

SPORTS



From left, International Falls senior Maddie Filipiak signs a National Letter of Intent last week to play volleyball next fall at Rainy River Community College while RRCC head volleyball coach Mel Millerbernd looks on.

Maddie Filipiak to play volleyball at Rainy River

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

International Falls senior Maddie Filipiak has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball next fall at Rainy River Community College.

RRCC head volleyball coach Mel Millerbernd said she is thrilled to have Filipiak join the team.

“I’ve watched Maddie for many years and had always hoped I could get her to come to Rainy River,” Millerbernd said. “She’s just really an all-around volleyball player. On the front row, she’s just an awesome hitter and blocker. On the back row, she serves and just works hard.”

Filipiak, who played both volleyball and basketball for the Broncos her senior season and also participated

in track and field as an underclassman, said she is glad to have the opportunity to play volleyball at RRCC, where plans to take business classes and go into the business management area and further her degree elsewhere later on.

“(The Voyageurs) have a really good (volleyball) program, and I’m really excited to play because they have a really good team, and I’m excited to be a part of it,” Filipiak said.

Millerbernd said next season’s volleyball team will have a “nice crew” of returning players.

“(The returning sophomores will include hitters) DyAna Imhof, Brooke Millerbernd (and) Katie Langaas and (Libero) Jasmine Draper, to name a few, so I’m really excited – that’s a nice core,” she said.

“Coming in so far, Maddie,

of course, and Cassandra Moffitt from Fort Frances is a nice, powerful hitter also....”

Mel Millerbernd said about 10 players have indicated their interest to be part of next fall’s team, for which she hopes to have a dozen on the squad.

“Recruiting seems to never stop,” she said. “You just kind of keep looking for kids that want to play, but kind of my No. 1 goal is to get the local kids, and I just think that builds a lot of team spirit, community spirit. I’m really excited, and Maddie’s kind of a huge recruit for me.”

When Filipiak was asked whether she might also play women’s basketball at RRCC this coming school year, she said she hasn’t yet decided about that.

“We’ll see,” she said.

BOYS BASEBALL

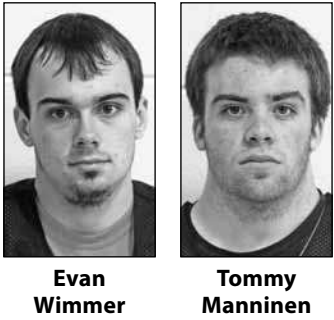
Vikings drop three at Freeport

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Littlefork-Big Falls baseball team was in Freeport last weekend for a trio of games and lost all three against different opponents.

The Vikings, who had last played April 28 when they lost 24-4 at home to Deer River in five innings, lost Friday’s game to Foley, 16-4, also in five innings.

Evan Wimmer pitched the first four innings and recorded the loss for L-BF, allowing 14 runs, 10 earned, on 13 hits with three walks and a hit batter while striking out one. Eric Wimmer came in to pitch the fifth inning, giving up two earned runs on two hits with two walks and a hit batter.



The Vikings could only muster five hits with Tommy Manninen accounting for three of them that included a pair of doubles and a single.

U/SA 14, L-BF 0

The Vikings played two games on Saturday and were shut out in the first contest by Upsala/Swanville Area, 14-0, in five innings.

Darian Erickson recorded the pitching loss for L-BF after working the first three innings, allowing all 14 runs, five earned, on nine hits with three walks and a hit batter while striking out two. Tate Promersberger came in to pitch the fourth inning without giving up a run or a hit.

In the field, the Vikings committed five errors, compared to none for U/SA.

L-BF recorded five hits with Erickson picking up two of them on a pair of singles.

MELROSE 9, L-BF 2

The Vikings’ second game Saturday went the full seven innings when they gave up seven runs

in the top of the first and ended up losing to Melrose, 9-2.

Promersberger pitched the first two-thirds of an inning when he gave up seven runs, three earned, on four hits with three walks. Manninen pitched the final 6 1/3 innings, allowing two earned runs on nine hits with three walks while striking out two.

Four different L-BF players accounted for the team’s four hits with Erickson, Manninen, Evan Wimmer and Andrew Daniels each picking up a single.

Following the three losses last weekend, the Vikings’ season record dropped to 2-9 going into Tuesday’s road game against North Woods.

BASEBALL

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the next three innings without giving up a run on three hits with two walks. Will Aesoph gave up an earned run on a hit pitching the sixth inning. Jake Schulte retired all three batters he faced in the top of the seventh.

The Voyageurs were only able to muster four hits over seven innings on Vermilion’s winning pitcher, Jacob Urban, who gave up an earned run in the fifth inning.

Kunkel got two of RRCC’s hits with a pair of singles, while Tanner Helms picked up the team’s only multiple-base hit with a double.

In the field, the Voyageurs committed three errors, compared to none for the Ironmen.

