

# SPORTS



**Voyageurs basketball**  
Sam Sturgus named MCAC North Player of the Week  
**B2**

## QUICK HITS

### Gordon wins debut as interim head coach

Following last week’s announcement that College of St. Scholastica head men’s hockey coach Mark Wick has gone on medical leave for an indefinite length of time, first-year assistant coach Ben Gordon of International Falls took over as the interim head coach and won his head coaching debut Friday on the road against No. 7-ranked St. Norbert College, 3-1.



Ben Gordon

Gordon, who joined the Saints as an assistant coach at the beginning of this season after retiring from playing pro hockey with the Tulsa Oilers, went 1-1 in his opening weekend of head coaching after St. Scholastica lost Saturday to the Knights, 4-3. The Saints, who are 11-9-3 overall, close out the regular season this coming Friday and Saturday with a two-game road series against Marian.

### Willie Corrin scores first collegiate goal

University of Minnesota Duluth junior defenseman Willie Corrin of International Falls recorded his first collegiate goal Friday night when the Bulldogs won at home over Northern Michigan, 3-1.



Willie Corrin

Corrin’s unassisted, short-handed goal came 8:35 into the second period when he shot the puck from behind the blue line past Wildcats goalie Michael Doan to tie the game at 1-1.

So far this season, Corrin has a goal and an assist for two points. He recorded the assist Jan. 30 in UMD’s 3-2 loss at Denver.

### Christianson assists game-winning goal

Concordia-Moorhead sophomore forward Jordan Christianson of International Falls recorded an assist on the Cobbers’ game-winning goal in Saturday’s 4-3 home victory over St. Olaf.



Jordan Christianson

Christianson recorded his sixth assist and eight point of the season when he passed the puck to freshman Jon Grebosky to tap in the winning goal with less than 3 minutes left to play.

Concordia-Moorhead is 12-7-4 overall and closes out the regular season next Friday and Saturday with a two-game road series against St. Mary’s of Minnesota.

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

# Broncos clinch IRC title

## Falls then downs ML/WR Rebels

BY KEVIN BONESKE  
Sports Editor

For the second year in a row, the International Falls girls basketball team is the Iron Range Conference champion.

The Fall clinched the IRC title at home Friday night with a 74-21 victory over Virginia.

“We started off a little slow, but I thought we played pretty well,” said Broncos head coach Shawn Gilbert. “I thought we played pretty good defense. We got a lot of tips. We got a lot of steals. I thought our athleticism really showed (Friday night).”

The Falls, which led 43-8 at halftime, had 10 players score points led by Maddie Filipiak with 15 points. Teagan Anderson added 12 points.

Lexi Ahrens led the Blue Devils with eight points.

The win improved the Broncos’ conference record 9-0 with only one IRC game left to play this season.



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

**From right, the Broncos’ Jena Sullivan battles on the floor for a loose ball with the Rebels’ Adri Juszczak and Ally Bode (14) in Saturday afternoon’s game in the Falls High School gym.**

### I. FALLS 59, ML/WR 49

On Saturday afternoon in the Falls High School gym, the Broncos took advantage of outside scoring opportunities when they defeated Moose Lake/Willow River, 59-49.

The Falls, which won its third game in three days, trailed 28-26 at halftime.

“We just weren’t playing up to the way we normally play,” Gilbert said. “Four games in a week will do that do you, eight games in 14 days. It was the last game of a long stretch, and we kind of played like it (Saturday).”

Anderson, who made a 3-pointer at the end of the first half to pull the Broncos within two points, put

in four of her seven 3-point baskets in the second half and finished with a game-high 26 points. Cassie Tomczak added 12 points with Filipiak scoring 11 more.

Adri Juszczak led the Rebels with 14 points. Libbie Ring added 10 points.

The win improved Falls’ overall season record to 17-5 going into Tuesday’s road game against Littlefork-Big Falls.

### Friday’s game

**I. Falls 74, Virginia 21**

**Virginia 8 13 - 21**

**I. Falls 43 31 - 74**

**I. Falls:** Grace Gilbert 6, Maddie Filipiak 15, Shelby Wolden 8, Teah Goulet 3, Bianca Carson 5, Teagan Anderson 12, Janet Humbert 4, Jena Sullivan 8, Emma Gilbert 9, Paige Heem-Taschuk 4. 3-pointers: Anderson 2, Filipiak, Goulet. Free throws: 17-27. Fouls: 14.

### Saturday’s game

**I. Falls 59, ML/WR 49**

**ML/WR 28 21 - 49**

**I. Falls 26 33 - 59**

**I. Falls:** Maddie Filipiak 11, Shelby Wolden 1, Cassie Tomczak 12, Teagan Anderson 26, Janet Humbert 4, Emma Gilbert 5. 3-pointers: Anderson 7, Filipiak, Gilbert. Free throws: 12-15. Fouls: 18. Fouled out: Wolden.

## BOYS BASKETBALL

# Broncos repel Rebels, 57-54

BY KEVIN BONESKE  
Sports Editor

In a closely-contested game from start to finish Saturday afternoon, the International Falls boys basketball team trailed by two points at halftime and ended up winning at home over Moose Lake/Willow River, 57-54.

“I think that’s actually pretty important that we win a close game like that,” said Broncos head coach Derek Dowty. “We haven’t had that many (close games) this year, and it’s nice to get a close one in and get a (win) off it with only five games to go.”

