buffalo Varsity Team Two of Aaron Hamann, Robbie DuBois, Tyler Maxson, Cody Theien and Logan Thomas placed a strong 4th with 100.5 points, while Buffalo Team Three of Kevin Danielson, Laura Dirks, Abigail Nowak, and Olivia Wyatt placed 14th with 82 points.

Team Four of Alex Igolkin, Brett Otten, Josh Petit, and Jed Wallace scored 57 points in the 72-team tournament.

The tough competition also hit Buffalo JV Team One, who, for the first time this year, finished second instead of first. The team of Ryan Bowers, Tommy Dirks, Jacob Nosbush, Nathan Pierre, and Jonathan Thielen needed just two points to beat St. John's Prep. The team did, however, finish 11th overall with a score of 92.5.

Buffalo JV Team Two of Johanna Butler, Sam Hamann, Abbi Kunze, and Chase Schottler took JV 6th place with a score of 82.

Next week is a busy week for Buffalo. On Thursday, the team will be in Big Lake for the second of two conference tournaments. On Friday, the JV teams and varsity teams not participating in the subregion will be in St. Cloud. On Saturday, all of the teams will be in Monticello for the last invitational tournament of the season.

BUFFALO KNOWLEDGE BOWL MEET for J-P January 19, 2012

It was a reality check on Saturday at Eden Valley – Watkins for the Buffalo High School Knowledge Bowl team. Team One placed second and the JV team also placed second, both behind teams from St. John's Prep. At the opening meet last week in Buffalo, it was the reverse with the Buffalo teams topping the St. John's Prep teams.

"We are all learning about the strength of the competition," said Coach Peggy Pasche, "and the challenges of that competition. Now we need to work on meeting those challenges."

The teams were reorganized on Saturday due to prior commitments, so some of the students were working with others different from the week's practices.

Said Pasche, "Sometimes that can give teams a disadvantage, but not Saturday. All of the teams did extremely well. All of them were in the top 17 out of 62 teams. In spite of coming in second, that is awesome work for Buffalo."

Team One of Cassidy Brown, Robbie DuBois, Michael Hank, and Levi Walls started the meet in second place with a score of 50 in the oral round. They stayed in second for the first two oral rounds, but dropped to third going into the last two rounds. In the final round, the team scored 14 points to give them a second place finish. Their final score was 104 points, behind winner St. John's Prep who had 117 points. Rocori placed third with a score of 102.5.

Buffalo Three of John Braun, Kevin Danielson, Aaron Hamann, Alex Larson, and Tyler Mohler placed 12th with 82.5 points. Not far behind was Buffalo Two of Clint Dille, Laura Dirks, Alex Rooney, Eric Schubert, and Olivia Wyatt who placed 17th with 79.5 points.

In Knowledge Bowl, a team of only ninth or tenth graders may be designated as junior varsity, though the team is in direct competition with all teams. On Saturday, a team of sophomore Isaiah Green and ninth graders Ryan Bowers, Tom Dirks, and Nathan Pierre were the Buffalo JV team. They scored 80 points to take second place in the JV and 15th place overall. The first place JV team from St. John's Prep scored 86.5.

The Knowledge Bowl team has some time to work on addressing the challenges of the competition as the team is off next Saturday. Buffalo will travel to Elk River for the first of two Mississippi 8 Conference meets on Thursday, January 26. The next regional meet is at Rogers on Saturday, January 28.