

SPORTS



Who is...
Tommy Manninen, Viking boys hoops senior forward, is featured

B2

QUICK HITS

L-BF girls hoops team up to 4-2

The Littlefork-Big Falls girls basketball team is entering the holiday break with a 4-2 record after two lopsided victories this week. L-BF cruised Tuesday night to a 50-18 home victory over Lake of the Woods. Kaylee Kennedy led the Vikings with 24 points and also had eight rebounds and nine steals. Breann Larson picked up a double-double for L-BF with 10 points and 14 rebounds. On Thursday, the Vikings won big on the road over Greenway, 69-29. L-BF had three players score in double figures led by Kennedy with 24 points. Larson added 14 points and Karly Swenson scored 12 more. The Vikings don't play again until Jan. 5 when they host Mesabi East.

RRCC women's hoops team beats LLTC 65-50

The Rainy River Community College women's basketball team won on the road Wednesday night over Leech Lake Tribal College, 65-50. The victory improved the Voyageurs' season record to 4-5 going into this weekend's Central Lakes Tournament, in which RRCC is playing its final two games before the holiday break.

Fort Frances shuts out English River

The Fort Frances Lakers tallied four goals in the second period and got a shutout from a new goalie, Nathan Park, when they blanked the English River Miners, 5-0, in Thursday evening's Superior International Junior Hockey League matchup at Ear Falls Arena. After a scoreless first 20 minutes, Fort Frances scored four second-period goals in about 4 minutes to take control of the contest. Colton Spicer scored first with his 12th goal of the season at 6:52 of the second period. Lakers Forward Mason Meyer of International Falls then scored a shorthanded goal about a minute and a half later. The Lakers added to their lead at 9:23 of the second period when Carter Chorney scored, while Marco Romano added another goal 1:43 later. Matt Vela capped off the scoring for Fort Frances in the final period as the league-leading Lakers won for the 21st time this season. Park stopped all 24 shots he faced in his SIJHL debut. Greg Harney made 27 saves in a losing effort for the Miners. Fort Frances returns to action tonight at 7:30 when the Lakers host the Thunder Bay North Stars at Ice for Kids Arena.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Today's games
Women's/men's basketball
RRCC vs. Fergus Falls at Central Lakes Tournament, 12/2 p.m.
Girls hockey
I. Falls at Fergus Falls, 2 p.m.
Girls basketball
I. Falls vs. Hermantown at Esko Tournament, 2:15 p.m.
Boys hockey
Kittson Central at I. Falls, 3 p.m.

Tuesday's games
Boys basketball
I. Falls at Duluth Denfeld, 7:15 p.m.

Friday's games
Girls basketball
I. Falls at Esko Tournament, TBA

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Falls hammers Bigfork, chops down Bemidji

FHS now 6-0

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

The International Falls girls basketball team remains undefeated after two more victories this week. After trailing early in the first half Tuesday night, the Falls waged a comeback and ended up winning big at home over Bigfork, 77-53. "I guess we were trying to feel out the other team, but I wish we would have started out a little quicker," said Broncos head coach Shawn Gilbert. The Huskies took advantage of early outside scoring opportunities when a 3-point basket by Brianna Haley gave them an 18-11 lead. The Falls then capitalized on Bigfork's turnovers. The Broncos pulled in front with eight consecutive points capped off with a layup by Janet

Humbert to lead 19-18. The half ended with the Falls in front, 32-22. "We were trying to get some fast-break points, get some turnovers, and it seemed like we settled down and relaxed a little bit, but it just seemed like it took a little bit longer than we're used to," Gilbert said. The Broncos took control in the second half and extended their lead, which increased to more than 30 points as substitutes saw playing time in the final minutes of the game. The Falls had three players score in double figures led by Maddie Filipiak with a game-high 19 points. Teagan Anderson added 16 points with Cassie Tomczak scoring 13 more. Lexi Becker led Bigfork with 12 points, while Brianna and Tiandra Haley each added 10 points. **I. FALLS 68, BEMIDJI 47** The Broncos' season record improved to 6-0



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

In front from left, the Broncos' Cassie Tomczak (21) and Bigfork's Kia Tower (1) battle for the ball in Tuesday night's game in the Falls High School gym.

Thursday night with a 68-47 victory at Bemidji. Anderson led the Falls with a game-high 28 points, which included eight 3-point baskets. Emma Gilbert added 16 points. Kelsey Olson led Bemidji with 14 points, while Rumer Flatness also scored in double figures with 13 points. The Broncos have another game this week when they face Hermantown at 2:15 p.m. today to open the Esko Tournament, which will wrap up Dec. 26-27.

Tuesday's game
I. Falls 77, Bigfork 53
Bigfork 22 31 - 53
I. Falls 32 45 - 77
I. Falls: Maddie Filipiak 19, Shelby Wolden 2, Bianca Carlson 7, Cassie Tomczak 13, Teagan

Anderson 16, Jena Sullivan 6, Emma Gilbert 4, Bailey Milette 7. 3-pointers: Anderson 3, Filipiak 2. Free throws: 20-36. Fouls: 17.