The Rebels closed out the first half with a 3-point basket from Rex Janke to lead 29-27 at intermission.

The lead continued to change hands in the second half.

The Broncos broke a 54-54 tie with 2:12 to play when Ben Humbert made two free throws. After the Rebels were unable to tie or take the lead, Falls senior guard Allen Johnson made one of two free throws to extend the lead to

three points with 23.1 seconds remaining.

The Broncos, who hadn’t committed enough fouls in the second half to send the Rebels to the free-throw line on a non-shooting foul for a one-plus-one bonus, held on to win after Moose Lake/Willow River couldn’t make a 3-point shot in the final seconds.

“We were very careful not to foul on the shot,” Dowty said.

Humbert led the Falls with a game-high 25 points with Clay Tomczak adding 12 points.

The Rebels had only four players score points led by Janke with 21. Brad Fossum added 17 points.

The win improved the Falls’ season record to 16-5 going into Tuesday’s home game against Mountain Iron-Buhl.

### I. Falls 57, ML/WR 54

**ML/WR 29 25 - 54**

**I. Falls 27 30 - 57**

**I. Falls:** Ben Everson 4, Jack Bartkowski 7, Allen Johnson 5, Max Vergeldt 4, Clay Tomczak 12, Ben Humbert 25. 3-pointers: Tomczak 2, Humbert. Free throws: 12-18. Fouls: 7.



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

**In front at left, the Broncos’ Wyatt Helgeson (20) works the ball inside while being double-teamed by the Rebels’ Charlie Adamczak in back and Joshua Butterfield at right in Saturday’s game in the Falls High School gym.**

# Vikings lose close to Giants, Bulldogs



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

**From left, the Vikings’ Tommy Manninen (20) passes the ball while being guarded by Mesabi Academy’s Marquell Zeiher Ford (24) in Monday night’s game in the Littlefork-Big Falls gym.**

BY KEVIN BONESKE  
Sports Editor

The Littlefork-Big Falls boys basketball team played two close games in four days against teams with names starting with Mesa-bi, but lost to both of them.

After being tied 39-39 at half-time Friday night, the Vikings ended up losing on the road to Mesabi East, 68-64.

“We turned the ball over too many times,” said L-BF head coach Jeff Maish, who also noted a turnover proved costly when the game was tied at 61-61 late in the second half.

The Vikings were led in scoring by Rylan Henrickson with 20 points. Zach Simon added a double-double with 14 points and 12 rebounds.

### M. ACADEMY 81, L-BF 80

L-BF trailed by seven points at halftime Monday night, but waged a second-half comeback before losing to Mesabi Academy, 81-80.

“It’s the story of our season – we dig a hole early because we don’t play defense and other teams get wide open looks (to the basket) and they hit them,” Maish said. “We dig ourselves a hole, and then we battle the whole game to get back into it, and at the end, every game, we come up short.”

The Vikings, who trailed the Bulldogs by double digits early in the second half, cut the deficit to 67-64 with 6:20 to play after three consecutive field goals by Simon.

Following a Mesabi Academy turnover, L-BF took the lead at 79-78 with 31.1 seconds to play after Ryan Bobst made two free throws.

“Offensively, we played fine,” Maish said. “It was on the defensive end – they hit way too many (3-point shots) and we just couldn’t stop them from doing that.”

The Bulldogs ended up making 11 3-point baskets, which included the game-winner in

the final seconds by Marquell Zeiher Ford.

The Vikings had a chance to tie the game with 6.6 seconds left when Simon went to the free-throw line, but he made only the second of two free throws and Mesabi Academy ran out the clock after the in-bound pass.

Four L-BF players scored in double figures led by Henrickson with 26 points, which included four 3-pointers. Simon added 24 points, Bobst scored 14 and Evan Wimmer scored 14 more.

The loss was the sixth in a row for the Vikings, which saw their season record drop to 5-15 overall going into Friday’s road game against North Woods.

### Friday’s game

**M. East 68, L-BF 64**

**L-BF 39 25 - 64**

**M. East 39 29 - 68**

### Monday’s game

**M. Academy 81, L-BF 80**

**M. Academy 43 38 - 81**

**L-BF 36 44 - 80**

## SPORTS SCHEDULE

### Thursday’s game

**Boys swimming/diving**

Virginia at I. Falls, 4:30 p.m.

**Girls basketball**

L-BF at Bigfork, 7:15 p.m.

**Boys hockey**

I. Falls at Lake of the Woods, 7:30 p.m.

### Friday’s games

**Women’s/men’s basketball**

RRCC at Vermilion, 6/8 p.m.

**Boys basketball**

I. Falls vs. Aitkin at North/South Challenge in Virginia, 6 p.m.

L-BF at North Woods, 7:15 p.m.

**Girls hockey**

Section 7A Championship in Virginia, 7 p.m.

### Saturday’s games

**Women’s/men’s basketball**

Mesabi Range at RRCC, 1/3 p.m.

**Boys basketball**

I. Falls vs. Hinckley-Finlayson at North/South Challenge in Virginia, 1 p.m.

**Women’s hockey**

RRCC at UW-La Crosse, 8:30 p.m.

### Sunday’s games

**Women’s hockey**

RRCC at UW-La Crosse, 9 a.m.