

SPORTS

QUICK HITS

RRCC softball team sixth at NJCAA DIII national tourney

The Rainy River Community College softball team closed out last week's NJCAA Division III National Tournament in Rochester a place lower than it was seeded after losing both games Friday and ending up in sixth place with a win and three losses.

"I had hoped to place a little higher, but I'm very proud of our girls," said RRCC head coach Dieter Humbert.

The No. 5-seeded Voyageurs—who opened the eight-team, double-elimination tournament 1-1 Thursday—lost their first game Friday against No. 2-seeded Herkimer County of New York, 10-2, eliminating any chance of RRCC being able to win the national championship.

Both of the Voyageurs' runs came in the fifth inning when Courtney Branham doubled and Alisha Brinker singled to drive in the runs.

Oashaja Dobie recorded the pitching loss for RRCC, allowing all 10 runs, five earned, on eight hits with four walks and three hit batters while striking out four. At the plate, Dobie doubled and singled.

The Voyageurs closed out the tournament Friday afternoon by losing 1-0 in a rematch with No. 4-seeded Monroe Community College of New York in the game for fifth place.

Branham had two of RRCC's four hits. Dobie pitched all seven innings, allowing an unearned run on two hits with two walks while striking out 11.

The Voyageurs, who qualified for the national tournament after winning the Region 13B Tournament, closed out the season 30-9.

Glen Anderson named FHS head football coach

An assistant football coach from last season at International Falls was approved Monday by the Falls School Board to be the Broncos' next head football coach.

The board backed an interview committee recommendation to hire Glen Anderson, who was one of the finalists interviewed for the position.

FHS athletic director Kevin Grover said former long-time head football coach Stuart Nordquist, who coached his last season for the Broncos in 2008, had been the interview committee's first choice, but declined to accept the position.

Anderson replaces Jay Boyle, who resigned as head football coach after five seasons. Grover said the assistant football coaching positions for next season will be filled at a subsequent board meeting.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Today's games

Track and field

I. Falls in North Sub-Section 7A Meet at Hibbing, 9:45 a.m.

Boys baseball

Northeast Range at L-BF, 2:30 p.m.

Thursday's games

Girls softball

Section 7A Tournament in Cloquet, noon

Section 7AA Tournament in Cohasset, noon

Boys baseball

Ely at I. Falls, 4:30 p.m.

Friday's games

Girls golf

I. Falls in invite at Pokegama Golf Course in Grand Rapids, 9 a.m.

Boys baseball

Cherry at I. Falls, 4:30 p.m.



Track and field

Falls Elementary School meet held at FHS track

B3

GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD

Broncos 5th in State True Team

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The International Falls girls track and field team finished in the middle of the pack at Saturday's Class A State True Team Meet in Stillwater, where the Broncos placed fifth out of nine teams.

Each team was allowed up to two entries in the 14 individual events and one relay team in the four relays with every entry counting toward the team score. First place in the individual events was good for 18 points with each subsequent place counting a point less. Relays counted 27 points for first place with each place after that being three points less.

Luverne won the team title with 394.5 points, followed by Osakis (391.5), Lake City (360.5), Blue Earth Area (356.5) and the Falls (331.5) rounding out the top five.

"Although the girls didn't have their best day as a team, they did compete well and a fifth-place finish was where we were seeded going into the meet," said Broncos head coach Jen Erickson. "This was the first state true team appearance for this group of girls and it was a little overwhelming for many of them."

"Our veteran athletes, especially those who have competed in the Minnesota State Track Meet in the past, knew what to expect and didn't let the pressure or nerves affect their performance. Overall it was a great experience for the girls, especially before



The Broncos' Lexi Erickson (813) competes in the 3200-meter run in Saturday's Class A State True Team Meet at Stillwater. Erickson placed fourth in 12 minutes, 26.89 seconds, and added a sixth-place finish in the 1600 run.

the upcoming sub and section track meets."

Falls senior Breanna Shofner, who has qualified for the state meet the past three seasons, accounted for 65 points by placing first in both the 100-meter dash (13.06 seconds) and 200 dash (26.43), finishing fourth in the 400 dash (1:02.98) and coming in fifth in the triple jump (30 feet, 10.5 inches).

Broncos senior Hailey Fentem, a state qualifier the past two seasons, won the 100 hurdles (16.1), tied for fourth in the high jump (4-10), placed seventh in the 300 hurdles (52.01) and added a 12-place finish in the long jump (13-11.25) for 51.5 points.

