

SPORTS



**Still with an
axe to grind**
Badgers rally to
defeat Gophers
B2, B10

QUICK HITS

Bronco girls hoops team edges Esko

The International Falls girls basketball team opened the 2014-15 season on the road Monday night by defeating the defending Section 7AA champion, Esko, 50-48.

“It was a really good win for us,” said Broncos head coach Shawn Gilbert, who also noted both teams weren’t playing their best basketball in the season opener.

The Falls, which trailed 24-21 at halftime, had two players end up scoring in double figures led by Emma Gilbert with 16 points, which included two 3-pointers, while Maddie Filipiak had 13 points. Teagan Anderson added eight points.

Esko’s top-three scorers included Karlie Kulas with 16 points, Molly Trapp with nine points and Bailey Mudek with eight points.

The 1-0 Broncos, who defeated Esko for the first time since the 2005 Section 7AA Tournament, return to action Friday with a road game against Eveleth-Gilbert.

RRCC pitcher signs with Northern State

A pitcher in his final year of eligibility at Rainy River Community College has already lined up a place to play in 2016.

Joey Hudson, who is a sophomore from Elk River, has signed a National Letter of Intent to play his junior year at Northern State University in Aberdeen, S.D.



Joey Hudson

“We are very excited for Joey and our program and to have a player sign during the early signing period,” said RRCC head coach Josh Koenig. “We look forward to him being a big contributor on the mound for us this year.”

Last spring, Hudson led the Voyageurs in pitching appearances with 14 and pitched in six consecutive games without giving up a run.

Adult city basketball preseason meeting

There will be a preseason meeting at 7 p.m. today in the Falls High School gym for teams and players interested in participating this winter in the City Adult Basketball League. This evening there will also be an open gym until 8 p.m.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Thursday’s games
Girls basketball
Northland at L-BF, 7:15 p.m.
Boys basketball
Hibbing at I. Falls, 7:15 p.m.

Friday’s games
Women’s/men’s basketball
RRCC at Ridgewater, 6/8 p.m.
Girls basketball
I. Falls at Eveleth-Gilbert, 7:15 p.m.
Boys basketball
L-BF at Chisholm, 7:15 p.m.
Girls hockey
I. Falls vs. Pequot Lakes at Crosby-Ironton, 7:15 p.m.
Boys hockey
I. Falls at Hibbing, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday’s games
Women’s/men’s basketball
RRCC at Minnesota West, 1/3 p.m.
Girls/boys hockey
I. Falls at Proctor, TBD
Women’s hockey
St. Scholastica at RRCC, 7 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Vikings fall to Huskies in opener

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

Dan Beste’s girls basketball coaching debut for Littlefork-Big Falls didn’t turn out the way he had hoped Monday night.

The Vikings led 19-18 with around 6 minutes left in the first half, but then gave up 13 unanswered points and lost their season opener at home to Bigfork, 68-50.

“Definitely not the outcome we wanted.... Bigfork got on that run there in the first half and they didn’t look back, so hats off to them,” Beste said. “They’ve got some pretty good ball players.”

The Huskies, who jumped out to a 5-0 lead, fell behind with 12:10 left in the first half after giving up six unanswered points capped off by a pair of free throws from L-BF forward Karly Swenson.

A field goal by Lexi Becker put Bigfork back in front, before the Vikings regained the lead when Kaylee Kennedy scored five points in a row with a 3-point play from the charity stripe followed by a layup off of a steal.

The game remained close until less than 6 minutes remained in the first half when the Huskies went on their 13-0 scoring run that included seven points in a row from Kia Tower, who made a 3-pointer and two layups.

Bigfork led 38-23 at halftime and stayed in front by double digits in the final 18 minutes.

“We’ve got to be able to match up right away (on defense) and know who we have (to guard) right away the entire time,” Beste said.

The Huskies, who sank eight 3-pointers, had four players score in double figures led by Tower with 18 points, followed by Tiandra Haley with 14, Haley Grover with 12 and Becker with 10.

L-BF was led in scoring by Kennedy with a game-high 19 points, which included all three of the Vikings’ 3-point baskets. Emily Knaeble and Swenson added nine points each.

The 0-1 Vikings return to action Thursday with a home game against Northland.

