

SPORTS

TRACK AND FIELD

Bronco girls win Old River Meet

FHS boys third

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Seven first-place and five second-place finishes helped propel the International Falls girls and track team to the top spot at Thursday's Old River Meet in Grand Rapids.

The Broncos won with 164.2 points, followed by Grand Rapids (148.4), Duluth East (102), Hibbing (78) and Cromwell (66.2) in the top five out of seven teams.

The Falls had a 1-2-3 finish in the pole vault with freshmen Lexi Edwards, Emily Saari and Claire Herzig all clearing 8 feet.

"Despite the cold weather, the team did great even though we were missing a few people," Edwards said. "We worked hard until the end."

The Broncos went 1-2 in the shot put with eighth-grader Emma Gilbert winning with a toss of 36-11, 4.5 inches ahead of junior Savannah Olson, who added a runner-up finish in the discus (108-3) with Gilbert placing fifth in 83-1.

"We only had 16 girls competing (Thursday) and it was very cold, but it was a great meet for the team," Gilbert said.

Falls senior Breanna Shofner was a double indi-

vidual winner by placing first in both the 100-meter dash (13.03 seconds) and 200 dash (26.75). She also came in third in the triple jump (30-9.5).

Broncos senior Hailey Fentem won the 100 hurdles (16.16) and placed second in both the high jump (4-10) and long jump (14-6).

Fentem, Gilbert, sophomore Madeline Dahle and freshman Valandre Butler were part of the winning 4X100 relay (54.19).

Falls freshman Lexi Erickson placed first in the 3200 run (12:03.61) and third in both the 1600 run (5:36.57) and high jump (4-8).

Herzig added a third-place finish in the long jump (13-9.25) and also came in seventh in the 200 dash (29.09).

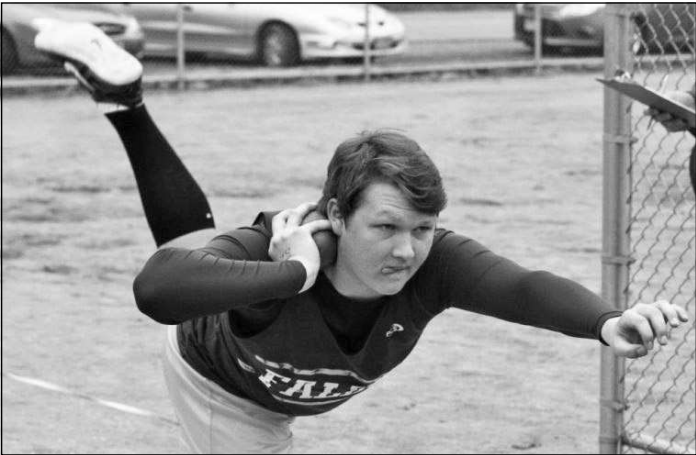
Butler placed fourth in the 100 dash (13.88) and fifth in the 200 dash (28.75).

Saari came in fourth in the long jump (13-6.5) and sixth in the 100 hurdles (18.65).

Broncos senior Amy Auran placed sixth in the 300 hurdles (55.58).

Edwards, eighth-grader Jena Sullivan, freshman Anna Earley and junior Tayler Hebner placed seventh in the 4X800 relay (11:34.09).

"Even though the cold weather made some events more challenging, I think some of the girls stepped up and did very well," Sullivan



The Broncos' Austin Ruport sets up to throw the shot put in Thursday's Old River Meet at Grand Rapids.

said. "I am looking forward to seeing our team compete when it's warmer."

FHS BOYS THIRD

In the boys competition, the Broncos placed third out of seven teams.

Grand Rapids topped the team standings at 213 points, followed by Duluth East (112), the Falls (88), Hibbing (83.5) and Bigfork (41) in the top five.

"We had some good performances..." said Broncos head coach Paul Hjelte.

The Falls went 1-2 in the triple jump with sophomore Ethan Phung and junior Cole Tatsak having respective top leaps of 38-4.5 and 36-8.5.

Broncos junior Nehemiah Olson and sophomore Wyatt Helgeson tied for second in the pole vault (9-0), 6 inches below the top height of Hib-

bing's Joe Flaten.

Falls junior Austin Ruport placed third in the discus (134-8) and seventh in the shot put (39-7).

The Broncos had three relay teams place third with Olson, Helgeson, freshman Nick Hedtke and junior Gary Harala in the 4X100 (49.89), Helgeson, sophomore Peter Griffith and seniors Paul Skoglund and Jacob Piekarski in the 4x200 (1:45.5) and Tatsak, Piekarski, Hedtke and Griffith in the 4X400 (3:55.4).

"The meet turned out a lot better than we expected between bad weather and performance," Piekarski said. "Considering how much of our team wasn't there, we did good filling all the open spots and trying new events."

"We also had personal records beat in the 4X400, 800,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

In front, the Broncos' Valandre Butler rounds the curve competing in the 200-meter dash at Thursday's Old River Meet in Grand Rapids. Butler placed fifth in 28.75 seconds.

hurdles and more. It was a good meet for us."

