

SPORTS



Backus Rainy Lake Triathlon
Swim/bike/run set for Aug. 9

B2

QUICK HITS

Humbert retiring from RRCC coaching

Longtime Rainy River Community College softball and women's basketball head coach Dieter Humbert has announced that he is retiring from both positions to be able to spend more time watching his own children play sports.



Dieter Humbert

"I want to see my kids play," said Humbert, who noted this coming school year he will have three children in grades 7-12 playing sports. "It's been a great run (coaching at the collegiate level)."

Humbert has been a head women's basketball coach at RRCC for more than 20 seasons, which have included two NJCAA region titles and one national championship. This past season, the Voyageurs qualified for the Region 13B Tournament after tying for fourth in the Minnesota College Athletic Conference's Northern Division.

In more than a decade as RRCC's head softball coach, Humbert led the Voyageurs to two NJCAA national tournaments, including the team placing sixth nationally in Division III this past season.

Though Humbert noted he will be leaving his head coaching positions at the college, he continues to be involved with coaching this summer with the International Falls Fusion 18U softball team and Legion baseball team.

He said he will "never say never" to someday returning as a head coach at the collegiate level, but has no plans to do so until his children are through with school.

Shermoen named Falls athletic director

A finalist for school superintendent at International Falls was hired Monday by the Falls School Board to an assistant principal/athletic director position.

Beth Shermoen, who has been an elementary school teacher in the district, will begin the assistant principal/athletic director position July 1 when current dean of students/athletic director Kevin Grover becomes the next superintendent.

Grover, one of the three finalists for superintendent along with Shermoen and Gwen Carman from Grand Marais, took over the school's athletic director duties this past school year from Don Rolando.

Fusion 18U softball team opens season

The International Falls Fusion 18U softball team played its first games of the season last weekend at a rain-shortened tournament in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The Fusion 18U, able to finish two games, opened the tournament losing to the Saskatchewan Cubs, 11-4.

Teagan Anderson recorded the pitching loss. In three innings, she allowed all 11 runs, seven earned, on nine hits with a walk while striking out three.

At the plate, Lexie Graves recorded a hit for the Falls.

In the second game, the Fusion 18U lost to the Brandon Magic, 6-2.

Marissa Kerry pitched five innings in a losing effort, allowing six runs, one earned, on five hits with six walks while striking out four.

Anderson picked up a hit for the Falls.

The Fusion 18U's record is 0-2 going into today's home doubleheader against Greenvay.

JUNIOR LEAGUE BASEBALL



STAFF PHOTOS BY KEVIN BONESKE

In front from right, the Falls' Nathan McRoberts dives back to first base where Mesabi East's Hunter Flom reaches for the ball in the second game of Monday's doubleheader at Scheela Field.

Falls sweeps past Mesabi East

Juniors now 4-0

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

Though the visiting dugout was soaked with water, Scheela Field was in playing condition after last weekend's rainfall when the International Falls Junior League baseball team swept a pair of five-inning games Monday against Mesabi East.

In game one, Nathan McRoberts threw a no-hitter when the Falls shut out Mesabi East, 10-0.

"(Throwing a no-hitter) doesn't happen very often, and I'm pretty proud how he's pitched," said Falls head coach Josh Koenig, who also noted McRoberts pitched a one-hitter a week earlier against Virginia's No. 2 team. "He's doing a really nice job of getting ahead of his batters, getting first-pitch strikes and getting to 1-2 counts on the hitters. That's helping him tremendously."

The Falls led by only a run in the second inning when Casey Maruk



In front from left, the Falls' Trimble Butler tags out Mesabi East's Aaron Collins (2) at third base for the final out in the first game of Monday's doubleheader at Scheela Field.

doubled, advanced to third on an error and scored on a wild pitch.

Mesabi East starting

pitcher Brennan Scott worked two-plus innings before the first two Falls batters reached base in the

bottom of third and he was relieved by Robby Parendo.

The Falls then rallied for seven runs with Maruk

driving in the first two runs with another double as the first nine batters reached base without an out.

"Casey Maruk got a double that kind of sparked us with 2 RBI, and then hitting becomes contagious," Koenig said. "Once one kid starts to hit, then the others start believing that they can do it."

