

SPORTS



Signing up with RRCC
Cassie Tomczak to play softball for Voyageurs
B2

QUICK HITS

FHS boys golfers, Eric Cann 9th at Northern Invite

The International Falls boys golf team as well as one of the Broncos finished ninth after two days and 36 holes of golfing in the Northern Invitational last Friday and Saturday at Giants Ridge.

The Falls had a team score of 661 (334-327) for ninth place, 36 strokes in back of the winning team, Duluth East, which had the same total as Forest Lake at 625. East Ridge came in third at 643, followed by Duluth Marshall at 646 and Crookston rounding out the top five at 650.

Broncos junior Eric Cann made the All-Tournament Team after shooting a 155 (79-76) for ninth place, seven strokes behind the top individual medalist, Crookston junior Isaac Westlake, at 148. Forest Lake junior Jack Kluge came in second with a 151, while Duluth East senior Matt Mellin placed third with a 153, one of four players to finish five strokes off the lead.

Falls' five other players and their overall finishes in the tournament included: sophomore Brady Wright, 17th at 158 (80-78); sophomore Brock O'Loughlin, 54th at 172 (86-86); sophomore Josh Milette, 86th at 182 (95-87); sophomore Austin Van Heel, 89th at 184 (92-92); and freshman Josh Cann, 98th at 188 (89-99).

The Broncos were scheduled to be back Monday at Giants Ridge, but that invitational was canceled because of the rainy weather.

Deven Chandler named to MCAC North First Team

Three players on this year's Rainy River Community College softball team have received Minnesota College Athletic Conference All-Northern Division honors.

Deven Chandler, a freshman pitcher-third baseman for the Voyageurs from Moscow, Idaho, was named to the MCAC North First Team.

Two other RRCC players – freshmen Sierra Ramirez and Karen Sondergard – were named to the MCAC North Second Team.

MEN'S BASEBALL

Voyageurs' season ends in mini-series

RRCC drops twin bill to MRCTC

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

Staying close for both of Friday's Minnesota College Athletic Conference Northern Division mini-series games didn't count in the win column for the Rainy River Community College baseball team, which saw its season come to an end at Stock Field in Virginia.

The No. 5-seeded Voyageurs lost each game of the doubleheader to No. 2-seeded Mesabi Range Community and Technical College by identical 2-0 scores.

"I was really proud of how the guys put it together (Friday)," said RRCC head coach Josh Koenig. "They played two fairly solid baseball games.... Our pitchers and our defense put us in a great position to win two ballgames."

In the first game, the Norsemen scored both of their runs in the third inning on a two-run homer by Jacob Bruner off of Voyageurs pitcher Landon Freeman. In six innings pitched, Freeman picked up the loss after allowing two runs with five hits while striking out three.

RRCC tallied five hits – all singles – off of Mesabi Range's winning pitcher, Martin Alcoverde, who recorded 12 strikeouts in seven scoreless innings.

"Their pitchers did a good job of keeping us off balance (Friday)," Koenig said. "The only thing I can say is we didn't adjust at the plate."

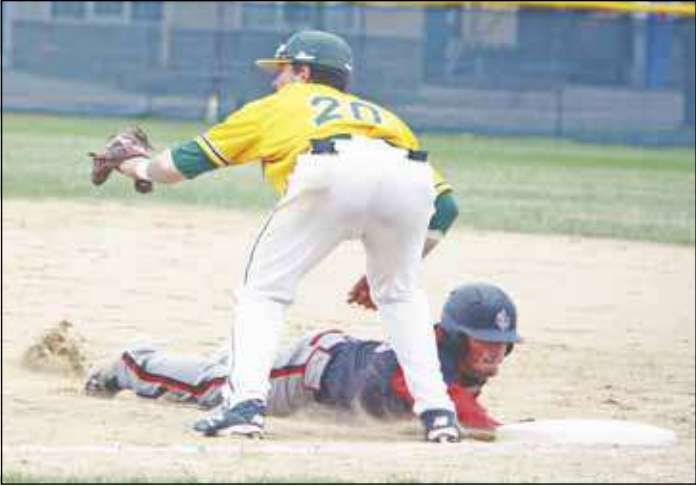
The closest the Voyageurs came to score was in the top of the third when T.J. Trifoli led off with a single, advanced to second when Connor McGuinness reached base on an error and Sam Pelechaty put both runners in scoring position with a sacrifice bunt.

