SPORTS

Who is...

Kaitlin Van Heel, Bronco girls hockey senior forward, is featured

B2

QUICK HITS

FHS boys hockey team edges H/C

A goal by Luke Spilde with 12:14 left in the final period broke a scoreless tie Thursday night and lifted the International Falls boys hockey team to a 1-0 road victory over Hibbing/Chisholm.

Luke Spilde

The Broncos had been outshot, 39-17, as Wyatt Ulrich recorded the shutout win in goal.

The victory snapped a six-game winless streak and improved the Falls' season record to 5-13-1 going into Friday night's home game against Eveleth-Gilbert. The Broncos' next game is at home 4 p.m. Tuesday against Lake of the Woods.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Today's games
Men's basketball
Central Lakes at RRCC.
2 p.m.

Monday's games
Girls basketball
Kelliher/Northome at L-BF, 7:15 p.m.
I. Falls at Cherry, 7:15 p.m.
Boys basketball
Virginia at I. Falls, 7:15 p.m.
L-BF at Eveleth-Gilbert, 7:15 p.m.

Tuesday's games
Boys hockey
Lake of the Woods at I. Falls, 4 p.m.
Boys swimming/diving
Mesabi East at I. Falls, 4 p.m.

Wednesday's games
Women's/men's basketball
Itasca at RRCC, 6/8 p.m.

Thursday's games
Girls hockey
I. Falls in Section 7A quarterfinals, TBA
Girls basketball
Greenway at I. Falls, 7:15 p.m.
L-BF at Chisholm, 7:15 p.m.
Boys basketball
L-BF at Nashwauk-Keewatin, 7:15 p.m.

GIRLS HOCKEY

Broncos down Golden Bears, enter playoffs

FHS at 14-8-3

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

After scoring all three of its goals within a 2-minute span in the opening period Thursday night, the International Falls girls hockey team held on for a 3-2 victory over Eveleth-Gilbert at Bronco Arena.

"We played really good the first period and we kind of lost our edge, I think, and let them get back in the game," said Falls head coach Gerald Bolstad. "It's Parents' Night – a lot of distractions – but the kids worked hard and we got a win, so that's what counts."

The Broncos broke the scoreless tie with 8:07 left in the opening period on a goal from Hillary Fox assisted by Amy Auran.

The Falls then took a 2-0 lead 50 seconds later on an unassisted goal by Lexi Edwards.

Amber Tilander scored the Broncos' final goal with 6:39 left in the first period.

The Golden Bears got on the scoreboard with 1:25 left in the opening period on the first of two goals by Angela Larson.

The score remained 3-1 until less than a minute remained in the game when Eveleth-Gilbert pulled its goalie out of the net for an extra attacker on the ice and Larson made it a one-goal game, which is how the contest ended.

The Broncos outshot the Golden Bears, 37-18, with Keanna Carlson recording the victory and Kora Bonicatto picking up the loss in goal.

The regular-season finale victory improved the Falls' season record to 14-8-3 going into the Section 7A playoffs that begin next Thursday.

"We've lost two games since Christmas..." Bolstad said. "We're playing really well, and so we're ready for playoffs."

Bolstad said he expects the Broncos will receive section's No. 3 seed and open the playoffs at home against Silver Bay Area, the expected No. 6 seed and a team the Falls has defeated twice this season.

The quarterfinal winner advances to the Feb. 11 semifinal.

STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From left, the Broncos' Amy Auran (8) battles on the boards for the puck with an Eveleth-Gilbert player in Thursday night's game at Bronco Arena.

Int'l Falls 3, Eveleth-Gilbert 2

Eveleth-Gilbert	1	0	1	– 2
Int'l Falls	3	0	0	– 3

BOYS BASKETBALL

Broncos come back to defeat Warroad

L-BF Vikings level Hill City, 83-67

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

After falling behind by double digits early and trailing for most of the first half Thursday night, the International Falls boys basketball team came back and won at home against Warroad, 64-53.

"I didn't think we played exceptionally well (Thursday night)," said Broncos head coach Derek Dowty. "We struggled early. Offensively, it seemed like we couldn't get ahold of the ball for some reason, but managed to pull out a win."

The Falls whittled away at the deficit as the first half wound down. A jump shot by Broncos senior Cody Hallin tied the game at 24-24, after which a layup from Clay Tomczak gave the Falls a 2-point lead. The half ended with the Falls in front, 28-26.

The Broncos outscored the Warriors in the second half, 36-27, as Ben Humbert ended up leading the Falls in scoring with 26 points, while Jack Bartkowski also scored in double figures with 13 points.

The win evened the Falls' season record at 10-10 going into Monday's make-up game at home against Virginia.

L-BF 83, HILL CITY 67

The Littlefork-Big Falls boys basketball team got back on the winning track Thursday night with an 83-67 home victory over Hill City.

"We played well at times," said Vikings head coach Jeff Maish, who noted he wished the team would have played better on the defensive side of the ball.

Four L-BF players scored in double figures led by Rylan Henrickson with 24 points, followed by Taylor DeLack with 21, Jacob Franz with 18 and Zach Simon with 12.

The game also marked DeLack's return to the lineup after sitting out five games since he injured an ankle Jan. 10 against Northland Remer.

The win improved the Vikings' season record to 5-8 going into Friday night's game at Ely.

L-BF next plays Monday night at Eveleth-Gilbert.

STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

The Broncos' Cody Hallin (2) drives in the lane in front of Warroad's Mitchell Roberts in Thursday night's game in the Falls High School gym.

Int'l Falls 64, Warroad 53

Warroad	26	27	–	53
Int'l Falls	28	36	–	64

L-BF 83, Hill City 67

Hill City	33	34	–	67
L-BF	44	39	–	83

GIRLS BASKETBALL

FHS Broncos, L-BF Vikings both win by one

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The International Falls and Littlefork-Big Falls girls basketball teams both pulled out one-point road victories Thursday night.

The Broncos trailed by a point at halftime before winning at Mesabi East, 50-49.

Maddie Filipiak led the Falls with 10 points, while Teagan Anderson and Emma Gilbert added nine points apiece.

The win improved the Broncos' season record to 13-4 going into Monday night's game at Cherry.

L-BF 32, DEER RIVER 31

In a low-scoring affair at Deer River, the Vikings pulled out a 32-31 victory.

"We came out flat and we were flat for most of the game," said L-BF head coach John Larson.

Kaylee Kennedy and Abby Thompson led the Vikings with nine points apiece.

The win improved L-BF's season record to 10-3 going into Monday night's home game against Kelliher/Northome.