Falls' fourth-place finishers included Griffith in the 400 dash (58.46), Tatsak in the 300 hurdles (47.57) and Helgeson in the high jump (5-4).

The Broncos got fifth-place finishes from Olson in the 100 dash (12.11), Skoglund in the 100 hurdles (18.94) and eighth-grader John Cowman in the 3200 run (11:54.72).

Olson added a sixth-place

finish in the long jump (16-7) with Phung coming in seventh at 16-6.5.

Old River Meet GIRLS

Team scores: International Falls 164.2, Grand Rapids 148.4, Duluth East 102, Hibbing 78, Cromwell 66.2, Deer River/Northland 26, Bigfork 16.2.

BOYS

Team scores: Grand Rapids 213, Duluth East 112, International Falls 88, Hibbing 83.5, Bigfork 41, Cromwell 34.5, Deer River/Northland 25.

GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD

Broncos win Mullins Invitational

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Twice in three days late last week, the International Falls girls track and field team finished first in a meet.

In Saturday's Mullins Invite at Nashwauk, the Broncos topped the team standing with 186.5 points, followed by Hermantown (125), Superior (107.5), Hibbing (89.5) and Eveleth-Gilbert (53.5) rounding out the top five out of nine teams scoring points.

The Falls finished first in five events and placed second in six others with seniors Lexi Owen and Hailey Fentem going 1-2, respectively, in the 300-meter hurdles in times of 50.2 seconds and 51.3.

Fentem also finished first in the 100 hurdles (16.0) and placed second in the high jump (4 feet, 8 inches).

Broncos junior Savannah Olson won the discus (113-02), more than 11 feet farther than her nearest competitor. Olson also came in third in the shot put (37-5), 5 inches behind her eighth-grade teammate, Emma Gilbert, in second place.

The Falls won two of the

four relays with Fentem, Gilbert, freshman Valandre Butler and senior Beanna Shofner placing first in the 4X100 relay (53.8) and Shofner, Owen, freshman Lexi Erickson and sophomore Abby Kostiuik winning the 4X400 relay (4:22.8).

Shofner also placed second in the 100 dash (12.51), a hundredth of a second behind Superior's Lauren Magnuson, and runner-up in the long jump (14-6), 8 inches behind Magnuson.

Falls senior Amy Auran and freshman Emily Saar tied for second in the pole vault (8-0) with freshman Claire Herzig coming in fourth at 7-6.

The two Bronco relay teams that placed third included seventh-grader Grace Gilbert, Emma Gilbert, eighth-grader Jena Sullivan and freshman Anna Earley in the 4X200 (2:00.3) and Owen, Earley, Erickson and junior Tayler Hebner in the 4X800 (10:51.5).

Butler added a third-place finish in the 100 dash (13.5), while Saari came in third in the 100 hurdles (17.8) and senior Jaci Schol-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Broncos' Savannah Olson throws the discus at Saturday's Mullins Invite at Nashwauk. Olson won the event with the top toss of 113 feet, 2 inches

ler placed third in the 200 dash (28.5).

Other fourth-place finishers for the Falls included Hebner in the 800 run

(2:45.9), seventh-grader Avery Sivonen in the 1600 run (6:30.3), seventh-grader Faith Black in the 3200 run (13:46.8).

BOYS TRACK AND FIELD

Broncos fifth at Border State Bank Invitational

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

In addition to battling less-than-ideal weather conditions Friday, the International Falls boys track and field team was also without a couple of this season's top point scorers when the Broncos placed fifth at the seven-team Border State Bank Invite hosted by Lake of the Woods.

Roseau topped the team standings with 137.5 points, followed by Northome/Kelliher/Blackduck (124.25), Warroad (70), Lake of the Woods/Rainy River (60), the Falls (57), Dryden (56.25), and BGM (43).

"Even though we...were missing our top scorer, (sophomore) Ethan Phung, I thought the kids had fun trying new events and overall things went well," said Falls sophomore Wyatt Helgeson. "Even with the bad weather conditions."

Helgeson recorded the Broncos' only top finish in an event Phung usually competes in, the high

jump, after clearing 5 feet, 4 inches.

Falls junior Gary Harala placed second in both the shot put (39-0) and discus (93-6), while freshman Nick Hedtke placed fifth in the shot put (33-6). The Broncos' usual top finisher in the throwing events, junior Austin Ruport, didn't compete in Friday's meet.

The Falls' other runner-up finish came from senior Jakob Ettestad in the pole vault (10-6). Ettestad added a fourth-place finish in the 100-meter dash (12.2 seconds) with Hedtke coming in sixth in 12.52.

Other fourth-place finishers for the Falls included Helgeson in the 300 hurdles (49.24) and sophomore Remington Veillieux in the triple jump (25-3).

Broncos senior Paul Skoglund came in fifth in the 110 hurdles (19.97).

Falls' 4X100 relay team comprised of Skoglund, Ettestad, and seniors Austin Schaaf and Jacob Piekarski placed fifth in 52.72.

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