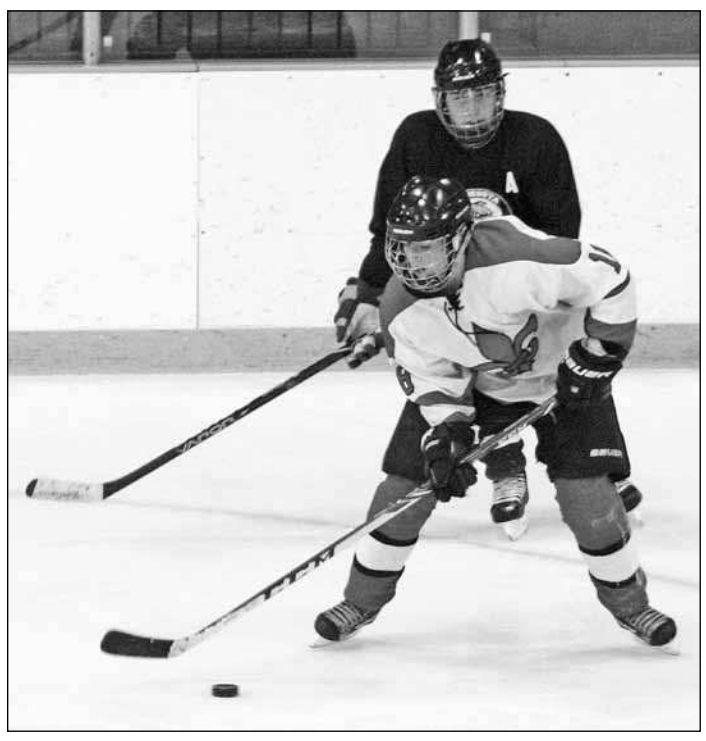
SPORTS

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

Voyageurs split with UMD in regular-season finale

RRCC to open national tourney March 4 in York, Pa.

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor



In front, the Voyageurs' Shilo Beck (18) controls the puck in front of the Bulldogs' Cady Walker in Sunday's game at Bronco Arena.

STAFF PHOTOS BY KEVIN BONESKE

In front from left, the Voyageurs' Hailey Clendennig (14), Katie Sinclair and Connor Coleman (10) celebrate Sinclair scoring the first goal in Sunday's home game against the University of Minnesota Duluth.

After having been awarded an invitation last week to the American Collegiate Hockey Association's Division 2 National Tournament, the Rainy River Community College women's hockey team closed out its regular-season schedule last weekend by splitting a two-game home series against the club team from the University of Minnesota Duluth.

On Saturday night, the Voyageurs were shut out by the Bulldogs, 2-0.

"We kind of held back on Saturday," said RRCC head coach Jeff Wickstrom. "We didn't play our normal game."

Both of UMD's goals came in the second period.

A hooking penalty on the Voyageurs' Hailey Clendenning late in the first period led to the Bulldogs' Cady Walker scoring the first goal on the power play assisted by Shelby Theis with 16:03 left in the second period.

UMD closed out the scoring with 6:06 left in the second period when Amy Enrooth scored assisted by Amber Ammann and Sarah Jackson.

The Voyageurs played last weekend without their season points leader, Shelby Tymkin, who was out of action because of a shoulder injury, but still outshot the Bulldogs in both games.

UMD's Colleen Jacoby made 23 saves Saturday night to record the shutout win in goal. Shay Perry stopped 19 of 21 shots in picking up the loss in net for RRCC.

RRCC 3, UMD 0

The Voyageurs did all the scoring Sunday to close out the series with a 3-0 victory over the Bulldogs.

"We controlled the game," Wickstrom said. "We played the game and didn't worry about injuries."

After neither team scored in the first 17 minutes for the second day in a row, RRCC tallied a pair of second-period goals.

Katie Sinclair put in the first of her two goals on the day when she broke the scoreless tie 2:53 into the second period with an assist by Connor Coleman.

The Voyageurs took a two-goal lead with 4:27 left in the second period when Shilo Beck scored assisted by Clendenning.

RRCC's final goal came with 10:43 left in the final period when Sinclair scored assisted by Clendenning.

Shots on goal favored the Voyageurs, 21-18, with Perry recording the shutout victory and Jacoby picking up the loss in net.

Following the weekend split, RRCC finished the regular season 15-4-3 in ACHA games.

NATIONAL TOURNEY

The Voyageurs, who are seeking their fourth national title, open the eight-team ACHA D2 National Tournament in York, Pa., at 2:30 p.m. CT March 4 when RRCC, the Western Division's No. 2 seed, begins pool play against the Western Division's No. 3 seed, Michigan State.