Thursday's game
I. Falls 68, Bemidji 47
I. Falls 34 34 - 68
Bemidji 29 18 - 47
I. Falls: Maddie Filipiak 6, Shelby Wolden 3, Bianca Carlson 4, Teagan Anderson 28, Janet Humbert 5, Jena Sullivan 6, Emma Gilbert 16. 3-pointers: Anderson 8, Gilbert. Free throws: 7-13. Fouls: 17.

GIRLS HOCKEY



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From left, the Broncos' Jenna Anderson (17) and Eveleth-Gilbert's Katie Scherf (14) battle for the puck in Tuesday night's game at Bronco Arena. Anderson scored two goals in International Falls' 5-0 victory over the Golden Bears.

Broncos shut out E-G Golden Bears

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

After a scoreless opening period Tuesday night, the International Falls girls hockey team picked up three goals in the second period and added two more in the final 17 minutes to shut out Eveleth-Gilbert, 5-0, at Bronco Arena. "I thought the first period we were a little iffy — I thought we just didn't execute very well," said Falls head coach Gerald Bolstad. "I think the second period we kind of got our heads in the game and started getting after it. We just kind of skated them into the ice and made them start taking penalties. "We played good, though. It was a nice win and Kalaya (McConnell) got a shutout, so that's good." Lexi Edwards got the Broncos on the scoreboard with an unassisted goal early into the second period. Jenna Anderson then re-

corded her first of two goals for the evening assisted by Lexi Erickson and Clara Palm. The Falls picked up its third goal on the power play with 4:25 left in the second period when Amber Tilander scored assisted by Edwards and Erickson. Anderson's second goal came with just over 11:30 remaining in the game on an assist by Emily Saari. Erickson scored the final goal with around 5 minutes left to play assisted by Saari and Anderson. The Broncos outshot the Golden Bears, 54-14, with Kalaya McConnell recording the shutout victory in goal. The win improved the Falls' season record to 4-6 going into Friday's road game against Wadena-Deer Creek. The Broncos also play this afternoon at Fergus Falls.

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E-G 0 0 0 - 0
IF 0 3 2 - 5

BOYS BASKETBALL

Vikings conquer Raiders in second half comeback

L-BF at 3-5

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

After being tied at half-time Thursday night, the Littlefork-Big Falls boys basketball team ended up entering the holiday break on a winning note. The Vikings won at home over Greenway, 58-51. "It was a tough-fought win for us," said L-BF head coach Jeff Maish. "We really didn't settle in defensively until the second half when we started to take the center away a little bit and force (the Raiders) to shoot from the outside." Greenway led for the first half of the first half until a layup by Vikings senior Zach Simon tied the game and then a free throw by Peter Franz with 8:28 left before half-time gave L-BF an 11-10 lead.

The Raiders pulled back in front and led by as much as seven points at 24-17 after a layup by Adrian Warner-Gould, but then could only put in two free throws from Ben Skaar in the final 4 minutes before intermission as L-BF senior guard Rylan Henrikson sank a field goal to close out the scoring and tie the game at 26-26 at halftime. Greenway got off to the good start in the second half when the Raiders pulled back in front by seven points. But after Skaar made a layup to give the Raiders a 37-30 advantage, the Vikings began to capitalize on Greenway's turnovers and went on a 13-0 scoring run capped off by a



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

In front from right, the Vikings' Rylan Henrikson drives into the lane while being guarded by Greenway's Ben Skaar (3) as Evan Skaar looks on in back during Thursday night's game in the Littlefork-Big Falls gym.

Ryan Bobst layup following a steal as L-BF never trailed again before the final buzzer. "Going into this game we knew that's what we needed to do to create some offense was to get some fast-break points and get some easy layups," Maish said. "The first half we weren't into that yet, and in the second half we kind of caught our groove a little bit and were able to advance the ball quick and get some easy buckets." Henrikson, who found multiple scoring opportunities close to the basket, led three L-BF players scoring in double figures with a game-high 18 points. Simon added 15 points, while Evan Wimmer scored 10 more.

Warner-Gould led Greenway with 15 points, while Skaar also scored in double figures with 10. The Vikings, who improved their season record to 3-5, won't return to action until Jan. 2 when they host Mountain Iron-Buhl.

L-BF 58, Greenway 51
Greenway 26 25 - 51
L-BF 26 32 - 58
Greenway: Sam Skaar 7, Ben Skaar 10, Adrian Warner-Gould 15, Jaymeson Wahlstrom 2, Austin Minke 3, Sam Jensen 2, Evan Skaar 4, Anton Oviduct 1, Terr Webb 7. 3-pointers: Warner-Gould 3, S. Skaar, Minke. Free throws: 4-9. Fouls: 24.
L-BF: Rylan Henrikson 18, Evan Wimmer 10, Tommy Manninen 6, Peter Franz 1, Ryan Bobst 8, Zach Simon 15. 3-pointers: Simon 2. Free throws: 20-29. Fouls: 14.