

SPORTS

CENTRAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

Falls trio back with Tulsa Oilers for 2013-14 season

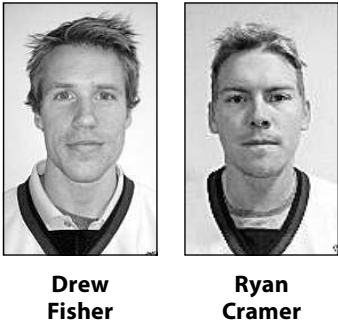
BY KEVIN BONESKE  
Sports Editor

Three hockey players from International Falls are back together again as they prepare for the second consecutive season they will all be playing on the Central Hockey League's Tulsa Oilers.

Forwards Ben Gordon, Ryan Cramer and Drew Fisher, who previously played together for a season at Falls High School before being on the same pro hockey team last season, begin the 2013-14 campaign for the Oilers this coming Friday and Saturday in a two-game road series against the Denver Cutthroats.

In Tulsa's lone preseason contest last Saturday, Cramer scored a goal in the 4-3 shootout loss to the Wichita Thunder.

The Oilers enter this season under new ownership after the team was purchased by the Wichita-based Steven Brothers Sports Management, LLC,



Drew Fisher Ryan Cramer

which also owns the Thunder. Gordon said the change in ownership has been a positive development with the team getting more player depth than in the previous season when the Tulsa didn't make the playoffs after finishing 10th in the CHL's Berry Conference.

The 2012-13 campaign had also been cut short for Gordon when he appeared in only 52 of 66 regular season games after sustaining a broken leg, from which he said he has recovered and is now back to 100 percent.

Despite his shortened season, Gordon recorded 26 goals and tallied 40 assists



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Despite missing the final 14 games of the 2012-13 regular season with a broken leg, Tulsa Oilers forward Ben Gordon (13) of International Falls still finished ninth in the Central Hockey League scoring race with 66 points (26 goals, 40 assists).

to finish ninth in the CHL scoring race with 66 points. He had joined the Oilers in 2012-13 after having played

in Germany. Gordon, 28, said he is now in the "back end of his career" as a pro hockey

player and would like to win a championship before he ends his playing days. During the offseason

this year, Gordon became a brother-in-law to Fisher, who married a sister of Gordon's. Both of their families are now residing in the Tulsa area with Gordon's family also having the addition of a 5-month-old child.

Fisher, 26, joined the Oilers at the end of the 2011-12 season after wrapping up his senior year of eligibility at Bemidji State University.

He appeared in all 66 games for the Oilers in 2012-13, recording 16 goals and 24 assists. Fisher saw playing time at both forward and defenseman last season.

Cramer, 27, is back for this third full season with Tulsa. In 66 games during 2012-13, he tallied 14 goals and 19 assists. In 57 games in 2011-12, Cramer recorded 17 goals and 21 assists.

This past summer, Cramer, who was also a state qualifier in golf while at Falls High School, had been working at a golf course in the Tulsa area in addition to training for the upcoming hockey season.

SWIMMING

► continued from B1

son and Shofner came in fourth in the 200 freestyle relay (1:50.92). Hibbing placed first in 1:47.31.

In the 100 butterfly, Kostiuik and freshman teammate Emma Misner placed fifth and sixth, respectively, in times of 1:09.86 and 1:10. Hibbing senior Sammy Bird won in 1:04.71.

Misner, Johnson, senior Courtney Klow and junior Tayler Hebner finished fifth in the 400 freestyle relay (4:12.59). Rapids placed first in 3:58.3.

Klow added a sixth-place finish in the 100 backstroke (1:13.17).

The Falls had two top-10 finishes in the diving competition with junior Jessie Hell placing sixth with 259.1 points and junior Kylie Skallman tying for 10th at 228.95. Rapids junior Justus Morgan won with the top score of 373.45.

The Broncos' other top-10 finish came from Klow, Herzig, Misner and Hebner placing eighth in the 200 medley relay (2:10.37).

Section 7A True Team Meet

**Team scores:** Grand Rapids 1578.5, Hibbing 1498.5, International Falls 1191.5, Two Harbors/Silver Bay 1114, Mesabi East 1037.5, Virginia 938, Chisholm 896, Duluth Denfeld 785, Eveleth-Gilbert 760.

**International Falls finishers**

**Diving** – 6. Jessie Hell, 259.1;



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The International Falls girls swimming and diving team poses for pictures after placing third at Saturday's Section 7A True Team Meet in Hibbing. Team members shown include, from left, front row, Blair Johnson, Courtney Klow, Breanna Shofner. Logen Amundsen. Middle row, head coach Jill Herzig, Abby Auran, Jaelynn Black, Emily Saari, Claire Herzig, Tayler Hebner, Emma Misner, Carolann Stone, Grace Wegner, Morgan Hedlund, Amelia Stewart, assistant coach Erika Mitchell. Back row, manager Levi Lucy, Lexi Geiss, Anna Earley, Hannah Kruse, Josie Bates, Reina Goulet, Abby Kostiuik, Jessica Hell, Megan Herrly, Jayde Hall, Katelyn Kruse, Maren Moseman.

