

# SPORTS



**Who is...**  
Maddie Filipiak, FHS girls hoops forward, is featured

**B2**

## QUICK HITS

### FHS girls hockey team loses in 7A semifinals to H/C

The International Falls girls hockey team scored a pair of third-period goals Tuesday night, but it wasn't enough as the No. 3-seeded Broncos' season came to an end with a 3-2 loss to Hibbing/Chisholm in the Section 7A semifinals at Virginia.

Despite outshooting the Bluejackets in the first two periods, 28-14, the Falls couldn't put the puck in the net until the final 17 minutes, which Hibbing/Chisholm began with a 2-0 lead after Allyson Brandt scored the Bluejackets' first goal in the first period and Raini Heyblom added a second-period shorthanded goal on a break-away play.

"We just couldn't get any puck luck until the third period," said Broncos head coach Gerald Bolstad.

The Falls – which ended up outshooting Hibbing/Chisholm, 42-23 – pulled within a goal 3:39 into the third period when Lexi Edwards scored on the power play assisted by Amber Tilander.

After Brandt scored again for the Bluejackets to extend their lead back to two goals, the Broncos pulled their goalie late in the game to put an extra attacker on the ice when Tilander scored with an assist from Lexi Erickson with 1:49 left to play to make it a 3-2 game.

However, the Falls couldn't get the equalizer before time expired as Hibbing/Chisholm, which defeated the Broncos for the third time this season, advanced to Friday night's Section 7A championship game in Virginia against top-seeded Proctor/Hermantown, which won its semifinal game over No. 4-seeded Moose Lake Area, 4-0.

Megan Frider recorded the win in goal for Hibbing/Chisholm. Kayla McConnell picked up the loss in net for the Falls.

The Broncos, who ended the year at 13-13, are losing four seniors to graduation.

### FHS boys hockey team falls to LOW

The International Falls boys hockey team is entering the Section 7A playoffs on a seven-game losing streak after being shut out in Thursday night's regular-season finale at Lake of the Woods.

The Broncos, whose season record stands at 4-21, open the playoffs Tuesday night against an opponent and at a site to be determined once the Section 7A pairings are finalized.

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

# Broncos bombard Vikings, 91-66

## L-BF then loses to the Huskies, 62-54

BY KEVIN BONESKE  
Sports Editor

Tuesday night's local girls basketball rivalry between International Falls and Littlefork-Big Falls in the L-BF gym featured the Broncos' Teagan Anderson making six of her eight 3-point baskets in the first half as part of her team-high 27 points and Vikings sophomore Kaylee Kennedy scoring a game-high 34 points while becoming the school's latest 1,000-point career scorer.

"Teagan's a great shooter. You give her an open shot, and she's going to make a good percentage of them," said FHS head coach Shawn Gilbert. "She was really on (Tuesday night), so it was a good game for her."

"(Exceeding 1,000 career points) is a very good accomplishment for (Kennedy)," said L-BF head coach Dan Beste. "She's a very, very hard-working girl."

Anderson's outside game and 19 first-half points helped give FHS a 44-36 lead at halftime. Kennedy, who needed 14 points to reach 1,000, entered intermission having made a pair of 3-pointers to close out the half



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From left, the Vikings' Kaylee Kennedy (4) dribbles while being guarded by the Broncos' Maddie Filipiak (3) as Broncos head coach Shawn Gilbert looks on from behind in Tuesday night's game in the Littlefork-Big Falls gym.

with 18 points.

The Broncos widened their lead in the second half by scoring from both the inside and outside and ended up defeating the Vikings, 91-66.

"We picked up our intensity a little bit more in the second half," Gilbert

said. "We played a little bit better defense for the first part of the second half."

FHS, which got only one other 3-point basket that wasn't shot by Anderson, had three other players score in double figures. Jena Sullivan

added 18 points, Maddie Filipiak scored 12 more and Cassie Tomczak put in another 10.

"(The Broncos are) deep and they're big and they're fast," Beste said. "They just have that ability to go 36 minutes against a team like us that isn't as

deep as they are."

Alexis Doucette was the only other L-BF player to score in double figures with 14 points.

The Broncos improved their overall season record to 18-5 going into next Tuesday's game at North Woods.

### BIGFORK 62, L-BF 54

On the road Thursday night, the Vikings lost their second game in a row and for the second time this season to Bigfork, 62-54.

"I think we played a much better game (than the season-opening loss of 68-50 to the Huskies)," Beste said. "The intensity level was up the whole game."

Kennedy led L-BF with 32 points. Karly Swenson added 11 points with Doucette scoring eight more

The Vikings dropped to 7-10 going into next Tuesday's game at Lake of the Woods.

### Tuesday's game FHS 91, L-BF 66

**FHS 44 47 - 91**  
**L-BF 36 30 - 66**

**FHS:** Grace Gilbert 4, Maddie Filipiak 12, Bianca Carlson 5, Cassie Tomczak 10, Teagan Anderson 27, Janet Humbert 4, Jena Sullivan 18, Emma Gilbert 9, Paige Heem-Taschuk 2. 3-pointers: Anderson 8, G. Gilbert. Free throws: 18-33. Fouls: 22.

