

SPORTS



Who is...
Meghan Tomczak, FHS softball senior first baseman, is featured

B2

QUICK HITS

Anderson resigns as head football coach

The International Falls school district is now in search of a new varsity head football coach following the recent resignation of Glen Anderson after one season, said Falls superintendent Kevin Grover.

The district has been advertising the football coaching position along with the vacant varsity boys hockey head coaching position, for which applications are being accepted until Monday.

Anderson, who previously had been an assistant football coach for the Broncos, took over the head coaching position in 2014 following the resignation of Jay Boyle after five seasons.

The Falls went 0-9 last year in Anderson's only season as head coach, the first time the Broncos finished a year winless since 1972 when the football team also went 0-9.

FHS boys golf team 2nd at home meet

The International Falls boys varsity golf team competed Thursday in a nine-hole East Range Conference meet at home for the first time this season when the Broncos placed second out of four teams.

Hibbing had the top score of 155, followed by the Falls (160), Eveleth-Gilbert (170) and Virginia (172).

Hibbing's Ben Abrahamson had the top individual score of 36, two strokes ahead of the runner-up, Eveleth-Gilbert's Sam Albrecht, at 38. Broncos junior Eric Cann finished in a three-way tie for third place with a 39.

Falls freshman Josh Cann and sophomore Brady Wright both carded a 40 to place among the top-eight individuals, while sophomores Brock O'Loughlin and Josh Milette each finished at 41.

L-BF softball team beats Bluestreaks

The Littlefork-Big Falls softball team played the first of three home games scheduled for this week when the Vikings won Tuesday against Chisholm, 11-6.

"A much better effort than (Monday's 14-13 road loss to Kelliher/Northome)," said L-BF head coach Mike Imhof. "We finally cleaned up our defense a little bit, and we still hit the ball well."

Breann Larson and Ellie Julson each had a triple and a single for the Vikings, while Emily Knaeble and Alexis Doucette added two singles. Anna Imhof doubled.

Karly Swenson recorded the pitching victory.

GIRLS SOFTBALL

Broncos down Cherry, conquer Spartans

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The International Falls softball team improved its season record to 7-0 going into Friday's local rivalry road game against Littlefork-Big Falls with a pair of wins this week.

In a matchup of two undefeated teams Tuesday, the Broncos trailed by three runs when they rallied to score six times in the fifth inning to win at Cherry, 8-5.

"We had some timely hitting (Tuesday)," said Falls head coach Kevin Gordon, who also noted the team made key defensive plays in the outfield.

The Broncos' top hitters included Cassie Tomczak recording two doubles and a single with 2 RBI, while Meghan Tomczak added two singles with 2 RBI. Amber Tilander also had two hits with a double and a single along with Teagan Anderson tallying two singles.

The Falls batted around the order in the top of the fifth when the Broncos produced their six runs on four singles, a double, two walks and a pair of fielder's choices.

Anderson pitched all seven innings to record the win for the Falls, allowing five earned runs on 12 hits, including a home run, with a walk while striking

out four.

The Broncos hadn't played a game since April 16 after having last week's games called off because of the weather before they faced the Tigers, one of the state's top-ranked Class A teams.

FHS 8, N-K 2

On Thursday, the Falls broke a 1-1 tie in the bottom of fourth with four runs when they won at home against Nashwauk-Keewatin, 8-2.

"We were having trouble adjusting to the (Spartans') pitcher," Gordon said. "The pitcher (Aubrey Nelson) was throwing a riseball. It's tough because we don't see a lot of that. We knew that girl was a pretty good pitcher coming in...."

"We had to make some adjustments. It wasn't really working for us the first couple of times through (the batting order). The girls did make some adjustments and we hit the ball. We played small ball, we got some runners on and then we started hitting it."

The Broncos took a 3-1 lead in the fourth inning after Tilander singled to drive in two runs. Janet Humbert then singled to drive in another run before Cassie Tomczak tripled to plate a player and extend the lead to 5-1.



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From right, the Broncos' Cassie Tomczak (6) approaches home plate to score while McKenna Rasmussen (3) looks on from the on-deck circle in Thursday's home game against Nashwauk-Keewatin.

The Falls added a run in the fifth inning after McKenna Rasmussen singled, advanced to second on a bunt by Ashley Jonson and scored on a single by Abby Auran.

After Nashwauk-Keewatin got a run back in the top of the sixth, the Broncos scored their final two runs in the bottom of the inning.

Anderson pitched all seven innings to record the victory.

BOYS BASEBALL

Broncos fall to Hibbing and down Virginia

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The International Falls baseball team lost for the first team this season when the Broncos were defeated Tuesday at Hibbing, 4-3.

Cole Miggins pitched six innings and recorded the loss for the Falls, allowing two earned runs out of the four scored on seven hits with two walks and a hit batter.

