

SPORTS

WOMEN’S SOFTBALL

Voyageurs pound out 40 hits in 2 games at Grand Rapids

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Rainy River Community College softball team wasn’t able to play a game on its home field last weekend because of wet conditions when the Voyageurs traveled to Grand Rapids on Friday to open the four-team, double-elimination Region 13B Tournament and recorded 40 hits and a pair of victories. “We had a good day of softball (Friday), and the girls really had their hitting shoes on, so it was fun to watch,” said RRCC head coach Dieter Humbert.

The top-seeded Voyageurs tallied 15 hits when they won their first tournament game over No. 4-seeded Northland, 13-2, in six innings. Courtney Branham hit a walk-off, grand-slam home run in the bottom of the sixth to end the game via the eight-run mercy rule.

Oashaja Dobie homered as one of her three hits for RRCC. Lynsi Emery, Rachel Clark and Alisha Brinker each added a single and a double.

Dobie also recorded the pitching victory for RRCC, allowing both runs, one earned, on three hits with three walks while striking out 13.

RRCC 19, MESABI RANGE 3

The Voyageurs then played No. 2-seeded Mesabi Range, which advanced to the winners’ bracket game



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

In front, the Voyageurs’ Andrea Barylski reaches home plate to score in Friday’s afternoon’s Region 13B Tournament game against Mesabi Range in Grand Rapids.

after opening the tournament by defeating No. 3-seeded Itasca, 14-4.

RRCC scored eight runs in the first inning and added eight more in the top of the third on the way to defeating the Lady Norse, 19-3, in five innings.

The Voyageurs erupted for 25 hits, including a pair of home runs and a single by Barylski, who also had

5 RBI. Brinker had two singles and two doubles. Clark added three singles and a double. Dobie and Sam Cantu had three singles apiece. Emery, Branham and Charley Garmaker each had two hits.

Dobie pitched all five innings to record the win, allowing three runs, one earned, on six hits with a walk while striking out six.

BASEBALL

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made some mistakes and we took advantage of their mistakes.”

The Ironmen had four errors in the final game, compared to two for the Voyageurs.

RRCC’s big inning at the plate came in the bottom of the fourth when the team tallied five runs on five hits. Vermilion then pulled its starting pitcher, Logan Hacker, who took the loss after giving up all six runs, four earned, on seven hits with three walks and a strikeout.

The Voyageurs ended up with eight hits with Kunkel and Drew Birss having two singles apiece, while Colten Boudreau and Dyan Zayas each doubled.

With the pair of wins, the Voyageurs, who have won nine of their last 10 games, improved their season record to 17-19 overall and qualified for the Region 13 Tournament.

“I think we just need to continue to play the way



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

At left, the Voyageurs’ Colten Boudreau (6) scores a run in the second game of Saturday’s MCAC North playoff series doubleheader against Vermilion.

we’re playing right now – this consistent ball, and I think we can beat anybody,” Koenig said.

RRCC is scheduled to begin the region tournament at 11 a.m. Thursday against Century College at Dick Putz Field in St. Cloud.

Game 1  
Rainy River 7, Vermilion 5  
Rainy River 0-2-0 3-0-0 2 - 7 6 1  
Vermilion 0-1-1 0-0-0 3 - 5 7 6  
WP-Talon Kunkel; LP-Jack Nikko

Game 2  
Rainy River 6, Vermilion 2  
Vermilion 0-0-0 0-1-0 1 - 2 6 4  
Rainy River 1-0-0 5-0-0 X - 6 8 2  
WP-Gino Strebing; LP-Logan Hacker

GETTING GREG GAGNE’S AUTOGRAPH



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From left, Gracie and Brady Bowles, ages 9 and 5, hand baseballs to former Minnesota Twins shortstop Greg Gagne for him to sign Monday evening at the International Falls Menards during the store’s “Re-Grand Opening” taking place this week. Former Minnesota North Stars hockey player Neal Broten is scheduled to be at Menards today from 6-8 p.m. to also sign autographs.

Steve Arpin returns to Red Bull Global Rallycross

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Race driver Steve Arpin of Fort Frances has announced his return to OMSE2 for a second Red Bull Global Rallycross season.

Driving the newly re-numbered #00 Royal Purple Ford Fiesta, Arpin plans to compete in every Red Bull GRC race for the second consecutive season with his goal to win this year’s championship.

“I’m really excited to return to Red Bull Global Rallycross this season,” said Arpin. “I learned a lot about what it takes to succeed in GRC last year,

and I’m looking forward to applying my newly gained experience and knowledge this year. We are going to go hard for the championship. I can’t wait to get this season started!”

For 2014, Arpin will return to using the #00 that he made famous as a dirt racer across North America. For more than a decade, the #00 saw numerous victories and championships, including 35 feature wins in the 2006 and 2007 seasons alone.

Primary sponsor Royal Purple has also renewed its partnership with Arpin after backing him as a Red Bull Global

Rallycross newcomer in 2013. Arpin made it to six of nine main events, went onto an eighth-place points finish and ended up third best of all first-year drivers.

His best finish came in the season opener at X Games Brazil, when he finished fourth. He also ranked third in the series’ Fan Favorite Driver of the Year poll.

The 2014 Red Bull Global Rallycross season opens on May 17-18 as part of Top Gear Festival Barbados and continues with nine races in the United States, including a June 7 appearance at X Games Austin.

SOFTBALL

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year while the season was in progress, said after Saturday’s region title game that she won’t be at the national tournament because she had already bought a ticket last December to go home around the time when the national tournament will be taking place.

“I gave it all I had for these girls,” Cantu said. “I know they can do good at nationals on their own.”

The Voyageurs, whose season record stands at 29-6, enter the eight-team, double-elimination national tournament as the No. 5 seed and will play their first game at 10 a.m. Thursday at the McQuillan Softball Complex in Rochester against No. 4-seeded Monroe Community College of New York, which is 24-13.

The winner plays at 2 p.m. Thursday against the winner between top-seeded Brookdale of New Jersey, which is 39-7, and No. 8-seeded Anne Arundel of Maryland, which is 11-24. The losers of those two



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

The Voyageurs’ Oashaja Dobie delivers a pitch in Saturday’s Region 13B Tournament title game against Mesabi Range. Dobie was named the tournament’s Most Valuable Player.

opening-round games will play at 2 p.m. Thursday in the losers’ bracket.

The other four teams and their records in the tournament, which runs through Saturday, include No. 2-seeded Herkimer County of New York (30-5), No. 3-seeded Rock Valley of

Illinois (38-9), No. 6-seeded Rochester (25-13) and No. 7-seeded Dutchess of New York (19-7).

Rainy River 4, Mesabi Range 0  
M. Range 0-0-0 0-0-0 0 - 0 2 1  
Rainy River 1-0-0 0-2-1 X - 4 12 2  
WP-Oashaja Dobie;  
LP-Shania Novak

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