

SPORTS

Running camp held at Falls High School track

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

A running camp for boys and girls from age 6-12 has been held this month on Monday and Wednesday

mornings at the Falls High School track as a community education class led by Lexi Erickson, a state qualifier in cross country and track.



From left, Emma Erickson, 11, reaches back Wednesday to receive the baton from Ella Bahr, 11, during the running camp at the Falls High School track.



Boys and girls throw Frisbees and then run after them Wednesday as part of a running camp at the Falls High School track.



In front at left, Kenyan Olson, 8, runs Wednesday with a Frisbee during the running camp at the Falls High School track.



From left, Lexi Erickson, who has been heading up this month's running camp at the Falls High School track, runs Wednesday with Allison Zika, 6.

FALLS FINISHES 4TH AT MIT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The International Falls seventh-grade boys basketball team placed fourth at last weekend's Minnesota Invitational Tournament with a 2-2 record, winning against Redwood Valley and BOLD and losing to St. Charles and Pipestone. Team members shown include, from left, front row, Blaine Humbert, Willie Harala, Cade Clark, Hunter Wilson. Back row, assistant coach Mike Menard, Armando Barrios, Taylor Wilson, Max Olson, Garrett Koenig, head coach Matt MacKenzie.

BASEBALL

► continued from B1

and hitting two batters while striking out 10.

Beck accounted for three of Falls' six hits and also stole three bases. Willie Harala added two hits with a stolen base.

FALLS 9, EVELETH 1

In game two, the Falls jumped out to a five-run lead in the first inning and ended up defeating Eveleth, 9-1.

Eveleth starting pitcher Alec Gritzmacher lasted only a third of an inning when he gave up five runs on two hits with six walks. Beck singled to drive in a run and Butler doubled to bring home two more runs.

Bobby Lind pitched the rest of the game for Eveleth, allowing four runs on three hits with six walks.

Beck ended up with two hits, while Butler, Kalar and Humbert each had a hit for the Falls.

Wherley pitched all five innings to record the victory, allowing an earned run on two hits with three walks



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

At right, the Falls Junior League's Robert Sweeney (15) slides into home plate to score in the second game of Wednesday's home doubleheader against Eveleth.

while striking out five.

Following the doubleheader split, Falls' season record stood at 6-1 in the Iron Range League and 10-2 overall going into home games scheduled for later in the week against Fort Frances and Dryden.

The Falls plays Monday at Hibbing.

Game 1	Eveleth 3, I. Falls 2
Eveleth	0-0-0 3-0-3 3 1
I. Falls	1-0-0 1-0-2 6 0
LP-Trimble	Butler
Game 2	I. Falls 9, Eveleth 1
Eveleth	0-0-0 1-0-1 2 0
I. Falls	5-2-1 1-X-9 5 1
WP-Gage	Wherley

Wild not feeling a 'sense of urgency' this summer

ST. PAUL (AP) — The Minnesota Wild put a lot of work into summer projects the past two years. This time, they're on track for a little less activity.

Some key restricted free agents need new contracts to be retained. Another scorer would be a big help for the forward lines.

The goalie situation, of course, remains in flux. Following the franchise's deepest advancement in the playoffs in more than a decade, though, there are fewer holes.

In 2012, the Wild were the stars of the NHL offseason by signing Zach Parise and Ryan Suter. In 2013, they had to shed several high-salaried veterans to create more space under the cap and on the roster for ready-to-contribute prospects.

This time? "I just feel that this year there's not the sense of urgency that we have had in past seasons, that we have to add certain pieces in order to be more competitive," general manager Chuck Fletcher said Monday. He added: "This year I think we can be a little bit more patient."

With this weekend's draft in Philadelphia and unrestricted free agency starting three days later, the NHL marketplace is set up for the flurry.

"I think you'll see a lot of

movement this year. It's not a particularly strong free-agent class. I think teams will look to potentially fill their needs via the trade route," Fletcher said.

Whether that includes the Wild, well, that's difficult to predict at this point. Fletcher said he's been fielding more calls than he's been making.

"We either have players right in their prime that are key contributors on our team, or young players that are just starting their career that we're really not that excited about moving. We don't have a lot of players in that 25 to 29-year-old age class that seem to be the prime trade candidates in a lot of cases," Fletcher said.

That doesn't mean goalie Niklas Backstrom or center Kyle Brodziak, for example, wouldn't be dealt if the Wild were to find a partner.

Backstrom is on track to be ready for training camp Sept. 18 after his latest mid-section surgery. He has two more years left on his contract, and Brodziak has one.

Dumping some salary would give the Wild more flexibility to pursue a high-priced unrestricted free agent, with Thomas Vanek the primary focus of outside speculation. The former University of Minnesota standout played for three teams in 2013-14, lastly with Montreal.

Darcy Kuemper played his way into the starting goalie spot and is one of four restricted free agents the Wild will probably re-sign. Forwards Nino Niederreiter, Justin Fontaine and Jason Zucker are the others.

Most of the unrestricted free agents will probably be let go, including goalie Ilya Bryzgalov, forwards Dany Heatley and Matt Moulson. Forward Cody McCormick and defensemen Clayton Stoner and Nate Prosser are also in this category, without any guarantee the Wild would be their highest or favorite bidder. Fletcher declined to speak about any interest or not in any of them specifically.

"I think some of those guys will move on at this point. They're aware of where we're at," Fletcher said.

Fletcher traded Cal Clutterbuck for Niederreiter the day of the draft last year. He dealt Brent Burns for Devin Setoguchi and Charlie Coyle on draft day 2011. He acquired Brodziak in that scenario in 2009.

"Historically we haven't been a team that's ever been confused with the Edmonton Oilers circa '83-'85," Fletcher said. "If we could add a little bit more offense without sacrificing our defensive structure we'd like to do that."



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

The Broncos' Abby Kostiuk swims the freestyle Wednesday during a camp held this week in the Falls High School pool.

can get other world-class coaches in as guest coaches

as well throughout the next several years."