

SPORTS



Minnesota Vikings
Josh Freeman debuts in 23-7 loss to Giants
B2

QUICK HITS

FHS vs. Two Harbors football results posted online

Tuesday night's Section 7AAA quarterfinal football game between International Falls and Two Harbors took place after the production deadline for today's edition. Results from that game are posted on the ifallsjournal.com website and will also be published in this Saturday's paper.

Cramer, Gordon score in Oilers' shootout loss

A second-period goal by Ryan Cramer of International Falls gave the Tulsa Oilers a 2-0 lead that didn't last in Saturday's Central Hockey League game at Denver, which ended up scoring a pair of goals in the third period to force overtime before the Cutthroats won an 18-round shootout over the Oilers, 3-2. After both teams scored in the sixth round of the shootout, another Tulsa player from the Falls, Ben Gordon, scored in the 14th round, only to see Denver's Garrett Bembridge also score to keep the shootout going. Cramer was unsuccessful in his shootout attempt during the 18th round, in which the Cutthroats' Steve Kaunisto scored the game-winner.

All three Oiler players from the Falls participated in the shootout with Drew Fisher and Cramer not scoring on both of their attempts and Gordon going 1-1. A CHL rule states that no more than 10 players from one team can compete in a shootout, and once 10 players have had their turn, the players must shoot again in the exact same order. Tulsa, which is 0-1-1 and had lost its season opener Friday at Denver, 4-1, will play its home opener this coming Saturday against the Allen Americans.

Correction

The International Falls football team won its regular-season finale at home Oct. 16 against Greenway/Nashwauk-Keewatin, 38-20. The story and box score in last Saturday's edition of The Journal had omitted GNK's final fourth-quarter touchdown and 2-point conversion scored by Spencer Potter. The story should have also stated the Falls' Jakob Ettestad scored four 2-point conversions.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY PREVIEW



STAFF PHOTOS BY KEVIN BONESKE

From left, Voyageurs forward and team captain Delaney Peters advances the puck with Kristen Andrews in goal during a practice last week at Kerry Park Arena. Rainy River opens the season this weekend by hosting a four-team tournament at Bronco Arena.



At left, RRCC women's hockey head coach Evan Amdahl makes a point during a practice last week at Kerry Park Arena. Amdahl is entering his sixth season as the Voyageurs' head coach.

RRCC seeks national title Voyageurs with depth at goalie, team speed

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

After having broken a consecutive string last season of qualifying for the American Collegiate Hockey Association Division 2 National Tournament every season since 2006-07, the Rainy River Community College women's hockey team has its sights on a national title. The Voyageurs, who finished the 2012-13 campaign 4-12-1 overall and 4-8-1 in ACHA games, had closed out the season with a 6-0 victory over the club team from the University of Minnesota Duluth, an ACHA D2 national qualifier. Evan Amdahl enters his sixth season as the Voyageurs' head coach with the team's key losses from last season being forward Janet Scherrer, who is now playing NCAA Division III hockey at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, and forwards Abbey Fox and Kristen Penner, who have

moved on to other schools this year. RRCC returns an honorable mention All-American forward, Taylor Dixon, a sophomore from Fort Frances. The strengths of this year's team, Amdahl said, include depth at goalie with four players fighting for playing time at that position and team speed. "Since there is no body checking in girls hockey, speed can make a team very successful," Amdahl said. However, with half of the team being new this season, he said "it will take a while to get any continuity on the ice." "Once the season gets into full swing, I'm hoping that the lines will fall together and start to click," Amdahl said. After missing last year's national tournament, Amdahl said "the team is motivated to redeem itself and make a drive for RRCC's fourth national championship." The Voyageurs last

won the ACHA D2 title in 2010-11. Amdahl said he is concerned the most this season about the team staying healthy. "We have a strong off-ice conditioning and weight-lifting program and injuries are not usually a problem," he said. "However, all it takes is a freak accident to really put a damper on a season." Amdahl said he is looking forward this season to "seeing the potential of this team come together and watching the girls develop new friendships that will last a lifetime." He said the teams to watch out for this season include UMD and North Dakota State, which both qualified for the national tournament last season, as well as the University of Alaska and UW-Stout, which played each other for the national championship two seasons ago.

