

S P O R T S



File Photographs

The 2005 Brookfield High School spring sports season was highlighted by many team and individual success that included many conference and state qualifiers as well as conference and state champions.

Team, individual success highlight BHS spring sports

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As fast as the cold weather left and the temperatures began to rise, so did the spring season in Brookfield. Now that school is officially over and the summer is upon us, it's time to look back at the spring season of 2005.

Seven of the nine sports teams qualified for the state tournament or meets and many individuals gave stellar performances.

The individual performances for the most part came on the track as senior Cameron Griffin and sophomore Lauren Tanz earned conference honors as male and female track and field athletes of the year and made it all the way to the New England meet.

Dara Samuel also made it to the New England meet, winning the pole vault in the SWC and setting a new mark at the Class M meet.

As for the teams, I have to start with the softball team. My mother, Debbie Self, was a catcher for the Brookfield softball team from 1974-77 under coach Cyndie Adamski.

This year's team displayed hard work, sportsmanship, camaraderie and a sense of having fun that my mother told me was there when she played.

Although she passed away three years ago this month to cancer, I know she would have enjoyed coming to see a Bobcat softball game this season.

The team compiled a record of 15-8 and made it to the quar-

terfinals of the Class M State tournament. The Bobcats will look to make a stronger run next season as the entire team will return except shortstop Lynn Cotto, who will be off to play in college.

Coach Frank Bonacci said his team made some mistakes in the field that led to teams getting extra outs, but feels his team will be more solid with a more experienced team.

"We made 12 more errors than the opposition and if we improve on that, we will be very successful," he said. "I can't wait until next season. I feel we can be a force in the conference and the state."

The baseball team finished last season with only five wins, but managed to go 9-12, and with key wins over Notre Dame, Newtown, and Bunnell late in the season, were able to qualify for the conference and state tournaments.

Unfortunately, key injuries plagued the team as well and cost them from making runs in those tournaments.

"This was a solid year win-wise for us," said coach Dennis Petrino. "We made the conference and state tournaments for the first time in a while, but we lost key players to injury and others coming into the season recovering from injury."

"We have young guys who came in and played and they will be looked upon next year if we are to have the same success," he added.

The golf team finished the season 9-7 and just missed on a state playoff berth, the first time that has happened in three

years. Despite missing the state tournament, the team got strong games from seniors Ryan Smith and Bryan Labadia and juniors Bryan Heckmann and Christian Lamere. Senior Dave Perlman and junior Rich Mendelson were consistent as the fifth player.

Highlights for the season were wins over Bunnell and New Milford on the road and Newtown and Joel Barlow at home. The lowest team round came against powerhouse Pomperaug when the team shot a team score of 155, losing by one shot.

The team will look to improve next season with underclassmen Rich Mendelson, Steve Moss, Kyle Bonn trying to get into the voided positions and freshmen Chris Belden and Jake McCloskey getting quality practice time during the season.

"Overall, it was a successful season," said coach Bob Sweeney. We missed the state tournament, but we're looking forward to making it next season."

The boys track team finished the season with a record of 10-3 while placing fourth in the SWC meet and seventh in the Class M State meet under first-year coach Chris McDougal. Sprinting was the team's forte this season and none were faster than Cameron Griffin. The senior star finished in style with individual championships in the 100 and 200 at the SWC and Class M State championship meets.

Griffin also anchored the 4x100 relay team with teammates Lee Fredericks, Justin

Staugaits, and Shawn Stasko to win the SWC title and runner-up in the Class M meet.

Fredericks and Andy O'Leary, two seniors who ran on the track team for the first time, were very successful with Fredericks running strong in the 100 and 200 and O'Leary in the 400.

Senior Ryan Pacific was a big points scorer for the Bobcats in the discus and shot put events and was a vocal leader on the team.

"I was happy we won 10 meets this season," said McDougal. The senior class was phenomenal and they will sorely be missed.

A lot of underclassmen got valuable experience and McDougal expects them to step it up a notch next season.

"We're going to miss the seniors next season as we go into a rebuilding year," he said. "We're going to start a sprint program and work on the field events."

The girls track and field team had a strong season, going 9-5-1 and finishing second at the SWC meet and fifth in the Class M meet.

Individuals shined on the team as sophomore Lauren Tanz was a star at the SWC meet, winning four events and competed in the State Open and the New England meet.

Senior Dara Samuel won the pole vault at the SWC and Class M meets, and placed second in the State Open to qualify for the New England meet, where she placed fourth.

Senior Jessie Belden competed at the State Open while

Senior Judy Allen and sophomore Samantha Schueschner won titles at the SWC meet in throwing events.

"Overall, the coaching staff was very happy with the season," said coach Ed Butt. "The team met our expectations. All the seniors will be missed, but the young group we have should be strong with the experience gained this season."

The girls lacrosse team finished with an 8-8 record and a number two seed in the SWC tournament despite it being a rebuilding year.

After losing 12 seniors from the previous season, this year's team was mixed with senior leaders and talented underclassmen.

"The seniors were great leaders this season and the young girls stepped it up," said coach Sandy Leverence. "They showed a lot of potential as we look forward to good season next year."

The boys lacrosse team had a successful season that produced a 10-7 record and a trip to the SWC tournament. Despite losing in the first round of the state tournament, the season was very successful.

Key wins this season were at New Milford, to clinch a place in the conference tournament, and an overtime win against Masuk.

"Making the SWC tournament was a great accomplishment," said Brookfield coach Mark DiPietro. "They developed well as a group and I wish we went further."

"It was great to see the kids get better. Next season we'll

try to get back to the conference tournament and try to win the whole thing."

The boys tennis team had a strong season making the state tournament and compiling a 13-5 record despite the season being a "rebuilding year," according to coach Gary Cassells. The end result was placing fifth out of 43 teams in the Class M State tournament.

"We lost seven seniors from last year's team and were replaced by junior varsity players," he said. "Those players stepped up and played well, especially at the end of the season."

The future looks bright for the boys team as four upcoming freshmen have played USTA tennis and will step right into the starting lineup to go along with a team that will return every player except two. "With the kids getting valuable experience this season and a freshman class that has great potential, we will have a great opportunity to play quality tennis against the top teams in the conference," said Cassells.

The girls tennis team brought a more experienced group to the tennis court this season than from season's past. The girls finished with a 5-10 record, but had three girls make all-conference and played very well down the stretch.

"This was a talented group that played better as the season wore on," said coach Jim Fitzpatrick. "The team played much better and had some tight matches that could have been wins. I was extremely pleased with the season."