

# SPORTS



## Track and field

Bronco girls win two meets in three days

B2

### QUICK HITS

#### RRCC baseball team No. 4 playoff seed

The Rainy River Community College baseball team is entering this week's Minnesota College Athletic Conference Northern Division playoffs as the No. 4 seed and will play at No. 3-seeded Vermilion in a best-of-three series starting at 5:30 p.m. Thursday.

The Voyageurs, whose record is 7-5 in the MCAC North and 15-19 overall, closed out their regular season schedule last weekend winning three of four games.

RRCC split a home doubleheader Saturday against Mesabi Range, losing 2-0 and then winning 1-0 in 10 innings, before sweeping a twin bill Sunday in Cloquet against Fond du Lac, 21-0 and 15-2.

Three Voyageurs, Gino Strebing, Talon Kunkel and Colten Boudreau, have been named to the MCAC North All-Conference Team.

#### L-BF baseball team drops 3 at Freeport

The Littlefork-Big Falls baseball team was unable to pick up a victory last weekend in three games at Freeport.

L-BF lost Friday's game against Eagle Valley, 9-4.

The Vikings were led at the plate by Taylor DeLack, who batted 2-3 with a double, an RBI and a run scored, while Tate Promersberger also batted 2-3.

Tommy Manninen picked up the pitching loss, allowing three earned runs in 6 1/3 innings.

L-BF lost its first of two games Saturday to Upsala/Swanville Area, 9-5.

Darian Erickson led the Vikings' batters by going 2-4 with an RBI, while DeLack doubled with 2 RBI.

Evan Wimmer recorded the pitching loss, giving up four earned runs over six innings.

L-BF lost its final game Saturday against Melrose, 13-3.

Peter Franz doubled for the Vikings, while DeLack added a hit with a run scored.

Rylan Henrickson took the mound and picked up the pitching loss, allowing two earned runs over four innings.

L-BF's season record dropped to 1-5. Tuesday's home game against North Woods was postponed.

#### FHS boys golfers fourth at Virginia

The International Falls boys golf team tied for fourth out of 17 teams at Monday's Wilderness Invitational held at the Virginia Golf Course.

Virginia had the top team score of 304, followed by Hermantown (313), Eveleth-Gilbert (319) and the Falls and North Woods, both at 328.

The Blue Devils also had two golfers finish at the top for 18 holes with seniors Alex Lackner and Louie Judnick carding a 69 and 71, respectively.

Broncos senior Brady Walls tied for third at 72 with Superior junior Daniel Burger.

Falls freshman Brady Wright also finished among the top-12 individuals with an 80.

The Broncos' two other golfers whose scores counted toward the team total included sophomore Eric Cann and freshman Riley Nemec, both at 88.

### WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

## RRCC earns MCAC North No. 1 seed

#### Voyageurs to host Region 13B tourney

BY KEVIN BONESKE  
Sports Editor

For the second year in a row, the Rainy River Community College softball team has earned the No. 1 seed in the Minnesota College Athletic Conference's Northern Division and will host the NJCAA Division III Region Tournament.

The Voyageurs, who tied for first in the MCAC North with Mesabi Range at 12-2 in league play, won Friday afternoon's home tie-breaking game for the No. 1 seed over the Lady Norse, 8-3.

"An exciting day – the girls really played well," said RRCC head coach Dieter Humbert. "Fun to watch – they executed. They had timely hits, some big hits, three home runs. Solid pitching again from Oashaja (Dobie), and Marina (Johnson) back there (at catcher) does a real nice job and our defense was solid again."

After giving up two runs to Mesabi Range in the opening inning, the Voyageurs scored four times in the bottom of the first when Dobie hit a three-run homer and Lynsi Emery added a solo home run.

That four-run rally without an out chased Lady Norse starter Elizabeth Anderson out of the pitching circle to be replaced by Shaina Novak, who then got Mesabi Range out of the inning without giving up another run as RRCC stranded three runners on

base.

The Voyageurs scored four more times in the fourth inning after Sam Cantu doubled and scored on a single by Dobie and then Alexis Fancy pounded out a three-run homer.

The Lady Norse were able to plate their final run in the top of the fifth after Anderson drove in a run on a ground out.

Mesabi Range made another pitching change in the bottom of the fifth when Kendra Dallman switched from first base and closed out the game without giving up another run.

Dobie pitched all seven innings to record the win for RRCC, allowing three earned runs on six hits with two walks while striking out 10.

At the plate, Dobie accounted for two of the Voyageurs' nine hits with 4 RBI and two runs scored. Friday marked the first time she batted in a game since having pulled a hamstring April 22 against Northland.

"She's kind of the Adrian Peterson of softball right now," Humbert said of Dobie. "She made an unbelievable recovery from a tough hamstring pull."

Dobie has been named the MCAC North's "Pitcher of the Week," while Fancy received "Player of the Week" honors.

Fancy homered and singled for RRCC with 3 RBI and a run scored. Emery homered and scored twice. Cantu doubled and singled with two runs scored. Rachel Clark added a double.

The top-seeded Voyageurs open the four-team, double-elimination region



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

In front from right, the Voyageurs' Lynsi Emery is greeted at the plate by her teammates after hitting a solo home run in Friday's tie-breaking game for the MCAC North's No. 1 seed against Mesabi Range.

tournament at 10:30 a.m. Thursday against No. 4-seeded Northland.

