

SPORTS



Border Battle blowout
Rodgers, Packers roll 44-31 over Vikings
B3

QUICK HITS

FHS swimmers lose dual at Mesabi East

In only the second dual meet loss of the season, the International Falls girls swimming and diving team lost on the road Thursday at Mesabi East, 96-90. The Broncos won two of three relay races and also placed first in two of nine individual events.

Falls senior Breanna Shofner was a double individual winner in the 50-yard freestyle (27.08 seconds) and 100 freestyle (59.48).



Breanna Shofner

The Broncos' other top individual finishes came from sophomore Abby Kostiuik in the 100 backstroke (1:06.52) and freshman Emma Misner in the 100 butterfly (1:10.73), which Kostiuik placed runner-up by 3 hundredths of a second.



Abby Kostiuik

Kostiuik and Shofner were also part of both of Falls' winning relays.

They joined senior Blair Johnson and freshman Emily Saari to win the 200 medley relay (2:03.2) and also joined up with Johnson and freshman Claire Herzig to win the 200 freestyle relay (1:50.04).

Saari added a runner-up finish in the 100 breaststroke (1:15.17).

The Broncos' other second-place finish came from Misner joining up with senior Courtney Klow, junior Tayler Hebner and freshman Carolann Stone in the 400 freestyle relay (4:13.62).

The Falls was back at Mesabi East on Tuesday for another varsity meet.

Fisher gets assist in Oilers' home opener

Drew Fisher of International Falls recorded his first point of the 2013-14 Central Hockey League season on Saturday when the Tulsa Oilers lost their home opener to the Allen Americans, 3-2.



Drew Fisher

Fisher's assist on a second-period goal by Andrew Himelson gave the Oilers a 2-0 lead, only see Allen tie the game with a pair of goals later in the period. The game-winner came in the final 20 minutes from the Americans' Alex Lavoie.



Ben Gordon

Both teams also played Sunday with Allen winning by an identical 3-2 score. Falls native Ben Gordon recorded an assist for Tulsa.

Gordon has two assists this season. The other Falls player on the Oilers, Ryan Cramer, has one goal so far in 2013-14.

The Oilers, who are 0-3-1, will seek their first victory of the season tonight at Allen.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Saturday's games

Girls cross country

I. Falls in State Class A Meet at St. Olaf College, 1 p.m.

Women's hockey

RRCC at Iowa State, 5:45 p.m.

Sunday's games

Women's hockey

RRCC at Iowa State, 9:15 a.m.

Nov. 7 games

Girls swimming/diving

I. Falls in Section 7A preliminaries at Lincoln Park pool in Duluth, 5 p.m.

Nov. 9 games

Girls swimming/diving

I. Falls in Section 7A finals at Lincoln Park pool in Duluth, 11 a.m.

GIRLS STATE CLASS A CROSS COUNTRY MEET PREVIEW

Broncos back to do better in 2013

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

The International Falls girls cross country team is one of six of last year's 16 teams that are back in 2013 to compete for the Class A state championship this coming Saturday starting at 1 p.m. at St. Olaf College.

There will be a new state champion this year after the 2012 Class A champion, Esko, didn't qualify for state as a team after placing third at last Thursday's Section 7A Meet at the Cloquet Country Club.

The Broncos are back for their third year in a row after placing 16th at state the past two seasons.

Falls head coach Paul Hjelle said the Broncos will be looking to finish at state ahead of this year's Section 7A champion, South Ridge, after the Broncos finished runner-up at the Section 7A

Meet by only four points and had beaten South Ridge at other meets this season.

"Obviously we want to have fun (at state)—that's the main thing—the kids have earned it," Hjelle said. "In practices, we'll do some speed work—we're tapering now, so there's not going to be a lot of miles—so it's just going to be a fun week."

The Broncos return a trio of top runners from last season's state meet.

Falls' top runner, freshman Lexi Erickson, who placed third at last Thursday's Section 7A Meet, had finished 46th at the 2012 State Class A Meet in 15 minutes, 39.8 seconds.

"I just want to improve my time and improve my place," Erickson said.

The other two top returning runners are among the three Bronco seniors who will be running Saturday in the last cross country race of their high school careers.

Cross Country to B2 ➤



Broncos freshman Lexi Erickson, shown finishing third at last Thursday's Section 7A Meet at the Cloquet Country Club, will be competing this coming Saturday at the State Class A Meet at St. Olaf College for the third year in a row. She finished the 2012 state race 46th in 15 minutes, 39.8 seconds.

