SPORTS

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

Voyageurs score early and win against NMU

RRCC at 12-3-3 in ACHA games after sweep of No. 4 Wildcats

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

From right, the Voyageurs' Marissa Lindblad (20) is stopped by Northern Michigan goalie Jenna Bales (1) in front of the crease on a breakaway play in Saturday night's game at Bronco Arena.

STAFF PHOTOS BY KEVIN BONESKE

From right, the Voyageurs' Katie Sinclair (13) and Shelby Tymkin (17) battle in front of the net with Northern Michigan goalie Brianna Bangle (31) in Sunday's game at Bronco Arena.

After scoring early, but not being able to get a goal late in the games last weekend, the Rainy River Community College women's hockey team was still able to sweep its two-game home series against Northern Michigan University.

"It was a big weekend for us. We definitely needed to take Northern Michigan for both games," Said RRCC head coach Jeff Wickstrom. "They're in fourth place in the (American Collegiate Hockey Association Division 2 Western Division) rankings. We're in second place.

"We did what we needed to do, but we made it a little more interesting than we needed to. Both games in the third period – right now we're somehow losing focus.... We're trying to get that focus to finish a game completely."

On Saturday night at Bronco Arena, the Voyageurs scored three first-period goals and led 4-0 after periods before holding on to defeat the Wildcats, 4-2.

RRCC got a pair of unassisted goals from Shelby Tymkin and another goal from Micah Cabral assisted by Hailey Clendenning to take a 3-0 lead after the first period.

The Voyageurs pulled in front by four goals with 9:21 left in the second period when Clendenning scored assisted by Shilo Beck and Connor Coleman.

NMU got on the scoreboard a minute into the final period on an unassisted power-play goal from Carlie Kangas. The Wildcats' final goal scored by Kendall Turro also came unassisted with 7:36 left to play.

Shots on goal favored RRCC, 40-20, with Shalynn Perry recording the win and Jenna Bales picking up the loss in net.

RRCC 3, NMU 2

The Voyageurs scored all three of their goals in the first period and gave up a pair of goals in the final period when they won Sunday at Bronco Arena over NMU, 3-2.

"With the short bench, we have good, fast skaters, and I think we can come out hard," Wickstrom said. "Maybe they're falling off a little bit towards the end of the game and they just don't have the legs. We've been working hard on skating, but maybe we've got to keep conditioning and keep working, so we can hold onto it throughout the whole game."

RRCC, which has only 10 players on its roster, took a 1-0 lead with 9:43 left in the first period on an unassisted, shorthanded goal from Katie Sinclair. The Voyageurs scored again 10 minutes into the opening period on a goal from Coleman assisted by Clendenning and Cabral. RRCC's final goal of the game came with 1:20 left in the first period when Cabral scored assisted by Tymkin and Beck.

The Wildcats, who replaced Bales in net with Brianna Bangle after giving up the three goals, did the rest of the scoring after neither team put the puck in the net during the second period.

NMU's first goal came with 6:47 left to play when Macy Schultz scored. The Wildcats pulled within a goal with 1:20 remaining when Amanda Crandall put the puck in the net. NMU pulled its goalie late in the game to bring an extra attacker on the ice, but couldn't score the equalizer.

The Voyageurs outshot the Wildcats, 35-14, with Perry picking up another win in goal.

Following the weekend sweep, RRCC improved its season record to 12-3-3 in ACHA games. The Voyageurs return to action Feb. 14-15 with a two-game road series against the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

"We need to work on how to put together a full 51 minutes worth of hockey," Wickstrom said. "If we're going to be in that national tournament, we're not going to be able to take a period off of hockey."

To be invited to the ACHA Division 2 National Tournament, which will be held March 4-8 in York, Pa., the Voyageurs would have to be among the Western Division's top-four-ranked teams in the final rankings that come out the week of Feb. 15.

Saturday's game
RRCC 4, NMU 2

NMU	0 0 2 – 2
RRCC	3 1 0 – 4

Sunday's game
RRCC 3, NMU 2

NMU	0 0 2 – 2
RRCC	3 0 0 – 3

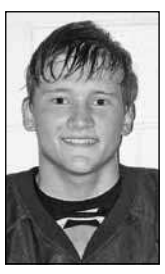
Lucas DeBenedet named Performer of the Month

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Superior International Junior Hockey League announced Tuesday that Fort Frances Lakers forward Lucas DeBenedet of International Falls has been named the Gongshow Gear Performer of the Month Award recipient for January.