The winner plays again at 4:30 p.m. Thursday against the winner between No. 2-seeded Mesabi Range and No. 3-seeded Itasca. The two losers of the opening-round games face each other at 2:30 p.m. Thursday.

The team with two losses after Thursday's action will be eliminated, while the tournament resumes Friday for the three teams with one loss or less. The two teams with a loss will face each other at 10 a.m. for the right to play the undefeated team at noon.

The tournament will con-

clude Friday when all but one team has two losses. The region champion advances to the NJCAA Division III National Tournament being held May 15-17 in Rochester.

<b>Rainy River 8, Mesabi Range 3</b>
<b>Mesabi Range 2-0-0 0-1-0 0-3</b>
<b>Rainy River 4-0-0 4-0-0 X-8</b>

### GIRLS SOFTBALL

## Broncos soak Vikings in local rivalry, 15-8

BY KEVIN BONESKE  
Sports Editor

For the first time since 2011, the International Falls softball team has defeated nearby rival Littlefork-Big Falls.

Rain fell during much of Friday's game when the Broncos won at home over the Vikings, 15-8.

"Despite the conditions, (the Broncos) played and they battled through it," said Falls head coach Kevin Gordon. "(After Littlefork-Big Falls) put up some runs, I don't think they were flustered. I think we just stuck with the game plan and put the ball in play."

L-BF scored first in the top of the first on a solo home run by Brooke Millerbernd. The Vikings extended their lead to 2-0 in the top of the second after Breann Larson doubled and scored.

The Broncos then took the lead by tallying six runs in the bottom of the second, which included a grand-slam home run by Cassie Tomczak.

L-BF tied the game at 6-6 in the top of the third by putting together a string of base hits.

The Vikings alternated between Amanda Nelson and Millerbernd for pitchers during the game. Broncos pitcher Teagan Anderson, who threw all seven innings in recording the victory, singled



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From right, the Vikings' Emily Knaeble (1) scores a run as Broncos catcher Emma Johnson stands behind home plate in Friday's game at Falls High School.

and scored in the bottom of the third to put the Falls back in front, 7-6.

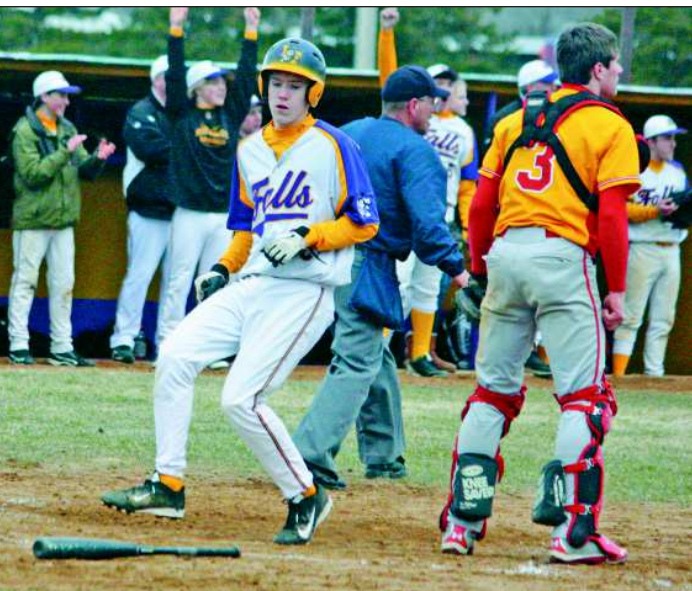
The Falls scored two more runs in the bottom of the fourth before L-BF senior DyAna Imhof hit a solo home run in the top of the fifth.

"I'll give (the Broncos) credit, because they hit

the ball well," said Viking head coach Mike Imhof. "We had a chance to get out of some of the innings, and we didn't make a play."

The Broncos added six more runs before Emily Knaeble singled and scored L-BF's final run in the top of the seventh.

### BOYS BASEBALL



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

At left, the Broncos' Tyler Coffield scores in Monday's home game against Mountain Iron-Buhl.

## Broncos soaked by ME Giants, then down MI-B

### JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Amid Friday's rainfall, the International Falls baseball team lost for the first time this season when the Broncos were officially shut out at home by Mesabi East, 7-0, after five innings.

Unofficially, the Falls scored four runs in the sixth inning, when the Giants added two more runs in the bottom of the frame, before rain halted the game and none of those runs counted.

The Broncos batted first because the game had been scheduled as a home contest for Mesabi East, which didn't have its field ready to play on and the site was changed to the Falls.

The Broncos had only two hits off Mesabi East pitcher Ben Suslavich, who also accounted for three of the Giants' nine hits off of Falls pitchers Jack Bartkowski

and Max Vergeldt.

"One thing that we did extremely poorly against those guys is we ran the bases very bad, and that's typically not Bronco baseball," said Falls head coach Eric Walls, who noted the team ran the bases better in Monday's 14-7 home victory over Mountain Iron-Buhl.

The Broncos' Jakob Eide started on the mound against MI-B and went 4 1/3 innings in recording the win. Vergeldt closed out the final 2 2/3 innings. Hunter Hill took the pitching loss for MI-B.

The Falls led by eight runs before the Rangers cut the deficit to 8-5 in the top of the fifth, which included a three-run homer by MI-B's Billy Gellerstedt.

Jackson Vollom picked up a pair of hits for the Broncos.

Both teams ended up with 12 hits.