

SPORTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

At left, the Voyageurs' Jammere Carlisle (2) drives in the lane during Saturday's home game against Vermilion.

Voyageurs lose at home to Ironmen

RRCC now 1-1 in MCAC North

BY KEVIN BONESKE  
Sports Editor

The Rainy River Community College men's basketball team, which had defeated Vermilion earlier this season in a non-conference game, lost the Minnesota College Athletic Conference game the Voyageurs hosted Saturday against the Ironmen, 84-61.

"Vermilion played a heck of a game (Saturday) – defense was very good," said RRCC head coach Kristofer Babler. "We didn't help ourselves out by playing too much hero basketball, but Vermilion's a very good team, a we're going to be very excited to go back to Ely (to play the Ironmen in another conference game)."

The Voyageurs led early and held a 5-4 advantage following a 3-point basket by Sam Stirgus. The Ironmen then went on a 8-0 scoring run and never trailed again, taking a 44-32 lead at halftime.

Vermilion outshot the Voyageurs from the field

overall, 30-72 (41.7 percent) to 24-76 (31.6 percent), and from 3-point range, 9-20 (45 percent) to 8-30 (26.7 percent).

"(The Ironmen) shot well," Babler said. "I wasn't really satisfied with our defensive effort. If we correct some things, we can solve that problem the next time around."

Stirgus led RRCC with 20 points, which included five 3-pointers, followed by Jammere Carlisle with 18 points.

Vermilion had three players score in double figures led by Devonta Brooks with a game-high 24 points. Eddarie Hibbler added 18 points with Tommy Butler scoring 11 more.

The loss dropped RRCC's season record to 9-5 overall and 1-1 in the MCAC North. The Voyageurs return to action at 8 tonight when the host Northland.

**Vermilion 84, Rainy River 61**  
**Vermilion 44 40 - 84**  
**Rainy River 32 29 - 61**  
**Rainy River:** Sheldon O'Neal 3, Jammere Carlisle 18, Colin Tyrone 2, Antoine Tobias 6, Darius Johnson 1, Teekay Biti 6, Sam Stirgus 20, Jimson Clerveus 3, Caleb McIntosh 2. 3-pointers: Stirgus 5, Biti 2, O'Neal. Free throws: 5-9 Fouls: 20.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Voyageurs fall in conference home opener

RRCC now 0-2 in MCAC North

BY KEVIN BONESKE  
Sports Editor

The Rainy River Community College women's basketball team played its first Minnesota College Athletic Conference home game of the season Saturday afternoon when the Voyageurs lost to Vermilion, 82-62.

"I thought (Saturday) we didn't come out with the same energy and same excitement we have been all season," said RRCC head coach Adam Rotar. "We've had tremendous intensity all year, and (Saturday) was one of those days that we didn't have it."

The Voyageurs, who are down to five available players with no substitutes to start a game, fell behind by as many as 14 points in the first half before cutting the deficit to six points late in the half on a 3-point basket by Sarina Phrathep. Vermilion then closed out the

scoring before halftime with a field goal by Lola Horne to lead 34-26.

Vermilion began the second half with a 9-2 scoring run in the first 6 minutes and stayed in front by double digits until the final buzzer.

"There are some things we need to work on to keep us in games a little bit closer, but I will say this, the girls aren't giving up," Rotar said.

Vermilion outshot RRCC from the field overall, 32-77 (41.6 percent) to 22-73 (30.1 percent).

The Voyageurs were led in scoring and rebounding by Roneisha Jordan, who recorded a double-double with a game-high 25 points and 16 rebounds. Phrathep added 15 points, while Dominique Hines also scored in double figures with 10 points.

Vermilion also had three players score in double figures led by Erin Muhvich



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From right, the Voyageurs' Roneisha Jordan (20) shoots along the perimeter while Vermilion's Lola Horne (10) looks on in Saturday's game in the RRCC gym.

with 22 points. Lela and Lola Horne added 21 and 19 points, respectively.

RRCC's season record now stands at 4-9 overall and 0-2 in the MCAC North going into tonight's home game against Northland.

**Vermilion 82, Rainy River 62**  
**Vermilion 34 48 - 82**  
**Rainy River 26 36 - 62**  
**Rainy River:** Sarina Phrathep 15, Shania Thompson 9, Renee Pantophlet 3, Roneisha Jordan 25, Dominique Hines 10. 3-pointers: Phrathep 3, Pantophlet, Jordan, Hines. Free throws: 12-22. Fouls: 12.

BOYS SWIMMING AND DIVING

Broncos 5th at Virginia Invitational

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The International Falls boys swimming and diving team competed in its third meet of the week Saturday when the Broncos placed fifth at the Virginia Invitational.

Chisholm finished with the top score in the five-team meet with 431.5 points, followed by Virginia (397), Eveleth-Gilbert (344), Mesabi East (340.5) and the Falls (187).

The Broncos' only first-place finish in the 12 events came from senior Cole Tatsak, who won the diving competition (157.45 points).

Falls freshman Alex Belanger recorded a pair of top-six individual finishes by placing fifth in the 200-yard individual medley (2 minutes, 36.06 seconds) and sixth in the 500 freestyle (6:20.79).

The Broncos' other top-six individual finish came from freshman John Cowman, who placed sixth in the 100 breaststroke (1:18.01).

In the three relay events, Falls' best finish came from Tatsak, Jared Hunter, Joey Griffith and Gary Harala placing fourth in the 200 freestyle relay (1:50.66). The Broncos recorded fifth-

place finishes in both the 200 medley relay (2:07.59) and 400 freestyle relay (4:19.36).

