

SPORTS



Voyageurs basketball
RRCC men, women lose to Vermilion

B2

QUICK HITS

Ben Gordon named Player of the Week

The Central Hockey League announced Monday that Tulsa Oilers forward Ben Gordon of International Falls has been selected as the CHL Player of the Week for the period ending Jan. 12. Gordon earned Player of the Week honors for the second time this season.

In the last four games, Gordon scored four goals and dished out four assists while helping the Oilers to victories in three of the four contests.

Gordon scored a power-play goal Jan. 7 in Tulsa's 3-0 victory at Rapid City.

In Friday evening's home game, Gordon had a pair of assists in the Oilers' 5-2 win over the Brampton Beast.

Saturday night on home ice, Gordon recorded his second hat trick of the season to help lift the Oilers to a 7-2 victory over the Beast.

The 28-year-old Gordon capped off the four-game stretch Sunday by registering his third straight multi-point game with two assists in a 6-5 home loss to the Allen Americans.

Gordon, who has seen time at left wing and center this season, ranks fourth in the CHL with 49 points (21 goals, 28 assists) and is third in the league with 145 shots on goal.

L-BF boys hoops beat Remer, lose to N/K

Friday's night 66-54 home victory over Northland Remer proved costly for the Littlefork-Big Falls boys basketball team.

The Vikings, who led 37-21 at halftime, lost senior guard Taylor DeLack, who left the game with a sprained ankle with about 9 minutes to play.

Despite missing about half of the second half, DeLack ended up with 19 points. Junior guard Rylan Henrickson led L-BF with 24 points, while senior center Jacob Franz added 12 points.

"We dominated the ballgame," said Vikings head coach Jeff Maish. "We played a very good physical game."

On Monday night, the Vikings were without DeLack when they trailed by 13 points at halftime and ended up losing on the road against Northome/Kelliher, 93-45.

Franz led L-BF with 13 points, while Henrickson scored 12 more.

GIRLS HOCKEY

Broncos win 3 games in 3 days

Falls downs Crookston in overtime

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

The International Falls girls hockey team followed up Thursday's 4-2 victory at Eveleth-Gilbert with two more wins to close out the week.

On Friday, the Broncos scored a goal in each period when they won a road game against Park Rapids Area, 3-1.

"We dominated the game," said Falls head coach Gerald Bolstad. "We had trouble scoring – we had 38 shots and only three goals – but we played our butts off and played really well and deserved to win that one."

Amy Auran scored first for the Falls with Amber Tilander adding a second-period goal and Lexi Erickson giving the Broncos a 3-0 lead in the third period, before Park Rapids finally scored in the final minute. Katie West assisted two of the Falls' three goals.

Keanna Carlson made 19 saves to pick up the victory in goal for the

Broncos.

INT'L FALLS 2, CROOKSTON 1 (OT)

Tilander scored the game-winning goal assisted by Abby Auran with 4:24 left in overtime Saturday afternoon to lift the Falls to a 2-1 victory over Crookston at Bronco Arena.

"It was just a gutsy performance," Bolstad said. "The kids were really tired. That third period you could just see we were having trouble getting the loose pucks, but we just battled and the kids finally got rewarded at the end."

The Pirates' only goal came 50 seconds into the opening period when Macy Strem scored assisted by Annie Hajostek.

West forced overtime when she scored unassisted with 4:02 to play in regulation.

The Falls outshot Crookston, 33-11, with Taylor Fish picking up the win and Lexie Cormican recording the loss in goal.

"We're just having trouble putting the puck in the net," Bolstad said. "I don't have a magic wand to figure that out, but I think a lot of it is we get too deep on rebounds and stuff. We've got to get



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From left, the Broncos' Katie West (15) congratulates Amber Tilander on scoring the game-winning goal in overtime against Crookston on Saturday afternoon at Bronco Arena.

our forwards to back out a little bit, so we have more of a chance to put the puck in the net."

Following the three wins last week, the Broncos improved their season record to 9-6-2 going into Tuesday night's home

game against Lake of the Woods. Results from that game, which took place after the production deadline for today's edition, are posted on the ifallsjournal.com website and will also be published in Saturday's paper.

Friday's game			
Int'l Falls 3, Park Rapids 1			
Int'l Falls	1	1	1-3
Park Rapids	0	0	1-1

Saturday's game			
Int'l Falls 2, Crookston 1 (OT)			
Crookston	1	0	0-1
Int'l Falls	0	0	1-2

GIRLS BASKETBALL



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From left, the Vikings' Kaylee Kennedy (4) dribbles the ball while being guarded by the Timberwolves' Marlee Muhvich (5) in Monday night's game in the Littlefork-Big Falls High School gym. Kennedy scored 14 points in L-BF's 55-36 victory over Ely.

Vikings tame Timberwolves inside

L-BF now at 7-1

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

The inside game of the Littlefork-Big Falls girls basketball team was more effective against a zone defense Monday night than the outside game of Ely.

The Vikings led by 17 points at halftime and went on to defeat the Timberwolves, 55-36, in the L-BF High School gym.

