

SPORTS



Who is...
Eric Thydean, L-BF baseball senior outfielder, is featured

B2

QUICK HITS

FHS baseball team tames Golden Bears

Ben Humbert threw 13 strikeouts over seven innings Tuesday when the International Falls baseball team won at Eveleth-Gilbert, 5-1.

Humbert, who also allowed only three hits, had a shutout going into the bottom of the seventh when the Golden Bears scored their only run.

The Broncos, who had four hits from four different players, scored three times in the top of the fourth and added two more runs in the final inning. Jack Bartkowski had a hit and drove in two runs for the Falls.

The win improved the Broncos' season record to 5-1. Falls' game scheduled for Thursday at Hibbing was postponed amid the rainy weather, while a home doubleheader that was set for today against Duluth Marshall has been canceled.

FHS softball team blanks Golden Bears, 1-2 at IRC Tournament

Teagan Anderson scattered three hits over seven innings Tuesday to help pace the International Falls softball team to a 6-0 shutout victory at Eveleth-Gilbert.

The Broncos got two hits apiece from Ashley Jonson and Meghan and Cassie Tomczak with Meghan Tomczak pounding out two doubles and Jonson and Cassie Tomczak each doubling. Anderson, McKenna Rasmussen and Emily Treat added a single apiece.

The Broncos were back in action Wednesday at the Iron Range Conference Tournament in Grand Rapids, where the Falls went 1-2 and finished in fourth place in the eight-team tournament.

In the opening tournament game, the Broncos defeated Deer River, 10-6.

Anderson picked up the pitching victory. Cassie Tomczak, Janet Humbert and Anderson each had three hits with Treat, Jonson and Meghan Tomczak adding two hits apiece.

The Falls then lost 8-3 to Grand Rapids, which went on to win the tournament. The Thunderhawks scored five runs against the Broncos in the bottom of the sixth.

At the plate for the Falls, Cassie Tomczak hit two doubles, while Anderson and Humbert each had two hits with Humbert adding a triple.

The Broncos closed out the tournament losing the third-place game to Duluth East, 15-4.

Cassie Tomczak, Rasmussen and Humbert had two hits apiece.

The Falls' game scheduled for Thursday against Warroad was postponed.

L-BF girls softball team wins at LOW

Amanda Nelson recorded two inside-the-park home runs and also pitched five scoreless innings Thursday when the Littlefork-Big Falls softball team won at Lake of the Woods, 10-4.

"We played pretty solid defense and the pitching continues to improve," said Vikings head coach Mike Imhof.

Nelson – who scattered three hits and struck out five pitching the first, third, fifth, sixth and seventh innings for L-BF – ended up with three hits at the plate, while Emily Knaeble added three hits are Karl Little hit two more.

The Vikings' Brooke Millerbernd pitched the second and fourth innings, allowing all four runs and also giving up three hits.

GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD

Broncos win Lynae Morrow Meet

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

A steady downpour of rain Thursday in Hibbing couldn't prevent the International Falls girls track and field team from winning another meet.

The Broncos topped the 11-team Lynae Morrow Meet with 153.75 points, followed by Hermantown (142), Hibbing (94.75), Mesabi East (77) and Eveleth-Gilbert (58.75) rounding out the top five.

"The rain not only shut down (the) pole vault, which is one of our stronger events, but it also caused slippery competing conditions for our jumpers and throwers," said Falls head coach Jen Erickson. "Luckily there wasn't much wind and the temperature was just barely above 50 degrees, leaving only the rain as the one weather condition the girls had to battle against (Thursday)."

"This was our last chance to try girls in different events and we had a few surprises today in our running and field events that will be beneficial to us in the few meets (remaining)."

Broncos senior Hailey Fentem accounted for 34 team points when she won the 100-meter hurdles (16.03 seconds) and 300 hurdles (52.08), placed second in the high jump (4 feet, 10 inches) and came in third in the long jump (14-9).

The Falls picked up another 11 points in those events from three freshman with Lexi Erickson placing third in the high jump (4-8), Emily Saari finishing fourth in the 100 hurdles (18.2) and Valandre Butler coming in fifth in the long jump (13-10). Eighth-grader Jena Sullivan tied for seventh in the high jump (4-3).

"The weather was a huge challenge for us when the steady downpour started after the 100-meter dash," said Saari, one of the pole vaulters on the team. "We were really disappointed when the pole vault event had to be shut down due to the rainy conditions. The event wasn't completed and couldn't be scored, which lost us valuable points."