The Falls won't compete again until next Saturday when the Broncos travel to Hibbing for the Section True Team Meet.

**Virginia Invitational Team scores:** Chisholm 431.5, Virginia 397, Eveleth-Gilbert 344, Mesabi East 340.5, International Falls 187.

**International Falls finishers**  
**200-yard medley relay** – 5. Jared Hunter, John Cowman, Alex Belanger, Cole Tatsak, 2:07.59; 11. Gary Harala, Joey Griffith, Tanner Sether, Alex Bissonnette, 2:29.35.  
**200 freestyle** – 9. Hunter, 2:24.51;

12. Colin Hebner, 2:41.6; 17. Ben Keeney, 3:41.35.  
**200 individual medley** – 5. Alex Belanger, 2:36.06.  
50 freestyle – 15. Griffith, 30.48.  
**100 freestyle** – 14. Cowman, 1:06.32; 15. Harala, 1:07.77; 16. Sether, 1:11.05.  
**500 freestyle** – 6. Belanger, 6:20.79.  
**200 freestyle relay** – 4. Tatsak, Hunter, Griffith, Harala, 1:50.66.  
**100 backstroke** – 14. Bissonnette, 1:39.99; 16. Jordan Anderson, 1:43.47.  
**100 breaststroke** – 6. Cowman, 1:18.01; 11. Griffith, 1:38.73; 12. Keeney, 1:47.29; 13. Robert Sweney, 1:47.29.  
**400 freestyle relay** – 5. Belanger, Tatsak, Cowman, Hunter, 4:19.36.  
**Diving** – 1. Tatsak, 157.45.

Lynx all alone in first in Bronco 3-4 girls hoops

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Two points made the difference Saturday for sole possession of first place in the Bronco girls basketball grade 3-4 league.

In the matchup of two previously undefeated teams, the Lynx broke a 14-14 tie at halftime and defeated the Sparks, 24-22.

The Lynx, who improved to 3-0, were led is scoring by Summer Hesseldahl with 16 points. Ellen Windels added eight points. Scorers for the Sparks, who dropped to 2-1, included Graci Bissonnette with 12 points, followed by Kourtney Stallard with six points and Kelby Anderson with four points.

In the other matchup of two teams previously without a win this season, the Suns defeated the Comets, 15-4.

The Suns, whose record now stands at 1-2, were led in scoring by Tessa Cann with 10 points. Emma Saxton added four points with Olivia Thostenson scoring another point.

Nyssa Beck and Abby Hutchinson each scored two points for the Comets, whose record dropped to 0-3.

League play resumes this coming Saturday at Falls High School with the Suns facing the Lynx at 9 a.m. followed by the Comets playing the Sparks at 10 a.m.

*Best Food!*  
*Best View!*

Now open for  
Lunch and Dinner daily  
Open for Breakfast  
weekends only

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY  
DINNER FEATURE**

**Crab Stuffed Chicken**  
*Chicken breast stuffed with crab,  
cream, corn, mozzarella cheese,  
sun-dried tomatoes topped with lemon cream  
sauce over a bed of wild rice and fresh steamed  
vegetables. Served with Tossed, or Caesar Salad.*

  
**Thunderbird Lodge**  
ON BEAUTIFUL RAINY LAKE

10 miles east of Int'l Falls on Hwy. 11  
**218-286-3151**  
Dine Daily ~ 12:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
[www.thunderbirdrainylake.com](http://www.thunderbirdrainylake.com)



**ICEBOX DAYS**

EVENTS AT BACKUS COMMUNITY CENTER  
Saturday, January 17, 2015

**CHILI CHALLENGE**  
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.  
VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE!  
Prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place

**CHILI TASTING \$6.00**  
Kids Under 5 - FREE

  
**TURKEY BOWLING**  
1:00 - 3:00 P.M.  
SUPERVISED BY  
FALLS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL

  
**BACKUS Community Center**  
218-286-7223 | 218-286-7225 | 218-286-7226  
[www.backusab.org](http://www.backusab.org) | [facebook:backusab](https://www.facebook.com/backusab)

Community Groups,  
Organizations, Restaurants,  
Businesses, Individuals  
are invited to participate in the  
"Chili Challenge"

Call Backus for information  
218-285-7225

"Backus is fully accessible to persons with disabilities –  
Please call our office for specific accommodations."



**PULL TABS AVAILABLE • PULL TABS AVAILABLE • PULL TABS**

**VFW Post**  
**Friday & Saturday**

**January 16 & 17**  
**Karaoke**

**FREE XBOX Bowling Nightly!**

**Daily Specials**  
Margarita's Tues. Late Night  
Happy Hour Wed. Buckets of Beer & Free Pool  
Thurs. Throw Back Beers Fri. Meat Raffle @ 6:30 pm  
Friday Night Burgers 5-8 pm  
Open at noon on Sunday

**RENT OUR BANQUET ROOM FOR A GREAT RATE!**

**BINGO**  
Every Tuesday at 7 pm  
**Now Play Electronic Pull tabs & Bingo!**  
Reg. games still available

Mon. 6:30 pm - Whist • Wed. 6:30 pm - Gin  
Sat. 2:00 pm - Cribbage

Play Pull Tabs • VFW 2948 Gambel

**PULL TABS AVAILABLE • PULL TABS AVAILABLE • PULL TABS**