Dylan Takkunen threw seven innings to get the win for the Bluejackets, giving up three runs, two earned, on 10 hits with three walks while striking out one.



Cole Miggins

Ben Humbert

The lead see-sawed back and forth throughout the game as Hibbing scored first with a run in the bottom of the first when Riley Versich led off with a walk and scored on an error.

The Broncos tied the

game at 1-1 in the top of the fourth when Lane Skallman led off with a single and scored from third on a double-steal play in which Jakob Eide was tagged out trying to steal second.

The Bluejackets went back in front with a run in the bottom of the fourth when Logan Radovich led off with a single and scored.

The Falls took a 3-2 lead with two runs in the top of the fifth when Kevin Kilbride and Skallman both singled and scored.

Hibbing went back in front for good with two runs on two hits in the bottom

of the sixth that included an RBI single by Jaimin Lamphere.

FHS 1, VIRGINIA 0

Ben Humbert struck out 18 batters and threw a one-hit shutout Thursday when the Broncos scored their only run in the top of the seventh to win at Virginia, 1-0.

After the game remained scoreless through six innings, Skallman walked to lead off the top of the seventh when he also stole second base and later scored after Clay Bergstrom reached base on an error, the only fielding miscue of the game.

The Falls tallied all three

of its hits off of Blue Devils starting pitcher Hunter Thome, who threw 5 1/3 scoreless innings. Reliever Ryan Cunningham gave up the unearned run in the final frame.

The Broncos' season record stood at 8-1 going into Friday's home game against Mesabi East.

Tuesday's game
Hibbing 4, Int'l Falls 3
Int'l Falls 0-0-0 1-2-0 0- 3 10 2
Hibbing 1-0-0 1-0-2 X- 4 7 2

Thursday's game
Int'l Falls 1, Virginia 0
Int'l Falls 0-0-0 0-0-0 1- 1 3 0
Virginia 0-0-0 0-0-0 0- 0 1 1

JUNIOR HOCKEY

Lakers advance to Dudley-Hewitt Cup semifinal

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Fort Frances Lakers forward Lucas DeBenedet of International Falls scored twice Thursday night to help lead the Lakers to a 5-3 victory over the Dryden Ice Dogs in the round-robin finale of the four-team Dudley-Hewitt Cup Central Canada Junior A Championship being held this week at Ice for Kids Arena in Fort Frances.

With the win, the Superior International Junior Hockey League-champion Lakers advanced to Friday night's Dudley-Hewitt Cup semifinal against the Toronto Patriots, champions of the Ontario Junior Hockey League. The semifinal winner plays in tonight's championship game.

The Lakers finished round-robin play with five points following a win in regulation, win in overtime and loss in regulation to be the tournament's No. 3 seed.

They eliminated the Ice Dogs, the SIJHL runner-up that went winless in three Dudley-Hewitt Cup games. Dryden needed to defeat Fort Frances in regulation in the final round-robin game to advance to the tournament's semifinal.

The Patriots, the tourna-



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From right, the Fort Frances Lakers' Mason Meyer (9) and the Soo Thunderbirds' Devin Shell (16) battle for the puck in Wednesday night's Dudley-Hewitt Cup game at Ice for Kids Arena.

ment's No. 2 seed with six points, had opened round-robin play Tuesday with a 2-1 overtime loss to the Lakers, before winning 6-0 Wednesday over Dryden and then winning 4-3 Thursday in a shootout against the Soo Thunderbirds.

The Northern Ontario Junior Hockey League-champion Thunderbirds picked up the tournament's No. 1 seed with seven points to automatically advance to tonight's Dudley-Hewitt Cup championship game. They opened round-robin

play Tuesday with an 8-1 win over Dryden and recorded another victory in regulation Wednesday by defeating Fort Frances, 6-3.

Wednesday's game between the Soo and the Lakers had been tied 2-2 after 40 minutes before the Thunder-

birds scored four consecutive third-period goals. Fort Frances was only able to add one goal in the final 20 minutes when another Lakers forward from the Falls, Mason Meyer, scored on the power play with less than 3 minutes to play.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

- Today's games**
Girls track and field
I. Falls at Esko Invite, TBD
Girls golf
I. Falls at Giants Ridge Invite, TBD
Women's softball
RRCC at MCAC North Tourney, TBD
Boys baseball
L-BF vs. Upsala/Melrose at Freeport, 12/2 p.m.
Men's baseball
Vermilion at RRCC (DH), 1 p.m.
- Sunday's games**
Women's softball
RRCC at MCAC North Tourney, TBD
- Monday's games**
Boys golf
I. Falls at Wilderness Invitational, TBD
Girls softball
I. Falls at Ely, 4:30 p.m.
Boys baseball
I. Falls at MI-B, 4:30 p.m.