

SPORTS

QUICK HITS

L-BF football team ends season winless

The season came to an end for the Littlefork-Big Falls football team on Wednesday night when L-BF lost at Bigfork, 52-14. The Vikings, who remained winless at 0-8, were in need of a victory to have any hope of making the playoffs. They needed to finish in the top eight of the Section 7 nine-man football rankings and ended up with the No. 9 seed in the QRF ratings, in which Northeast Range is seeded No. 8 at 1-7 with the Nighthawks' only victory coming against L-BF. Kelliher/Northome received the Section's top seed with an 8-0 record.

Kelly Blair to be recommended for FHS head golf coach

Two years after playing her senior season on the Bronco girls golf team, Kelly Blair could become the next head coach of both the boys and girls teams. A recommendation to hire Blair for the 2014 season is on Monday's International Falls School Board agenda. If approved, she would replace Bill Mason after 18 years in the position. Blair, who was a state qualifier in 2011 and missed out qualifying for state again in 2012 after losing a playoff at the section tournament, has also played golf at Bemidji State University. The board will also consider a recommendation to hire Steve Johnson as the assistant boy and girls golf coach, a new position being added for next season. Two assistant coaching positions for Falls' 2013-14 winter sports will be up for board consideration, one for the third time. A recommendation to rehire Jay Boyle as the assistant girls basketball coach had previously been put on hold twice by the board amid concern over the situation with teachers who coach being out of the classroom and substitutes having to fill in for them. Boyle, a math teacher at Falls High School, has coached all three seasons as the head football coach, assistant girls basketball coach and an assistant track and field coach. Following the elevation of Ross Johnson from an assistant to the head boys hockey coach, Eric Olson is being recommended to fill the vacant assistant position. Tom Biondich has already been rehired as the other assistant.



Kelly Blair



Jay Boyle

Broncos pass past Titans

FHS enters the playoffs at 4-4 overall

For the first time since 2006, the International Falls football team has finished the regular season without a losing record. The Broncos enter next Tuesday's Section 7AAA quarter-final game at Two Harbors with a 4-4 record overall and 3-3 in the Sea Range Conference following Wednesday night's 38-20 home victory over Greenway/Nashwauk-Keewatin. "I'm just very happy to get back to that .500 mark," said Falls head coach Jay Boyle. "It's been too long for us."

The Titans scored first with 8:50 to play in the opening quarter on a 58-yard touchdown run by Damon Meza. GNK remained in front 6-0 after the pass for the 2-point conversion failed. "Unfortunately, we gave up an easy one when we weren't ready for it, but we were able to make the adjustments and hold them for most of the rest of the game," Boyle said. After the Broncos stopped the Titans on downs near midfield, Falls quarterback Jakob Eide connected with Cody Hal-lin for the a 50-yard



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

Broncos quarterback Jakob Eide (15) throws a pass with Jakob Ettestad (32) blocking in Wednesday's home game against Greenway/Nashwauk-Keewatin. Eide completed five passes for 150 yards and three touchdowns.

Football to B3 ➤

CROSS COUNTRY



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

In front from left, the Broncos' Lexi Erickson, Amy Auran and Sydney Raboin take off from the starting line to begin Tuesday's Iron Range Conference Championships at the Hoyt Lakes Golf Course. Erickson, Auran and Raboin each finished in the top 15 to earn All-Conference honors.