However, Trifoli ended up being tagged after reaching third base and Dyan Zayas struck out to retire the side. Trifoli was the only RRCC player who got as far as third base in game one.

MRCTC GETS SWEEP



In front from left, the Voyageurs' Sam Pelechaty tags out Mesabi Range's Martin Alcoverde sliding into second base while the Voyageurs' Dyan Zayas (8) looks on in back during the second game of Friday's MCAC North mini-series at Stock Field in Virginia.



From right, the Voyageurs' Sam Pelechaty dives back to first base to beat the throw to Mesabi Range's Jacob Bruner in the second game of Friday's MCAC North mini-series at Stock Field in Virginia.

Mesabi Range swept the best-of-three mini-series in two-straight games after picking up a run in the fifth inning and scoring again in the top of the seventh to win the second game of Friday's doubleheader.

The Norsemen had runners in scoring position in each of the first four innings, but couldn't plate a run when RRCC pitcher Talon Kunkel was able to retire the side.

"When adversity hit us (Friday) out in the field, we stepped up and did a really nice job of getting out of difficult situations and minimizing the things that they did," Koenig said. "For that, I'm really proud of these guys."

The Voyageurs, who ended up committing five fielding errors in the second game, gave up the first run in the top of the fifth after having back-to-back errors



The Voyageurs' Talon Kunkel (7) delivers a pitch in the second game of Friday's MCAC North mini-series against Mesabi Range.

to lead off the inning in which Bruner grounded out to score Tony Lopez.

Mesabi Range once again put runners in scoring position in the sixth inning, but couldn't bring home a run.

Bruner scored the Norse-

men's final run in the top of the seventh after he doubled, advanced to third on a groundout and reached home on an infield single by Javier Solis.

Baseball to B2 ►

GIRLS SOFTBALL

Broncos place 1st at Hibbing tournament

FHS now at 14-1

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Though the International Falls softball team didn't score early and trailed in both of its games Friday, the Broncos scored often in the later innings to win the four-team tournament in Hibbing.

"It just took a little while to get our hitting going," said Falls head coach Kevin Gordon.

In the first game, the Broncos trailed by three runs after three innings before defeating Greenway, 13-3, in six innings.

The Falls pounded out 18 hits. Cassie Tomczak recorded a double and two singles, while Abby Auran added three singles. Emily Treat, Teagan Anderson, Meghan Tomczak, Ashley Johnson and Emma Johnson added two hits apiece.

Anderson pitched all six innings to record the victory, giving up the three runs on eight hits while striking out four.

FHS 9, HIBBING 2

In the tournament's title game Friday, the Broncos



trailed by two runs after 2 ½ innings before defeating Hibbing, 9-2.

Of Falls' 16 hits, Cassie Tomczak had four of them with a double and three singles. Johnson added three hits with a double. Jonson tripled for one of her hits. Humbert, Auran and Meghan Tomczak each had two hits.

Anderson picked up the pitching victory, allowing both runs on eight hits while striking out seven over seven innings.

Following the two tournament wins, the Broncos' improved their season record to 14-1. Falls' home games scheduled for Monday against Bemidji and Tuesday against Virginia were postponed because of the rainy weather.

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SPORTS SCHEDULE

Today's games
Boys and girls golf
I. Falls at Giants Ridge, TBD
Boys baseball
L-BF at LOW, 3:30 p.m.
North Woods at I. Falls, 4:30 p.m.
Girls softball
Ely at L-BF, 4:30 p.m.

Thursday's games
Girls golf
I. Falls at Virginia, TBD
Girls softball
L-BF vs. Northland at MI-B, 2 p.m.
L-BF at MI-B, 4:30 p.m.
Boys baseball
L-BF at Kelliher/Northome, 4 p.m.
I. Falls at Greenway, 4:30 p.m.

Track and field
I. Falls at Warroad Invite, 4:30 p.m.

Friday's games
Boys golf
I. Falls at Virginia, TBD
Girls softball
I. Falls at North Woods, 4:30 p.m.

Saturday's games
Boys baseball
I. Falls at Duluth Marshall (DH), 1 p.m.