

SPORTS

FUSION 12U WINS TIER 9 STATE TITLE



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The International Falls Fusion 12U softball team went 5-0 at a 16-team 12U tournament last weekend in St. Cloud to win the Minnesota Tier 9 state championship and also advance to the Class B Northern National Tournament that begins Thursday in Eagan. From left, team members shown include, first row, Amber Tilander, Kerry Meyers, Marissa Kerry. Second row, Macey Marcotte, Libby Miggins, Mariah Leahy, Faith Black. Third row, Holly Wold, Gina Auran, Taylor Sears. Fourth row, coaches Mike Leahy, Jeff Kerry, Joe Black.

COACH

➤ continued from B1

nobody’s fault here, the distance here (for away events) is quite a bit greater than many places.

“The coaches that are also classroom teachers — whether they’re a head coach, an assistant coach, things like this — can be out of the classroom quite a number of times in the school year.”

Nelson said he appreciated the amount of time coaches who are teachers spend with students, but “some districts really have a greater issue with coaches and teachers needing to leave the classroom earlier in the day than other districts, and so we’re one of them.”

“It really creates quite an issue with a coach being gone quite a number of times through the school year and then substitutes come in to replace those coaches,” he said. “So there’s frustrations from students. I’ve had parents call.”

As for the answer about what to do about teachers who are out of the classroom for coaching activities, Nelson said that will be up to the board to decide.

He said he would like to promote having district staff members being “the first choice for our coaches, instead of having somebody outside of the school system,” though an issue exists with teachers being gone to coach.

Nelson recommended the matter be addressed before the next board meeting, “because we need to get coaches in place before the next season.”

Board chairman Darrell Wagner said an advantage of having teachers coach is their availability to student athletes.

Holden added the district has “been operating like this for a long time. I mean, years.”

However, board member Dena Wenberg said, “(Teachers who coach) need to be available to the students in the classroom, too.”

The board has already approved the varsity head and assistant coaches next season for all the Broncos’ fall sports — football, volleyball, boys and girls cross country and girls swimming and diving — but has only approved some of the coaches for the winter and spring sports.

In the winter sports, for example, the board last

month approved rehiring the girls hockey head coach and two assistants, the boys head basketball coach and an assistant and the girls head basketball coach, Shawn Gilbert.

However, Boyle’s rehiring as an assistant girls basketball coach remains on hold, and none of the boys hockey coaches have yet to be hired for next season. The board voted 6-0 Monday not to re-new Bruce Elson as the head boys hockey coach.

The district’s current policy for coaches/advisors notes they are hired on a yearly contract and also states, “In the event a varsity coach’s contract is not recommended to be renewed in accord with M.S. 122a.33 and M.S. 122a.58, all assistant coaching positions in that sport or activity shall be declared vacant and shall be posted in accord with the collective bargaining agreement between ISD 361 and EdMN Local 331.”

When a vacancy occurs in a head coaching position, the policy further states that assistant coaching contracts will not be renewed until a head coach is hired to allow the assistant coaches to apply for the head coaching position.

EMO SPEEDWAY

Leek, Davis, Westover clean-sweep winners

BY ANTHONY LEEK  
For The Journal

It was hot and humid Saturday, but that didn’t stop fans from all over the area from enjoying the racing action at the Emo Speedway when the AMSOIL Dirt Track Racing Series took the stage once again for the WISSOTA Midwest Modifieds, WISSOTA Modifieds and Emo Street Stocks.

There were a couple of heats for the WISSOTA Midwest Modifieds with Christopher Leek taking the win over Matt DePiero while Brady Caul claimed the second heat race over Chuck Lambert.

In the Street Stocks, Ron Westover came from fourth to take the heat win with Wes Morriseau finishing second.

The WISSOTA Modifieds had Jamie Davis take the heat win after starting sixth with Gavin Paull finishing sixth.

The WISSOTA Midwest Modifieds feature had several movers as Leek vaulted from eighth to second in the first several laps. Caul took the early lead and it looked like he was going to seal the

race win. A caution came out, however, and changed the race leader as Leek was able to get underneath Caul the following lap.

An incident happened between the two leaders in which Caul was unable to continue the race. After several more cautions, the race finished up with Leek taking his third win of the year and Brody Strachan having an amazing race after starting in the ninth position to finish second. Lambert rounded out the top three.

In the Street Stocks feature, the low car count didn’t stop the excitement as Westover moved up from fourth again to battle for the top spot with Anthony Visser. However, it was Westover who would eventually claim the lead and the win for his fourth win of the season. Chris Shine finished in the third position.

The WISSOTA Modifieds also had an exciting feature as well with Paull and Davis duking it out for over half the race until Davis was able to get by Paull for the lead.

The two cars raced clean the whole time and did

whatever they could to take the advantage. Steve Nordin was also in the hunt early on and finished up the feature race in third. Davis has become the fourth different driver in six races at the track in the WISSOTA Modifieds to win.

Racing resumes next Saturday with hot laps at 7 p.m. and racing at 7:30 p.m. The Bicycle Races — Dash for Cash will be during intermission.

JULY 13 SUMMARY

WISSOTA Modifieds

**Feature** — Jamie Davis, Gavin Paull, Steve Nordin, Tyler Brown, Ron Korpi, Denny Trimble, Gary Wilson, Lindsay Bourre.

**Heat** — Davis, Paull, Brown, Nordin, Korpi, Trimble, Wilson, Bourre.

WISSOTA Midwest Modifieds

**Feature** — Christopher Leek, Brody Strachan, Chuck Lambert, Cody Ossachuk, Bill Reimer, Jake Rea, Matt DePiero, Tylar Wilson, Ken Perry, Brady Caul.

**Heat 1** — Leek, DePiero, Ossachuk, Wilson, Strachan.

**Heat 2** — Caul, Lambert, Perry, Rea, Reimer.

Street Stocks

**Feature** — Ron Westover, Anthony/Richard Visser, Chris Shine, Wes Morriseau, Devin Brown.

**Heat** — Westover, Morriseau, Shine, Brown, Visser.

2013-14 RRCC MEN’S HOOPS RECRUITS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rainy River Community College has announced the recent signing of two men’s basketball players for the 2013-14 season. At left, Will Anderson, of Fort Frances, plans to major in a sports-related field. At right, John Reller, of Littlefork, plans to major in the fitness/health field. Also shown at center is RRCC men’s basketball head coach Jack Cook.

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Grand Opening Celebration

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Wednesday, July 24, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

- Event will kick off with a ribbon cutting ceremony
- Tours of the new facility will be provided during the event

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