

# SPORTS



**Who is...**  
Shelby Wolden, Bronco girls hoops senior guard, is featured

**B2**

## QUICK HITS

### Bronco boys hoops team splits on road

The International Falls boys basketball team split two road games this week. The Falls led by 13 points at halftime Tuesday night and went on to win at Chisholm, 52-40. “We struggled a little bit, but found a way to win,” said Broncos head coach Derek Dowty.



Ben Humbert

The game was tied at 15-15 with about 8 minutes left in the first half before the Falls pulled ahead by double digits and led 34-21 at intermission. Clay Tomczak led the Broncos in scoring with 14 points, which included four 3-pointers, while Ben Humbert added 10 points. Falls’ three-game winning streak was snapped Thursday night after losing on the road to the defending Class AA champion, Esko, 69-44. Dowty noted the Broncos had a scoring lull in the first half that hurt them as they trailed 33-18 at intermission. Jack Bartkowski was the Falls’ only player to score in double figures with 11 points.

### Bronco girls hockey falls 6-2 at Hibbing

The International Falls girls hockey team led twice Tuesday night before losing at Hibbing, 6-2. A first-period goal by Lexi Edwards gave the Broncos a 1-0 lead after the first 17 minutes. After the Bluejackets tied the game in the second period, Valandre Butler scored her first varsity goal to put the Falls back in front, 2-1. Hibbing/Chisholm then added three more second-period goals and scored twice in the third period for the four-goal victory. Kalaya McConnell made 25 saves in recording the loss in goal for the Broncos.

### Two Bronco wrestlers undefeated Thursday

A pair of Bronco wrestlers went undefeated Thursday night when International Falls competed at a meet in Blackduck. Falls sophomore Nick Hedtke won both of his matches, one on a technical fall and the other on a pin. Broncos seventh-grader London Rasmussen went 3-0 on the night. The Falls returns to action Monday night with a meet at Virginia.

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

# Vikings conquer Spartans, then downed by Mountain Iron-Buhl

## L-BF at 2-2

BY KEVIN BONESKE  
Sports Editor

The Littlefork-Big Falls girls basketball team this week ended up winning big at home and losing by an even bigger margin on the road. L-BF’s offense came alive in the second half Tuesday night when the Vikings won at home over Nashwauk-Keewatin, 54-23. “I think defensively we played a full 36 minutes,” said L-BF head coach Dan Beste, who noted the Vikings held the Spartans’ top scorer, Bekka Weller, to six points. L-BF, which led 20-10 at halftime, took the lead for good early in the first half when Kaylee Kennedy made a 3-pointer to break at 4-4 tie. Kennedy led the Vikings in scoring with 27 points and also hauled in seven rebounds. Karly Swenson recorded a

double-double for L-BF with 10 points and 11 rebounds, while Alexis Doucette added nine points and nine rebounds. **MI-B 92, L-BF 23** The Vikings faced the defending Section 7A champion on the road Thursday night when they lost to Mountain Iron-Buhl, 92-23. “(The Rangers) are who we thought they were going to be,” said Beste, who noted MI-B has 8-10 players on the roster capable of playing well. Kennedy accounted for more than half of L-BF’s scoring with 13 points. The Vikings’ season record now stands at 2-2 going into next Tuesday’s home game against Lake of the Woods.

Tuesday’s game	
L-BF 54, N-K 23	
N-K 10 13 - 23	
L-BF 20 34 - 54	

Thursday’s game	
MI-B 92, L-BF 23	
L-BF 11 12 - 23	
MI-B 52 40 - 92	



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From left, the Vikings’ Kaylee Kennedy (4) guards Nashwauk-Keewatin’s Meg Justison (21) in Tuesday night’s game in the Littlefork-Big Falls gym.

## BOYS HOCKEY

# Broncos down Bears with Jackson Vollom hat trick

BY KEVIN BONESKE  
Sports Editor

Jackson Vollom scored all three goals Tuesday night to lift the International Falls boys hockey team to a 3-0 victory over Lake of the Woods at Bronco Arena. “It was a team win – players passing the puck, getting some good chances,” Vollom said of the Broncos’ first home victory of the season. After a scoreless first 17

minutes, Vollom’s first goal in the second period was assisted by Jakob Eide and Nathan Hauke. The Falls pulled in front 2-0 with 13:35 left in the game when Vollom scored assisted by Eide. The Bears pulled their goalie to add an extra skater on the ice late in the third period when Vollom completed his first-ever varsity hat trick with an empty-net goal assisted by Hauke with 12.3 seconds remaining. Lane Skallman made 16

saves to record the shutout victory in goal for the Falls, while Cody Nelson picked up the loss in net for Lake of the Woods. The Broncos, who won their second game in a row to improve to 2-3, returned to action Friday night when they played at Virginia. The also host Duluth Marshall at 3 this afternoon.

