

SPORTS



Who is...
Richard Fogelberg, Bronco boys basketball senior center, is featured

B2

QUICK HITS

FHS boys hoops team loses at Eveleth-Gilbert

The International Falls boys basketball team battled to the final buzzer Tuesday night when the Broncos lost at Eveleth-Gilbert, 54-52.

Falls head coach Derek Dowty said the team couldn't get in a rhythm offensively, but played better defense than when the Broncos gave up 92 points to the Golden Bears in last month's loss.

Falls junior forward Ben Humbert, who had the ball knocked away near the basket in the final seconds of Tuesday's game as he sought to tie the score, had a team-high 22 points. Cody Hallin added 14 points, while Jack Bartkowski also scored in double figures with 11.

L-BF boys hoops team conquers Northeast Range

The Littlefork-Big Falls boys basketball team snapped a three-game losing streak Tuesday night when the Vikings won at home against Northeast Range, 69-33.

"It was a win we needed to have," said L-BF head coach Jeff Maish, who credited good defense for the victory.

The Vikings were in front at halftime, 43-20.

Jacob Franz led L-BF with 23 points, followed by Rylan Henrickson with 17 points and Evan Wimmer with 14 points.

FHS girls hockey team loses at Grand Rapids, ties Hibbing/Chisholm

Hillary Fox scored the International Falls girls hockey team's only goal Tuesday night when the Broncos lost at Grand Rapids, 5-1.

"We just didn't have a very good night," said Falls head coach Gerald Bolstad. "We just got outplayed."

The Falls was outshot, 46-11, as Taylor Fish recorded the loss in goal.

The Broncos also only scored a single goal in Thursday night's road game when they tied Hibbing/Chisholm, 1-1.

The Falls' season record now stands at 11-8-3 going into this afternoon's home game against Moose Lake.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Vikings ride Broncos inside

First L-BF win in local rivalry since 2007-08

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

For the first time since the 2007-08 season, Littlefork-Big Falls has defeated nearby rival International Falls in girls basketball.

The Vikings led by 20 points at halftime Thursday night and went on to beat the Broncos, 60-50, in the L-BF High School gym.

"We knew that they were going to be able to shoot outside, and they shot really well in the second half outside, but we were able to work inside, and work inside-out – hit a couple of outside shots to match some of theirs," said Vikings head coach John Larson. "But both teams played well, and I would say that our inside presence was a big factor in the game."

The two local teams, which face each other twice during the regular season, hadn't had L-BF pick up a victory since the season split in 2007-08. The win also marked Larson's first victory against FHS in his four seasons as the Vikings' girls basketball head coach.

L-BF, which faced a zone defense against FHS in the first half, had success scoring on layups inside, while the Broncos had a scoring slump for several minutes when up against the Vikings' man-to-man defense.

"They played very well against us (Thursday night)," said FHS head coach Shawn Gilbert. "I didn't think we played very well, but a lot of that had to do with them."

A 3-point play from the charity stripe by L-BF senior center Abby Thompson with 11:23 left in the first half gave

the Vikings their first double-digit lead at 15-5.

L-BF then continued to do all the scoring for more than six minutes, going on a 9-0 run, before a 3-pointer by Broncos junior guard Teagan Anderson cut L-BF's lead to 24-8.

FHS's final points of the first half came on a layup from Lexi Owen, before the Vikings went on a 7-0 run capped off by a layup from Kaylee Kennedy to lead 35-15 at halftime.

L-BF's inside game also gave the Broncos foul trouble with two players – Maddie Filipiak and Jena Sullivan – fouling out.

"We've struggled all year against bigger teams – (including) Bemidji, Grand Rapids – so we've had a real problem with the bigger teams right now," Gilbert said. "That's something we've still got to work on."

FHS was able to cut the deficit in the second half, and also switched to a man-to-man defense, but could come no closer than 10 points before time expired.

"Their intensity was up in the second half, ours was kind of lackluster," Larson said. "It was the exact opposite in the first half."

Three L-BF players scored in double figures led by senior forward Brooke Millerbernd with a game-high 21 points. Kennedy added 18 points and Thompson scored 16 more.

Anderson was the only FHS player to score in double figures with 16 points, which included four 3-pointers.

