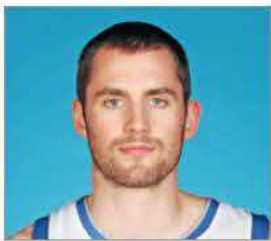


SPORTS



Minnesota Timberwolves
Saunders expects Love back next season

B2

QUICK HITS

L-BF baseball tourney game results online

The Littlefork-Big Falls baseball team's Section 7A Tournament game Tuesday in Hibbing against Ely took place after the production deadline for today's edition. Tuesday's tournament results are posted on the ifallsjournal.com website and will also be published in Saturday's paper.

2014 Arrowhead All-Conference baseball team announced

Three players from International Falls and two more from Littlefork-Big Falls have been named to the 2014 Arrowhead All-Conference baseball team. The Broncos' All-Conference players include three pitchers/infielders — junior Ben Humbert and seniors Wyatt Ulrich and Luke Spilde. FHS's season came to an end last week after losing in the opening round of the Section 7AA Tournament to another Arrowhead team, Eveleth-Gilbert.

The Vikings' All-Conference players include a pair of pitchers/infielders — senior Taylor DeLack and junior Rylan Henrickson. L-BF won its first four games in the Section 7A Tournament and faced another Arrowhead team, Ely, in Tuesday's playoff game.

RRCC's Oashaja Dobie named All-American

Rainy River Community College softball pitcher Oashaja Dobie has received second-team All-American honors in the NJCAA's Division III. The past season, Dobie was the Voyageurs' primary pitcher and also ranked among the team's leading hitters. At last month's NJCAA Division III National Tournament, she received the tournament's Marucci Elite Hitter Award. RRCC, which finished the season 30-9 overall, won the District 13B Tournament to advance to the national tournament, where the Voyageurs ended up in sixth place.

Bronco Golf Scramble set for June 13 at FCC

The 2014 Bronco Golf Scramble to benefit International Falls' boys and girls golf teams will be held June 13 starting at 4 p.m. at the Falls Country Club. The event costs \$50 per person and includes golf, a cart and a steak dinner. The event is limited to 72 players. The dinner only is available for \$25. Proceeds will go toward purchasing equipment for the Bronco golf program. To sign up, call the Falls Country Club at 283-4491.

GIRLS STATE CLASS A TRACK AND FIELD MEET PREVIEW



STAFF PHOTOS BY KEVIN BONESKE

The Broncos' Claire Herzig, shown competing in the pole vault at last Thursday's Section 7A Meet at UMD, has qualified in that event for this weekend's State Class A Meet at Hamline University along with senior teammate Amy Auran.

Nine Broncos heading to Hamline in 7 events

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

Competing at the State Class A Meet is nothing new to most of the qualifiers on the International Falls girls track and field team who will be at Hamline University this weekend. The Broncos, who won the team title at last Thursday's Section 7A Meet at the University of Minnesota Duluth, are sending nine girls to state to compete in six individual events and one relay. This is the fourth year in a row senior sprinter Breanna Shofner has qualified for both the 100- and 200-meter dashes. Last year at state, Shofner placed ninth in the 100 dash (13.25 seconds) and seventh in the 200 dash (26.54) to account for four of Falls nine team points. "I'm just hoping to improve my times at state," Shofner said.

This year, Shofner's winning section time in the 100 dash of 12.72 is tied for the 10th-fastest seed time among the three state heats with Minneapolis Edison eighth-grader Jia Lewis being the top seed at 11.91, the only qualifier with a seed time under 11 seconds. Last year's state champion, Pequot Lakes senior Van-



In front at left, the Broncos' Valandre Butler runs with the baton after receiving the handoff from Emma Gilbert in the 4x100-meter relay during last Thursday's Section 7A Meet at UMD. The Falls has qualified for state in that event for the third year in a row.

essa Lane, returns with a seed time of 13.19 after having won the event in 12.48. The top-two finishers in each of Friday afternoon's preliminary heats, plus the next three-best

times, will advance to Saturday's finals. Shofner's winning section time in the 200 dash of 26.3 is the fourth-fastest seed time in the two state heats with Lewis again having the top seed at



The Broncos' Savanah Olson, shown throwing the shot put at last Thursday's Section 7A Meet at UMD, has qualified for the State Class A Meet for the fourth year in a row after finishing runner-up to eighth-grade teammate Emma Gilbert.