STAFF PHOTO
BY KEVIN BONESKE

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Season ends in quarterfinals for L-BF, FHS

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

The season ended Friday night in the Section quarterfinals for both the Littlefork-Big Falls and International Falls volleyball teams.

The Section 7A quarterfinal match in Virginia went the full five games when No. 3-seeded L-BF lost to the No. 2 seed, Chisholm, 23-25, 25-12, 25-19, 15-25, 9-15.

"It's hard to see your season come to an end," said Vikings head coach Sarah Bradley. "It's hard for the girls. They worked their tails off (Friday night), and it just didn't go our way in the end."

Game one had been tied at 23-23 before the Bluestreaks scored the final two points to win.

L-BF broke a 9-9 tie in game two and outscored Chisholm 16-3 for the 13-point victory.

The Vikings led by only a point, 17-16, in game three when they rallied at the end to win by six.

Chisholm led throughout game four before winning by 10.

The Bluestreaks broke a 7-7 tie in game five by scoring five straight points before winning by six and picking up the match victory.

"I think a lot of it was just taking care of the ball," Bradley said. "I think on the games that we lost we made a few more errors than they did."

DyAna Imhof led L-BF with 20 kills, while Abby Thompson added 11 kills. Other statistical leaders for the Vikings included



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

The Vikings' Abby Thompson (7) and Brooke Millerbernd (13) reach above the net to block a return hit of Chisholm's Katie Buria (14) in Friday Section 7A quarterfinal match at Virginia.

Taylor Wendt with 42 set assists, Emily Knaeble with 22 digs, Brooke Millerbernd with 21 digs and Karly Swenson with five ace serves.

L-BF ended the season with a match record of 17-9, while Chisholm advanced to tonight's semifinals in Deer River to face top-seeded Carlton.

The Vikings are losing five senior hitters to graduation—Imhof, Thompson, Millerbernd,

Karsyn Wendt and Marissa Siltman.

"I think the seniors were a great group of leaders this year," Bradley said. "Hopefully their influence will play into the upcoming years."

HERMANTOWN 3, I. FALLS 0

In a Section 7AA quarterfinal match at Proctor, No. 5-seeded International Falls lost to top-seeded Hermantown in three

straight games, 17-25, 23-25, 19-25.

"It's never easy when your season comes to an end," said Falls head coach Erin Shikowsky. "We played tough, but too many of our own errors was the difference-maker in this match."

The Broncos led by a point just before the midway point of the first game before losing by eight.

Volleyball to B2 ➤

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

RRCC spikers close out season

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

The Rainy River Community College volleyball team has closed out its season with a pair of home losses and a road match victory.

On Friday in the RRCC gym, the Voyageurs lost in four games to Northland, 25-21, 12-25, 13-25, 16-25.

"Northland was tough," said RRCC head coach Mel Millerbernd. "They have some good front-row people and just kind of overpowered us at the net."

Roneisha Jordan led RRCC with 11 kills and three blocks, while Tali Plate recorded 23 set assists.

CENTRAL LAKES 3, RRCC 0

In Saturday's home match against nationally-ranked Central Lakes, the Voyageurs lost in three straight games, 12-25, 19-25, 21-25.

"Central Lakes is a good team, and they probably just had a little bit more net power than we have," Millerbernd said. "They're strong up there, but again, I saw some improvement with our kids."

"Roneisha (Jordan) has come a

long ways and just really started controlling the net, so that was exciting."

Jordan again led with RRCC with eight kills and three blocks. Rachel Clark added 10 digs, while Plate had 13 set assists.

RRCC 3, VERMILION 1

The Voyageurs won their final match of the season Monday in four games at Vermilion, 17-25, 25-19, 25-16, 27-25.

Jordan had nine kills, Clark picked up 15 digs and Plate recorded 23 set assists.

The contest marked the final match at RRCC for Clark and four other players in their sophomore year of eligibility—hitter Emily Jerome, defensive specialist Megan Markuson, hitter Andrea Barylski and hitter CaseyLynn Fulton.

RRCC closed out the season 7-21 overall and 5-9 in the Minnesota College Athletic Conference's Northern Division.

The Voyageurs didn't qualify for the Region tournament because they didn't finish in the MCAC North's top four in the division's eight-team standings.



Rainy River's Roneisha Jordan (5) hits the ball while facing blocking opposition from Central Lakes' Shelby Uphoff (9) and Rose Mitchell (15) in Saturday's match in the RRCC gym.

STAFF PHOTO
BY KEVIN BONESKE