

SPORTS

MEN'S DIVISION I COLLEGE HOCKEY

Season begins this weekend for trio of players from Falls

Blais beginning sixth season as UNO head coach

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Three Division I men's college hockey players as well as a head coach from International Falls are preparing to open the 2014-15 regular season this weekend.

Willie Corrin, a defenseman from the Falls, is beginning his junior season playing for the University of Minnesota Duluth.

Corrin, who had a shot on goal in Monday's 4-2 exhibition victory over Lakehead University, appeared in 24 of UMD's 36 games his sophomore season when he recorded eight assists.

He said he is looking forward to beginning the regular season Friday in the Ice Breaker Tournament at South Bend, Ind., where the Bulldogs will face top-



Dean Blais



Jake Youso

ranked Minnesota.

"It's going to be a test right away," Corrin said. "I think the guys are up for it."

UMD's regular-season home opener is set for Oct. 17 against Minnesota State-Mankato at AMSOIL Arena.

Minnesota State is the team the University of Nebraska Omaha will host to open the regular season this Friday. UNO, which lost its exhibition game Monday to the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, 4-0, has both a player and a head coach from the Falls – Matt Youso and Dean Blais.

Youso, a defenseman who

was a teammate of Corrin's in high school and is in his sophomore year of eligibility in college, played in 15 games his freshman season. Blais, who is also Corrin's uncle, has been UNO's head coach since 2009.

Being that UNO and UMD are both in the National Collegiate Hockey Conference, Youso and Blais will once again face Corrin four times during the regular season. The Bulldogs last season won three out of four games.

This season, UNO and UMD face each other Nov. 21-22 in Omaha and Feb. 27-28 in Duluth.

Youso's older brother, Jake, is entering his senior season as a forward for Holy Cross. In 2013-14, Jake Youso played in 35 games and tallied two goals and nine assists.

The Crusaders, who don't have UNO or UMD on their schedule, open the season at home Friday against Merrimack.



FILE PHOTO

From left, the Bulldogs' Willie Corrin (5) and the Mavericks' Matt Youso (6), both 2010 International Falls High School graduates, battle for the puck in last season's game March 8 at AMSOIL Arena.

FOOTBALL

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Hibbing recorded most of its net yardage in the air as bad snaps negated yards on the ground. The Bluejackets had only 11 net yards rushing with 202 passing for 213 total. Falls' ground game accounted for most of its offense with 225 yards rushing and 50 passing for 275 total.

The game remained deadlocked in the second half until Hibbing recovered a fumbled punt return at the Broncos' 25-yard line and drove toward the end zone late in the third quarter. However, the Bluejackets had to settle for a field goal, which Takkunen made from 24 yards away to lead 10-7.

The Falls regained the lead with 7:10 left in the game after the Broncos capped off a 71-scoring drive with a nine-yard run by Wyatt Helgeson. Rasmussen added the extra point to put the Falls in front, 14-10.

Helgeson ended up rushing for 95 yards on 19 carries.

Hibbing took the lead for good with 5:15 to play on a 6-yard touchdown run by Trevor Erickson. Takkunen's extra point gave the Bluejackets a 17-14 advantage.



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

Hibbing running back Phillip Fossell (24) is tackled by Broncos defensive lineman Jack Bartkowski (76) in Friday night's game at Sports Stadium.

The Falls advanced near midfield after the ensuing kickoff, but then turned the ball over on downs when a run by Helgeson on fourth down with three yards to go came up short. Hibbing then ran all but 9 seconds off the clock, after which the Bron-

cos threw up two incomplete passes before time expired.

The loss dropped the Falls' record to 0-6 overall and 0-4 in the Sea-Range Conference, while Hibbing won for the first time this season to improve to 1-5 overall and 1-3 in confer-

ence play.

The Broncos will seek their first victory of the season this coming Friday at Virginia, which is also 1-5 overall and 1-3 in the Sea-Range with the Blue Devils' only victory coming against Hibbing.

"I know we've got a group of guys that are truly enjoying playing football right now," Anderson said. "They all play hard. We don't have anybody that's going to hang their head toward the end of the game, whether we're up or whether we're down."

VOLLEYBALL

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Wendt, 14 set assists and four ace serves; and Sydney Wendt, 17 set assists.

The Vikings, who have won their last five matches, improved their season record to 11-10 going into Thursday's home match against Mountain Iron-Buhl.

"(The victory over Deer River) was very big for seeding purposes – this win will help us a lot in that respect," Wimmer said. "We've had some close games all throughout the season. We haven't always been able to pull out wins. I think this (match) is huge for our confidence..."

**FHS 3, N/K 0**

The International Falls volleyball team won its road match Monday night in three straight games against Northome/Kelliher, 25-18, 25-12, 25-9.

The Broncos' statistical leaders included: Maddie Filipiak, 11 kills, two ace blocks and two ace serves; McKenna Rasmussen, 11 kills and three ace blocks; Teagan Anderson, 30 set assists and two ace serves; Tessa Walls, nine kills; and Lauren Rautio, 12 digs.

The Falls improved its season record to 12-5 going into Tuesday's match at Chisholm.

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