The Voyageurs open

Hockey to B2 ►

DeBenedet records hat trick in Lakers' win

Fort Frances on eight-game winning streak

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Fort Frances Lakers remained atop the Superior International Junior Hockey League standings and extended their winning streak to eight games with a pair of road victories last weekend. On Saturday night in Thunder Bay, 2013 Falls High School graduate Lucas DeBenedet recorded a hat trick, which included the game-winning goal, to lead the Lakers to an 8-4 victory over the North Stars at the Fort William Gardens. Fort Frances improved its record to 9-1-0-1 and is presently sixth in the weekly Canadian Junior Hockey League rankings, while Thunder Bay dropped to 7-1-0-1 on the season after recording its first loss in regulation time and is 15th in this

week's CJHL rankings. The Lakers also got goals from Bryce Lipinski, who scored twice, while Donovan Cousineau, Colton Spicer and Brent Aiken supplied single scores. Jesse Taylor, Zach Grzelewski, Daniel Delpaggio and Kris Kellaway each scored for the North Stars. Ryan Ferguson turned aside 32 shots to register the victory in goal for Fort Frances. Eric Mann started for Thunder Bay and allowed four goals on 17 attempts in just over 23 minutes of work. Jordan Kelso suffered the loss in relief facing 14 shots on goal.

LAKERS 6, WILDERNESS 1
Fort Frances got a pair of goals from Lyndon Lipinski



Lucas DeBenedet

on Friday night when the Lakers won on the road over the Wisconsin Wilderness, 6-1. Cousineau, Bryce Lipinski, Brandon Sinclair and Torrin Grange added single scores for the Lakers, while Riley Daly and DeBenedet both dished out a pair of assists. Sawyer Jacobson had the lone goal for Wisconsin. Jordan Cartney was the winning goaltender for Fort Frances, while Luke Thompson recorded the loss for the Wilderness. The Lakers return to action at 7:30 tonight when they host the Minnesota Iron Rangers at Couchiching First Nations Arena. They then will host the Wisconsin Wilderness at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Ice for Kids Arena.

Fort Frances 8, Thunder Bay 4
Fort Frances 2 4 2 – 8
Thunder Bay 1 1 2 – 4

Fort Frances 6, Wisconsin 1
Fort Frances 1 2 3 – 6
Wisconsin 1 0 0 – 1

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Section playoffs beginning tonight for Vikings, Broncos

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The playoffs begin tonight for both the Littlefork-Big Falls and International Falls volleyball teams. Littlefork-Big Falls has received the No. 3 seed in its Sub-Section and will open the Section 7A Tournament at 7 p.m. today in the L-BF High School gym against No. 6-seeded Cherry, which won its opening-round match Monday against the No. 11 seed, Bigfork, in three straight games. Tonight's winner will advance to a quarterfinal match Friday in Virginia to face the winner between No. 2-seeded Chisholm and No. 7-seeded Mountain Iron-Buhl. MI-B defeated No. 10-seeded Ely in four games Monday to face Chisholm tonight.

The quarterfinal winner will advance to the Section 7A semifinals Oct. 30 at Deer River, which will also host the championship match Nov. 2 at 6 p.m. International Falls has received the No. 5 seed in its Sub-Section and will open the Section 7AA Tournament at 7 p.m. today at No. 4-seeded Virginia. The winner advances to the quarterfinal match at 6 p.m. Friday in Proctor against the winner of today's match between No. 1-seeded Hermantown and the No. 8 seed, Two Harbors. The quarterfinal winner will advance to the Section 7AA semifinals Oct. 30 at Duluth Denfeld. The championship match is scheduled for 4 p.m. on Nov. 2 at Deer River.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Today's games
Girls volleyball
Cherry at L-BF in Section 7A playoffs, 7 p.m.
I. Falls at Virginia in Section 7AA playoffs, 7 p.m.

Thursday's games
Cross country
I. Falls in Section 7A Meet at Cloquet, 11 a.m.
Girls swimming/diving
I. Falls at Mesabi East, 4:30 p.m.

Friday's games
Women's volleyball
Northland at RRCC, 3:30 p.m.
Girls volleyball
Section 7A quarterfinals at Virginia, TBA
Section 7AA quarterfinals at Proctor, 6 p.m.

Saturday's games
Women's hockey
RRCC Tournament at Bronco Arena, 9 a.m./4 p.m.
Women's volleyball
Central Lakes at RRCC, Noon
Football
I. Falls vs. Two Harbors winner at Proctor in Section 7AAA semifinals, 1 p.m.