

SPORTS



Voyageurs softball

RRCC opens season next Wednesday at Irish Dome

B2

QUICK HITS

Kerry Park men's hockey tourney this weekend in the Falls

The 14th Annual Kerry Park Men's Hockey Tournament, which has raised thousands of dollars over the years for the International Falls Recreation Hockey program and for capital improvements at Kerry Park Arena and Bronco Arena, is taking place this weekend at both arenas in the Falls.

Tournament Committee member Scott Riley said 25 teams in four divisions are participating this year in the no-check, no slap shot tournament, in which there are six teams in the open division, six teams in the 30-plus age division, seven teams in the 40-plus age division and six teams in the 50-plus age division.

He said each team in all the divisions is guaranteed at least three games in the tournament, in which each game has 50 minutes of running time with the clock only being stopped in the final minute in the event the game is within two goals or less, while a shootout is held in case of a tie.

Riley said each division is split into two pools with the top teams in each pool advancing to Sunday's championship games at Kerry Park Arena, starting with the 50-plus age division at 10:10 a.m. and wrapping up with the open division set to face off at 1:40 p.m.

He said the tournament, which is open to men age 21 and older, functions as reunion for players to get together, in addition to being a fundraiser with the proceeds supporting local hockey programs.

Riley said no prize money is awarded to the winning teams that will have their photos put on display at Kerry Park Arena.

He said a banquet with a spaghetti feed will be held for all the participants tonight at the AmericInn with no games being held this evening.

Riley said one change to this year's tournament is that there will be no shoot-out competition, in which the participation level has been low, though that could return in subsequent years if there is a demand for it.

He said admission is free throughout the tournament, for which programs will be available and concessions stands will be operating at both arenas.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Bombers beat Broncos, 62-53 Falls' season ends at 21-8

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

Seven minutes into Thursday night's Section 7AA semifinal game, the prospects of advancing to tonight's finals were looking good for the International Falls girls basketball team.

However, a seven-point lead turned into a four-point deficit after a four-minute scoring drought and the Broncos never led again, losing to Barnum, 62-53, in the University of Minnesota's Romano Gymnasium.

"I was kind of hoping we were going to play a little bit better (Thursday night), but we had a lot of turnovers, and we were pretty nervous," said Falls head coach Shawn Gilbert. "We got started out really good, but way too many turnovers kind of piled up on us."

The Broncos, who relied upon outside shooting for much of the game, had better success early making their shots. A string of three 3-pointers made by Teagan Anderson, Janet Humbert and Maddie Filipiak helped put the Broncos in front, 13-8.

A pair of free throws by Cassie Tomczak then gave the Falls its largest lead of the game at 15-8 with 11:01 left in the first half.

"I just thought we shot pretty well at the beginning, and we executed everything that we had to do, but (the Bombers) tightened it up defensively and they played really well," Gilbert said.

The lead changed hands for good when the Bombers went on an 11-0 scoring run capped off by a layup by Lauren Hultgren to pull in front, 19-15.

The Broncos didn't score again until just over seven minutes remained in the first half when Filipiak made another 3-pointer to pull within a point, 19-18.

Falls' outside shooting went cold as Barnum went on a 10-2 scoring run to lead by nine points late in the first half. Tomczak then made four free throws in the final minute as the Broncos narrowed the deficit at intermission to 29-24.

The Falls got off to a good start in the second half when Anderson made a 3-pointer to cut the deficit to two points, only to see the Bombers go on an 8-0 scoring run to take their



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From left, the Broncos' Cassie Tomczak (21) dribbles the ball while being guarded by Barnum's Megan Nelson in Thursday night's Section 7AA semifinal game in the University of Minnesota Duluth's Romano Gymnasium.

first double-digit lead of the game at 37-27.

A pair of field goals inside the arc by Anderson cut the deficit to six points, but that was the closest the Broncos could get before time expired.

"I thought we matched up pretty well overall," Gilbert said. "I thought it would be a good matchup for us. For the most part, we did really well

against that big player (6-1 center Daron Mainville) that I really worried about, but they had a couple other players that played well that was the difference in the game."

Barnum had three players score in double figures led by Cheyanne Johnson with 15 points, followed by Mainville with 14 and Emily Miletich with 13.

Filipiak led the Broncos

with a game-high 21 points, while Anderson also scored in double figures with 13.

The loss ended the Falls' season at 21-8 overall, while Barnum improved to 19-8 and advanced to tonight's Section 7AA championship game at UMD to face Esko.

The Broncos next season will be losing only one player to graduation, senior guard Lexi Owen.

FHS track and field practice off and running

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The International Falls boys and girls track and field teams began formal practices this week in preparation for the first indoor meet of the season next Friday at the University of Wisconsin-Superior.



The Falls High School girls track and field team practiced in the cafeteria Wednesday afternoon while the Bronco girls basketball team was in the gym preparing for Thursday night's Section 7AA semifinal game.



STAFF PHOTOS BY KEVIN BONESKE

There was still plenty of snow on the ground outside Falls High School on Wednesday afternoon when the Bronco boys and girls distance runners went on a training run.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Today's games
Men's baseball
RRCC vs. Northern Essex Community College in St. Petersburg, Fla. (DH), 12 p.m.

Wednesday's games
Women's softball
RRCC vs. Anoka-Ramsey/ Mesabi Range/Fond du Lac at Rosemount Irish Dome, 7:15/9/10:45 a.m.

Thursday's games
Women's softball
RRCC vs. Minnesota West/ Itasca/Ridgewater at Rosemount Irish Dome, 7:15/9/10:45 a.m.

Friday's games
Women's softball
RRCC vs. Itasca/Fergus Falls/ Northland at Rosemount Irish Dome, 7:15/9/10:45 a.m.
Track and field
I. Falls in Mesabi East Indoor Meet at UW-Superior, 4 p.m.

March 22 games
Men's baseball
RRCC at Dakota Wesleyan JV (DH), 1/3 p.m.

March 23 games
Men's baseball
RRCC at Dakota Wesleyan JV (DH), 11 a.m./1 p.m.



Mark Dwyer, MD
Ophthalmology

Ragna Godtland, OD
Optometry

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