10. Kylie Skallman, 228.95; 19. Hope Dunn, 121.1; 22. Josie Bates, 99.1.

**200-yard medley relay** – 2. Abby Kostiuik, Emily Saari, Breanna Shofner, Blair Johnson, 2:02.77; 8. Courtney Klow, Claire Herzig, Emma Misner, Tayler Hebner, 2:10.37; 18. Jayde Hall, Anna Earley, Abby Auran, Bates, 2:21.95; 25. Hannah Kruse, Logen Amundsen, Megan Herrly, Hell, 2:31.51.

**200 freestyle** – 15. Carolann Stone, 2:21.57; 26. Earley, 2:39; 29. Reina Goulet, 2:50.47.

**200 individual medley** – 17. Auran, 2:46.78; 18. Klow, 2:47.08; 19. Saari, 2:47.13; 31. Herrly,

2:58.97.

**50 freestyle** – 1. Shofner, 26.32; 14. Johnson, 28.77; 19. Herzig, 29.46; 29. Hell, 33.08

**100 butterfly** – 5. Kostiuik, 1:09.86; 6. Misner, 1:10; 16. Herrly, 1:24.01; 19. Goulet, 1:36.08.

**100 freestyle** – 1. Shofner, 58.71; 12. Misner, 1:03.2; 22. Bates, 1:09.46; 30. Maren Moseman, 1:19.13.

**500 freestyle** – 13. Stone, 6:23.61; 17. Auran, 6:36.14; 27. Hebner, 6:51.66; 32. Amundsen, 7:59.51.

**200 freestyle relay** – 4. Kostiuik, Johnson, Herzig, Shofner, 1:50.92; 13. Hall, Saari, Stone,

Hebner, 2:00.7; 22. Skallman, Hell, Kruse, Earley, 2:08.1; 31. Goulet, Moseman, Lexi Geiss, Amundsen, 2:25.4.

**100 backstroke** – 1. Kostiuik, 1:06.3; 6. Klow, 1:13.17; 29. Hall, 1:27.9; 31. Kruse, 1:32.76.

**100 breaststroke** – 3. Saari, 1:17.47; 6. Herzig, 1:19.15; 17. Earley, 1:25.82; 33. Geiss, 1:42.41.

**400 freestyle relay** – 5. Misner, Johnson, Hebner, Klow, 4:12.59; 13. Auran, Hall, Bates, Stone, 4:32.31. 23. Herrly, Goulet, Amundsen, Kruse, 5:04.84; 31. Jalyn Blake, Moseman, Geiss, Amelia Stewart, 5:35.24.

SIJHL HOCKEY

Lakers on winning streak at six games

Fort Frances leads league

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Fort Frances Lakers won a pair of games last weekend to extend their winning streak to six and remain atop the Superior International Junior Hockey League standings.

On Friday at Ear Falls Arena, 2012 Falls High School graduate Mason Meyer scored what turned out to be the winning goal in the Lakers' 3-2 road victory over the English River Miners.

The Miners took the early lead on a goal by Royce King, before Fort Frances forward Hunter Leishman tied the game at 1-1 in the first period. Billy Grillo put the Lakers back in front at 13:20 of the second period, before Meyer gave Fort Frances a 3-1 lead just over 3 minutes later on an assist by 2013 FHS graduate Lucas DeBenedet.

The final goal of the game came from English River's Paul Lamoureux with less than 2 minutes left in the second period as neither team scored in the final 20

LAKERS 6, WISCONSIN 1

Fort Frances broke a 1-1 tie in the second period with three power-play goals in just over 6 minutes Saturday night when the Lakers won at home over the Wisconsin Wilderness, 6-1.

Miles Nolan found the net twice for Fort Frances with single goals coming from Tanner Fricke, Brent Aiken, Torrin Grange and Leishman.

Zach Kraft scored the lone goal for the Wilderness, who were outshot by the Lakers, 43-15. Ryan Ferguson recorded the win in goal for Fort Frances.

The Lakers, who have won seven of nine games this season with one loss coming in regulation and the other setback being in a shootout, are atop the six-team SIJHL standings with 15 points. They return to action this coming Friday night against Wisconsin at the Spooner Ice House and then play Saturday night at Thunder Bay.



Mason Meyer

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On behalf of the students and staff at FALLS ELEMENTARY and WEST END ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. We would like to extend a sincere thanks to those who helped make our NATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL DAY.

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(Signs will be posted)

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