

SPORTS



Who is...
Brandon Barras, Bronco boys basketball senior forward, is featured

B2

QUICK HITS

FHS boys hoops team loses third straight road game

The road has been rough so far this season for the International Falls boys basketball team.

After trailing by only 3 points at halftime Thursday night, the Broncos ended up losing their third consecutive road game by falling at Hibbing, 61-48.

“I thought we played OK defensively,” said Falls head coach Derek Dowty. “They made the big (shots) and we missed the big ones.”

The Bluejackets had four players score in double figures led by Bryan Farden with 15 points, 13 of which came in the first half. Dylan Takkunen and Tyler Jerkovich added 13 points apiece.

Ben Humbert led the Falls with a game-high 19 points and recorded a double-double by also hauling in 18 rebounds, while Cole Miggins added 13 points.

On Tuesday, the Broncos lost on the road at Bemidji, 78-64.

Dowty said the Falls got off to a slow start against its Class AAAA opponent and trailed 42-25 at halftime before being able to outscore the Lumberjacks in the second half.

Three Bronco players scored in double figures led by Humbert with 28 points, followed Jack Bartkowski with 12 and Cody Hallin with 11. Humbert recorded a double-double by also hauling in 12 rebounds.

The Falls, which now has a record of 1-3, returns to action next Tuesday night at home against Chisholm.

L-BF girls hoops team wins big at Northland 66-35

The Littlefork-Big Falls girls basketball team remained undefeated this season after winning big Thursday night at Northland, 66-35.

Vikings head coach John Larson said the team pulled away in the second half after working the ball for easy baskets and also having the defense shut down the opposition.

Three L-BF players scored in double figures led by Kaylee Kennedy with 19 points, followed by Brooke Millerbernd with 18 and Breann Larson with 12.

The Vikings, who improved to 2-0, next play Tuesday at Nashauk-Keewatin.

GIRLS HOCKEY

Muskies devour Broncos in Canada

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

After tying the game early in the second period, the International Falls girls hockey team gave up four unanswered goals and lost Tuesday night to Fort Frances, 6-2, at Ice for Kids Arena.

Broncos head coach Gerald Bolstad said he thought the Falls had a good effort against the rival Muskies, but didn't execute very well.

The Broncos scored first in the first period on a power-play goal from Hillary Fox assisted by Amy Auran, before Fort Frances put in a pair of goals to lead 2-1 after the first 17 minutes.

The Falls tied the game less than a minute into the second period on a power-play goal from Sydney Raboin assisted by Fox and Katie West.

Fort Frances then did the rest of the scoring with a pair of goals in the second period and two more in the final frame.

Broncos senior goalie Keanna Carlson picked up the loss after playing her first game in the net this season.

The loss across the Rainy River in Canada dropped the Broncos'



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From right, the Muskies' Claire Sandelovich (15) shoots the puck toward the net where Broncos goalie Keanna Carlson is set up while defensive player Ashley Jonson (11) looks on in Tuesday night's game at Ice for Kids Arena in Fort Frances.

overall record to 3-3, though the game against the Muskies won't count for seeding purposes.

The two teams will face each other again Jan. 28 at Bronco Arena.

Bolstad said Falls'

next game will be key for rankings in Section 7A when the Broncos host Proctor/Hermantown at

3 p.m. today.

Muskies 6, Broncos 2
Broncos 1 1 0 - 2
Muskies 2 2 2 - 6

Chatting with Brady Hjelle from Norway

Editor's note: Brady Hjelle of International Falls presently is midway in his first season playing pro hockey with the Rosenborg Ice Hockey Club in Trondheim, Norway.

The following includes excerpts from an online chat Corry Bjorkquist had Wednesday with Hjelle, who discussed what it is like to be living in Norway and playing as the team's starting goalie.

CB: What has it been like so far, playing hockey in a foreign country? Any cultural barriers or anything?

BH: The biggest adjustment here was getting used to the bigger ice surface and with that the other team can hold the puck more. So over here they play more of a possession game where back in the states it is mostly dump and chase. No language issues or anything though since everyone speaks good English.

CB: What is it like to live there, outside of hockey?

BH: It's very similar to life back home. Trondheim is a really nice city so there's a lot to do around here. The one big difference is that most cars are stick shift so we had a few scary drives to start the year.

CB: What is the attitude towards Americans over there?

BH: They treat us just like anyone else. The team is a really close knit group of guys and even in the locker room guys will speak in English just so everyone can be a part of it.

CB: How is the level of competition over there, compared to Division I college hockey? And compared to the ECHL?

BH: Better than college. The good teams in this (GET elite hockey) league would probably be comparable to the lower teams in the AHL and upper teams in the ECHL.

CB: How far are you through the season, and what place are you in?

