

SPORTS

QUICK HITS

Mason Meyer scores twice in Lakers' win

The Fort Frances Lakers scored four power-play goals Saturday night when they defeated the English River Miners, 5-3, in Superior International Junior Hockey League action at Ear Falls Arena.

The Miners had the only two goals of the first period when Eric Champagne and Joel Warkentin each scored at 8:20 and 10:12, respectively.

Lakers forward Mason Meyer of International Falls then scored two power-play goals to tie the game at 2-2 in the second period, when Fort Frances outshot English River, 23-11, over those 20 minutes.

Miles Nolan opened the scoring for the Lakers in the third period with a power-play goal of his own at the 5:55 mark, assisted by Dylan Kooner and Matt Vela, before Miners forward Richard Dartnall tied the game at 16:04.

Fort Frances then took the lead for good when Nolan scored unassisted for his second power-play goal of the period with 2:39 left to play. Dylan Kooner netted his third goal of the season to seal the victory for the Lakers in the final minute on an empty-net effort. Total shots on goal favored Fort Frances, 39-25.

The Lakers don't return to action again until Nov. 25 they host the Dryden Ice Dogs at the Ice For Kids Arena.

Jake Youso records two assists for HC

Holy Cross men's hockey senior forward Jake Youso of International Falls recorded his first two points of the season Friday with a pair of assists in the Crusaders' 5-4 overtime loss to Army, in which he was named the game's third star.

Youso, who has appeared in all 12 games for Holy Cross in 2014-15, also has 23 shots on goal, two blocks and been assessed two minor penalties for 4 minutes.

The Crusaders, who are 3-5-4 overall this season, don't play again until Nov. 25 when they host Bentley.

Drew Fisher scores goal in Oilers' win

Tulsa Oilers forward Drew Fisher of International Falls scored his third goal of the season Friday when the East Coast Hockey League team won at home over Rapid City, 6-4.

The victory proved costly for Tulsa, however, with Fisher sustaining a lower-body injury and missing Saturday's home game against Missouri, which defeated the Oilers, 7-4.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Thursday's games
Girls hockey
Bemidji at I. Falls, 7:30 p.m.

Friday's games
Women's/men's basketball
RRCC at Vermilion Tourney, 2/4 p.m.
Boys basketball
Northome at L-BF, 7:15 p.m.
I. Falls at Deer River, 7:15 p.m.

Saturday's games
Women's/men's basketball
RRCC at Vermilion Tourney, TBA
Girls hockey
Detroit Lakes at I. Falls, 3 p.m.
Women's hockey
RRCC at NDSU, 7 p.m.

Sunday's games
Women's hockey
RRCC at NDSU, 9 a.m.

MEN'S BASKETBALL



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From left, the Voyageurs' Jammere Carlisle (2) dribbles inside while being guarded by Fond du Lac's Quantay Goods during Friday's game in the Mesabi Range Tip-Off Classic.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

RRCC defeats FdL, MRC to open season undefeated

Voyageurs 2-0

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

The Rainy River Community College women's basketball team is undefeated after the opening weekend with a pair of victories at the Mesabi Range Tip-Off Classic.

Trailing by double digits in the first half Friday afternoon, the Voyageurs cut the deficit to three points at halftime and went on to win their season opener over Fond du Lac, 66-58.

"It's the tale of two halves. In the first half, I

think it was a feel to get to know one another (on the team)," RRCC head coach Adam Rotar said after winning his coaching debut with the Voyageurs. "We've done things in practice, but a game is totally different story. Basically, that's what we were trying to get a feel for and finally that happened with about 2 minutes left in the first half.

"In the second half, we continued to do that with a little bit of ups and downs, but we got the win."

The Voyageurs opened the second half with a pair of field goals from Shania Thompson to take the lead, which changed hands seven

times after halftime before RRCC took the lead for good midway through the second half on a 3-pointer by Renee Pantophlet. The Voyageurs took their largest lead of the game at 64-52 inside the final 5 minutes.

RRCC shot better from the field in the second half, making 16 of 32 (50 percent) attempts, compared to going 8-26 (30.8 percent) in the first half.

The Voyageurs had five players score in double figures led by Sarina Phrathep with 15 points. Thompson added 14 points, Dominique Hines and Pantophlet each

Basketball to B2 ►

Voyageurs storm past the Thunder, score late to slip by Mesabi Range

RRCC now 2-0

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

The Rainy River Community College men's basketball team opened the 2014-15 season with a pair of victories at last weekend's Mesabi Range Tip-Off Classic.