IF 3, LOW 0	
LOW 0 0 0 - 0	
IF 0 1 2 - 3	



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From left, the Broncos’ Jackson Vollom (11) celebrates recording a hat trick Tuesday night with Jakob Eide (12). Vollom scored all three goals in the 3-0 home victory over Lake of the Woods.

# Vikings offensive line showing improvement



FILE PHOTO

From left, Vikings quarterback Teddy Bridgewater (5) releases a pass while being rushed by Lions defensive end Ziggy Ansah (94) in the Oct. 12 game at TCF Bank Stadium. Bridgewater was sacked eight times and threw three interceptions in Minnesota’s 17-3 loss to Detroit.

EDEN PRAIRIE (AP) — Two months ago, Matt Kalil and the rest of the Minnesota Vikings offensive linemen were reeling. The Detroit Lions had just sacked rookie quarterback Teddy Bridgewater eight times, relentless pressure that also led to three interceptions, while forcing seven punts and limiting the Vikings to three points. The division rematch has arrived this week, and the Vikings are now down three of their five original starters to injuries. That doesn’t mean they’re anxious, tough, about having again to block Ziggy Ansah, Ndamukong Suh and the rest of that fierce front four the Lions have. “I’m not worried about this game at all,” Kalil said. “I think the guys we’ve got up there are pretty solid.” Ansah has 15 1/2 sacks in 27 career games, 2 1/2 against Kalil and the Vikings on Oct. 12. “I’ve definitely got my hands full, but their other defensive linemen are pretty good, too,” Kalil said. This has been a rough

season for the former fourth overall draft pick, taken by the Vikings in 2012 out of USC, but he has started to play a bit better over the second half of the season despite a persistence of costly penalties. The overall protection for Bridgewater has been better, too, as he’s learned to deliver the ball more quickly without letting the pass rush alter his throws. Bridgewater has taken a total of 13 sacks over the past six games. Most remarkable about the improvement is that the Vikings have done so with a majority of backups. Kalil and center John Sullivan are still intact, but Joe Berger is at right guard for Brandon Fusco and Mike Harris is playing right tackle for Phil Loadholt. Both Fusco and Loadholt are on injured reserve with torn pectoral muscles. Left guard Charlie Johnson hurt his ankle in the last game, too, so Vlad Ducasse is in line to replace him against the Lions. Ducasse started four games for Fusco before Berger took over there.

“It’s a next-man-up mentality. I know Vlad is going to come in and do a great job for us,” Harris said. “This is my third game now. The coaches are expecting me to perform at a high level. Just play ball. That’s it.” Kalil and offensive coordinator Norv Turner, unprompted in separate interviews, each credited offensive line coach Jeff Davidson for his patchwork. “Jeff’s been doing a great job all year of just throwing guys in random spots, getting them used to playing all different positions,” Davidson said. None more than Berger, the veteran now in his 10th NFL season, his fourth with the Vikings. He has been the go-to guy at both guard spots and center when injuries have come up. “He’s kind of the mauler in there,” Kalil said. Special teams coordinator Mike Priefer, speaking about the lack of touch-downs on kickoff returns this year, mentioned missing Berger’s blocking on that unit now that he’s a starter on offense.

## SPORTS SCHEDULE

- Today’s games**  
**Women’s/men’s basketball**  
Western Wisconsin at RRCC, 1/3 p.m.  
**Boys hockey**  
Duluth Marshall at I. Falls, 3 p.m.
- Monday’s games**  
**Boys basketball**  
I. Falls at L-BF, 7:15 p.m.
- Tuesday’s games**  
**Boys swimming and diving**  
Eveleth-Gilbert at I. Falls, 4:30 p.m.  
**Girls basketball**  
Bigfork at I. Falls, 7:15 p.m.  
LOW at L-BF, 7:15 p.m.  
**Girls hockey**  
Eveleth-Gilbert at I. Falls, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday’s games**  
**Women’s/men’s basketball**  
RRCC at Leech Lake, 6/8 p.m.