BH: We're halfway through.... We're sitting in



FILE PHOTO

Brady Hjelle (34), shown playing in goal for Ohio State University last year at AMSOIL Arena where University of Minnesota Duluth wing Mike Seidel lands in the net, signed a two-year contract to play pro hockey in Norway for the Rosenborg Ice Hockey Club.

eight place right now which is the last playoff spot if the season were to end today.

CB: What is the nationality makeup of the team? Is the majority Norwegian, or how many foreign players are there?

BH: Each team can have eight imports.

CB: How is the winter over there? Similar to the Falls?

BH: Yeah, we've had plenty of snow but it's not as cold.

CB: How far do you have to go for a road game? Do you ever go to other countries to play?

BH: Most of our road games are around the Oslo area. We're the furthest team to the north in the league so it's a good 6 hours to Oslo. In the preseason we played a couple games in Sweden and also played in a tournament in Romania.

CB: What do you do outside of hockey? Do you have to do any community service or anything?

BH: So far we haven't really had to do anything like that. A couple of the older guys coach youth teams and they've talked to me about running a goalie session once a week but that hasn't

started yet. We basically just go to the gym and practice.

CB: How many games do you usually play in a week? How popular is the team in the city? What is attendance like?

BH: Most weeks we have two games. Our rink has been packed for all our games. We have a small building but we still have the fifth best attendance in the league. Our soccer team is pretty big time here though, so they are the main attraction in the city.

CB: About how many does your arena hold? Are you talking hundreds, thousands?

BH: I'm not sure on the exact number our rink holds but our average attendance is 1,622.

CB: Walk me through a typical game day for you.

BH: Well most of our games have been road games so far, so we have had like a 5:30 wake up, head to the rink to pack our gear, then either hop on the bus or go to the airport and get some sleep along the way. But (for) home games I just wake up and grab some food, then relax with my roommates until (the) pregame meal,

then take a quick nap before heading to the rink.

CB: Do you drive or fly to most of your road games?

BH: Usually drive, but we've flown three times I think.

CB: Do you play night games or afternoon games?

BH: Usually the weekday game is a night game and the weekend game (is) late afternoon.

CB: What is a typical non-game day for you? Do you have practice every day that you're not playing?

BH: Yeah, we don't get many days off. Sometimes we'll get a Monday off if we've had a crazy week. But a usual day is just get up and go to the gym then wait around (until) practice or other days we'll go grab lunch downtown.

CB: How do you get around the city? Do you have a Norwegian driver's license?

BH: No, my license is good here. We have two cars for me and my two roommates.

CB: Does the team provide your housing and cars, or do you guys take care of that yourself?

BH: The team had it lined up in the summer.

CB: Are things over there cheaper or more expensive than over here, in general?

BH: More expensive. For example, if you were to get fast food here it would cost close to \$20.

CB: Do they have McDonald's and Burger King over there, or did you have to learn to eat Norwegian food?

BH: No, they have all that stuff. The food in general is very similar to what we have back home.

CB: How far do you live from your rink?

BH: (A) five- to 10-minute drive, depending on the traffic and weather.

CB: So when does your season end? When do you get to come back to the U.S.?

BH: It all depends on the playoffs, but I think I'm coming back the end of March/early April.

CB: You're signed there through next season right?

BH: Yep. I'm planning on coming back.

CB: Are you still using Neil Sheehy as your agent, or do you represent yourself now?

BH: Yep. Neil and John Evans.

CB: Do players over there get into endorsement deals, doing ads or anything like that?

BH: The Norwegians can be sponsored but I don't think imports are allowed to do that.

CB: Do you ever do public appearances, autograph sessions, meet-and-greets, anything like that?

BH: We had a fan skate one weekend and people have stuff in the locker room for us to sign.

CB: Do you have an English website or anything for people here to keep track of you and how you're doing? I know you have a Twitter account.

BH: Our website is www.rihk.no and if you just copy that into Google Translate it will translate it for you. That's the best way to do it but it isn't the greatest translation.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Today's games

Women's basketball

RRCC vs. Central Minnesota All Stars at St. Cloud, 1 p.m.

Men's basketball

RRCC at St. Cloud Tech, 3 p.m.

Girls hockey

Proctor at I. Falls, 3 p.m.

Boys hockey

Proctor at I. Falls, 7 p.m.

Women's hockey

UMD vs. RRCC at Kerry Park Arena, 7 p.m.

Sunday's games

Women's hockey

UMD vs. RRCC at Bronco Arena, Noon

Monday's games

Girls basketball

I. Falls at Chisholm, 7:15 p.m.

Tuesday's games

Boys hockey

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

Boys basketball

Chisholm at I. Falls, 7:15 p.m.
Lake of the Woods at L-BF, 7:15 p.m.

Girls basketball

L-BF at Nashauk-Keewatin, 7:15 p.m.

Girls hockey

Hibbing at I. Falls, 7:30 p.m.