The Falls added two more runs in the fourth inning. Maruk led off with a single for his third hit of the game and then scored on an single by Garrett Koenig, before McRoberts walked and scored on a wild pitch.

McRoberts, who threw five strikeouts, allowed only six runners on base with five walks and one hit batter.

I. FALLS 5, ME 2

In game two, Riley Beck took the mound for the first time this season when he scattered two hits and six walks while striking out nine over five innings to record the pitching victory as the Falls defeated Mesabi East, 5-2.

"Anytime your defense is playing well behind you, it gives a pitcher a lot of

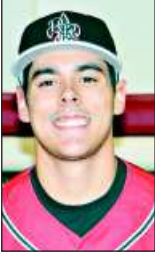
Baseballto B2 ➤

2014 RRCC baseball team awards announced

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Rainy River Community College baseball team, which qualified this past season for the Region 13 Tournament for the first time in program history, has announced its awards for 2014 when the Voyageurs finished 17-21 overall and 7-5 in the Minnesota College Athletic Conference Northern Division.

The team awards and the recipients include:



Gino Strebing



Colten Boudreau

- Big Bat Award (Best Offensive Player), shortstop Colten Boudreau.
- Golden Glove Award

(Best Defensive Player), third baseman Makana Canda.

- Most Improved Player, catcher Sean Deviney.
- Most Dedicated Player/Hustle Award: pitcher/first baseman Talon Kunkel.
- Cy Young Award (Best Pitcher), pitcher/utility fielder Gino Strebing.
- Most Valuable Player, Strebing.

Strebing was also named the MCAC North's "Player of the Week" in Week 2. Catcher

Dyan Zayas picked up the conference's player of the week honors in week seven.

In addition, Strebing received MCAC All-Division, MCAC All-State and Region 13 honors. Boudreau also was named to the MCAC All-Division team.

Strebing, who used his sophomore year of eligibility this past season and is one of seven RRCC baseball players moving on, will be playing next year at St. Scholastica.

Boudreau, Kunkel, Deviney and Zayas will be among 11 players who plan to return in 2015 along with outfielder Tanner Helms, second baseman Victor Rodriguez and five other pitchers – Stephen Rivera, Jose Pedraza, Jake Schulte, Joseph Hudson and Kris Barber.

Boudreau, Kunkel and Deviney will be the team captains in 2015.

RRCC has "fall ball" practice in September.

Three local runners enter 38th Grandma's Marathon

Six others in half marathon

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Three runners with local addresses will be among the thousands in the Duluth area on Saturday to run 26.2 miles along north shore of Lake Superior in the 38th annual Grandma's Marathon.

The local runners who have registered are all fe-

males and range in age from 18 to 34 with the youngest being Katie Fort, a 2014 Littlefork-Big Falls graduate who played on the Vikings' softball team this past season.

The oldest entrant, Stacy Harris, and Essa Eide, both from International Falls, ran last year in the Garry Bjorklund Half Marathon, which also takes place in the Duluth area on the same morning as the Grandma's

Marathon.

Last year's overall winner of Grandma's Marathon, Bazu Worku of Ethiopia, finished in 2 hours, 11 minutes, 14 seconds. The 2013 top female, Sarah Kiptoo of Kenya, set the women's course record in 2:26:31. The overall course record of 2:09:37 was set by Dick Beardsley in 1981.

Saturday's Grandma's Marathon begins at 7:45 a.m. just outside of Two Harbors and finishes in Duluth's

Canal Park.

GARRY BJORKKLUND HALF MARATHON

The 13.1-mile Garry Bjorklund Half Marathon has six runners registered from International Falls.

The four female runners range in age from 26 to 45 and include: Mallory Crane, 26; Tina Sather, 38; Terry Mason, 40; and Barb Owen-Boerger, 45.

Both male runners are over age 60 and include:

James Wood, 63; and Len Peterson, 67.

John Klecker of Minnetonka placed first in the 2013 Garry Bjorklund Half Marathon in 1:09:19. Last year's top female was Mary Davies of Houston, Texas, who finished in 1:11:07.

Saturday's Garry Bjorklund Half Marathon begins at 6:15 a.m. It is run on the second half of the Grandma's Marathon course.