

SPORTS



Who is...
Taylor DeLack, L-BF boys baseball senior shortstop/pitcher, is featured

B2

QUICK HITS

Ongoing winter weather affecting spring sports start

The start of the spring sports seasons won't happen next week as initially scheduled for a number of local teams.

Except for an indoor track and field meet Tuesday at Bemidji State University, International Falls athletic director Kevin Grover said he is planning on all of the Broncos' sporting events scheduled for next week to be postponed with several inches of snow remaining on the ground.

All of Falls' teams – boys and girls track and field, boys and girls golf, boys baseball and girls softball – had events scheduled outside for next week.

The Bronco track and field teams' first scheduled home meet of the season – the Bronco Booster Invite on April 10 – has already been canceled. Grover said Scheela Field also won't be ready next Thursday when Falls' baseball team had its home opener scheduled against Cherry.

Once the snows melts away, Grover said it will take time for the fields to dry out and be ready to play on. He also noted decisions will have to be made as to which games to reschedule or cancel, based on available make-up dates, whether the opponents are in the same section, etc.

Littlefork-Big Falls' softball season also won't be starting as originally scheduled for Monday with the home game against Eveleth-Gilbert being postponed.

L-BF athletic director Christopher Bachmeier said the softball field won't be ready to play on next week, so the earliest the Vikings could possibly begin the season would be Thursday when they're scheduled to play at Cherry.

L-BF's baseball team doesn't have a game until April 14 when the Vikings are scheduled to open the season at South Ridge.

Bronco HOF dinner tickets now on sale

Tickets are on now sale for the Bronco Athletic Hall of Fame induction banquet being held the evening of April 26 at the AmericInn in International Falls.

The Hall of Fame's Class of 2014 includes distance runner Tina (Bahr) Ostroot, hockey coach Dean Blais, hockey players Keith "Huffer" Christiansen and Oscar Mahle and the state champion 1954 International Falls football team.

The banquet tickets are \$25 each and are available at City Drug, County Market and the Espresso Lane in Super One. They may also be purchased by contacting Timm Ringhofer at (218) 324-3053. Tickets will be on sale through April 24.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Today's games

Girls track and field
I. Falls in Virginia IRC Indoor Meet at UW-Superior, 10 a.m.

Men's baseball
RRCC in MCAC Crossover, TBA

Sunday's games

Men's baseball
RRCC in MCAC Crossover, TBA

Tuesday's games

Track and field
I. Falls in Snowflake Invitational at BSU, 1 p.m.

Thursday's games

Girls softball
L-BF at Cherry, 4:30 p.m.

TRACK AND FIELD

Bronco girls 2nd, boys 3rd at Little Amik

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The International Falls boys and girls track and field teams were back Tuesday at Bemidji State University to compete for the second time this season indoors in the Little Amik meet where both teams finished in the top three.

In the girls competition, the Broncos finished runner-up in the team standings.

Bemidji recorded the top score of 137.5 points, followed by the Falls (94), Detroit Lakes (90), Park Rapids Area (89) and Bagley/Fosston (57) rounding out the top five out of 12 teams scoring points in what Bronco girls head coach Jen Erickson noted originally was a 32-team meet dropped down to a 12-team meet due to weather conditions in the western and northwestern part of the state.

The Falls had two top individual finishes with seniors Breanna Shofner winning the 60-meter dash (8.17 seconds) and Hailey Fentem placing first in the 60 hurdles (10.09).

"I'm glad we went to the meet even though it was snowing (Tuesday) morning," Fentem said. "I think the team did really well even though we didn't have everyone



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, the Broncos' Amy Auran and Emily Saari clear the first hurdle together while competing Tuesday in the 60-meters hurdles during the Little Amik indoor meet at Bemidji State University. Auran finished sixth in 11.11 seconds with Saari coming in eighth in 11.26.

competing in the meet (Tuesday).

"There were a lot of younger girls that really stepped up in the meet to help out and I'm proud of how our team responded to the competition (Tuesday),"

Fentem was one of three Bronco hurdlers to finish in the top eight and

score points with senior Amy Auran placing sixth in 11.11 and freshman Emily Saari coming in eighth in 11.26.

"Everyone on the team had a great day with a lot of personal bests set," Saari said. "With the lower number of teams we had more girls place in events and earn points for

the team."

Fentem also came in third in the high jump (4 feet, 10 inches). Shofner added a third-place finish in the triple jump (31-8) with freshman Valandre Butler coming in seventh in 29-5.

"(Tuesday's) meet went surprisingly well considering we were missing

a few girls," Butler said. "The girls really stepped up, trying new events they don't normally compete in at meets. These last two meets have been a great start to our season and hopefully we will soon be able to take our meets outside."

Track and Field to B2 ➤

BOYS BASEBALL PREVIEW



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From right, the Vikings' Rylan Henrickson relays a throw while Tommy Manninen looks on in a baseball practice last month in the Littlefork-Big Falls new gym.

Vikings seek NLC title, top playoff seed

L-BF returning entire 2013 team

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

After recording two of its five overall victories last year in the playoffs, the Littlefork-Big Falls baseball team is entering the 2014 season with great expectations.

Dan Beste enters his second season as L-BF's head coach with all the players returning from last year's team that finished 5-13 overall and went into the Section 7A playoffs as the No. 10 seed, defeating No. 7-seeded Mountain Iron-Buhl and No. 2-seeded Ely before being ousted from the double-elimination tournament.

Beste's list of top returning players includes:

■ Taylor DeLack (senior), a shortstop/pitcher and a three-time All-Con-

ference player who hit .586 as a junior in 58 at-bats with 17 stolen bases, 16 RBI and a .638 on-base percentage. DeLack compiled a 3-4 pitching record working 27 2/3 innings with a 1.27 ERA, 36 strikeouts and four walks.

■ Rylan Henrickson (junior), a two-time All-Conference player who hit .340 as a sophomore in 53 at-bats with 15 stolen bases, 18 walks, and a .507 on-base percentage. In 42 2/3 innings pitched last year, Henrickson compiled a record of 2-3 with a 2.79 ERA and 23 strikeouts.

■ Eric Thydean (senior), a 2013 All-Conference Honorable Mention selection who started every game in right field. Thydean hit .275 as a junior in 51 at-bats with 11 RBI and a .397 on-base percentage.

■ Darian Erickson (sophomore), a 2013 All-



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