Pool play continues for the Voyageurs at 2:30 p.m. CT March 5-6 when they face the Eastern Division's No. 4 seed, Buffalo, and then the No. 1 seed, California University of Pennsylvania.

The other national tournament pool includes the Western Division's No. 1 and 4 seeds, North Dakota State and Northern Michigan, and the Eastern Division's No. 2 and 3 seeds, Delaware and West Chester.

The top-two teams in each four-team pool will advance to the semifinals March 7. The semifinal winners face each other March 8 for the national title.

CHILI FUND-RAISER

To help raise funds for next month's national tournament trip, the Voyageurs will be holding a Chili Feed from 5-7:30 p.m. Thursday in the RRCC Commons with free-will donations accepted.

Saturday's game
UMD 2, RRCC 0

UMD	0 2 0 – 2
RRCC	0 0 0 – 0

Sunday's game
RRCC 3, UMD 0

UMD	0 0 0 – 0
RRCC	0 2 1 – 3

YOUTH HOCKEY

Falls hosting Bantam B North Region Tourney

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The 2015 Bantam B North Regional Hockey Tournament will be hosted this weekend at Bronco Arena with games being held Friday through Sunday.

International Falls is in the eight-team bracket and will play its first game at 3:45 p.m. Friday against Brainerd.

The winner's next game will be at 11:45 a.m. Saturday against the winner of the tournament's first game taking place at 2 p.m. Friday between Lake of the Woods and Virginia.

The losers of those two opening-round games will face each other in a losers' bracket game at 8 a.m. Saturday.

The other half of the tournament bracket includes opening-round games Friday between Grand Rapids and Roseau at 5:45 p.m. and the Moorhead Black and Warroad at 7:30 p.m.

The tournament wraps up Sunday with the winner of winners' bracket game at 10:45 a.m. earning the No. 1 seed and the winner of the losers' bracket game at 4 p.m. earning the No. 2 seed to advance to the state tournament.

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SIJHL HOCKEY

Lakers clinch regular-season title, then down the Thunder Bay North Stars, 8-1

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Fort Frances forward David Pryde scored three times Friday night to help lift the Lakers to an 8-3 victory over the English River Miners in a Superior International Junior Hockey League contest at Ear Falls Arena.

With the win, the Lakers clinched their second consecutive regular-season crown and earned the No. 1 seed in the upcoming SIJHL playoffs.

Both teams combined in the first period for five goals, including three from Fort Frances.

Miles Nolan, Pryde and Dylan Robertson scored for the Lakers, while Richard Dartnall recorded both goals for English River.

Lucas DeBenedet

A penalty-filled second period included each club scoring once. Marco Romano added an even-strength goal for Fort Frances. Landen Matechuk scored on the power play for English River.

It was all Fort Frances in the final period when the Lakers scored four goals to seal the victory.

After A.J. Kapchek scored on the power play at 13:12, Nolan added his second goal of the night about a minute and a half later.

Pryde then capped off his SIJHL debut by scoring two goals 15 seconds apart to complete his hat trick.

Shots on goal favored Fort Frances, 55-33, with Pierce Dushenko picking up the win.

LAKERS 8, NORTH STARS 1

Fort Frances forward Lucas DeBenedet of International Falls scored twice Saturday night to help the Lakers defeat the Thunder Bay North Stars, 8-1, in SIJHL action at Ice for Kids Arena.

It took Fort Frances just 21 seconds to score when Nick Minerva put the puck past Thunder Bay starting goalie Nathaniel Dupuis.

Goals 31 seconds apart from Colton Spicer on the power play and DeBenedet at even strength gave the Lakers a 3-0 lead before North Stars forward Bradley Belisle scored his 19th goal of the season at 19:21.

Thunder Bay's goal late in the first period didn't slow down the Lakers as they erupted for five goals in the second period.

Robertson made it 4-1 and ended Dupuis' night in the net in favor of Eric Mann, but Fort Frances scored four times on him to complete the romp with goals coming from Bryson Jasper, Romano, Cody Antonini and DeBenedet.

Nathan Park made 33 saves to pick up the win in goal for Fort Frances.

The Lakers are back in action today when they travel to Dryden to take on the Ice Dogs in a 7:30 p.m. start at Memorial Arena.

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OfficeMax Seeks Cooperation of International Falls Recreationalists in Preserving Private Property and Protecting Public Safety.

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