

SPORTS

GIRLS SOFTBALL



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From left, the Broncos’ McKenna Rasmussen (3) runs to first base after laying down a bunt fielded by Ely pitcher Erin Muhvich in Monday’s game at Falls High School.

Timberwolves bite Broncos at the end

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

After trailing by a run and then taking a 2-1 lead Monday, the International Falls girls softball team couldn’t stay in front in the final inning.

The Broncos lost at home to Ely, 3-2.

“We really didn’t hit the ball, and we weren’t as sharp defensively as we’ve been,” said Falls head coach Kevin Gordon.

The Timberwolves had fielding miscues of their own when the Broncos scored both of their runs in the bottom of the fifth. Teagan Anderson reached base on an error and scored to tie the game. Briana

Becvar beat out a ground ball to reach base with two outs and scored the lead run after Ely was unable to get out of the inning with another error at second base.

The Timberwolves opened the top of the seventh with singles from Morgan Housey and Shawna Butler, before a pair of errors results in two runs.

Ely pitcher Erin Muhvich gave up six hits in picking up the complete-game victory, while Anderson allowed five hits while working all seven innings in recording the loss.

Ely 3, I. Falls 2
Ely 0-0-1 0-0-0 2-3
I. Falls 0-0-0 0-2-0 0-2

WOMEN’S SOFTBALL

Voyageurs go 3-0 at MCAC North Tourney

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Though they didn’t have to win a game last weekend to remain the Minnesota College Athletic Conference Northern Division’s top seed and host this week’s NJCAA Division III Region 13B Tournament, the Rainy River Community College softball went a perfect 3-0 at the MCAC North Tournament in Thief River Falls.

“In the end, we’re always playing to get better and playing to win,” said RRCC head coach Dieter Humbert.

The Voyageurs opened the double-elimination tournament Saturday with a 16-9 win over Northland.

Oashaja Dobie recorded the pitching victory for RRCC working five shutout innings. She allowed a hit with two walks while striking out four. Beth Austad gave up all nine earned runs on nine hits with a walk and a hit batter pitching two innings.

The Voyageurs pounded out 10 hits, five of them home runs. Dobie hit two homers and a double with 7 RBI and three runs scored. Rachel Clark homered and doubled with an RBI and three runs scored. Courtney Branham homered with 3 RBI and a

runs scored. Alexis Fancy homered with 2 RBI and two runs scored.

RRCC 11, MESABI RANGE 3

RRCC then played Saturday against Mesabi Range, the team the Voyageurs defeated in Friday’s tie-breaking game for the MCAC North’s top seed, and won 11-3 in six innings.

Dobie recorded the pitching victory, allowing three unearned runs on four hits with four walks while striking out nine.

Fancy homered for RRCC and had 5 RBI. Angela McGrath added a hit and 3 RBI.

RRCC 12, MESABI RANGE 6

The Voyageurs closed out the tournament Sunday with a 12-6 victory over Mesabi Range, the MCAC North’s No. 2 seed.

GIRLS SOFTBALL

Vikings conquer Spartans at home

L-BF team also splits Saturday doubleheader

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

Three runs in the first three innings turned out be enough for the Littlefork-Big Falls softball team to win at home Monday afternoon.

The Vikings defeated Nashwauk-Keewatin, 3-1. “We got two big hits when we needed it and that was the difference,” said L-BF head coach Mike Imhof.

L-BF got on the scoreboard first in the bottom of the second when Breann Larson doubled and then scored on a wild pitch.

The Spartans tied the game in the top of the third when their pitcher, Aubrey Nelson, walked on base and scored. N-K, which tal-

lied three hits that inning, squandered the opportunity to score more runs when base-running missteps resulted in outs at both second and third base.

The Vikings regained the lead for good by scoring twice in the bottom of the third. Karly Swenson led off with a single and then Gina Thydean came in to run for her. A sacrifice bunt by Emily Knaeble put Thydean in scoring position. After a wild pitch put Thydean on third, Brooke Millerbernd walked and then stole second base. A two-out single by DyAna Imhof scored both runners.

Amanda Nelson and Millerbernd alternated pitching duties for the Vikings, while Aubrey Nelson pitched the entire game for the Spartans.

L-BF SPLITS TWIN BILL

The Vikings also played two games Saturday at Hill City.



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From left, the Vikings’ Gina Thydean (25) scores what turned out to be the game-winning run at the plate where Spartans catcher Meg Justison (35) is standing while the Vikings’ Brooke Millerbernd rounds third base to score another run in Monday’s game at Troy Janzen Field.

L-BF first shut out Hill City, 13-0, in five innings. Knaeble, Larson and Ellie Julson had three hits apiece for the Vikings.

In the second game, South Ridge edged L-BF, 2-1. The Vikings tallied five hits over seven innings, compared to six for South Ridge.

BOYS AND GIRLS GOLF

Bronco boys first, girls second at Hibbing Invite

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The International Falls boys golf team took top honors with the girls team placing second at Friday’s Hibbing Invitational held at the Mesaba Country Club.

“Every team struggled with the course conditions,” said Falls head coach Kelly Blair. “Casual water was the main issue in the fairways. Greens were a little slow, so putting was also difficult. All these issues are pretty common for early in the season meets, especially after the long winter and late spring we are experiencing.

“Overall, I’m happy with the performance and I think it will continue to get better and better week to week.”

The Bronco boys, who played in their second tournament this season, topped the team standings at 336, three strokes ahead of runner-up Greenway/Nashwauk-Keewatin. Hibbing and Eveleth-Gilbert tied for third, followed by Mesabi East and Ely rounding out the six-team field.

Eveleth-Gilbert’s Nick Moe finished first with an 80 for 18 holes, edging out GNK’s Evan Skaar, who also carded an 80, in a tiebreaker. Broncos sophomore Eric



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Bronco girls golf team placed second at Friday’s Hibbing Invitational. Team members shown include, from left, head coach Kelly Blair, Jenna Anderson, Katie West, Kaitlin Stallard, Olivia Besch, Maggie Roeder, Kenzie Wenberg.

Cann tied with Hibbing’s Luke Fena for third place at 82.

Falls’ other golfers and their scores included Brady Wright (83), Brady Walls (85), Riley Nemec (86), Josh Cann (94), Brock O’Loughlin (97). Wright tied for fourth, Walls tied for sixth and Nemec came in seventh.

In the girls competition, Hibbing won with the top

score of 396, 26 strokes ahead of the Falls in second place, followed by Eveleth-Gilbert, Ely, Mesabi East and Virginia.

Hibbing’s Vanessa Yeager had the top girls score at 90, followed by two Broncos, who golfed in their first tournament this season. Senior Katie West was runner-up at 95 with junior Jenna Anderson placing third with a 96.

Falls’ other girls golfers and their scores included Olivia Besch (106), Maggie Roeder (125), Kaitlyn Stallard (136) and Kenzie Wenberg (141). Besch came in eight, while Roeder finished 14th.

Weather permitting, both the Bronco boys and girls teams are scheduled to be in action today to host the Falls Invite at the Falls Country Club.

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