The Vikings improved their season record to 9-3, while the Broncos dropped



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From right, the Vikings' Dyana Imhof (11) looks to pass the ball inside while being guarded by the Broncos' Jena Sullivan (31) in Thursday night's game in the Littlefork-Big Falls High School gym.

to 11-4. Both teams, which will face each other again Feb. 11 in the FHS gym, return to action Monday with L-BF hosting Blackduck and the Broncos at home against Mountain Iron-Buhl.

L-BF 60, FHS 50
FHS 15 35 - 50
L-BF 35 25 - 60
FHS: Maddie Filipiak 6, Shelby Wolden 4, Lexi Owen 7, Cassie Tomczak 8, Teagan Anderson 16, Emma Gilbert 9. 3-pointers: Anderson 4, Owen, Gilbert. Free

throws: 8-15. Fouls: 22. Fouled out: Filipiak, Jena Sullivan.
L-BF: Kaylee Kennedy 18, Dyana Imhof 1, Breann Larson 4, Abby Thompson 16, Brooke Millerbernd 21. 3-pointers: Kennedy 2. Free throws: 16-24. Fouls: 12.

BOYS SWIMMING AND DIVING

Bluestreaks fly by Broncos in dual meet

FHS 7th at IRC True Team Meet

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

The International Falls boys swimming and diving team held its first home dual meet of the new year on Thursday afternoon when the Broncos placed first in three of the contested varsity events and finished runner-up in another before losing the meet to Chisholm, 46-43.

"I think it was a great meet – absolutely fantastic – it was a great night for Parents' Night," said Broncos head coach Dawnn Taylor. "We came back with a lot of top-three finishes – came back with actually quite a few first places, too, so I'm really happy about that."

"As a team, they're doing fantastic. And it's all about individual results this year. It's not where we place at the end of the day. It's about those individual results, and they're definitely coming along."

Falls senior Levi Lucy was a double individual



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

The Broncos' Ian Ducharme swims the butterfly in the 200-yard medley relay during Thursday's home dual meet against Chisholm.

winner, placing first in both the 200-yard freestyle (2 minutes, 12.6 seconds) and 100 butterfly (1:09.7).

In the diving competition, Broncos junior Cole Tatsak won with 138.7 points.

Falls junior Ian Ducharme added a runner-up finish in the 100 freestyle (59.95).

The Bluestreaks took a big lead early in the dual

meet and swam the final four varsity events – the 200 freestyle relay, 100 backstroke, 100 breaststroke and 400 freestyle relay – for exhibition purposes only.

Broncos eighth-grader John Cowman ended up with the fastest time in the 100 breaststroke (1:24.31).

FHS 7TH IN IRC TRUE TEAM

The Falls also competed last Saturday in Grand Rap-

ids at the Iron Range Conference True Team Meet and finished seventh out of nine teams with 412 points. Rapids had the top team score of 1,550, followed by Mesabi East (1,327) and Virginia (1,320) in the top three.

Each team was allowed up to four entries in each event with all the finishers scoring point for their teams.

The Broncos' top indi-

vidual finishes came from Lucy, who placed 6th in the 100 butterfly (1:09.37) and 10th in the 200 individual medley (2:33.96). Ducharme placed 11th in the 100 freestyle (59.8).

The Falls' next meet will be next Friday's Giants Country Invitational hosted by Mesabi East.

The Broncos' final home meet is Feb. 4 against Mesabi East.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Today's games

Women's/men's basketball

RRCC at Fond du Lac, 1/3 p.m.

Girls hockey

Moose Lake at I. Falls, 2 p.m.

Boys basketball

Crosby-Ironton at I. Falls, 2:30 p.m.

Monday's games

Girls basketball

MI-B at I. Falls, 7:15 p.m.

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

Tuesday's games

Boys hockey

I. Falls at Two Harbors, 6 p.m.

Boys basketball

Virginia at I. Falls, 7:15 p.m.
Kelliher/Northome at L-BF, 7:15 p.m.

Girls basketball

Deer River at I. Falls, 7:15 p.m.

Girls hockey

Fort Frances at I. Falls, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday's games

Women's/men's basketball

RRCC at Mesabi Range, 6/8 p.m.