"Our defense was playing tough," said Vikings head coach John Larson. "We gave up a couple of real long 3-pointers that they were able to hit. I give them credit because they were able to sit there and make the ones they made, but our defense giving up 36 points is not bad."

More than half of Ely's points (21) came from behind the arc with Marlee and Erin Muhvich each making three 3-pointers and leading the Timberwolves in scoring with 13 points apiece.

All three of L-BF's 3-pointers came from freshman guard Kaylee Kennedy, who scored a game-high 14 points. Senior center Abby Thompson also had 14 points, while senior forwards Brooke Millerbernd added nine points and Dyana Imhof scored eight more.

"We hit a couple of outside shots, which is nice to see, but there were still times where we could have taken it to the basket," John Larson said. "We just settled for an outside jumper. It's something that we need to work

on and get better, especially when they sat there and had a couple of fouls on their big girls inside. We need to make sure that we go after them and try to pick up a couple of more fouls on them."

The win improved the Vikings' season record to 7-1. L-BF returns to action Thursday at Cherry and also has a make-up road game Friday against Mesabi East.

L-BF 55, Ely 36	
Ely 12 24 - 36	
L-BF 29 26 - 55	
Ely: Marlee Muhvich 13, Shayla Zaverl 2, Natalie McDonald 3, Adrianna Witttrup 3, Taylor Soghigian 2, Erin Muhvich 13. 3-pointers: M. Muhvich 3, E. Muhvich 3, McDonald. Free throws: 5-8. Fouls: 14.	
L-BF: Kate Knaeble 2, Kaylee Kennedy 14, Dyana Imhof 8, Breann Larson 8, Abby Thompson 14, Brooke Millerbernd 9. 3-pointers: Kennedy 3. Free throws: 6-16. Fouls 7.	

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Broncos win big at Hibbing, 62-40

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The International Falls girls basketball team remained undefeated in the Iron Range Conference on Friday night with a 62-40 win at Hibbing.

Three Broncos scored in double figures led by Cassie Tomczak with 14 points, while Maddie Filipiak and Teagan Anderson added 12 points apiece.

Chanowa Sellman led the Bluejackets in scoring with eight points.

The Falls made eight 3-pointers, compared to two for Hibbing, and also outshot the Bluejackets from the charity stripe, 16-20 (80 percent) to 14-24 (58.3 percent).

The Broncos improved their season record to 4-0 in the IRC and 8-2 overall going into Tuesday night's game at Warroad.

Int'l Falls 62, Hibbing 40	
Int'l Falls 30 32 - 62	
Hibbing 17 23 - 40	
Int'l Falls: Maddie Filipiak 12, Shelby Wolden 4, Madeline Dahle 7, Lexi Owen 1, Cassie Tomczak 14, Teagan Anderson 12, Janet Humbert 2, Jena Sullivan 4, Emma Gilbert 4, Bianca Carlson 2. 3-pointers: Anderson 4, Tomczak 2, Filipiak, Dahle. Free throws: 16-20. Fouls: 18.	



Cassie Tomczak

BOYS BASKETBALL

Broncos come back to defeat Mesabi East

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

After trailing by five points at halftime, the International Falls boys basketball team waged a second-half comeback to win Friday night at Mesabi East, 70-64.

The Broncos had three players score in double figures led by Ben Humbert with 25 points, followed by Jack Bartkowski with 16 and Cole Miggins with 13. Humbert recorded a double-double by also hauling in 19 rebounds.

The Falls, which made only one 3-point basket in nine attempts the entire game, shot 24-62 (38.7 percent) from the field overall

and 21-30 (70 percent) from the free-throw line.

The Broncos improved their season record to 5-8 going into Tuesday night's home game against Hibbing.

Int'l Falls 70, Mesabi East 64	
Int'l Falls 31 39 - 70	
Mesabi East 36 28 - 64	
Int'l Falls: Allen Johnson 2, Ben Humbert 25, Cody Hallin 6, Cole Miggins 13, Jack Bartkowski 16, Max Vergeldt 8. 3-pointers: Hallin. Free throws: 21-30. Fouls: 19.	



Ben Humbert

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Today's games
Women's/men's basketball
Northland at RRCC, 6/8 p.m.

Thursday's games
Boys swimming/diving
I. Falls at Mesabi East, 4:30 p.m.

Girls basketball
I. Falls at Eveleth-Gilbert, 7:15 p.m.

L-BF at Cherry, 7:15 p.m.

Girls hockey
Warroad at I. Falls, 7:30 p.m.

Friday's games
Girls basketball
L-BF at Mesabi East, 7:15 p.m.
Boys basketball
I. Falls at Proctor, 7:30 p.m.
Boys hockey
I. Falls at Detroit Lakes, 7:30 p.m.
Girls hockey
I. Falls at Silver Bay, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday's games
Boys swimming/diving
I. Falls in IRC True Team Meet at Grand Rapids, 9:30 a.m.
Women's/men's basketball
RRCC at Itasca, 1/3 p.m.
Girls/boys basketball
I. Falls at Two Harbors, 1/2:30 p.m.
Women's hockey
North Dakota State vs. RRCC at Bronco Arena, 7 p.m.