

# SPORTS



**Who is...**  
Zach Simon, Littlefork-Big Falls boys basketball senior forward, is featured

**B2**

## QUICK HITS

### Brady Hjelle back in goal in Norway

After playing his final game in goal late last month for the Tulsa Oilers, Brady Hjelle has returned to Norway to play pro hockey. Hjelle, who last week flew to Oslo to join the Manglerud Star Hockey Team in the GET League, made his debut in net for MS on Sunday in a 3-0 loss to Frisk Asker.

### L-BF boys hoops team downs NR

The Littlefork-Big Falls boys basketball team won its first game of the new year and snapped a four-game losing streak Tuesday night when the Vikings were victorious on the road against Northeast Range, 63-46. Rylan Henrikson led the Vikings with 25 points. Zach Simon added a double-double with 20 points and 13 rebounds.

## SPORTS SCHEDULE

**Today's games**  
**Women's/men's basketball**  
RRCC at Fond du Lac, 1/3 p.m.  
**Girls hockey**  
I. Falls at Moose Lake, 2 p.m.  
**Women's hockey**  
RRCC at Minot State, 8 p.m.

**Sunday's games**  
**Women's hockey**  
RRCC at Minot State, 11 a.m.

**Monday's games**  
**Girls basketball**  
I. Falls at MI-B, 7:15 p.m.  
L-BF at Blackduck, 7:15 p.m.

**Tuesday's games**  
**Boys hockey**  
Two Harbors at I. Falls, 6:15 p.m.  
**Boys basketball**  
I. Falls at Virginia, 7:15 p.m.  
L-BF at Northome, 7:15 p.m.  
**Girls basketball**  
Deer River at I. Falls, 7:15 p.m.

**Wednesday's games**  
**Women's/men's basketball**  
RRCC at Mesabi Range, 6/8 p.m.

## GIRLS HOCKEY

# FHS falls in OT

## Broncos 9-12

BY KEVIN BONESKE  
Sports Editor

After taking a two-goal lead Thursday night at Bronco Arena, the International Falls girls hockey team gave up a pair of third-period goals and ended up losing in overtime to Hibbing/Chisholm, 3-2.

"It was a great high school hockey game," said Broncos head coach Gerald Bolstad. "It was up and down. I thought we kind of went a little defensive in that third period, and I think (the Bluejackets) started smelling it."

"We probably should have been a little more aggressive, forechecking and trying to attack a little bit, but the kids played a whale of a hockey game. It was a great game both ways, and we ended up with a loss."

The Falls scored first 3 minutes into the game on a goal from Kylie Skallman assisted by Morgan



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

**From left, Hibbing/Chisholm goalie Megan Frider (31) and the Broncos' Morgan Rasmussen (5) battle in front of the net for the puck amid a pile of players in Thursday night's game at Bronco Arena.**

Rasmussen and Abby Auran.

The Broncos pulled out to a 2-0 lead with 9:03 left in the second period when Lexi Edwards scored assisted by Jenna Anderson. Those two goals were also the difference in the Falls holding a 14-12 advantage in shots on goal after two periods.

"We moved our feet - we got after it and I thought we broke out a lot easier in the first and second period," Bolstad said. "In the third

period, we kind of struggled. I think we might have got a little tired, but it's just one of those nights where we played good for two periods and the third period we got a little defensive and it ended up costing us."

In the third period and overtime, Hibbing/Chisholm outshot the Falls, 26-4.

The Bluejackets tied the game in the third period on two goals within 1:20 by Mallorie Iozzo.

In overtime, Hibbing/

Chisholm called timeout with 1:59 remaining and 4 seconds later put in the game-winning goal when Amy Brownell scored assisted by Raini Heyblom and Sara Fairbanks.

The Bluejackets' Megan Frider made 16 saves to record the win in goal. Kailaya McConnell stopped 35 shots in a losing effort in net for the Broncos.

The Falls, which lost for the second time this season to Hibbing/Chisholm, dropped to 9-12 going into

today's game at Moose Lake.

"We know we can beat anybody in this section, so that's a good thing," Bolstad said. "We know we can beat Hibbing, and they're one of the top teams, so you take that and run with it. It's a tough loss, but you need to get better, and we're getting better."