The Broncos scored 16 points in the 100 dash with senior Breanna Shofner winning in 13.02, Butler finishing fifth in 13.79 and eighth-grader Emma Gilbert ending up seventh in 14.04.

Shofner also won the 200 dash (26.89) and came in third in the triple jump (30-9), where Butler placed fifth at 29-8.

The Falls picked up 37 points in the throwing events. Junior Savannah Olson won both the shot put (37-11) and discus (105-9). Gilbert placed third in the shot put (34-10) and fourth in the discus (78-8). Sullivan came in third in the discus (80-11).

"When we left Hibbing, we were trailing Hermantown by nine points with only the discus event remaining to be entered into the final results," Jen Erickson said. "Our throwers had an outstanding day despite the rain, bringing in the extra points we needed to pull ahead of Hermantown."

The Broncos' other top individual finish came from Lexi Erickson in the 800 run (2:36.33).

The Falls finished in the top three in two relay events. Lexi Erickson, freshman Claire Herzig, sophomore Abby Kostiuik and Gilbert placed second in the 4X400 (4:28.02). Kostiuik, Lexi Erickson, freshman Anna Earley and junior Tayler Hebner came in third in the 4X800 (10:44.76).

Butler, Saari, seventh-grader Grace Gilbert and freshman Lexi Edward finished sixth in the 4X100 (57.45).

"It was a good experience for us to compete in the weather we had (Thursday), just in case we have the similar weather for our next big meets," Grace Gilbert said. "We are looking forward to the (Iron Range Conference) meet next week."

The Broncos' 4X200 relay team comprised of Kostiuik, Earley, Sullivan and Grace Gilbert didn't score any points after being disqualified for running out of its lane.

The Falls picked up



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

From right, the Broncos' Valandre Butler and Breanna Shofner and Mesabi East's Hope Howell compete in the 100-meter dash in Thursday's Lynae Morrow Meet at Hibbing. Shofner placed first with Howell coming in second and Butler finishing fifth.



In front, the Broncos' Hailey Fentem clears a hurdle while competing in the 100-meter hurdles in Thursday's Lynae Morrow Meet at Hibbing. Fentem won both the 100 and 300 hurdles.



The Broncos' Anna Earley runs with the baton while competing in the 4X800-meter relay in Thursday's Lynae Morrow Meet at Hibbing. The Falls placed third in 10 minutes, 44.76 seconds.

The Bronco girls will be back at Hibbing on Tuesday for the IRC meet. Following an invitational May 15 at Warroad and the State True Team meet May 17 at Stillwater, the Falls returns to Hibbing on May 21 for the North Sub-Section 7A meet.

Lynae Morrow Meet GIRLS
Team scores: International Falls 153.75, Hermantown 142, Hibbing 94.75, Mesabi East 77, Eveleth-Gilbert 58.75, Virginia 34, Duluth Marshall 26, Bigfork 22, Greenway/Nashauk/Kee-watin 21, Chisholm 20.75, Ely 11.

BOYS BASEBALL

Vikings douse Rangers with runs

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

Runs rather than rain halted Thursday's boys baseball game after five innings when Littlefork-Big Falls won at home over Mountain Iron-Buhl, 19-6, via the 10-run rule.

"The bats came alive, finally, and that's what we needed," said L-BF head coach Dan Beste.

The Vikings led 8-4 going into the bottom of the third inning when they tallied 11 runs and sent 15 batters to the plate. Rylan Henrickson and Taylor DeLack each had a pair of hits and scored twice in the bottom of the third when MI-B replaced starting pitcher Hunter Hill with Kerry Wavernack.

Though some other games in northern Minnesota had been called off Thursday with varying degrees of rainfall, the soggy conditions in Littlefork remained playable



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From right, the Vikings' Tate Promersberger slides back to first base and beats the throw to Mountain Iron-Buhl's Jared Schultz (22) in Thursday's game at Littlefork.

throughout the game.

Tommy Manninen pitched the first four innings when he allowed all six runs in recording his first varsity victory. Evan Wimmer closed out the fifth inning without giving up a run or a hit.

"Defensively we did fine," Beste said. "Tommy struggled a little bit to find

his location – I don't know if that (was because of) soggy conditions and maybe a little bit slick ball – but we'll work on that for next time. He knows we can't give free bases."

The victory was the second this season for L-BF, which had another home game scheduled for Friday against Northeast Range.

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