

SPORTS



Juniors baseball
Falls sweeps Fort in regular-season finale
B2

QUICK HITS

Backus Rainy Lake Triathlon canceled

The Backus Rainy Lake Triathlon won't be happening this year.

What was supposed to be the third annual triathlon Aug. 9 at City Beach has been canceled.

Ward Merrill of the Backus Community Center, which sponsors the event, said the triathlon has been canceled because of the beach being closed due to flooding and the water quality in the lake.

City Beach presently is closed until further notice.

Triathlon organizer Ken Krueger said the uncertainty of having the lake at City Beach available early next month led to the cancellation.

The triathlon course includes swimming a quarter mile on Rainy Lake, biking 11 miles from City Beach to Jackfish Bay and back and then running 5 kilometers, starting and ending at City Beach on County Road 20.

Though an alternative arrangement was looked into to hold the triathlon by using the Falls High School swimming pool and track, Krueger said that would have resulted in fewer people participating.

Merrill said the approximately 25 people who had already signed up as of last week are getting their registration fees refunded.

Close to 100 people participated in the triathlon last year. Merrill also noted the expense with using a chip timing system wouldn't be financially feasible with only 25-30 entrants.

The Backus Rainy Lake Triathlon is scheduled to return next year on Aug. 8, 2015.

Falls Fusion 18U end season 8-10

The International Falls Fusion 18U softball team played its final games of the season Thursday afternoon and swept Dryden in a home doubleheader.

In game one, the Fusion 18U trailed early before rallying late to defeat Dryden, 10-6.

Teagan Anderson pitched all seven innings to record the win for the Falls, allowing six runs, four earned, on seven hits with a walk while striking out six.

Anderson also led the Falls at the plate with four hits, which included a double and triple, while Janet Humbert, Kerry Meyers, Casey Meyers and Libby Miggins added two hits apiece.

In game two, the Fusion 18U defeated Dryden, 12-2, in five innings.

Marissa Kerry picked up the complete-game pitching victory for the Falls, allowing two unearned runs on two hits with a walk while striking out four.

Grace Bragg led the Fusion 18U at the plate with four hits and 2 RBI, while Emily Treat batted 3-3 with 2 RBI and Casey Meyers had two hits with a triple and 2 RBI.

The Falls closed out the season with an overall record of 8-10.

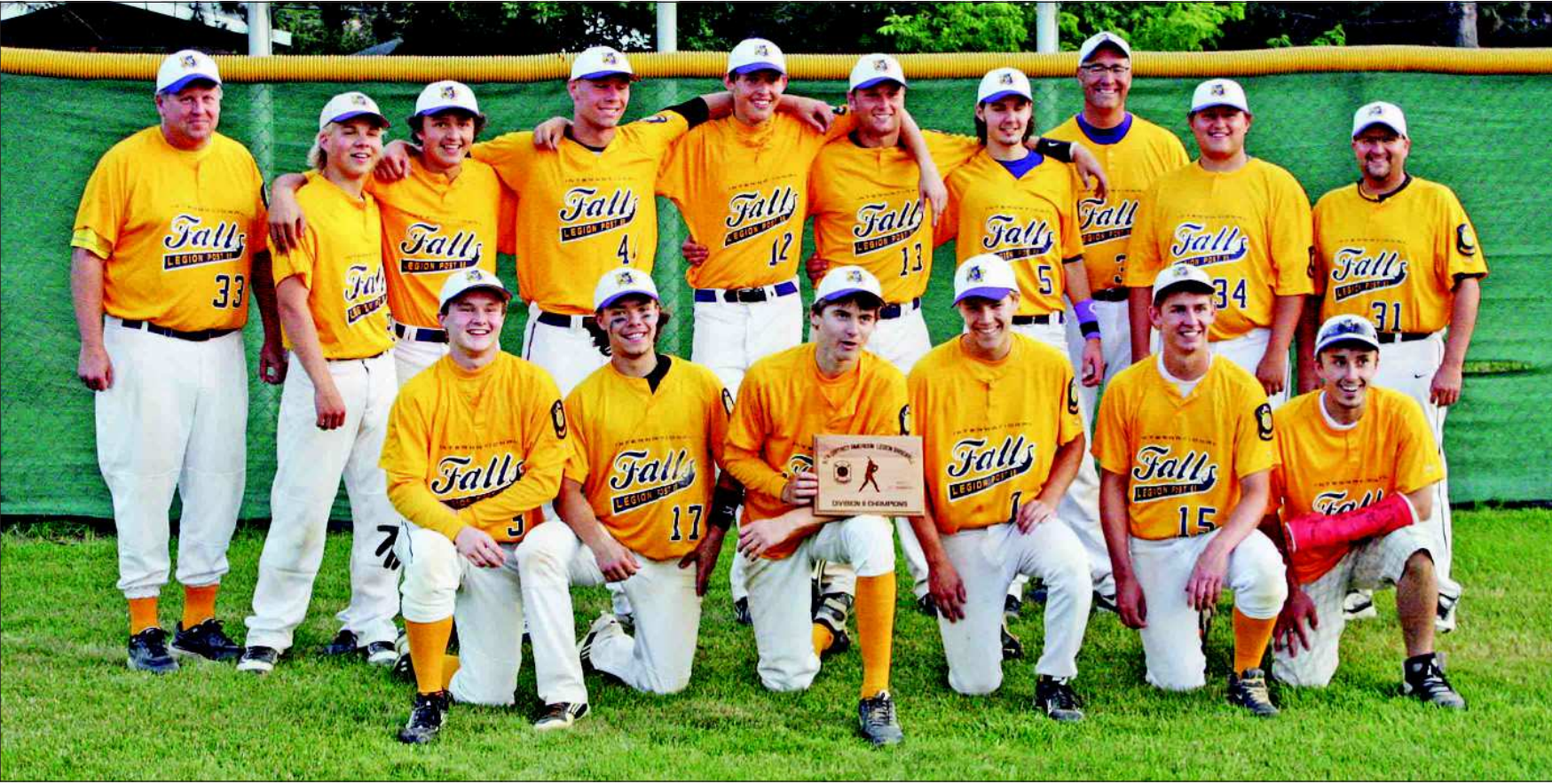
"It was an exciting season – I enjoyed seeing the progress of the girls," said Fusion 18U head coach Dieter Humbert. "We definitely stepped up to the competition and played a really tough schedule."