H/C 3, IF 2 (OT)	
H/C	0 0 2 1 - 3
IF	1 1 0 0 - 2

## BOYS BASKETBALL

# Broncos bag Golden Bears, avenge IRC loss

BY KEVIN BONESKE  
Sports Editor

Ben Humbert recorded a triple-double with 21 points, 15 rebounds and 11 assists and Jack Bartkowski registered a double-double with 19 points and 10 rebounds Tuesday night to pace the International Falls boys basketball team to a 77-61 victory over Eveleth-Gilbert in the Falls High School gym.

"A big win for us," said

Broncos head coach Derek Dowty, who noted the victory avenged the Falls' only Iron Range Conference loss this season. "They had beaten us the last three games."

"We came out and we played well. I thought they shot the ball well, but defensively I thought we played pretty well."

The Broncos led by as much as eight points in the first half when Humbert made a layup off of a steal to give the Falls a 19-11 advantage.

The Golden Bears then cut their deficit to a single point with a 7-0 scoring run capped off by a jump shot by Austin Erickson. The Falls was able to stay in front and held a 27-25 lead at halftime.

The Broncos took advantage of scoring opportunities inside in the second half as they pulled in front by double digits and outscored Eveleth-Gilbert in the final



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

**From left, Eveleth-Gilbert's Kyle Kvitek (24) dribbles along the perimeter while being guarded by the Broncos' Allen Johnson (4) in Tuesday night's game in the Falls High School gym.**

18 minutes, 50-36.

"We just keep getting the ball inside and going to the

rim," Dowty said. "We got the ball a lot to Ben at the high post, and he was able

to attack and either score or dish it off."

Wyatt Helgeson also scored in double figures for the Falls with 15 points.

The Golden Bears were led in scoring by Mark Tikkanen with 18 points. Erickson added 14 points with Kyle Kvitek scoring 11 more.

The Broncos improved their season record to 12-4 going into Friday's home game against Mesabi East.

IF 77, E-G 61	
E-G	25 36 - 61
IF	27 50 - 77

**E-G:** Joe Addy 2, Austin Erickson 14, Mark Tikkanen 18, Charlie Ryan 2, Austin Toivola 9, Kyle Kvitek 11, Evan Brinkman 2, Emillio Strie 3. 3-pointers: Erickson, Tikkanen, Toivola, Strie. Free throws: 13-18. Fouls: 16. Fouled out: Erickson.

**IF:** Jack Bartkowski 19, Allen Johnson 4, Wyatt Helgeson 15, Ethan Phung 2, Max Vergeldt 6, Clay Tomczak 8, Ben Humbert 21, Dylan Holt 2. 3-pointers: Helgeson, Tomczak. Free throws: 15-21. Fouls: 15.

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## BOYS SWIMMING AND DIVING

# FHS Broncos fall to Golden Bears

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

John Cowman won the 100-yard breaststroke in 1 minute, 18.74 seconds, and Cole Tatsak had the top score of 140.9 points in the diving competition, but those were the only first-place finishes Tuesday for the International Falls boys swimming and diving team, which lost its home dual meet to Eveleth-Gilbert, 85-62.

"We haven't had a lot of dual meets, so we put (the Bronco swimmers) in a bunch of different events (Tuesday)," said Falls coach Hailey Silvers. "They swam a lot of new

events. They're still learning a lot."

The Golden Bears, who swam the final three varsity events for exhibition purposes only without scoring any points, jumped out to a big lead with first-place finishes in the first eight swimming events.

The Falls recorded runner-up finishes in the individual events from Jared Hunter in the 200 individual medley (2:45.01), Gary Harala in the 50 freestyle (27.46) and Alex Belanger in the 100 butterfly (1:08.81).

The Broncos also had a runner-up finish in one of the three relay events with Harala, Cowman, Hunter



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

**The Broncos' John Cowman swims to a first-place finish in the 100-yard breaststroke in 1 minute, 18.74 seconds, during Tuesday's home dual meet against Eveleth-Gilbert.**

and Tatsak placing second in the 200 medley relay (2:10.85), four tenths of a second behind Eveleth-Gil-

bert's winning time.

The Falls' next varsity meet is set for Jan. 29 at Chisholm.