

SPORTS

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Silver Bay bolts past Vikings in season opener

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

After two delays because of lightning in the area, the Littlefork-Big Falls football team completed its season-opening game at home Thursday afternoon against Silver Bay.

The Vikings found themselves down by three touchdowns after the opening quarter, but battled back to pull within a touchdown at the start of the second half, before losing to the Mariners, 49-34.

“We started out slow, but we picked up the intensity after that (first-quarter) lightning delay,” said L-BF head coach John Larson. “I think we played well, but we definitely can improve.”

The start of the game, which was originally scheduled to begin at noon, was delayed after severe weather came through the area in the morning.

After two touchdowns on 1-yard runs by quarterback Luke Small gave Silver Bay a 13-0 lead with 5:40 to play in the first quarter, the game was delayed again for about a half hour when lightning was sighted in the area.

The Vikings received the kickoff after play resumed, but ended up punting the ball back to the Mariners. Silver Bay running back Michael Fischer then ran the ball in the end zone from



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

The Vikings’ Evan Wimmer (44) loses his helmet after breaking a Silver Bay tackle in Thursday afternoon’s season-opening game at John Thompson Field in Littlefork.

near midfield with 1:27 to play in the first quarter and added the two-point conversion to extend the lead over the Vikings, 21-0.

After L-BF moved the ball inside Silver Bay’s 5-yard line, the Vikings got onto the scoreboard with 3:57 to play before halftime when Darian Erickson scored a

rushing touchdown. Rylan Henrickson ran in the two-point conversion to cut the Mariners’ lead to 21-8, which also was the score at halftime.

L-BF didn’t waste any time to score in the second half when Erickson ran back the kickoff for a touchdown to cut the lead to 21-14.

However, Silver Bay then responded with its own kickoff return for a touchdown by Small. The two-point conversion by Fischer gave the Mariners a 29-14 lead with 11:29 left in the third quarter.

Silver Bay then extended its lead to 35-14 with 3:32 left in the third quarter on

a touchdown pass inside the red zone from Small to Chad Smuk.

Erickson scored his third touchdown of the game with 2:38 left in the third quarter after receiving a pass from L-BF quarterback Quin Vork that went 74 yards to cut the Mariners’ lead to 35-20.

“(Erickson) played well,” Larson said. “I know that we have speed and that we can use it to our advantage.”

Silver Bay added another touchdown before third quarter was over when Small found Smuk for a 54-yard scoring strike.

The Vikings responded with their own touchdown less than a minute into the fourth quarter on a 24-yard pass from Vork to Henrickson to cut the Mariners’ lead to 42-26.

Silver Bay scored its final touchdown with 5:59 to play on a 15-yard run by Jonah Koehler, who also kicked the extra point.

L-BF began the final scoring drive from its own 31 and used primarily running plays in the final minutes to advance inside the red zone before another touchdown pass from Vork to Henrickson with 14.5 seconds to play. Evan Wimmer ran in the two-point conversion.

The Vikings, who are now 0-1 for the season, return to action next Friday at Ely.

“I think these guys can see that they can play with people,” Larson said. “Last year we weren’t close in a lot of games.”

L-BF had opened the season last year with a 40-0 loss at Silver Bay.

Silver Bay 49, L-BF 34
Littlefork-Big Falls 0 8 12 14 – 34
Silver Bay 21 0 21 7 – 49

EMO SPEEDWAY

Nordin, Leek and Wilson take McNally Memorial wins

BY ANTHONY LEEK
For The Journal

The regular season at the Emo Speedway ended last Saturday with a dramatic finish when the program was quickly completed before a thunderstorm hit the facility only 10 minutes after the last feature event.

The action on the track was just as lightning-quick as the Keith McNally Memorial started off with the WISSOTA Midwest Modifieds in two heats.

In the first heat, Christopher Leek battled from a last-place starting position to pass Kenny Perry with four laps to go for his fourth-straight heat win. In the second heat, Chuck Lambert started on the pole and didn’t look back taking the win.

