

SPORTS



Splitting twin bills

Voyageurs softball team wins of 1 of 2 two times

B2

QUICK HITS

FHS boys golf team second at Virginia

The International Falls boys golf team placed second out of four teams at Monday's nine-hole East Range Conference meet at Virginia. Hibbing had the top score of 159, followed by the Falls (162), Eveleth-Gilbert (169) and Virginia (172). The Broncos' Brady Wright tied for the top individual score of 36 with Eveleth-Gilbert's Sam Albrecht. The scores of the other Falls golfers included Eric Cann (41), Brock O'Loughlin (42), Josh Milette (43), Austin Van Heel (43) and Josh Cann (45).

Eric Cann fourth in Grand Slam Invite

After 36 holes of golfing last weekend, International Falls senior boys golfer Eric Cann tied for fourth at the "Grand Slam Invite," which included 18 holes Friday at Pokegama and another 18 holes Saturday at Eagle Ridge. Cann carded a 79 at Pokegama and a 78 at Eagle Ridge for a 157, eight strokes behind the individual champion, Moorhead's Joe Cahill at 149. Cann was also the only Bronco golfer to place in the top 20. The Falls' Brady Wright recorded an 83 on both courses for a 166. Brock O'Loughlin also recorded an 83 at Pokegama, but then carded a 94 at Eagle Ridge for a 177. The other individual scores for the Broncos included Josh Cann (94-86 - 180), Austin Van Heel (94-91 - 185) and Josh Milette (92-96 - 188). In the team standings, the Falls finished ninth out of 16 teams.

Bronco girls golf team 1st at Virginia

The International Falls girls golf team had five golfers finish among the top-eight individuals Thursday when the Broncos placed first out of seven teams at the Virginia ERC nine-hole meet. The Falls had the top team score of 190, followed by Hibbing (195), Eveleth-Gilbert (219), North Woods (230), Ely/Northeast Range (247), Virginia (252) and Mesabi East (266). Hibbing's Vanessa Yeager had the top individual score at 41, a stroke ahead of Broncos senior Jenna Anderson at 42. Falls' other finishers in the top eight included Kenzie Wenberg at 48 and Kaitlin Stallard, Maggie Roeder and Morgan Rasmussen each with a 50.

BOYS BASEBALL

FHS Broncos sweep Hawks and remain undefeated

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

The International Falls baseball team extended its undefeated season record to 7-0 after sweeping Friday's home doubleheader against Hermantown. "You sure like to beat Hermantown twice," said Falls head coach Eric Walls. "We got pretty lucky in the first game - we didn't pitch it very well. We hit the ball extremely well in game one (but committed) too many errors." In game one, the Broncos waged a comeback when they defeated the Hawks, 8-7. After the Falls pulled in front 2-0 in the bottom of the first on a two-run homer by Ben Humbert, Hermantown pulled in front with four runs off of Humbert in the top of the third when the Hawks had only one hit. Humbert also walked two batters, while two others who struck out reached base after the third strike got past Broncos catcher Clay Bergstrom. The Falls got a run back in the bottom of the sixth after Cole Miggins walked and scored on a single by Jack Bartkowski. The Hawks pulled back in front by two runs in the top of the fourth when Kole

Zuidmulder singled to drive in a run. Humbert left the mound after four innings. He allowed two earned runs out of the five scored on four hits with four walks while striking out eight. Bartkowski pitched the final three innings to record the victory, giving up two earned runs on two hits with a hit batter while striking out three. "Jake Bartkowski did a really, really nice job in relief," Walls said. The Broncos tied the game at 5-5 in the bottom of the fifth when Coffield scored on a fly to the outfield by Jackson Vollom, who reached third base, and Bartkowski doubled to drive in Vollom. That chased Hermantown starting pitcher Nolan Juusola off the mound to be replaced by Jake Galatz, who pitched the rest of the game. Hermantown regained a two-run lead in the top of the sixth when Zuidmulder singled to drive in a pair of runs. The Falls got a run back in the bottom of the sixth after Cole Miggins walked and scored on a two-out single by Vollom. The Broncos won the game by scoring twice in the bottom of the seventh. Lane Skallman hit a two-



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

At right, the Broncos' Ben Humbert (44) reaches home plate to score after hitting a two-run homer in the first game of Friday's home doubleheader against Hermantown.

out triple to drive in Kevin Kilbride, who led off with an infield single, and then Skallman scored the winning run when Bergstrom hit a grounder that got past the Hawks' infielders. **BRONCOS 5, HAWKS 2** In game two, the Falls scored three runs in the bottom of the second and went on to defeat Hermantown, 5-2. "We had a nice rebound game two," Walls said. "We played really, really well defensively and we're continuing to hit the ball great." The Broncos took a 3-0

lead in the second inning after Jakob Eide walked and scored on a single by Max Vergeldt, Vergeldt scored with Coffield reaching base on an error and Coffield scored on a single by Vollom. Bartkowski, who also pitched the first three innings of the second game, gave up a run in the top of the third when the Hawks tallied three singles. Miggins pitched the final four innings, allowing an earned run on two hits with a hit batter while striking out six.