**L-BF:** Emily Knaeble 2, Kaylee Kennedy 34, Bailey Hagen 1, Emily Franz 4, Karly Swenson 6, Breann Larson 5, Alexis Doucette 14. 3-pointers: Kennedy 4. Free throws: 20-34. Fouls: 23. Fouled out: Franz.

## BOYS BASKETBALL



STAFF PHOTO BY EMILY GEDDE

From left, the Broncos' Ben Humbert (44) looks to work the ball inside while being guarded by Mountain Iron-Buhl's Brody Tetrault (33) in Tuesday night's game in the Falls High School gym.

# Broncos run past Rangers, 88-67

## JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Ben Humbert scored 33 points and hauled in 21 rebounds for a double-double Tuesday night when the International Falls boys basketball team won at home over Mountain Iron-Buhl, 88-67.

"(The Rangers) didn't have an answer for Humbert," said Broncos head coach Derek Dowty, who also noted the Falls did a better job scoring inside on the fast break than MI-B.

The Broncos, who led 32-24 at halftime, got another 21 points from Clay Tomczak with Max Vergeldt

scoring 12 more.

The Rangers also had three players score in double figures led by Jaylon Holmes with 23 points.

"We played a very good defensive game," Dowty said.

The win improved the Falls' season record to 17-5 going into this weekend's North/South Classic at Virginia, where the Broncos had faced Aitkin at 6 p.m. Friday and play Hinckley/Finlayson at 1 p.m. today.

**FHS 88, MI-B 67**  
**MI-B 24 43 - 67**  
**FHS 32 56 - 88**

## BOYS SWIMMING AND DIVING



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

The Broncos' Alex Belanger swims the butterfly in Thursday's home dual meet against Virginia. Belanger swam that stroke in three events, winning the 200-yard individual medley and placing second in the 200 medley relay and 100 butterfly.

# FHS closes out dual meet schedule

## Section meet in 2 weeks on Feb. 26

BY KEVIN BONESKE  
Sports Editor

The International Falls boys swimming and diving team has two weeks to prepare for the section competition after closing out its dual meet schedule this week.

Four days after competing at Mesabi East in a five-team invitational, the Falls returned there Tuesday for a dual meet, which the Broncos lost to the Giants, 102-74.

"Tuesday there was really bad weather (traveling to Mesabi East)," said Broncos head coach Hailey Silvers. "It's not that (the Broncos) didn't swim well, but it was a really long day."

Falls freshman Alex Belanger recorded a pair of first-place finishes in the 200-yard individual medley (2 minutes, 30 seconds) and 100 butterfly (1:08.54).

The Broncos picked up another first-place indi-

vidual finish from senior Cole Tatsak in the 1-meter diving competition (176.65 points). Tatsak also placed second in the 100 freestyle (1:04.62).

The Falls recorded another second-place individual finish from freshman John Cowman in the 100 breaststroke (1:18.98).

In the relay events, Tatsak, Cowman, Joey Griffith and Gary Harala placed first in the 200 freestyle relay (1:51.84).

The Broncos' 200 medley relay team comprised of Jared Hunter, Cowman, Belanger and Tatsak finished runner-up in 2:05.48.

**VIRGINIA 105, FALLS 66**  
The Falls hosted its final dual meet of the season Thursday for Parents' Night when Virginia bested the Broncos, 105-66.

Of the varsity 12 events, the Falls placed first in two of them and also recorded six runner-up finishes.

"The boys swam phenomenally. This is one of our better meets of the year," Silvers said. "They had a lot of (personal records). It definitely brings

their spirits up right before heading into the section meet."

The Bronco divers went 1-2 with Tatsak and Robert Sweney scoring 186.04 and 99 points, respectively.

Belanger won the 200-yard individual medley (2 minutes, 29 seconds) and placed second in the 100 butterfly (1:05.55).

The Falls' other individual runner-up finish came from Cowman in the 100 breaststroke (1:18.88).

The Broncos recorded runner-up finishes in the three relay events. They included: Hunter, Cowman, Belanger and Tatsak in the 200 medley relay (2:00.49); Hunter, Tatsak, Belanger and Harala in the 200 freestyle relay (1:48.03); and Hunter, Harala, Cowman and Tatsak in the 400 freestyle relay (4:26.42).

Though the Falls won't have another varsity meet before the Section 6A preliminaries Feb. 26 in Grand Rapids, the Broncos are scheduled to host a junior varsity invitational Feb. 21 when swimmers in grades 7-9 will be able to compete.

## SPORTS SCHEDULE

**Today's games**  
**Women's/men's basketball**  
Mesabi Range at RRCC, 1/3 p.m.

**Boys basketball**  
I. Falls vs. Hinckley-Finlayson at North/South Challenge in Virginia, 1 p.m.

**Women's hockey**  
RRCC at UW-La Crosse, 8:30 p.m.

**Sunday's games**  
**Women's hockey**  
RRCC at UW-La Crosse, 9 a.m.

**Tuesday's games**  
**Girls basketball**  
I. Falls at North Woods, 7:15 p.m.  
L-BF at Lake of the Woods, 7:30 p.m.

**Boys basketball**  
North Woods at I. Falls, 7:15 p.m.

**Boys hockey**  
I. Falls vs. opponent TBD in Section 7A Tournament, TBA

**Wednesday's games**  
**Women's/men's basketball**  
Hibbing at RRCC, 6/8 p.m.