

SPORTS

GIRLS HOCKEY

Broncos to host Section 7A quarterfinal versus Silver Bay Area Mariners

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Section 7A girls hockey playoff pairings have been finalized with International Falls receiving the No. 3 seed and will host the No. 6 seed, Silver Bay Area, in the quarterfinal game starting at 7 p.m. Thursday at Bronco Arena.

The quarterfinal winner will advance to the semifinal game at 8 p.m. Feb. 11 in Cloquet to face the No. 2 seed, Hibbing/Chisholm.

The other half of the section pairings has the No. 4 seed, Moose Lake/

Willow River, hosting No. 5-seeded Eveleth-Gilbert in a quarterfinal game Thursday night. That quarterfinal winner advances to the semifinal game in Cloquet at 6 p.m. Feb. 11 to face top-seeded Proctor/Hermantown.

The semifinal winners will face each other in the Section 7A title game in Cloquet at 6 p.m. Feb. 14. The section winner advances to the Class A State Tournament, which will be held Feb. 19-22 at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul and Ridder Arena in Minneapolis.



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From left, the Broncos’ Cole Miggins (12) looks to pass the ball inside while being guarded by Virginia’s David Wrenn (0) during Monday night’s game in the Falls High School gym.

BASKETBALL

► continued from B1

Cole Miggins, who ended up with 16 points, completed a 3-point play from the charity stripe.

The Blue Devils’ David Wrenn, who scored 12 points, responded with a jump shot to cut the deficit to two points, before the Broncos found Max Vergeldt open near the basket for a pair of layups to lead by six, 69-63.

Virginia’s Tom Prittinen, who had 14 points, missed both free throws with 23.5 seconds left as both teams subsequently sank a pair of free throws before time expired.

The win put the Falls’ season record above the .500 mark at 11-10 overall and

also avenged a 70-66 loss at Virginia on Jan. 3.

“(Monday night) I thought we played some playoff basketball, so we’ve just got to stay at this level, keep improving from here and get ready for the end of February,” Dowty said.

The Broncos’ next game is Feb. 11 at Mountain-Iron Buhl.

Int’l Falls 71, Virginia 65
Virginia 33 32 - 65
Int’l Falls 35 36 - 71
Virginia: David Wrenn 12, Darby Maloney 2, Jacob Quick 6, Cal Arberg 21, Bryce Negen 5, Ricky Sipila 4, Tom Prittinen 14. 3-pointers: Arberg 2, Negen. Free throws: 6-13. Fouls: 17. Fouled out: Negen.
Int’l Falls: Cody Hallin 5, Cole Miggins 16, Jack Bartkowski 2, Max Vergeldt 9, Clay Tomczak 5, Ben Humbert 34. 3-pointers: Hallin, Miggins, Tomczak, Humbert. Free throws: 17-18. Fouls: 14.

SIJHL HOCKEY

Lakers drop North Stars, stop English River

Lucas DeBenedet records 3 goals, 2 assists in wins

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Superior International Junior Hockey League’s leading point producer in Fort Frances forward Lucas DeBenedet, a 2013 International Falls High School graduate, scored once and set up two other goals Friday evening to help lead the Lakers past the visiting Thunder Bay North Stars, 4-1, at Ice for Kids Arena.

The game was scoreless until the 16:04 mark of the opening period when Bryce Lipinski scored his 16th goal of the season to put the home team up by one after 20 minutes.

Fort Frances extended its lead at 16:21 of the second period when Lyndon Lipin-

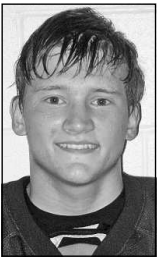
ski scored what turned out to be the eventual game-winning goal.

After DeBenedet made it 3-0 via the power play at 6:36 of the third period, he then fed Lyndon Lipinski for his second goal of the night at 11:25 to put the Lakers up by four.