An early double-digit deficit turned into a double-digit victory Friday when the Voyageurs won their season opener over Fond du Lac, 87-75.

"We really have a lot to work on, but it was very encouraging to see the guys come out and play with so much energy and just have fun out there," RRCC head coach Kristofer Babler said after winning his coaching debut with the Voyageurs. "They've been waiting a long time to get on the court, and we're happy to walk out with a win. Fond du Lac played a pretty good game against us (Friday)."

RRCC trailed 23-13 before the midway point of the first half, then battled back and took the lead

before halftime when Samuel Stirgus sank a 3-pointer and Jammere Carlisle tipped in a basket just before the buzzer to give the Voyageurs a 48-45 advantage at intermission.

RRCC, which had all 12 players on the roster see time on the court, remained in front until about the midway point of the second half when Thunder forward Dillon Johnson sank a 3-pointer to give Fond du Lac a 57-56 lead. A layup by Carlisle then put the Voyageurs back in front as RRCC went on a 16-4 scoring run to lead by double digits with 6:11 to play.

"We really preach pace, pace, pace to try to wear down teams, and I don't think (the Thunder) were quite ready for what we were doing," Babler said. "These guys work awfully hard, and they're in pretty good shape. I could have played a shorter bench, but it's so important to get those guys game experience for right now."

Stirgus and Carlisle

Voyageurs to B2 ►



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From right, the Voyageurs' Renee Pantophlet (14) dribbles past Fond du Lac's Renee Klassen (30) during Friday afternoon's game in the Mesabi Range Tip-Off Classic.

BOYS BASKETBALL PREVIEW

L-BF seeks conference title, top-3 Section 7A playoff seed

Vikings graduate two top starters

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

Following last season's 10-12 finish, which included three losses to nearby rival Bigfork, the Littlefork-Big Falls boys basketball team will be seeking to finish atop the Northern Lakes Conference standings in 2014-15.

The Vikings, the NLC runner-up with a 4-2 conference record, had entered the postseason with 5-1 in the final six regular-season games, before ending the 2013-14 campaign with their third lost to the conference-champion Huskies in the

Section 7A Tournament.

Jeff Maish enters his ninth season as L-BF's head coach with the key graduation losses from last season being guard Taylor DeLack, a 1,000-point career scorer, and center Jacob Franz, who averaged 12 rebounds per game and now plays for the Rainy River Community College men's basketball team.

"Both players were key not only on the court, but also in the locker room as well," Maish said.

Maish's list of top returning players includes senior guard Rylan Henrickson, who enters the season 168 points shy of 1,000 for his high school career, along with three other seniors, guard Zach Simon and for-

wards Tommy Manninen and Evan Wimmer.

Maish said the strengths of this year's team include a "never-quit attitude, speed (and a) great group of seniors who can pick up where Taylor and Jacob left off."

Along with playing one game at a time, Maish said the team goals this season include being the conference champions and securing a top-three seed in the Section 7A playoffs.

He noted the teams to watch out for this season include Mountain Iron-Buhl and North Woods in the section and Greenway and Deer River in the conference.

The Vikings open the season at home Friday against Northome.

BOYS BASKETBALL PREVIEW

Broncos seek state trip

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

After losing only one starter from last season to graduation, the International Falls boys basketball team will be seeking to go to the Class AA State Tournament in 2014-15.

Guard Cody Hallin, who averaged 8.3 points per game last season, was the only starter of the six players gone to graduation. The reserve players who graduated include guard Andrew Snyder, forwards Cory Netland, Paul Skoglund and Brandon Barras and center Ricky Fogelberg.

"All the seniors will be missed," said Broncos head coach Derek Dowty, who is entering his sixth season in charge of Falls' boys basketball program.

In 2013-14, the Broncos had an overall record of

13-14 and ended the season with a loss to Proctor in the Section 7AA quarterfinals.

Dowty's list of top returning players includes the following three seniors:

■ Forward Ben Humbert, who already holds the school records for career points (1,595) and rebounds (1,022). Last season, Humbert averaged 21.2 points, 14.2 rebounds, 4.4 assists and 1.9 steals per game.

■ Forward Jack Bartkowski, who averaged 9.3 points, 5.6 rebounds and 4.3 blocks per game.

■ Guard Cole Miggins, who averaged 9.9 points and 3 assists per game.

With eight seniors on the roster, Dowty said this season's team is strong in height, rebounding and depth. He is concerned the most about injuries.

The Broncos open the season Friday at Deer River.