The Street Stocks broke out into two heats as well with the Keith McNally Me-

morial and an extra \$1,000 to win in the class courtesy of Bob and Gwen Dimit for the feature.

In the first heat, Rick Bourre made a last-corner, last-lap pass on rookie Devin Brown for the win. In the second heat, Aaron Blacklance and Terry Blacklance of Thief River Falls finished first and second after starting sixth and fifth, respectively.

The WISSOTA Modifieds also had two heats with Brian Nelson cleaning up the first heat’s competition for the win, with Gavin Paull in second and Tyler Brown in third. In the second heat, Steve Nordin started last but found a line and stuck with it for his second heat win in a row.

A shortened intermission took place as the weather continued to barely hold off. The WISSOTA Midwest Modifieds went out quickly

as rookie Jake Rea and Anthony Visser started on the front row.

After the first lap, the caution came out due to an accident involving Kenny Perry, John Hettinga and Visser. On the ensuing restart, Kenny Perry was followed up by Rea and Ossachuk.

The race continued as Ossachuk then took the lead. But Leek was moving through the field patiently and now had gone from eighth to third.

Passing Rea for second, Leek was now coming up to the lead. Coming in a bit too hard, Leek almost spun the car, but quickly recovered in the third position.

It would only be another lap or so and Leek passed for second and first in turn three and four. Leek took the feature win, his fourth of the season and his third track championship in a row.

The Street Stocks were next, with Tylar Wilson and Jeff Wickstrom on the front row. Wilson bolted to the lead, but Wickstrom seemed to have a hard time keeping up.

The leaders went almost four wide a few times early on the race. Several cautions dragged down the event a bit, but the officials lined them up quickly and racing barely had a stoppage.

The battle was with Wilson, Westover and the two Blacklances. Trying every which way to get by, the competition couldn’t touch Wilson as he cruised onto victory for his first ever Keith McNally Memorial win. Westover claimed the track championship, the seventh in his career.

In the WISSOTA Modifieds, Ron Korpi and Glen Strachan started on the front row, but it was Steve

Nordin who has been looking strong in the second half of the season that moved from the sixth position early on to take the lead while going three wide into turn three.

Paull had moved from eighth into second and was doing everything he could to catch up. Paull got that chance with a mid-race caution, but Nordin pulled away once again to capture the feature win.

It was Nordin’s second win of the year and his first at the Emo Speedway. Paull claimed his third track championship in a row, the fifth at the track in his career.

Racing resumes Sept. 7 at 6 p.m., with no races this weekend.

AUG. 24 SUMMARY
WISSOTA Modifieds
Feature – Steve Nordin, Gavin Paull, Brian Nelson, Denny Trimble, Garrett

Gamsby, Ron Korpi, Gary Wilson, Tyler Brown, Glen Strachan, Lindsay Bourre, Dwayne Pelepetz.

Heat 1 – Nelson, Paull, Brown, Pelepetz, Wilson, Bourre.

Heat 2 – Nordin, Korpi, Gamsby, Strachan, Trimble.

WISSOTA Midwest Modifieds

Feature – Christopher Leek, Jake Rea, Kenny Perry, Cody Ossachuk, John Hettinga, Ken Perry, Chuck Lambert, Terry Martin, Bill Reimer, Anthony Visser, Brody Strachan.

Heat 1 – Leek, Kenny Perry, Visser, Martin, Reimer.

Heat 2 – Lambert, Rea, Ossachuk, Hettinga, Strachan.

Street Stocks

Feature – Tylar Wilson, Ron Westover, Aaron Blacklance, Terry Blacklance, Jeff Wickstrom, Chris Shine, Mike Christianson, Rick Bourre, Wes Morrisseau, Devin Brown, Dean Kellar, Libby Wilson.

Heat 1 – Bourre, Brown, Christianson, L. Wilson, Morrisseau, Kellar.

Heat 2 – A. Blacklance, T. Blacklance, Westover, Wickstrom, Shine, T. Wilson.



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Rainy Lake Medical Center’s Therapy and Wellness Center will be unable to host the Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program this fall. We hope to host this great event again in the future.



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