

SPORTS



Women's hockey
Voyageurs close out regular season in split with UMD
B2

QUICK HITS

Rams buck Bronco girls hoops team

A five-game winning streak came to an end Monday night for the International girls basketball team when the Broncos lost at Roseau, 99-62.

The Falls, which trailed 48-36 at halftime, had two players end up scoring in double figures led by Maddie Filipiak with 19 points. Teagan Anderson added 18 points.

The Rams' top-two scorers included Kiley Borowicz with 34 points and Kacie Borowicz 30 points. Rachel Lindemann added 15 points.

The loss dropped the Broncos' season record to 19-6 going into Friday's regular-season finale at Deer River.

L-BF girls hoops team loses at North Woods

The Littlefork-Big Falls girls basketball team played without Emily and Kate Knaeble on Monday night when the Vikings lost at North Woods, 64-59.

L-BF head coach Dan Beste said the Vikings played a very good game for being shorthanded. He also noted the Knaeble girls are gone on a trip this week, but would be back next week when the playoffs begin.

L-BF, which trailed 30-29 at halftime, had three players end up scoring in double figures led by Kaylee Kennedy with 27 points. Karly Swenson added 12 points with Breann Larson scoring 11 more.

The loss snapped a two-game winning streak and dropped the Vikings' season record to 9-11 going into Thursday night's regular-season finale at home against Fond du Lac Ojibwe.

L-BF boys hoops team loses to DR

The Littlefork-Big Falls boys basketball closed out the regular season on a nine-game losing streak after falling Friday night at Deer River, 78-46.

The Vikings entered the Section 7A Tournament with an overall record of 5-18 and received a No. 9 seed. They faced No. 8-seeded Mesabi Academy to open the tournament Tuesday night in Hibbing.

Results from Tuesday night's game, which took place after the production deadline for today's edition, are posted on the ifallsjournal.com website.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Voyageurs quiet Thunder in regular-season finale

RRCC next faces RCTC in playoffs

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

The Rainy River Community College men's basketball team is entering next weekend's Region 13 Tournament on a two-game winning streak after recording a 92-81 home victory in Saturday's regular-season finale against Fond du Lac.

"I kind of expected an ugly game after we got things locked up Wednesday (with a win over Hibbing to advance to the playoffs)," said RRCC head coach Kristofer Babler. "But the guys had fun (Saturday). We got to play everybody and we finished on a win at home, so it was good."

The Voyageurs played without forwards Antoine Tobias and Jimson Clerveus, whom Babler hopes to both have back in the lineup for the region tournament as they recover from ankle injuries, and outshot the Thunder from the field overall, 33-68 (48.5 percent) to 29-73 (39.7 percent).

RRCC, which led 41-34 at halftime and pulled in front by as much as 17 points late in the second half, had four players end up scoring in double figures. Sam Sturgus recorded a double-double to lead the Voyageurs with 21 points and 11 rebounds. Jammere Carlisle added 20 points. Ahmad Poche scored 19 and Teekay Biti put in 16 more.

Fond du Lac was led by Donald Gordon with 18 points. Dillon Johnson added



In front, the Voyageurs' Ahmad Poche drives in the lane while being intentionally fouled from behind by Fond du Lac's Donald Gordon in Saturday afternoon's game in the RRCC gym.

17 points with Deandre Bell scoring 11 more.

REGION 13 TOURNEY

RRCC, which wrapped up the regular season in fourth place in the Minnesota College Athletic Conference's Northern Division at 8-6 in league play and 16-10 overall, enters the eight-team region tournament as the MCAC North's No. 4 seed and opens the playoffs hosted by Anoka-Ramsey



STAFF PHOTOS BY KEVIN BONESKE

From left, the Voyageurs' Jammere Carlisle (2) dribbles inside while being guarded by Fond du Lac's Harold Jenkins (25) in Saturday afternoon's game in the RRCC gym.

at noon Friday against the MCAC South's top-seeded team, Rochester Technical and Community College, which defeated the Voyageurs, 89-74, on Dec. 12 in the RRCC gym.

"We were way shorthanded (last December), so we're looking forward to that (tournament) match-up," Babler said. "We think we

can compete with them."

Rochester, which is currently ranked No. 5 nationally among NJCAA Division III teams, enters the region tournament after finishing atop the MCAC South standings at 13-1 in league play and 23-4 overall.

Friday's winner between RRCC and Rochester will advance to Saturday's semi-

finals at 3 p.m. to face the winner between the MCAC North's No. 2-seeded team, Central Lakes, and the MCAC South's No. 3 seed, Minnesota West. The losers of those quarterfinal games will face each other at 11 a.m. Saturday in a consolation game.

