

SPORTS

QUICK HITS

L-BF boys hoops team loses at Northome, HC

The Littlefork-Big Falls boys basketball team found it rough on the road this week where the Vikings lost a pair of road games. An opponent L-BF won against by three points at home to start the season defeated the Vikings by 28 points Tuesday night. L-BF trailed by 17 points at halftime and lost on the road to Northome/Kelliher, 95-67.

“We didn’t rebound well – a lot of second-chance opportunities for Northome,” said Vikings head coach Jeff Maish.

Rylan Henrickson led four L-BF players scoring in double figures with 19 points. Zach Simon added a double-double with 12 points and 10 rebounds. Evan Wimmer had 11 points with Peter Franz scoring 10 more.

The Vikings also fell Thursday night at Hill City, 71-60, after trailing by four points at halftime.

Maish said rebounding again hurt L-BF, which had a one-point lead with about 5:30 left in the game before fouls did in the Vikings.

L-BF had four players score in double figures against Hill City led by Simon with 17 points, followed by Tommy Manninen with 16, Henrickson with 11 and Bobst with 10.

The two road losses dropped the Vikings’ season record to 5-11 going into Friday’s home game against Ely.

FHS girls hockey team closing year

The end of the regular season for girls hockey is approaching and a victory at home this afternoon by International Falls over Long Prairie-Grey Eagle/Wadena-Deer Creek would even the Broncos’ record at 12-12 going into the Section 7A playoffs.

The Falls, which picked up a 5-1 road victory Thursday over Eveleth-Gilbert, is slated to begin the postseason Feb. 5 when Broncos head coach Gerald Bolstad expects the team will have one of the section’s top-four seeds and host a quarterfinal playoff game that evening.

Falls’ opening postseason opponent will be announced after the tournament pairings are finalized. Following the quarterfinals hosted by the higher seed, the Section 7A semifinals and finals will be held Feb. 10 and 13 in Virginia.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

- Today’s games**
Women’s/men’s basketball
Central Lakes at RRCC, 1/3 p.m.
Girls hockey
LPGE/WDC at I. Falls, 3 p.m.
Boys hockey
I. Falls at Kittson Central, 3 p.m.
Women’s hockey
Northern Michigan vs. RRCC at Bronco Arena, 7 p.m.
- Sunday’s games**
Women’s hockey
Northern Michigan vs. RRCC at Bronco Arena, noon
- Monday’s games**
Girls basketball
Cherry at I. Falls, 7:15 p.m.
L-BF at Kelliher/Northome, 7:15 p.m.
Boys basketball
Mesabi East at L-BF, 7:15 p.m.
- Tuesday’s games**
Boys basketball
I. Falls at Crosby-Ironton, 7:15 p.m.
- Wednesday’s games**
Women’s/men’s basketball
Itasca at RRCC, 6/8 p.m.

Broncos win IRC, then down Warroad

Ben Humbert surpasses 2,000 career points

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

January has been a good month for the International Falls boys basketball team. Not only have the Broncos won all nine of their games this month, the team also clinched the Iron Range Conference title and had a player reach

a new scoring plateau in the process. The Falls trailed by two points at halftime Tuesday night when the team pulled in front by double digits in the second half and held on to win at Virginia, 50-44, and wrap up the IRC title with a conference record of 9-1. Broncos head coach Der-



Ben Humbert

ek Dowty said the Falls got off to a slow start, but was able to pull out a win at the end, the second victory this season over the Blue Devils. “We knew it was going to be a completely different game at their place,” said Dowty, who noted Virginia had senior forward Ryan Cunningham back in the lineup after he didn’t play when FHS hosted the first game. The Broncos had only one player score in double figures with Ben Humbert

recording a double-double with 25 points and 19 rebounds. The Falls scored close to half of its points from the free-throw line after going 23-29 from the charity stripe. **FALLS 67, WARROAD 48** The Broncos trailed by a point at halftime Thursday night when they rallied in the second half to win at Warroad, 67-48. “We didn’t really come ready to play,” said Dowty, who also noted Warroad has been “a tough place to play”

for the Falls. Humbert, who already was Falls’ all-time scoring leader, entered the game needing 15 points to become the Broncos’ first player to score 2,000 career points. He reached that milestone in the first half and ended up as the Broncos’ only player to score in double figures for the game with 33 points. The Broncos’ season record now stands at 15-4 overall going into next Tuesday night’s road game against Crosby-Ironton.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Broncos conquer Warriors, Giants in FHS gym



STAFF PHOTOS BY KEVIN BONESKE

From right, the Broncos’ Bianca Carlson (15) shoots in the lane past Deer River’s Lucy Kaczor (53) in Tuesday night’s game in the Falls High School gym.

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

After losing big on the road to Section 7A powerhouse Mountain Iron-Buhl on Monday, the International Falls girls basketball team picked up two lopsided victories at home this week. The Broncos won Tuesday in the Falls High School gym over Deer River, 88-41. “It was a nice win after a tough defeat,” said Falls head coach Shawn Gilbert.

The Broncos, who jumped out to a 49-22 lead at halftime and put the game on running time midway through the second half, had four players score in double figures led by Jena Sullivan with 21 points, 17 of which came in the first half. Teagan Anderson added 19 points with Emma Gilbert and Shelby Wolden each scoring 11 points.