Broncos girls second at IRC meet

Three FHS girls All-Conference

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

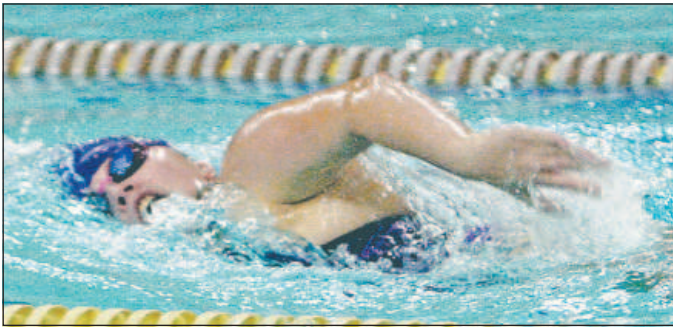
Three girls cross country runners from International Falls earned All-Conference honors Tuesday when the Broncos placed second as a team at the Iron Range Conference Championships held at the water-saturated Hoyt Lakes Golf Course. Falls' runners finishing the 4,000-meter course in the top 15 to be on the IRC's All-Conference team included: freshman Lexi Erickson, second in 15 minutes, 57.7 seconds; senior Sydney Raboin, fourth in 16:22.7; and senior Amy Auran, 11th in 17:04.9. Grand Rapids senior Erin Baker finished 9 seconds ahead of Erickson to be the IRC's individual champion. Rapids won the conference team title with the top score of 41 points, followed by the Falls (69), Mesabi East (90), Ely (125) and Greenway/Nashwauk-Keewatin (136) rounding out the top five out of nine teams. The Broncos' two other runners whose finishes

Cross country to B2 ➤



From left, the Broncos' Wyatt Ulrich and Cole Tatsak run together in Tuesday's Iron Range Conference Championships. Ulrich came in 23rd, while Tatsak finished 25th.

GIRLS SWIMMING AND DIVING



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

The Broncos' Courtney Klow swims to a first-place finish in the 200-yard freestyle during Tuesday's home dual meet against Northeast Range.

Broncos fly past NR Nighthawks

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

In the final home meet of the season for Parents' Night, the International Falls girls swimming and diving team won 11 of 12 events and also picked up nine runner-up finishes Tuesday when the Broncos dominated their dual meet against Northeast Range, 132-49. "We knew Northeast Range didn't have a big team, so the seniors got to choose whatever they wanted to swim," said Falls head coach Jill Herzig. "We had two all-senior relays and then everyone else got to swim what I wanted them to swim. "Most of them didn't swim their normal events, so they got to try something new." The Broncos' top short-distance freestyle swimmer this season, senior Breanna Shofner, became the second-fastest girl in FHS history to swim the 100-yard butterfly by winning the event in 1 minute, 7.85 seconds. Val Beach set the school record of 1:06.1 in 1981. Shofner also won the 50 freestyle (27.32) with senior Blair Johnson finishing second in 28.47. Broncos senior Courtney Klow was a double individual winner by placing first in both the 100 freestyle (1:04.41) and 200 freestyle (2:23.13). Shofner, Johnson, Klow and Falls' other senior, Logen Amundsen, placed runner-up in both the 200 medley relay (2:19.76) and

200 freestyle relay (1:58.9). Broncos sophomore Abby Kostiuik and freshmen Emma Misner, Emily Saari and Claire Herzig won the 200 medley relay (2:12.35), while Kostiuik, Misner, Claire Herzig and junior Tayler Hebner placed first in the 200 freestyle relay (1:56.54). Kostiuik added a first-place finish in the 100 backstroke (1:07.07), while Claire Herzig won the 100 breaststroke (1:22.08) and came in second in the 200 individual medley (2:54.4), the only event the Falls didn't win. Broncos sophomore Abby Auran won the 500 freestyle (6:37.13) and added a runner-up finish in the 200 freestyle (2:26.35). Auran, Misner and freshmen Carolann Stone and Josie Bates won the 400 freestyle relay (4:23.29), while Johnson, Kostiuik, Hebner and sophomore Megan Herrly were a half second behind them in second place. Hebner added a runner-up finish in the 100 freestyle (1:05.23). The Broncos had the only divers compete in the dual meet with junior Jessie Hell winning with 139.2 points, followed in second by junior Kylie Skallman at 114.25. Falls' next meet won't be until Oct. 24 at Mesabi East. "We'll have one more dual meet at Mesabi East, that's a rematch," Jill Herzig said. "We'll both be healthy, so it will be a good match."