The Falls went 1-2 in the shot put with eighth-grader Emma Gilbert winning at 38-1.5 and junior

Savanah Olson placing runner-up at 37-4. Olson, who has qualified for state the past three seasons, added a second-place finish in the discus (107-7).

Broncos freshman Claire Herzig won the pole vault (8-6) with freshman teammate Emily Saari tying for fourth at 7-6.

The Falls also got a pair of top-10 finishes in the 3200 run, where freshman Lexi Erickson placed fourth in 12:26.89 and senior Amy Auran coming in 10th in 13:28.62. Lexi Erickson added a sixth-place finish in the 1600 run (5:41.34).

The best showings for the Broncos in the relay events were two sixth-place finishes by Herzig, Gilbert, sophomore Madeline Dahle and freshman Valandre Butler in the 4x100 (54.1) and Herzig,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

At left, the Broncos' Breanna Shofner sprints the 200-meter dash at Saturday's State True Team Meet in Stillwater. Shofner won both the 100 and 200 dashes and placed fourth in the 400 dash.

Gilbert, Dahle and senior Lexi Owen in the 4X200 (1:54.32).

Owen, sophomore Abby Kostiuk, junior Tayler Hebner and freshman Anna Earley placed eighth in the 4x800 (10:56.41), while Kostiuk, Gilbert, Dahle and Owen came in ninth in the 4X400 (4:26.42).

The Falls next com-

petes today at the North Sub-Section 7A Meet in Hibbing.

Class A State True Team Meet GIRLS

Team scores: Luverne 394.5, Osakis 391.5, Lake City 360.5, Blue Earth Area 356.5, International Falls 331.5, Pine Island 309.5, Maple Lake 309, Mesabi East 245.5, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 231.5.

GIRLS SOFTBALL

Broncos cut down North Woods in regular-season finale at home

FHS enters playoffs 7-5

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

The International Falls girls softball team advanced to this week's Section 7AA playoffs after only a dozen regular-season games.

The Broncos picked up their seventh win Friday when they closed out their regular-season schedule at home with a 13-5 victory against North Woods.

"We're just trying to be patient and make sure we're hitting strikes," said Falls head coach Kevin Gordon. "You're going into the playoffs. You don't want to be swinging at stuff that's maybe a little bit off the plate."

The Broncos built up an 11-0 lead after four innings when they tallied six hits and 11 of their batters were walked.

Emily Treat recorded Falls' first hit with a double in the bottom of the first and then scored on a sacrifice fly by Meghan Tomczak. Cassie Tomczak gave the Broncos a 2-0 lead after an inning when she walked and scored on a two-out single by Teagan Anderson.

The Falls was able to plate five runs in the bottom of the second when Grizzlies starting pitcher Emily LaPatka walked five of the 10 batters she faced



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

Below, the Broncos' Amber Tilander (4) slides safely into third base where the Grizzlies' Brystin Vitense (16) is standing in Friday's regular-season finale behind Falls High School.

and also threw several wild pitches with the Broncos' two hits coming from McKenna Rasmussen and Amber Tilander.

The Broncos added three runs in the third when Tilander singled and Meghan

Tomczak doubled for the team's two hits.

The Falls scored a run in the bottom of the fourth without a hit when Rasmussen walked and scored.

Softball to B2 ►

BOYS BASEBALL



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From right, the Vikings' Evan Wimmer dives back to first base to avoid the tag of Ely's Bradley Roy in Saturday's game at Littlefork.

L-BF Vikings shut out by Ely Timberwolves, 10-0

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

The Littlefork-Big Falls baseball team's three-game winning streak came to an end Saturday when the Vikings were unable to hand Ely its first loss of the season.

The Timberwolves shut out L-BF on its home field, 10-0, in six innings.

"We hurt ourselves more than they hurt us," said Vikings head coach Ban Beste. "If we execute early...if we get that first run, something can change. But (Ely is) good. If you give a team like that four outs, they're going to hurt you."

L-BF put runners on base in each of the first two innings, but came up scoreless.

In the bottom of the

second, the Vikings had runners on first and second with no one out after Evan Wimmer walked and Brenden Williams singled. Wimmer ended up getting picked off between second and third to go along with a pair of strikeouts by Ely pitcher Pat Huisman that kept L-BF off the scoreboard.

The Timberwolves scored their first run in the top of the second and added three runs in the third.

Vikings starting pitcher Tommy Manninen hit Ely's Will Gustafson with a pitch to start the second inning. Max Gantt then bunted his way on base, after which a wild pitch moved Gustafson to third before he

Baseball to B2 ►