

SPORTS



SENATHLETES

Who is...  
Cassie Tomczak

The 18-year-old International Falls High School senior is a guard on the Bronco girls basketball team.

- Birthday:**  
July 17, 1996

**Future plans:**  
Attend college

**What's on TV:**  
Awkward

**Favorite music:**  
Any kind

**Favorite movies:**  
Neighbors

**What do you drive:**  
Pontiac Bonneville

**Favorite websites:**  
Twitter

**Biggest pet peeve:**  
Waiting on people

**Favorite athlete to watch:**  
Rajon Rondo

**Dream date:**  
Zac Efron

**Favorite team as a kid:**  
Boston Celtics
- Favorite city to visit:**  
Aruba

**Least favorite attribute about yourself:**  
My height

**Favorite holiday:**  
Christmas

**Your hero:**  
My mom

**Top-three things on your bucket list:**  
Go to Hawaii.  
Snorkeling.  
Bungee jumping.

**Favorite thing to do that has nothing to do with sports:**  
Hang out with friends and travel.

**Dream job:**  
Rescue animals

**Love to trade places for a day with...**  
Any of the Kardashians

**Favorite person to follow on Twitter:**  
Sorrynotsorry

2014 IN REVIEW  
► continued from A1

qualifier for the fourth year in a row. “It was my best finish ever at state.” Shofner’s preliminary time of 25.8 in the heats was the fourth-fastest overall and also set a new Falls High School record, based on fully automatic timing. The Broncos picked up two medals in the shot put with Savannah Olson placing seventh at 37 feet, 1/4 inch, and Emma Gilbert finishing eighth at 36-10.5. “I was really proud of myself and my teammate, Emma,” said Olson, who

exceeded 37 feet on her first throw before having three fouls. “It was really difficult for me, for some reason, to stay in the circle.” Olson competed at state for the fourth year in a row and third time in the shot put. Gilbert competed in her first state meet ever. The Falls’ Hailey Fentem earned a medal in the 100 hurdles for the second year in a row by placing eighth in 15.8, six-hundredths of a second slower than her preliminary time. Fentem, who also closed out her high school track and field career as a senior, was a three-time state qualifier in the 100 hurdles.

The Broncos’ Lexi Erickson earned a state medal when she placed eighth in the 3200 run (11:41.17), besting her section time by 36 seconds and also setting a personal record and becoming Falls High School’s third-best girls runner of all time in that event. “I wasn’t as nervous as (in the Section 7A Meet),” said Lexi Erickson, who also noted she was “mentally prepared” to run at state. **4 L-BF softball team runner-up in Section 7A** The Littlefork-Big Falls softball team was able to win once, but not twice, in the May 29 matchup against

Cherry for the Section 7A championship at Cohasset. The Vikings, who had lost two days earlier to the Tigers in the double-elimination tournament, picked up an 8-2 victory over Cherry in the first game May 29 to force another winner-take-all contest. “The key (in the first game) was we came out and hit the ball hard,” said L-BF head coach Mike Imhof. “We chased their (starting pitcher) out in the second inning, because we were getting bats on the ball.” Tigers starting pitcher Kacey Herring made an early exit in the first game when she was replaced by Joely Roberts. The Vikings scored the game’s first seven runs capped off with a two-run homer in the top of the fourth by DyAna Imhof. Cherry got on the scoreboard with a run in the bottom of the fourth and plated another run in the fifth inning, before L-BF added an insurance run in the top of the seventh. Brooke Millerbernd pitched all seven innings to record the victory for the Vikings. However, the hot, sunny weather began to take its toll on her when she pitched the second game. “Brooke was pooped, but she gave it her all,” Mike Imhof said. L-BF couldn’t generate a run or a hit against Herring in the second game and ended up losing to the Tigers, 12-0, in five innings. “We didn’t hit the ball,” Mike Imhof said. “It wouldn’t have mattered if Brooke would have thrown a 1-0 game. We still would have lost because we just didn’t score.” The Vikings finished as the Section 7A runner-up for the second year in a row, while Cherry won its fifth-consecutive section title and advanced to the state softball tournament June 5-6 in North Mankato. **5 L-BF baseball season ends six games into Section 7A tourney**



STAFF PHOTOS BY KEVIN BONESKE

From right, Cherry’s Breann Gruenhagen (26) dives back to third base to avoid the tag of the Vikings’ Amanda Nelson (4) in the May 29 Section 7A championship game at Cohasset.



From right, Vikings first baseman Evan Wimmer (23) catches the ball on a relay throw after an infield line drive to put out South Ridge’s Trey Karpinnen (30) diving back to the base in the June 3 Section 7A Tournament game at Hibbing.

After opening the Section 7A Tournament with four wins in a row, the No. 7-seeded Littlefork-Big Falls baseball team was knocked out of the double-elimination portion of the tournament June 3 in Hibbing. “It’s not the way we wanted it to end, but like I told those guys, ‘When you walk away, keep your heads held high for the run that (you) had,’” said Vikings head coach Dan Beste. “It’s about the journey, not the destination. We had a lot of fun this last couple of weeks.” L-BF lost its first tournament game to top-seeded Ely, 13-2, in five innings. L-BF then played an elimination game against No. 3-seeded South Ridge, which scored 10 runs in the bottom of the first and ended up shutting out the Vikings, 13-0, in five innings. The Vikings – whose Cinderella tournament run included wins over No. 10-seeded Northeast Range, No. 2-seeded Mesabi East, No. 3-seeded Nashwauk-Keewatin and No. 1-seeded Barnum – ended the season at 10-12.

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