

SPORTS

Intrasquad scrimmage

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The International Falls football team held an intrasquad scrimmage Wednesday morning at Sports Stadium.

The Broncos have a scrimmage today at Virginia, before opening the season Friday at Eveleth-Gilbert. A detailed season preview will be published in next Wednesday's edition of The Journal.



From left, Broncos head football coach Jay Boyle confers with Ben Humbert on defense during Wednesday morning's intrasquad scrimmage at Sports Stadium.



STAFF PHOTOS BY KEVIN BONESKE

Broncos quarterback Tyler Coffield receives blocking protection as he drops back to pass in Wednesday morning's intrasquad scrimmage at Sports Stadium.



In front at right, Wyatt Helgeson runs with the football during Wednesday morning's intrasquad scrimmage at Sports Stadium.

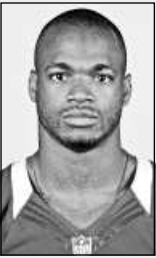


At left, Falls senior quarterback Cody Hallin breaks a tackle running wide to cross the goal line in Wednesday morning's intrasquad scrimmage at Sports Stadium.

Vikings' offense has been rough with Peterson out

EDEN PRAIRIE (AP) — Through their first two preseason games, the best performance from Minnesota's first-team offense has been by rookie punter Jeff Locke. The Vikings haven't done much well in these exhibition games yet. Each incompleti on by Chris tian Ponder or three-and-out series by the unit has only heightened concerns whether this team can be balanced enough to build off last year's playoff appearance. Even when the wins and losses don't matter, decent showings will somewhat appease the fans, soften the skepticism of the analysts, and most importantly give the coaches and players confidence in a chemistry carry-over to the regular season. "Yeah, there would be some reason for concern if we don't do certain things that we've set out to get accomplished in this ballgame, or any ballgame," coach Leslie Frazier said on Wednesday. The Vikings are at San Francisco on Sunday, and

most of the starters are expected to play into the third quarter. But before this becomes an anxiety-raising, must-thrive event, there's a critical fact to point out about the way the offense bumbled through the first two games. "I was coming off the sideline saying, 'Oh, my gosh, what are we doing?'" wide receiver Greg Jennings said. "Like, we were struggling. And then I saw this guy on the sideline that had this '28' jersey on, and he wasn't dressed, and I'm like 'Oh, yeah. I forgot. We don't have a big part of our offense out here that draws a lot of attention.' So this week will be a lot better." Assessing a team without the league's rushing leader and Most Valuable Player is hardly worth it, especially considering the way the Vikings revolve around their star running



Adrian Peterson

back Adrian Peterson. This week against the 49ers, the plan is for Peterson to be on the field. "If you're an offensive player, we definitely want to take some steps forward," Peterson said. The Vikings have averaged only 14 first downs and 276 yards over the first two games, though that includes all of the time logged by backups and long shots trying to make the team. Ponder is 6 for 14 for 68 yards and one interception. His passer rating is 28.3. So this next exhibition will be a valuable opportunity for Ponder to continue trying to establish a rhythm with Jennings, rookie Cordarrelle Patterson and the rest of his receivers. Don't expect a polished product either, Jennings said. "Kinks will never completely be ironed out," he said. "There will always be a new wrinkle that we put in that we're going to be trying to perfect. Just our relationship, our chemistry, we're going to try to perfect that forever."

Bemidji's first-ever pro football team introduced

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

In a press conference at the Sanford Center in Bemidji on Wednesday, Bemidji Professional Football LLC announced the newest member of the Indoor Football League. The team will be the first-ever professional football franchise in Bemidji's history and the 10th team in the IFL. In addition, team officials announced a "Name YOUR Team" contest, in which fans are encouraged to submit suggestions as to what the team's new name and colors should be. Chris Kokalis, director of the IFL's expansion committee and also co-owner and general manager of the Cedar Rapids Titans, will serve as team president in the league's smallest market. Kokalis will lead the team's ownership group and put together a local front office staff in Bemidji. In addition to his new duties with Bemidji's franchise, he will also continue his role with the league and the Titans.

"When I visited Bemidji a few weeks back I immediately fell in love with both the Sanford Center and the community," Kokalis said. "I wanted to ensure that we as a league brought our great product to Bemidji. "We as a league have had success in markets like Sioux Falls, Grand Island, Green Bay and Cedar Rapids with those teams averaging over 4,000 fans a game. I truly believe that with the success of BSU sports and the first class venue that this franchise can enjoy similar success." In partnership with the Bemidji Pioneer, Bemidji Professional Football is seeking a team name and colors. "This is Bemidji and northern Minnesota's team. The team's goal is to contribute something special to the community," said Mike Allshouse, the IFL's director of football operations. "It's truly the community's team so we felt strongly that it should be named by the community."

The Bemidji Pioneer will run ads beginning today through Sept. 1 featuring entry ballots where fans and members of the community can write their suggestions for the new team name and colors and can bring these into the Bemidji Pioneer offices in Bemidji. Officials are planning to unveil the team name Sept. 4 at a location to be determined and announced. The fan who makes a suggestion that the team utilizes for the name will win four VIP season tickets for life and have his or her number retired at the team's home opener. Name suggestions can also be submitted at www.bemidjiprofootball.com. Season tickets for the team's inaugural season are now on sale starting at \$56 (\$9 per game). Anyone ordering season tickets by Sept. 1 will receive a commemorative Indoor Football League hooded sweatshirt (one per order). Tickets may be purchased by visiting www.bemidjiprofootball.com.

Final Summer Clearance! 20% OFF 25% OFF bikes & accessories • baseball equipment • inline skates THE SPORTS SHOP Open M-F 9-6 • Saturday by appointment 345 3rd St. Int'l Falls • 283-6121 Sale Ends Friday, Aug. 30

For Rich Fall Colors... Plant Garden Mums Check out our great selection! Sjoblom's Landscape & Nursery 286-5365 • Hwy 11 East, Int'l Falls Mon.-Sat. 9am-6pm www.sjoblomslandscape.com

Your Community News Source. From sports stats to business news, The Journal keeps you in the local loop. The Journal www.ifallsjournal.com 218-285-7411 1602 Hwy 71, Int'l Falls