VCC 5, RRCC 3

In game two, RRCC fell behind by two runs after two innings, before taking the lead in the bottom of the seventh and then giving up a run in the top of the eighth and two more in the ninth inning to lose to Vermilion, 5-3.

“We had an opportunity to make a couple of plays – plays that we’ve been coming up with over the course of the last 4-5 games – and we just didn’t come up with key plays when we needed to,” Koenig said.

The Voyageurs cut the deficit to 2-1 in the third inning when Sam Pelechaty led off by reaching base on an error, stealing second and reaching third on a sacrifice bunt by Dyan Zayas before scoring on a single by Kunkel.

RRCC tied the game in the bottom of the sixth after Kunkel led off the inning

with a single, reached second on a balk by Vermilion pitcher Jakob Graber, advanced to third on a sacrifice fly by Helms and scored on a single by T.J. Trifoli.

The Voyageurs took a 3-2 lead in the seventh inning when William Thomas hit a one-out single, advanced to third on a single by Pelechaty and scored on a single by Zayas.

RRCC starting pitcher Jaymon Cervantes threw 7 2/3 innings in a non-decision, allowing three earned runs on seven hits with a walk and two hit batters while striking out eight.

Schulte ended up recording the loss pitching the final 1 1/3 innings when he gave up two unearned runs on a walk.

The Ironmen scored twice in the top of the ninth after Pelechaty committed two errors that inning at shortstop.

Graber pitched all nine innings to record the victory, allowing two earned runs out of the three RRCC scored on nine hits with three walks while striking out one.

All of the Voyageurs’ hits in game two were singles with Pelechaty and Thomas recording two apiece.

The doubleheader loss dropped RRCC’s season record to 3-7 in the MCAC North and 18-22 overall. The Voyageurs have received the league’s No. 5 seed and will open a best-of-three mini-series at Virginia against Mesabi Range with a doubleheader Friday starting at 11 a.m.

“We’ve got to get back to playing basic fundamental baseball, the way we had been over the last 4-5 games,” Koenig said. “If we do that, it’s anybody’s shot in a mini-series.”

The winner of the mini-series will advance to the Region 13 Tournament in St. Cloud being held May 14-17.

SOFTBALL

► continued from B1

Mesabi Range’s winning pitcher, Shaina Novak.

Chandler pitched two-plus innings and recorded the loss, allowing five runs, four earned, on two hits with three walks while striking out four. Beth Austad closed out the final one-plus innings, allowing four runs, two earned, on two hits with three walks while striking out three.

CLC 9, RRCC 5

The Voyageurs were in a see-saw battle in their third and final game Saturday when they took a 5-4 lead, but then gave up five unanswered runs and lost to Central Lakes College, 9-5,

and were eliminated from the tournament.

Chandler pitched all six innings and recorded the loss, giving up nine unearned runs on seven hits with eight walks while striking out three.

Of RRCC’s 13 hits, Ramirez had two singles and a double, while Ebony Joseph and Karen Sondergard each added three singles.

SEASON TOTALS

The Voyageurs ended the season 6-6 in the MCAC North and 17-18 overall.

As a team, RRCC had a .400 batting average (338-845) with six players batting above the .400 mark led by Sondergard at .485 (50-103) and Ramirez at .484 (44-91).

Of the Voyageurs’ 19 home runs this season, DyAna Imhof hit a team-high seven with Chandler adding six homers.

Ramirez led the team driving in 44 runs, while Imhof and Chandler tied for second at 38 RBI apiece.

Chandler handled the bulk of the pitching load, throwing in 115 2/3 innings out of the 188 1/3 total innings. She had a 12-9 record allowing 132 runs, 60 earned, on 104 hits with 106 walks and nine hit batters while striking out 92. Her earned-run average was 3.63.

Ramirez, who was battling shoulder trouble during the season, pitched 63 2/3 innings. She had a 5-6 record giving up 80 runs,

41 earned, on 73 hits with 42 walks and five hit batters while striking out 42. Her ERA was 4.51.

Humbert said he continues to recruit new players for next season with the expected returning sophomores to include Chandler and Brooke Millerbernd, who is from Littlefork and also played volleyball this school year. Millerbernd, who started at shortstop for RRCC, had her softball season cut short in 2015 after sustaining a broken arm on a putout play.

“When you start losing key players, it really changes the dynamic,” said Humbert, who also noted he wants to build a bigger roster for next season.

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Game one
VCC 8, RRCC 1
VCC 0-7-0 0-0-1 0-8-90
RRCC 0-0-0 0-1-0 0-1-43
WP-Jacob Urban;
LP-Talon Kunkel
Game two
VCC 5, RRCC 3
VCC 0-2-0 0-0-0 0-1-2-572
RRCC 0-0-1 0-0-1 1-0-0-393
WP-Jakob Graber;
LP-Jake Schulte

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