“We’ve got a lot of work to do, both offensively and defensively....,” Beste said. “We’ll be ready to go Thursday.”

Bigfork 68, L-BF 50
Bigfork 38 30 – 68
L-BF 23 27 – 50
Bigfork: Kia Tower 18, Lexi Becker 10, Shayla Cook 7, Haley Grover 12, Brianna Haley 7, Tiandra Haley 14. 3-pointers: Tower 2, Becker 2, Cook 2, B. Haley, T. Haley. Free throws: 12-23. Fouls: 21
L-BF: Alexis Doucette 3, Breann Larson 6, Emily Knaeble 9, Emma Bartlett 2, Karly Swenson 9, Kate Knaeble 2, Kaylee Kennedy 19. 3-pointers: Kennedy 3. Free throws: 15-27. Fouls: 17 Fouled out: Doucette.



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

The Vikings’ Emily Knaeble (0) drives in the lane in front of the Huskies’ Tiandra Haley and Haley Grover (10) in Monday night’s game in the Littlefork-Big Falls gym.

Bone-chilling ‘Turkey Trot 5K’ has 35 runners in 2014

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

More than a gizzard could be frozen Thursday morning in Loman when 35 runners were outside in below-zero weather to participate in the ninth annual “Turkey Trot 5K.”

Race organizer Sue Palm, who noted she is a school nurse and began the annual event on Thanksgiving as a way for children to become physically active, said the temperature had dipped to -23 around the time of this year’s run.

Lexi Erickson, a sophomore and distance runner at International Falls High School, had the fastest time in 22 minutes, 12 seconds. As the top female in the race, she designated the Bronco Track Boosters to receive \$75.

The top male, Josh Baumbach, finished in 22:52. He designated The Angel Tree to receive \$75.

Longtime distance runner Tony Oveson, whose name was drawn at random, designated the Food



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Lexi Erickson displays a frosty face as she leads Thursday’s “Turkey Trot 5K” in Loman. Erickson was the top female and also finished first overall in 22 minutes, 12 seconds.

Shelf to receive \$75.

Palm said the event also collected a box of food and \$50 for the Food Shelf.

With this year being her

ninth and last in charge of the Turkey Trot, Palm said she expects the event will continue in another location besides Loman.



Runners take off from the starting line to begin Thursday morning’s “Turkey Trot 5K” in Loman. This year’s race took place in below-zero weather.

BOYS HOCKEY



STAFF PHOTO BY EMILY GEDDE

The Broncos’ Jakob Eide (12) and Brandon Podpeskar (10) battle on the boards for the puck with Little Falls’ Bryce DeDomines (9) in Friday night’s game at Bronco Arena.

Broncos fall in season opener to Little Falls

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

A one-goal deficit for the International Falls boys hockey team early in the third period turned into a rout in just over 2 minutes during Friday night’s season opener at Bronco Arena.

A trio of third-period goals by Little Falls forward Thomas Miller lifted the Flyers to a 7-3 victory over the Broncos.

Little Falls scored first 3:28 into the first period on a goal from Landon Borge assisted by Miller and Connor Jorgensen.

International Falls tied the game 1:12 later on an unassisted goal by Brandon Podpeskar. Later in the first period, the Broncos took the lead on a power-play goal from Wyatt Boyum assisted by Jackson Vollom and Clay Bergstrom.

The Flyers tied the game at 2-2 with 2:21 left in the

opening period when Jorgensen scored assisted by Borge and Daniel Marod.

Little Falls took a 4-2 lead into the final 17 minutes after Jorgensen and Miller scored the only two second-period goals.

International Falls pulled within a goal 1:05 into the final period when Vollom scored assisted by Brett Lindvall.

Miller then closed out the scoring by adding goals 5:19, 5:47 and 7:30 into the final period to end up with four goals for the evening.

Shots on goal favored the Flyers, 40-18, with Ezra Spandl recording the win and the Broncos’ Lane Skallman picking up the loss in net.

International Falls returned to action Tuesday night for a road game against Eveleth-Gilbert.

Little Falls 7, Int’l Falls 3
Little Falls 2 2 3 – 7
Int’l Falls 2 0 1 – 3