Junior high football registration Aug. 11

A sign-up for seventh- and eighth-graders interested in playing football this fall will be held at 6 p.m. Aug. 11 in the Falls High School cafeteria.

For more information, contact the Recreation Department at 283-2571, extension 138.

LEGION BASEBALL



STAFF PHOTOS BY KEVIN BONESKE

The International Falls Legion baseball team poses for pictures Sunday after winning the Division II District Eight championship in Ely with a 9-3 victory in the title game over Two Harbors. The Post 66 Broncos advance to the state tournament Aug. 1-3 in Luverne.

STATE TOURNAMENT BOUND!

Post 66 Broncos win district title

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

After falling behind by three runs Sunday evening, the International Falls Legion baseball team rallied for seven runs in the fourth inning and defeated Two Harbors, 9-3, to win the Division II District Eight championship in Ely.

"It was kind of a good thing to see how we were going to react to playing from behind a little bit," said Falls Legion head coach Eric Walls. "It's not a bad thing for Ben (Humbert) to give up a few hits, because we're going to face some tough teams going forward (in the state tournament), but we sure responded nice."

Ben Humbert recorded the complete-game pitching victory for the Post 66 Broncos, allowing three

runs on six hits with two walks while striking out 12.

Two Harbors picked up all three of its runs in the top of the third when Kyle Omtvedt walked and scored, Luke Small singled and scored and Alex Lemke reached base on an error and scored.

The Falls scored its first run in the bottom of the fourth after Gunnar Anderson hit an infield single, Humbert walked and Jackson Vollom doubled to drive in Anderson.

"Jackson Vollom had a big hit," Walls said. "That was a big hit to get us going."

The Falls had a string of six consecutive batters reach base safely as Two Harbors' starting pitcher, Omtvedt, was replaced by Kyler Kinn, who lasted two-thirds of an inning before Small took the mound to get the final out.