In nine games in the first month of 2015, the 19-year-old DeBenedet recorded 17 points on six goals and 11 assists to help the league-leading Lakers post an 8-1 record in January.

He tallied multiple points in six games and also recorded one game-winning goal while also setting up three others.



Lucas DeBenedet

Since rejoining Fort Frances on Nov. 1, DeBenedet has helped the Lakers go 20-3 by scoring 14 goals and dishing out 23 assists.

For the award, DeBenedet will receive a prize package courtesy of Gongshow Gear, the official lifestyle hockey apparel of the SIJHL.

GIRLS HOCKEY

IF Broncos seeded No. 3 in Section 7A

The International Falls girls hockey team has wrapped up the regular season with a 12-12 record and will host its Section 7A Tournament quarterfinal game at 7 p.m. Thursday as the No. 3 seed against No. 6-seeded North Shore.

The Broncos defeated the Storm in both regular-season games between the two teams. The winner of the opening playoff game will advance to the Section 7A semifinal game Feb. 10 at 8 p.m. in Virginia against No. 2-seeded Hibbing/Chisholm.

In the other half of the Section 7A Tournament, No. 4-seeded Moose Lake Area will host No. 5-seeded Eveleth-Gilbert on Thursday night with the winner to face top-seeded Proctor/Hermantown in the semifinal game Feb. 10 at 6 p.m. in Virginia.

The Section 7A championship game is set for Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. in Virginia.

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BOYS SWIMMING AND DIVING

Broncos drop dual meet at Chisholm

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

A pair of top-two individual finishes by International Falls freshman Alex Belanger highlighted the Bronco boys swimming and diving team's dual meet Thursday at Chisholm that was won by the Bluestreaks, 41-21.

In Chisholm's 20-yard pool, Belanger won the 100 butterfly (1:08.92) and finished runner-up in the 100 backstroke (1:12.45).

Falls' only other top-two finish came from senior Gary Harala placing second in the 500 freestyle (7:18:26).

The Broncos' next meet is an invitational Friday at Mesabi East.

Chisholm 41, International Falls 21
International Falls finishers
200-yard freestyle – 3. Joey Griffith, 2:36.04; 4. Colin Hebner, 2:40.52.
160 medley relay – 3. Alex Belanger, Jared Hunter, Gary Harala, Cole Tatsak, 1:37.96.
60 freestyle – 3. Harala, 34.77; 4. Kevin Joslyn, 37.68.
100 butterfly – 1. Belanger, 1:08.92.
100 freestyle – 3. Hunter, 1:01.05; 4. Hebner, 1:16.18
500 freestyle – 2. Harala, 7:18:26; 4. Tatsak, 8:02:47.
160 freestyle relay – 3. Hunter, Harala, Tanner Sether, Tatsak, 1:27.52; 4. Alex Bissonnette, Hebner, Joslyn, Griffith, 1:38.16.
100 backstroke – 2. Belanger, 1:12.45.
100 breaststroke – 3. Griffith, 1:39.1.
400 freestyle relay – 3. Belanger, Tatsak, Sether, Hunter, 4:32.29; 4. Bissonnette, Hebner, Joslyn, Griffith, 4:56.08.

PUBLIC ADVISORY: MOONLIGHT ROCK LANDFILL NOT OPEN FOR RECREATIONAL USE

OfficeMax Seeks Cooperation of International Falls Recreationalists in Preserving Private Property and Protecting Public Safety.

OfficeMax® Incorporated (NYSE: OMX), a leader in office products and services, is reminding residents of International Falls, Minnesota and surrounding areas that the Moonlight Rock landfill is a closed private industrial facility with functioning equipment and is not open to public access for recreational activities, including ATV riding, snowmobiling, hiking or cycling.

OfficeMax asks all recreationalists to avoid the Moonlight Rock landfill and use approved open public recreation areas instead. OfficeMax has posted "Private Property" signs along the property perimeter to indicate boundaries and help direct public access away from the closed landfill site.

CORRECTION

The Stewart's SuperOne Holiday Cash Cards ended Sat. Jan. 31st
We apologize for any inconvenience.

Stewart's 1 SuperOne FOODS

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