"I was really impressed with Cole Miggins," Walls said. "He had nice velocity (Friday), and that makes his curveball even that much better." The Falls scored its final two runs in the fourth inning when Vollom and Humbert each singled and scored on a single by Miggins. The Hawks scored their final run in the top of the sixth when Juusola singled and scored. The Broncos returned to action Tuesday at Hibbing and Thursday face Virginia.

MEN'S BASEBALL



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From right, the Voyageurs' Jake Kulig (23) slides to avoid the tag of Hibbing's third baseman in Sunday's doubleheader at Scheela Field.

Voyageurs drop twin bill to Itasca, then sweep Hibbing

RRCC now 3-5 in MCAC North

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Rainy River Community College baseball team went 2-2 last weekend after losing both games Saturday in Grand Rapids against Itasca and then sweeping a home doubleheader Sunday at Scheela Field against Hibbing. "We lost a couple of close ballgames that didn't go our way (Saturday) and lot of that had to do with our mental focus and preparation, and just our attitude," said RRCC head coach Josh Koenig. In game one Saturday, the Voyageurs led by a run after two innings, but ended up losing to Itasca, 3-1. Landon Freeman pitched all six innings for RRCC in recording the loss, allowing three runs, two earned, on seven hits with

two hit batters while striking out three. The Voyageurs could only generate four hits over seven innings when they were shut out by Itasca, 8-0. In game two Saturday, the Voyageurs could only generate four hits over nine innings when they were shut out by Itasca, 8-0. Cervantes picked up the pitching loss for RRCC after working the first six innings, allowing four runs, three earned, on four hits with four walks and three hits batters while striking out seven.



Talon Kunkel

Will Aesoph pitched 1 1/3 innings in relief for the Voyageurs and gave up the other four runs, three earned, on two hits that included a home run, along with two walks and a hit batter while striking out one. Jake Schulte then came in the eighth inning to pitch and recorded the final two outs. Itasca's John DeBord recorded the complete-game shutout pitching victory. In addition to allowing four hits, he gave up a walk and a hit batter while striking out five. **RRCC 7, HIBBING 0** Talon Kunkel allowed only one hit and faced the minimum of 21 batters over seven innings Sunday when the Voyageurs won the first game of their home doubleheader over Hibbing, 7-0. "A nice performance out of him (Sunday)," Koenig

Voyageurs to B2 ➤

BOYS BASEBALL

Vikings taste victory twice with wins over the Northland Eagles

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

After losing the first five games to open the 2015 season, the Littlefork-Big Falls baseball team won twice on Monday. The Vikings, who were coming off a 6-0 shutout loss Friday at Mesabi East, faced Northland at home Monday for a pair of games. L-BF first resumed a game suspended April 14 at Remer because of darkness and defeated the Eagles in eight innings, 20-15, and then won the regularly-scheduled game against Northland, 11-10. "Any time you can get a win you're going to be happy," said Vikings head coach Dan Beste. "We have plenty of stuff to work on. We definitely made it in-

teresting at the end (of the regularly-scheduled game). We've got to clean it up a little bit in the field as we go." L-BF fell behind 6-0 in the regularly-scheduled game in the top of the third when Rylan Henrickson pitched the first three innings. "Rylan threw strikes for us again," Beste said. "He threw on Thursday for us (against Hill City). He was maybe a little more tired than normal, I guess, but take those errors out and those runs don't really happen." The Vikings then began scoring off of Eagles starting pitcher Justin Wicks and pulled ahead 10-6 after five innings with three

Vikings to B3 ➤



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

At left, the Vikings' Tommy Manninen (24) slides into home plate to score Monday against Northland.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

- Today's games**
Men's baseball
RRCC vs. Bismarck College/
Itasca at Grand Rapids,
3:30/6 p.m.
- Thursday's games**
Women's softball
RRCC at Mesabi Range (DH),
3 p.m.
- Boys golf**
I. Falls hosting ERC meet at
FCC, 4:15 p.m.
- Girls softball**
N-K at I. Falls, 4:30 p.m.
Blackduck at L-BF, 4:30 p.m.
- Boys baseball**
I. Falls at Virginia, 4:30 p.m.
- Friday's games**
Boys/girls golf
I. Falls at Hibbing Invite,
9 a.m.
- Boys track and field**
I. Falls at LOW, 4 p.m.
- Girls softball**
I. Falls at L-BF, 4:30 p.m.
- Boys baseball**
Mesabi East at I. Falls,
4:30 p.m.
L-BF vs. Foley at Freeport,
7 p.m.