The Warriors were led by Natalie Bebeau with 15 points. **FALLS 73, MESABI 44**

On Thursday night, the Falls jumped out to an 18-point lead at halftime and went on to win at home over Mesabi East, 73-44. “It was nice getting that big (Iron Range Conference) win...,” Shawn Gilbert said. “I think we’ve got a pretty good chance of wrapping up our second IRC title in a row.”



From right, the Broncos’ Janet Humbert (25) dribbles past Mesabi East’s Alyssa Belange (5) in Thursday night’s game in the Falls High School gym.

The Broncos, whose reserves saw plenty of playing time in the second half, had 10 players score points led by Emma Gilbert with 18 and Anderson adding 11 more.

Anna Ribich led the Giants with 17 points. The win improved the Falls’ season record to 14-3 going into Friday’s road game against Duluth East.

Tuesday’s game
Int’l Falls 88, Deer River 41
Deer River 22 19 - 41
Int’l Falls 49 39 - 88
Int’l Falls: Maddie Filiplik 7, Shelby

Wolden 11, Teah Goulet 1, Bianca Carlson 7, Cassie Tomczak 4, Teagan Anderson 19, Jena Sullivan 21, Emma Gilbert 11, Paige Heem-Taschuk 7. 3-pointers: Anderson 3, Gilbert 2, Filiplik, Heem-Taschuk. Free throws: 19-25. Fouls: 14.

Thursday’s game
Int’l Falls 73, Mesabi East 44
Mesabi East 26 18 - 44
Int’l Falls 44 29 - 73
Int’l Falls: Grace Gilbert 1, Maddie Filiplik 6, Shelby Wolden 7, Bianca Carlson 6, Cassie Tomczak 8, Teagan Anderson 11, Janet Humbert 8, Jena Sullivan 6, Emma Gilbert 18, Bailey Milette 2. 3-pointers: Anderson 2, Tomczak. Free throws: 10-17. Fouls: 17.

BOYS HOCKEY

Broncos downed by Storm, Bluejackets

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

After snapping an 11-game losing streak last week, the International Falls boys hockey team is now on a two-game skid. The Falls trailed by a goal following the first period Tuesday night, but then only scored one more time late in the game and ended up losing to North Shore, 6-3, at Bronco Arena.

The Broncos scored first 7:15 in the first period on a goal from Clay Bergstrom assisted by Jordan Tilander.

After the Storm tied the game on a goal from Nathan Bauck, the Falls went back in front with just over 3 minutes left in the opening period when Tyler Coffield scored assisted by Jackson Vollom and Jakob Eide.

North Shore then took a 3-2 lead after the first period on goals from Easton Best and Lucas Kempffer.

The Storm then extended their lead to three goals after two periods when Tanner Aho and Ryan Rasmussen scored.

North Shore’s final goal came on the power play at 9:15 of the third period when Quaid Cavallin

scored. The Falls closed out the scoring with 2:34 left in the game with a power-play goal from Eide assisted by Wyatt Boyum. Shots on goal favored the Storm, 31-23, with Corey Napper recording the win and Lane Skallman picking up the loss in net. **HIBB/CHIS 4, FALLS 2**

Thursday night’s game was closer when the Broncos lost at home to Hibbing/Chisholm, 4-2.

The Bluejackets recorded the first goal of the first period when Logan Radovich scored assisted by Scott Perunovich.

The Falls tied the game when Vollom scored assisted by Eide and Riley Nemec, before Hibbing/Chisholm took a 2-1 lead after the first period on a goal from Jarrett Lee assisted by Perunovich.

The Broncos tied the game on an unassisted goal from Eide, before the Bluejackets went back in front 3-2 after two periods when Joe Lescarbeau scored assisted by Jake Bestul and Andrew Erwin.

Hibbing/Chisholm scored the final goal less than 3 minutes into the final period unassisted by Erwin.



STAFF PHOTOS BY KEVIN BONESKE

At center, the Broncos’ Brett Lindvall (3) lands on the ice between Hibbing/Chisholm goalie Isiah Dilley (31) at left and defenseman Scott Perunovich (7) at right in Thursday night’s game at Bronco Arena.

Still down by two goals late in the game, the Falls pulled Skallman out of the net to put an extra attacker on the ice, but was unable to score.

The Bluejackets outshot the Broncos, 29-20, with Isiah Dilley recording the win and Skallman picking up the loss.

The Broncos, whose season record dropped to 4-16, return to action this afternoon for a road game against Kittson Central.

Tuesday’s game
North Shore 6, Int’l Falls 3
North Shore 3 2 1 - 6
Int’l Falls 2 0 1 - 3

Thursday’s game
Hibb/Chis 4, Int’l Falls 2
Hibb/Chis 2 1 1 - 4
Int’l Falls 1 1 0 - 2



From right, the Broncos’ Chase Bernard (8) advances the puck while being pursued by North Shore’s Quaid Cavallin (6) in Tuesday night’s game at Bronco Arena.



Who is...

Clay Bergstrom, Bronco boys hockey forward, is featured

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