

SPORTS

SIJHL HOCKEY

Mason Meyer records hat trick in Bill Salonen Cup

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Fort Frances Lakers forward Mason Meyer of International Falls recorded a hat trick Friday, but it wasn't enough scoring when the Dryden Ice Dogs scored four second-period goals and held on to defeat the Lakers, 5-4, in game two of the Superior International Junior Hockey League's Bill Salonen Cup championship series at Ice for Kids Arena.

Fort Frances scored first 7:24 into the contest on Meyer's first goal of the game.

Ice Dogs defenseman Kyle Pouncy then put the puck past Lakers starting goalie Nathan Park at 3:18 of the second period to tie the game at 1-1.

Dryden took its first lead of the series with 11:37 to go in the second period when the SIJHL's most valuable player, Cole Golka, scored for his seventh goal of the playoffs.

Trevor Kavanaugh scored at 14:41 of the second period to put the Ice Dogs up by a pair. Dryden's Matt Houston then gave the visitors a 4-1 lead after 40 minutes.

The Ice dogs scored again 27 seconds into the third period on a goal by Jonathon Philley, who

ended Park's night in net when he was replaced by Pierce Dushenko.

Meyer then pulled the Lakers within three with his second goal of the contest at 3:03 of the third period.

Fort Frances added another goal about a minute and a half later to make it 5-3 when Dylan Robertson scored.

The Lakers pulled Dushenko out of the net late in the third period in favor of an extra attacker when Meyer capped off a hat trick and his league-leading eighth goal of the postseason with 28 seconds remaining in regulation, but that was as close as they would get when their comeback bid fell short as the Ice Dogs held on to even the series at a win apiece.

The best-of-seven series resumed Tuesday night with game three at Dryden's Memorial Arena. Game four will take place there tonight. The Lakers host game five Friday at Ice for Kids Arena.



Mason Meyer

WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

RRCC goes 2-3 in five non-conference games

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Rainy River Community College softball team played five road non-conference games in three days late last week leading up to Monday's home doubleheader to open the Minnesota College Athletic Conference Northern Division schedule.

The Voyageurs literally sustained a bad break Thursday when they split a doubleheader with Northland Community and Technical College.

In game one, RRCC won the contest, 11-7, but lost freshman shortstop Brooke Millerbernd for the season when she sustained a broken arm on a putout play.

Deven Chandler, who was named the MCAC North Pitcher of the Week, threw all seven innings to record the victory. She allowed seven runs, one earned, on four hits with five walks while striking out two.

Of RRCC's 14 hits, Sierra Ramirez had three of them with 4 RBI. Chandler had two hits with a home run. DyAna Imhof, Karen Sondergard and Jaimie Shaw added two hits apiece.

NCTC 5, RRCC 2

In game two Thursday, the Voyageurs could only muster four hits when they lost to the Pioneers, 5-2.

Ramirez pitched all seven

innings and recorded the loss, giving up five runs, one earned, on five hits with two walks and a hit batter while striking out six.

HIBBING 13, RRCC 4

RRCC played three games Saturday at a tournament in Grand Rapids, losing the first game to Hibbing, 13-4, in five innings.

RRCC 20, ITASCA 0

The Voyageurs won their only game of Saturday's tournament when they shut out Itasca, 20-0, in five innings.

Chandler allowed only one hit, a walk and a hit batter while striking out seven in the shutout victory.

Of RRCC's 16 hits, three were home runs with Imhof, Shaw and Chandler each recording a round-tripper.

MR 13, RRCC 0

The Voyageurs closed out Saturday's tournament by being shut out by Mesabi Range, 13-0, in five innings.

Ramirez pitched three innings and took the loss.



DyAna Imhof



Deven Chandler

YOUTH WRESTLING



STAFF PHOTOS BY KEVIN BONESKE

At right, Mighty Mustangs fourth-grader Pierce Gouin controls an opponent in Sunday's "Top of the Nation Championship" at Falls High School.

Close to 200 at 'Top of the Nation' tournament

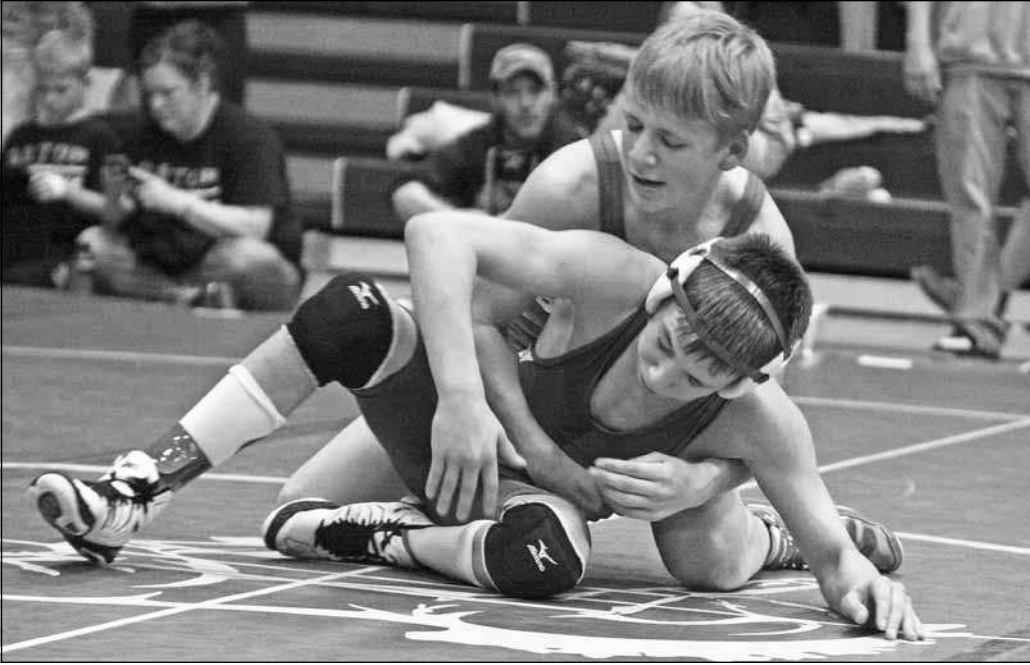
JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Close to 200 youth wrestlers were on hand Sunday when the International Falls Wrestling Booster Club held the first annual "Top of the Nation Championship" in the Falls High School gym.

The event marked the first youth wrestling tournament held in the Falls since the late 1980s and was also the season finale for the local Mighty Mustangs wrestling program.

Wrestlers from pre-kindergarten through the eighth grade from throughout Minnesota competed for slightly more than two hours on the two mats set up on the FHS gym floor.

"The quality of wrestling was superb, creating some fierce battles and excitement on the mats," said tournament director Jeremy Mann. "We have received some excellent feedback on minor changes



At top, Mighty Mustangs eighth-grader Levi Cottrell controls an opponent in Sunday's "Top of the Nation Championship" at Falls High School.

that need to be made, but overall we have had nothing but positive comments."

Mann said the Mighty Mustangs hope to attract a larger crowd at next year's

second annual tournament.

"The ultimate reward for hosting our own tournament is for our local wrestlers to be able to wrestle at

home, in front of family and friends," Mann said. "Our kids have a lot of pride in being part of the Mustang family and can not wait to wrestle for the Broncos."

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