

SPORTS



College for Kids
Children 4-13 learn track and field

B2

QUICK HITS

Men's slowpitch softball playoffs start Monday

The International Falls men's slowpitch softball league wrapped up the regular season this week and will begin the playoffs Monday.

Coca-Cola, which has received the No. 1 playoff seed with a regular-season record of 15-1, has an opening-round bye in the five-team, double-elimination playoffs.

The league's No. 3 seed, Slammers/The Journal, opens the tournament at 6:30 p.m. Monday against the No. 4-seeded Up North Builders/City Cab. The winner faces Coca-Cola at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday.

In the other half of the winners' bracket, No. 2-seeded Super One/Hardee's faces No. 5-seeded Covenant Church/City Drug at 7:30 p.m. Monday. The winner advances to the winners' bracket game at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 12 to face the winner between Coca-Cola and Slammers/The Journal or Up North Builders/City Cab.

The losers of Monday's games will face each other at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in an elimination game. That winner will play another elimination game at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 12 against the loser of the winners' bracket game between Coca-Cola and Slammers/The Journal or Up North Builders/City Cab.

The championship will be decided the evening of Aug. 13. The two remaining teams with one loss will face each other at 6:30 p.m. That winner will face the tournament's only remaining undefeated team at 7:30 p.m. in a possible title game. In the event the undefeated team is defeated to force another game to decide the championship, that would take place at 8:30 p.m.

Final Standings

Coca-Cola 15-1
Super One/Hardee's 12-4
Slammers/The Journal 6-10
Up North Builders/City Cab 6-10
Covenant Church/City Drug 1-15

FHS volleyball sets preseason schedule

The 2013 Bronco volleyball preseason schedule has been announced by head coach Erin Shikowsky.

The registration meeting for the upcoming season is scheduled for Aug. 8 at 5:30 p.m. in the Falls High School gym. One parent or guardian must be present to complete the paperwork.

The captains practices for grades 7-12 will be held Aug. 5-9 from 9-11 a.m. in the FHS gym.

The team camp for grades 7-12 will be held Aug. 12 and Aug. 14 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. on both days of the camp.

Tryouts for grades 9-12 will take place Aug. 12-13 from 1:30-4 p.m.

Individual meetings for grades 9-12 are scheduled for Aug. 14 from 1:30-4 p.m.

Physicals must be completed by Aug. 12 for players to be allowed to participate.

The volleyball team will be ordering shoes, knee pads and socks from Midwest Sportsweat. Samples to try on and order will be available at the registration meeting.

For more information, call Shikowsky at 285-9535.

The Broncos host their first regular-season match Aug. 22 against Mountain Iron-Buhl.

VFW BASEBALL



STAFF PHOTOS BY KEVIN BONESKE

The International Falls VFW baseball team poses for pictures Tuesday night after winning the District 8 Tournament championship in Grand Rapids. The Falls now advances to the state tournament scheduled for Aug. 8-11 in Ely.

District champions

Falls defeats Rapids in title game, advances to state

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

The International Falls VFW baseball team has qualified for this year's Minnesota State Tournament that begins next week in Ely after winning the District 8 Tournament with a perfect 4-0 record.

In Tuesday night's district championship game at Legion Field in Grand Rapids, the Falls defeated Rapids, 2-1.

"That was a tough ball game," said Falls VFW head coach Eric Walls. "Rapids played awful tough."

The victory marked the second time the Falls defeated Rapids in the eight-team, double-elimination district tournament. The Falls had also won against Rapids a week earlier in the North Sub-District Tournament at Ely.

The Falls scored first in the district tournament title game when Ben Humbert reached home from first base on a two-out double by Kevin Kilbride off of Rapids starting pitcher Nick Johnson in the bottom of the third.

Rapids tied the game at 1-1 in the top of the fourth after Noah Johnson singled, advanced to second on a sacrifice and then scored on a single by Tanner Shepard.

Falls starting pitcher Wyatt Ulrich not only recorded the victory and accounted for two of the team's six hits, but also scored what turned out to be the winning run in the bottom of the fifth.

Ulrich led off the inning with a double off of Rapids reliever Noah Johnson and then advanced to third on a passed ball before scoring on a sacrifice fly to center field by Kilbride, who ended up driving in both of Falls' runs.

"Wyatt pitched the ball so, so well, and a couple big RBI by Kevin Kilbride," Walls said.

Ulrich pitched 6 1/3 innings, allowing a run on six hits with two walks while striking out three. Humbert retired both batters he faced pitching the final two-



At right, the Falls VFW's Wyatt Ulrich (8) avoids the tag of Grand Rapids pitcher Nick Johnson to reach first base safely on an infield hit in Tuesday night's district tournament title game. Also shown for Grand Rapids is first baseman Jack Bowman (17).



The Falls VFW's Jake Kulig (23) swings away in Tuesday's district tournament title game against Grand Rapids.

thirds of an inning in relief.

Humbert had also pitched six innings a day earlier in the Falls' 9-2 winners' bracket victory over Esko.

"We pulled Humbert out an inning early (Monday) just for this moment," Walls said. "Benny did a great job

to close."

The Falls, which won all seven of its tournament games in sub-district and district play combined, improved its overall season record to 20-5.

"I anticipated that we would be able to put a little

scare into some people here at this district tournament," Walls said. "As the season progressed and the teams that we saw, we were definitely as good, day in and day out, as everyone else, and I'm really not that surprised that we're here (as district champions)."

FALLS FACES HUTCHINSON TO OPEN STATE TOURNNEY

The Falls opens the 10-team, double-elimination state tournament in Ely next Thursday at 9:30 a.m. against Hutchinson.

The opening-game winner would then play in Soudan that afternoon at 2:30 against Perham, while the loser would play an elimination game in Soudan that afternoon at 5 against the loser between St. Paul Rainview and Brainerd.

"We've got to stay on that winners' side, because we

don't have nearly as many (pitching) arms as we had in the high school season to get through a double-elimination tournament from the losers' bracket," Walls said.

The other five teams in the state VFW tournament include Alexandria, Maple Grove, Marshall, Northfield and the host team, Ely.

The tournament wraps up on Aug. 11 with the two remaining teams playing for the state title at 12:30 p.m. in Ely. In the event both teams end up with one loss for the tournament after that game, a final championship game would take place that afternoon at 3.

I. Falls 2, G. Rapids 1
G. Rapids 0-0-0 1-0-0-0 — 1 6 0
I. Falls 0-0-1 0-1-0 X — 2 6 1
WP—Wyatt Ulrich

catch up online . . .

Check for scores, schedules and a whole lot more at ifallsjournal.com

