

SPORTS



Emo Speedway
Season opener held Saturday
B2

QUICK HITS

L-BF baseball team wins 2 in tourney

The No. 7-seeded Littlefork-Big Falls baseball team opened the Section 7A Tournament on Saturday when the Vikings won a play-in game at home against No. 10-seeded Northeast Range, 2-0.

L-BF got on the scoreboard in the fourth inning when Tommy Manninen singled, Eric Thydean advanced the runner to second base on a sacrifice bunt and Brenden Williams singled to drive in the run.

The Vikings added their final run in the bottom of the sixth when Tate Promersberger led off with a single, Rylan Henrickson hit a sacrifice bunt to advance the runner and DeLack singled to bring in Promersberger.

Henrickson recorded the complete-game pitching victory, allowing only three hits with two walks while striking out six over seven innings.

The win advanced L-BF into Tuesday's game at Hibbing against No. 2-seeded Mesabi East. The Vikings defeated the Giants, 8-4, in eight innings to advance to the double-elimination portion of the tournament.

FHS baseball team defeats Ely, Cherry

The International Falls baseball team entered the Section 7AA Tournament picking up two victories late last week to close out the regular season.

The Broncos won at home Thursday over Ely, 9-4.

Of Falls' 12 hits, Luke Spilde had four of them with Ben Humbert and Wyatt Ulrich adding two more. Humbert also had 3 RBI with Ulrich driving in two more.

Humbert pitched all seven innings for the Falls and recorded nine strikeouts in picking up the victory.

The Broncos then defeated Cherry, 11-0, in five innings in Friday's regular-season finale. Humbert drove in three runs with Kulig and Kevin Kilbride each recording 2 RBI.

The Falls pounded out 10 hits with Humbert, Ulirch and Jake Kulig tallying two apiece.

Ulrich pitched four innings and struck out five for the win.

The Broncos received a No. 3 seed in Section 7AA to face No. 6-seeded Eveleth-Gilbert and open the tournament Tuesday at Ely. Results from that game, which took place after production deadline for today's edition, are posted on the ifallsjournal.com website and will also be published in Saturday's paper

FHS girls golf team ends regular season

The International Falls girls golf team placed fifth out of nine teams competing Friday at an invitational at the Pokegama Golf Course in Grand Rapids as the Broncos closed out their regular-season schedule going into this week's Section 7AA Tournament.

Pequot Lakes topped the team standings at 306, followed by Grand Rapids (372), Duluth East (373), Hibbing (379) and the Falls (387) rounding out the top five.

Pequot Lakes' Maggie Heggerston had the top individual score for 18 holes with a 67.

Three Bronco golfers scored under 100 led by senior Katie West with an 88, while Junior Jenna Anderson carded a 90 and freshman Olivia Besch recorded a 96.

Falls' other three golfers included Maggie Roeder and Olivia Wright, both at 113, and Kaitlin Stallard at 127.

SECTION 7A TRACK AND FIELD MEET PREVIEW

FHS Broncos seek trip to state at UMD

FHS girls with section qualifiers in 17 events

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

A trip to next week's Class A State Track and Field Meet at Hamline University will be at stake Thursday when the International Falls boys and girls track and field teams compete in the Section 7A Meet at the University of Minnesota Duluth.

The top-two section finishers in each event automatically qualify for the state meet, plus any other individual or relay when the performance in the section finals equals or surpasses the established state standard time or distance for the event.

In the girls competition, the Broncos have qualified for the section meet in 17 of 18 events.

Falls senior Breanna Shofner is seeking to qualify for state for the fourth year in a row in the 100- and 200-meter dashes.

In the 100, Shofner's seed time of 13.11 seconds is the fastest, 19-hundredths of a seconds ahead of Eveleth-Gilbert freshman McKenzie Perushek, who placed runner-up to Shofner in last week's North Sub-Section 7A Meet.

In the 200, Shofner also has the top seed time at 26.41, 39-hundredth of a second faster than Mesabi East senior Aimee Allen, the sub-section runner-up to Shofner.

Shofner is seeded No. 2 in the triple jump at 33 feet, 6 inches, 8.5 inches shorter than top-seeded Proctor senior Megan Sundstrom.

Shofner is also part of the 4X100 relay team that is seeking its third-consec-



At right, the Broncos' Cole Tatsak, shown competing in the 300-meter hurdles at last Wednesday's North Sub-Section 7A Meet at Hibbing, has qualified for this Thursday's Section 7A Meet at UMD in that event and also is part of Falls' section-qualifying 4X100 relay team.

utive trip to state. The Falls is seeded fourth at 53.37 with Two Harbors having the top seed time of 52.47.

Another Bronco girl seeking her four-consecutive trip to state is junior Savanah Olson, who will be competing in both the shot put, in which she qualified for state in 2011 and 2013, and the discuss, in which she was a state qualifier the past two years.

Olson is seeded No. 2 in the shot put with a throw of 37 feet, 3 inches, behind Greenway/Nashwauk-Keewatin junior Jade Chastan, who finished first at the North Sub-Section 7A Meet with a throw of 38-5.

Olson has the top seed mark in the discuss at 103-9, 11 inches ahead of Chastan.

