

# ~~Spring~~ Snow Sports



*Many traditional outdoors spring sports were forced inside by inclement weather*

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Reporter

There is something inherently wrong with snow blanketing the ground in the middle of March. The new season of spring sports should begin: with softball, baseball, boys tennis, and girls soccer training outside. However, two blustering snow storms covered the fields, track and tennis courts in snow for this season. The freezing temperatures and additional batch of snow during spring break presented a hurdle for BV West sports to overcome.

The snowstorm hit just as the tennis team was preparing for tryouts. Players were even required to bring a snow shovel to clear the courts. Unfortunately, their labor only resulted in large snow piles on the court that refused to melt.

“Coach Rhodes said this is the first year where we’ve actually had snow this late in the season,” junior varsity tennis player Sean Price said, “This is the first time we’ve had snow on the courts during tryouts, and this is the first time it has ever happened for me and it’s the first time it has ever happened for her.”

However, this was not the first time BV West spring sports needed to hold tryouts indoors because

of the adverse weather.

“This happens almost every year, the only year we held tryouts outdoors was my freshmen year,” said senior varsity softball player Lily Behrmann,

For many other sports, indoor practices did not give an accurate assessment of an athlete’s ability. Although girls soccer was able to work on footwork and passing, the lack of a field made it difficult to simulate game situations.

The snowy conditions affected the cuts at tryouts, for boys golf had less time. Boys golf lost four weeks of practice and tryouts, and the weeks with snow, players needed to practice on their own indoors. Practice indoors presented a slew of new problems for athletes and coaches to overcome. Track cancelled many of their early practices because of snow days. Although track was able to utilize the indoor track, stairwells, and hallways, the field events were unable to practice. The hard surface also strained runners’ legs and can cause shin splints. With the soccer field covered in a layer of snow, soccer players were forced to practice inside, whether it was in the gym or in the pod. However, the limited space and concrete surface was a poor substitute and also stressed players’ knees.

The space was further limited by the multitude of

sports jostling for the gymnasium. The greatest conflict arose between softball and baseball over the use of the main gym (for fielding) and the auxiliary gym (for batting). The two sports rotated between practice after school or at 5:00a.m. Despite the limited space, the indoor drills translated well into the fields.

“We spend a great deal of time doing the fundamentals of the game and that is the positive about being inside,” said baseball coach Bill McDonald, “The negative is that putting in team activities to be able to coordinate your infield with your outfield is difficult.”

The tennis team struggled to find indoor courts for hitting. The snow has caused the team to miss three weeks of practice, far different than the typical practice every day after school. With the weather improving, the tennis team was back on the courts by the end of March. Because of the rough start, all Kansas spring sports started the season under a pile of snow. All schools cancelled a game or multiple games last week.

“The positive is that every team is in the same boat and does not have any advantage,” girls soccer coach Jennifer Legrotte said.

Even with the winter-like conditions the teams are now outside and enjoying the spring sunshine with the hopes of doing well when State comes around.

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