25.68, the only qualifier under 26 seconds. The top-two finishers in each of Friday's preliminary heats, plus the next five-best times, will advance to Saturday's finals.

Shofner also anchors Falls' 4X100 relay team that also includes senior Lexi Owen, eighth-grader Emma Gilbert and freshman Valandre Butler and

Track to B2 ►

MSHSL adopts District Football scheduling plan for 2015 and beyond

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Minnesota State High School League schools should no longer have a reason to travel far out of state to find football opponents or play less than an eight-game regular season football schedule. On Monday, the League Board of Directors unanimously adopted a plan that places all member schools with football programs into districts. The members of each district will divide the district into sub-districts, and then create a full schedule for each team. In nearly all cases, the placement of schools will not negatively affect traditional rivalries or preferred opponents, according to a League statement. For several years, League staff, school administrators and football coaches have

sought a solution for schools that have had difficulty filling their regular season football schedule. A committee of coaches, athletic administrators and Board members developed a District Football Scheduling System that was approved by the Board in January. A separate District Placement Committee made up of coaches and administrators worked hard to group schools into districts based on enrollment, geography and like schools, while also considering individual school preferences for maintaining traditional opponents. "Everyone needs to keep in mind that this is just a step in the process of developing actual schedules for our member schools," said Associate Director Kevin Merkle in presenting the plan to the Board. "Some

districts have a wide range in school enrollment and geography, but once the districts determine their sub-district alignments, most of the enrollment and geographical issues will be solved." The recommendation approved by the Board of Directors included: ■ Placement of all schools in a scheduling district. ■ Final decision on appeals from schools who requested to be placed in 9-Man. ■ Bylaws to guide the work of each district. ■ Allowing limited inter-district play upon approval of the Board of Directors. ■ A plan for the initial meetings for each district that will be lead by members of the District Football Placement Committee. The 10-member District Football Placement Commit-

tee met five times since mid-March to place schools in districts, using enrollment, geography, like schools and current conference membership and current opponents as key criteria. Schools were given the opportunity to provide information to the committee in advance, including three teams that they would like to continue to schedule. Those requests were reviewed carefully and were met to the extent possible. More than 90 percent of the schools' requests were met, and a significant majority of schools were placed in a district with most, if not all, of the schools that they now play. Districts will have initial meetings in the near future to discuss the placements and the next steps in the process. The next major step will be for districts to decide on sub-district

alignments. Once that is completed, schedules for the 2015 and 2016 seasons can be developed. The goal is for all schools to have a complete schedule for both years by Nov. 1, 2014. "We are indebted to the members of the District Football Placement Committee for their diligence and hard work in this process," Merkle said. "They put in an extraordinary amount of time and effort and their focus was always on doing what was best for our member schools and their students." International Falls has been placed in the Northeast District, which also includes the other six football teams in the Sea-Range Conference. Littlefork-Big Falls, which plays nine-man football, will be in the 9 — North District along with other nine-man football teams in the current Big North Conference.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

- Thursday's games**
Boys baseball
Section 7A Tournament championship at Hibbing, 5 p.m.
- Friday's games**
Girls track and field
I. Falls in State Class A Meet at Hamline University, 3:30 p.m.
- Saturday's games**
Girls track and field
I. Falls in State Class A Meet at Hamline University, 3:30 p.m.
- Tuesday's games**
Boys and girls golf
I. Falls in State Class AA Meet at Sand Creek in Jordan, 7:30 a.m.