

SPORTS



Emo Speedway
Depiero gets his first feature win
B2

QUICK HITS

Katie West 30th at state after day one

International Falls senior girls golfer Katie West is tied for 30th after recording an 18-hole score of 86 (43-43) Tuesday in the first of two days competing at the State Class AA Tournament at the Ridges at Sand Creek in Jordan.

West's score is 14 strokes behind the day-one leader, Detroit Lakes junior Sydney Busker, who carded a 72 after recording a 36 on both the front and back nine.

The Broncos also have two boys competing for an individual title at state, senior Brady Walls and sophomore Eric Cann, who began their first 18 holes Tuesday afternoon and had not finished their rounds prior to the production deadline for today's edition.

The final 18 holes of the State Class AA Tournament are scheduled for today.

John Larson leaving L-BF for Warroad job

The Littlefork-Big Falls school district will be looking to fill at least two head coaching positions next year.

John Larson, who was the head football and girls basketball coach last season, said he is stepping down from both positions after being offered a physical education position in Warroad.

Larson, who took over as the head football coach in 2012, compiled a 1-16 record in two seasons in charge of the Vikings' program.

In four seasons as L-BF's head girls basketball coach, Larson had an overall record of 43-50 with most of the Vikings' wins coming the final two seasons of identical 16-7 records.

L-BF presently is accepting applications for the head and assistant football coaching positions as well as a volleyball coaching position for next fall.

Falls forms Fusion 18U softball team

The International Falls Fusion will be splitting into three softball teams this summer.

In addition to once again having 12U and 14U teams, the Fusion will be forming an 18U team comprised of players from Falls High School's softball team this spring.

The 18U team opens the season this afternoon with a doubleheader at Park Rapids.

Following a tournament this coming weekend in Winnipeg, the Fusion 18U will host its first home games June 18 with a doubleheader against Greenway starting at noon.

The Fusion 18U, which will then play a series of road doubleheaders and also at a tournament in Bemidji, won't be scheduled to play at home again until hosting doubleheaders July 16 against Dryden and July 18 against Bemidji.

Bronco Golf Scramble set for June 13 at FCC

The 2014 Bronco Golf Scramble to benefit International Falls' boys and girls golf teams will be held June 13 starting at 4 p.m. at the Falls Country Club.

The event costs \$50 per person and includes golf, a cart and a steak dinner. The event is limited to 72 players. The dinner only is available for \$25.

Proceeds will go toward purchasing equipment for the Bronco golf program. To sign up, call the Falls Country Club at 283-4491.

GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD

Five Broncos medal at state

FHS ties for 23rd in Class A

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The International Falls girls track and field team scored 14 points to tie for 23rd place last weekend when the Broncos earned five medals at the State Class A Meet at Hamline University in St. Paul.

Falls senior Breanna Shofner had the team's best finish in Saturday's finals when she placed fifth in the 200-meter dash (26.35 seconds).

"I'm really excited to get fifth," said Shofner, a state qualifier for the fourth year in a row. "It was my best finish ever at state."

Minneapolis Edison eighth-grader Jia Lewis won the 200 dash in 25.06.

Shofner's preliminary time of 25.8 in Friday's heats was the fourth-fastest overall and also set a new Falls High School record, based on fully automatic timing.

"Breanna Shofner saved the best race of her high school track career for the state meet, running a school record time in the open 200 meters," said Broncos head coach Jen Erickson. "With perfect weather conditions of temps in the 80s, some cloud cover and very little wind, she was able to reach a goal she set for herself last season – a

time in the 25s and her name on the track and field school record board. She was running with a sprained back muscle but she didn't let it slow her down in any of her events."

Shofner also qualified for state for the fourth year in a row in the 100 dash. However, her preliminary time of 12.81 was the fifth-fastest in her heat and 11-hundredths of a second short of the final spot in the finals.

The Broncos picked up two medals in the shot put with junior Savannah Olson placing seventh at 37 feet, 1/4 inch, and eighth-grader Emma Gilbert finishing eighth at 36-10.5.

"I was really proud of myself and my teammate, Emma," said Olson, who exceeded 37 feet on her first throw before having three fouls. "It was really difficult for me, for some reason, to stay in the circle."

Olson, who competed at state for the fourth year in a row and third time in the shot put, last year placed eighth in that event.

"I thought (the) shot put went really well," said Gilbert, who competed at state for the second year in a row and the first time in that event. "I didn't know what to expect."

Gilbert and Olson both had better throws at the Section 7A Meet, which



PHOTOS BY ERIC KRAUSHAR OF THE CHASKA HERALD

From left, the Broncos' Hailey Fentem (9) and Paynesville Area's Kari Hoeft (8) compete in the 100-meter hurdles during Saturday's State Class A Track and Field Meet finals at Hamline University.

Gilbert won with a toss of 39-0, 2 inches ahead of Olson.

At the State Class A Meet, Erickson said Gilbert and Olson "didn't have the weather on their side Saturday when it cooled down for the shot put event."

"Emma was all nerves, and being an eighth-grader in a field of juniors and

Track to B2 ➤



The Broncos' Claire Herzig competes in the pole vault Saturday during the State Class A Track and Field Meet at Hamline University.



The Broncos' Savannah Olson throws the shot put Saturday during the State Class A Track and Field Meet at Hamline University. Olson placed seventh with a throw of 37 feet, 1/4 inch.

JUNIOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Falls sweeps Virginia No. 2 to open season

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

The International Falls Junior League baseball team opened the 2014 season Monday at Scheela Field by sweeping a pair of five-inning games over Virginia's No. 2 team.

"It's always nice to start out and get a doubleheader sweep," said Falls head coach Josh Koenig. "I'm proud of the kids. Both starting pitchers pitched complete games...."

"Both pitchers did the job – threw strikes, got out of some tough situations. Our defense (was) pretty solid overall as well."

In game one, Nathan McRoberts allowed only one hit and a walk while striking out six when the Falls shut out Virginia, 8-0.

The Falls scored its first three runs in the bottom of the second. McRoberts

drove in two of those runs with a triple after Casey Maruk singled and Garrett Koenig walked. Blaine Humbert then grounded out to give the Falls a 3-0 lead.

Another Falls run scored in the bottom of the third after Willie Harala walked and Riley Beck grounded out to bring home Harala.

The Falls added four insurance runs in the fourth inning when Harala, Beck and Maruk each singled.

Maruk recorded three of Falls' six hits.

I. FALLS 6, VIRGINIA 1

In game two, the Falls gave up a run in the opening inning, but scored twice in the bottom of the first and four more times in the fourth inning to defeat Virginia, 6-1.

Trimble Butler picked up the pitching victory for the



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From right, the Falls' Garrett Koenig slides into home plate to avoid the tag of Virginia pitcher Jordan Checco (18) in the second game on Monday's Junior League doubleheader at Scheela Field.

Baseball to B2 ➤