The North Stars’ Daniel Del Paggio dashed Fort Frances goalie Devin Tappenden’s shutout bid 28 seconds later with Thunder Bay’s lone goal of the night while also extending a consecutive game point streak to 21 straight outings.

Tappenden picked up the win in goal by making 29 stops on the evening.

Nathanial Dupuis turned aside 31 of 35 shots fired his



Lucas DeBenedet

way in a losing cause for the North Stars.

LAKERS 7, MINERS 3

The Fort Frances trio of Bryce Lipinski, Kevin Kurm and Lyndon Lipinski combined for nine points while Tappenden made 29 saves to help lead the Lakers past the visiting English River Miners, 7-3, Saturday evening in SIJHL play at Ice for Kids Arena.

Fort Frances stormed out to a quick 3-0 lead in the first period on goals by DeBenedet, Lyndon Lipinski and Kurm.

John Morales put the Miners on the scoreboard late in the period to make it a 3-1 game after 20 minutes.

After Morales notched his second goal of the night on a power play at 3:28 of the second period, the Lakers answered back with four goals in a 12-minute span to take control of the contest.

Patrick Sofer, DeBenedet,

Bryce Lipinski and Miles Nolan each scored for Fort Frances in the outburst.

Vincent Currao added one late in the game for the Miners to round out the scoring.

Shots on goal favored the Lakers, 46-32, with Tappenden picking up the win.

P.D. Melgoza started in the net for English River and suffered the loss after allowing four goals on 20 shots in just over 26 minutes of work. Greg Harney turned aside 23 of 26 in relief for the Miners.

Fort Frances returns to action at 7:30 p.m. today in a road game against the Minnesota Iron Rangers.

Friday’s game		
Fort Frances 4, Thunder Bay 1		
Thunder Bay	0	0 1 - 1
Fort Frances	1	1 2 - 4
Saturday’s game		
Fort Frances 7, English River 3		
English River	1	1 1 - 3
Fort Frances	3	4 0 - 7

BOYS HOCKEY

FHS Broncos devoured by E-G Golden Bears

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

After starting Friday night’s game by giving up four unanswered goals, the International Falls boys hockey team lost at home to Eveleth-Gilbert, 6-3.

The Golden Bears took a 2-0 lead after the first period on a pair of goals by Zach Skelton.

Eveleth-Gilbert added two more goals in the second period from Mitch Huffman and John Martinson, before Broncos got on the scoreboard with 5:25 left in the period when Wyatt Boyum shot from long range and trickled the puck past Golden Bears goalie Grant Kokal.

Eveleth-Gilbert went back in front by four goals when Nick Pryzbylski scored 2:08 into the final period.

The Falls scored 36 seconds later on a goal from Jackson Vollom assisted by Clay Bergstrom and Jordan Tilander.

Huffman added his second goal to close out the Golden Bears’ scoring, while the Broncos’ final goal came on the power play midway in the final period when Jakob Ettestad scored assisted by Brady Walls.

Wyatt Ulrich made 26



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From right, the Broncos’ Jackson Vollom (11) battles along the boards for the puck with Eveleth-Gilbert’s Jared Oakman (17) in Friday night’s game at Bronco Arena.

saves in recording the loss in goal, while Kokal stopped 28 of 31 shots to pick up the victory in net.

The Falls’ season record stood at 5-14-1 going into Tuesday afternoon’s home

game against Lake of the Woods.

Results of Tuesday’s game, which finished after the production deadline for today’s edition, are posted on the www.ifallsjournal.com website and will also be published in Saturday’s paper.

Eveleth-Gilbert 6, Int’l Falls 3		
Eveleth-Gilbert	2	2 2 - 6
Int’l Falls	0	1 2 - 3

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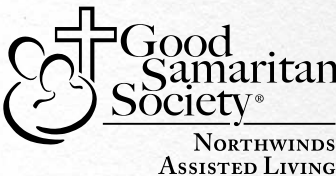
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