Falls junior Hailey Fentem is seeking a return trip to state after qualifying the past two years in the 100 hurdles, where she has the top seed this year at 15.87, the only competitor with a seed time under 16 seconds.

Fentem, who qualified for state last year in the high jump, is tied for the

best seed mark in that event at 5-0 and has also qualified for the section meet in the 300 hurdles and long jump.

Broncos freshman Emily Saari has the top seed in the pole vault at 8-6 and is one of three from the Falls in that event along with senior Amy Auran and freshman Claire Herzig, who have the next highest seed mark at 8-0.

Falls freshman Lexi Erickson, has the third-fastest seed time in the 3200 run at 12:47.69, 1.05 seconds behind No. 2-seeded Carlton freshman Brittney Hillstrom. Proctor freshman Hannah Bettendorf is the top seed at 11:58.84.

FHS BOYS IN 7A MEET

In the boys competition, the Broncos have advanced their 4X100 relay and seven individuals in eight events for the section meet.

The Falls boys, who haven't had anyone qualify for state since 2011, this year don't have a section qualifier seeded in the top two.

Broncos sophomore Ethan Phung, who has



STAFF PHOTOS BY KEVIN BONESKE

The Broncos' Breanna Shofner sprints to a first-place finish in the 200-meter dash at last Wednesday's North Sub-Section A Meet at Hibbing. At this Thursday's Section 7A Meet at UMD, Shofner will be seeking to qualify for state for the fourth year in a row in both the 100 and 200 dashes.

qualified for the section meet in three individual events and is also part of the 4X100 relay, is seeded No. 4 in the high jump at 5-8 with the top seed being Chisholm sophomore Justin Culbert at 6-2.

Phung also has the No. 5 seed mark in the triple jump at 40-5.25 with Ely senior Mark Heiman having the top seed at 43-4.5.

Falls senior Jakob Ettestad, another 4X100 relay member, is seeded

No. 4 in the pole vault at 10-0 with Greenway/Nashwauk-Keewatin junior Jacob German being the top seed at 12-7.

Broncos junior Nehemiah Olson, who anchors the 4X100 relay, is seeded No. 4 in the 100 dash at 12.1, 37-hundredths of a second behind the No. 1 seed, Virginia Neil Strong.

Falls' 4X100 relay is seeded No. 5 at 48.23 with Esko having the top seed time of 45.57.

GIRLS SOFTBALL TOURNAMENTS

Blue Devils' home runs end Broncos' season

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Two three-run homers in the bottom of the seventh ended the International Falls softball team's season Tuesday afternoon.

The Broncos led by five runs in the final inning of their Section 7AA Tournament losers' bracket game at Cloquet before Virginia recorded a three-run blast by Brylee Seitz and another by Hailey Greenwalt off of Falls pitcher Teagan Anderson to give the Blue Devils a 13-12 victory.

The Falls scored first with three runs in the second inning, which included a double by McKenna Rasmussen, and added another run in the top of the third, before Virginia cut the lead in half with a two-run homer by Greenwalt in the bottom of the third.

The Blue Devils then pulled in front, 7-4, with five runs in the bottom of the fifth, before the Broncos regained the lead with seven runs in the top of the sixth that included multiple base hits and sloppy fielding by Virginia.

The Falls picked up its final run in the top of the seventh when Amber Tiplander doubled and scored, before the Blue Devils' six-run inning to walk off with the victory.

The Broncos closed out the season with a record



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

The Vikings' Brooke Millerbernd, shown delivering a pitch in last Thursday's Section 7A Tournament game against Carlton, accounted for Littlefork-Big Falls' only run with a solo homer in Tuesday's 4-1 loss against Cherry.

of 9-7, while Virginia then faced Cloquet in another losers' bracket game in the double-elimination tourna-

ment.
CHERRY 4, L-BF 1
The Littlefork-Big Falls softball team lost Tuesday

afternoon for the first time in the Section 7A Tournament.
The Vikings, who opened

the tournament last week with three victories, lost their first game in Cohasset to Cherry, 4-1.

After the Tigers scored first in the bottom of the third when Rayanna Peterson singled to drive in a run, L-BF's only run came in the top of the fourth on a solo home run by Brooke Millerbernd off of Cherry pitcher Kacey Herring to tie the game.

The Tigers' Breann Gruenhagen singled to drive what turned out to be the winning run in the bottom of the fifth before Cherry added two insurance runs in the bottom of the sixth.

Cherry improved its tournament record to 4-0 and advances to play for the Section 7A championship game Thursday, while L-BF faced Greenway in a losers' bracket game Tuesday afternoon with that winner advancing to play Thursday.

Results from the Vikings' game against the Raiders, which took place after the production deadline for today's edition, are posted on the ifallsjournal.com website and will also be published in Saturday's paper.

Virginia 13, Int'l Falls 12									
Int'l Falls	0-3-1	0-0-7	1	-	12				
Virginia	0-0-2	0-5-0	6	-	13				

Cherry 4, L-BF 1									
L-BF	0-0-0	1-0-0	0	-	1				
Cherry	0-0-1	0-1-2	X	-	4				