Hoops to B3 ►

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Voyageurs lead big early, lose close late

RRCC falls to FdL in finale

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

After leading by as much as 19 points in the first half and holding a 36-26 halftime advantage Saturday afternoon, the Rainy River Community College women's basketball team was outscored 34-20 in the final 20 minutes and lost the regular-season finale at home to Fond du Lac, 60-56.

"It's the first time (this season) we had a big lead like that and we let it go, because usually when we get a lead like that, especially when it's that big, we're OK," said RRCC head coach Adam Rotar. "Usually we're pretty good about keeping leads when all our players haven't fouled out yet. We had our moments where we knew how to play and we could play together, but then our mental game falls apart and it's a telltale sign of what the epitome of this season was."

Both teams used zone defenses and had only their five starters available for the entire 40 minutes. Midway through the second half, the Thunder went on a 13-0 scoring run that included three 3-pointers in a span of just over 4 minutes to pull within a point at 46-45 with 7:52 left to play. RRCC, however, was able to hold onto the lead until the final minutes.

The Voyageurs fell behind late in the second half when Drewrez Budreau made a 3-pointer to give the Thunder a 58-56 lead.

Fond du Lac pulled in front by 3 points with 24.2 seconds remaining after Shaelyn Halverson made one of two free throws.



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

The Voyageurs' Shania Thompson (4) dribbles down the court while being pursued by Fond du Lac's Taylor Klassen (30) in Saturday afternoon's game in the RRCC gym.

RRCC had a chance to tie the game in the final seconds, but Sarina Phrathep's 3-point attempt was off target.

Though the Voyageurs outshot the Thunder from the field overall, 24-61 (39.3 percent) to 19-74 (25.7 percent), a key statistic in the game's outcome was free-throw shooting with RRCC going only 1-2 (50 percent) from the charity stripe, compared to 13-18 (72.2 percent) for Fond du Lac.

The Voyageurs had two players record a double-double. Roneisha Jordan had 18 points and 11 re-

bounds. Shania Thompson added 13 points and 15 rebounds. Phrathep also scored in double figures with 12 points, which included four 3-point baskets.

The Thunder had four players score in double figures. Jaiden Cofield led Fond du Lac with 19 points and 23 rebounds. Budreau added 13 points. Taylor Klassen scored 11 and Halverson put in 10 more.

RRCC ended the season 2-12 in the Minnesota College Athletic Conference's Northern Division – last in

RRCC to B3 ►

BOYS BASKETBALL

Broncos down Hilltoppers in regular-season finale

FHS finishes 21-5

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The International Falls boys basketball team entered the Section 7AA Tournament on a winning note following a 73-41 home victory over Duluth Marshall in Friday night's regular-season finale.

"Kind of a slow start for us, but we had some different personnel out there," said Falls head coach Derek Dowty. "I think we had a lot of nerves going, but overall I thought in the second half we kind of took care of business and ran away with it."

The Broncos, whose seniors – including the usual reserves – saw several minutes on the court for Parents' Night, were in front 37-26 at halftime and

had three seniors end up scoring in double figures led by Ben Humbert with 18 points. Jack Bartkowski added 14 points with Greg Harris scoring 11 more.

The Hilltoppers were led by Cole Feriancek with 12 points. Jack Schenk added 11 points.

The Falls, which closed out the regular season with a record of 21-5, opened the playoffs at 7 p.m. Tuesday when the No. 1-seeded Broncos hosted No. 8-seeded Greenway.

Results from Tuesday's playoff 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.

Int'l Falls 73, Marshall 41
Marshall 26 15 – 41
Int'l Falls 37 36 – 73



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From right, the Broncos' Ben Humbert (44) drives in the lane past Duluth Marshall's Jack Schenk (34) in Friday night's game in the Falls High School gym.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

- Thursday's games**
Boys swimming and diving
I. Falls in Section 6A preliminaries at Grand Rapids, 5:15 p.m.
Girls basketball
Fond du Lac Ojibwe at L-BF, 7:15 p.m.
Boys basketball
L-BF/Mesabi Academy winner vs. MI-B in Section 7A Tournament at Hibbing, 7:30 p.m.
- Friday's games**
Men's basketball
RRCC vs. Rochester in Region 13 Tournament at Anoka-Ramsey, noon
Girls basketball
I. Falls at Deer River, 7:15 p.m.
- Saturday's games**
Men's basketball
RRCC in Region 13 Tournament at Anoka-Ramsey, TBD
Boys basketball
I. Falls/Greenway winner vs. Deer River/E-G winner in Section 7AA quarterfinals at Duluth Denfeld, 2:45 p.m.
Boys swimming/diving
I. Falls in Section 6A Meet at Grand Rapids, 11 a.m.