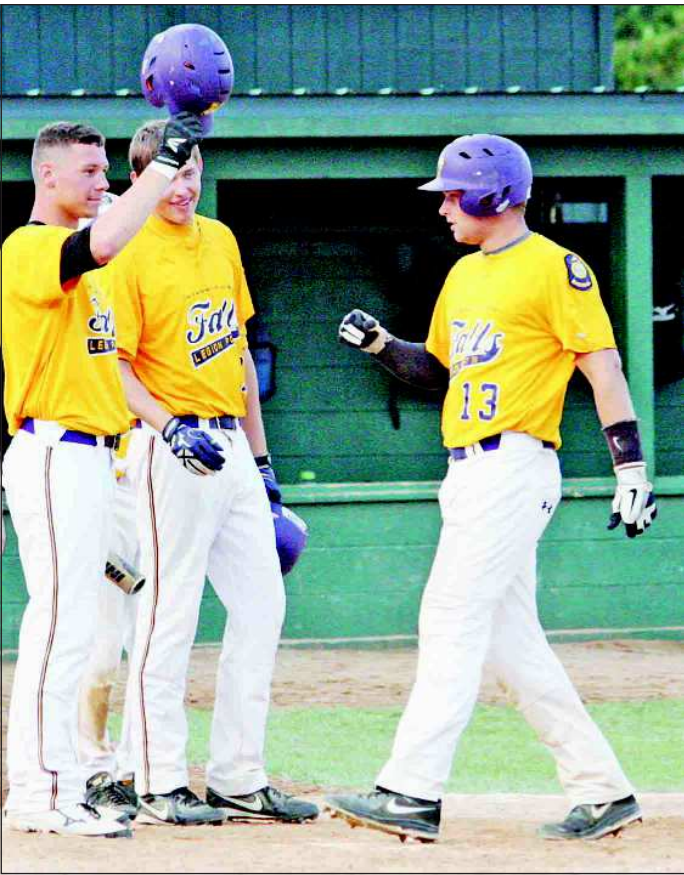
The Post 66 Broncos finished the fourth inning with seven runs on six hits as 12 batters went to the plate.

The Falls added two more runs in the six inning when Anderson recorded his fourth hit of the game with a two-run homer off of Small.

Walls said the Post 66 Broncos, who went undefeated at 4-0 in the double-elimination district tournament, benefited from remaining in the winners' bracket, in which they played fewer games and had all their pitchers available for the title game.

"Being a top seed, and having all your pitchers available, that's sure a positive for us," he said.

The Falls, which resumed Legion baseball this summer for the first time in



From right, the Falls Legion's Gunnar Anderson (13) is congratulated by Jack Bartkowski and Ben Humbert after hitting a two-run homer in Sunday's district title game against Two Harbors.

State to B2 ►

Falls downs Milaca, Two Harbors to advance to title game

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

The International Falls Legion baseball team won a pair of games Friday in Ely on the way to advancing to the Division II District Eight title game.

The Post 66 Broncos picked up their first win of the day and the second victory in the district tournament by defeating Milaca, 5-1.

"Caleb Dahlin pitched it extremely well," said Falls Legion head coach Eric Walls. "We didn't give up many opportunities for them to score."

"We got 10 hits and put enough (offensive) pressure on them. I wish we would have got a big hit early. We loaded up the bases the first two innings and came up empty pretty much."

Dahlin recorded the complete-game pitching victory for the Post 66 Broncos, allowing a run on five hits and two hit batters while striking out eight.

The Falls got on the scoreboard in the bottom of the second when Clay Bergstrom reached base on an error and crossed home plate on a single by Gunnar Anderson. However, the Falls then left the bases loaded for the second



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

In front, the Falls Legion's Jackson Vollom (17) slides safely into home plate below the tag of Milaca catcher Matthew Fransen in Friday afternoon's district tournament game at Ely.

inning in a row after Ben Humbert struck out for the third out.

Jackson Vollom extended the Post 66 Broncos' lead to 2-0 in the bottom of the third after he singled and scored on a single by

Bergstrom.

"In tournament competition, it's always nice to score first and put more pressure on the other team," Walls said.

After Bergstrom attempted a sacrifice bunt

in the fifth inning that resulted in Vollom being tagged out at home, the Falls picked up three more runs when Wyatt Ulrich hit a two-out RBI double, followed by another double from Dahlin that drove

in two more runs and extended the lead to 5-0.

That chased Milaca starting pitcher Brian Kiel from the mound. He gave up five runs and 10 hits in 4 2/3 innings. Kiel was replaced by Ian Carpenter, who closed the game without giving up another run or hit.

Milaca scored its only run in the top of the sixth when Kiel hit a leadoff triple and reached home on an infield ground ball.

FALLS 9, TWO HARBORS 4

In the winners' bracket game that evening, the Falls Legion earned a spot in the championship game after defeating Two Harbors, 9-4.

The Post 66 Broncos got all the runs they needed to win in the bottom of the first, which included a three-run homer by Jack Bartkowski, an RBI double by Humbert and an RBI single by Anderson as part of a five-run opening inning.

"That was a good start putting up a five-spot," Walls said. "That kicked them down. And you've got Humbert out there (pitching for the Falls). He's going to keep it a low-scoring game on their side. We

Legion to B2 ►