

SPORTS

TRACK AND FIELD

Bronco girls runner-up in Iron Range Conference

FHS boys 5th

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Four International Falls girls track and field athletes received All-Iron Range Conference honors in seven events when the Broncos placed second at Tuesday's IRC Meet in Grand Rapids.

Grand Rapids had the top girls team score at 160, followed by the Falls (134), Hibbing (92), Greenway/Nashwauk-Keewatin (81.5) and Mesabi East (78) rounding out the top five.

"We knew going into IRC's that Rapids would be really tough to beat, but the girls accomplished a lot (Tuesday) coming out on top of a few teams that edged us out in meets earlier this season," said Bronco girls head coach Jen Erickson. "We had four girls earn All-Conference honors in seven events and over half the team earned personal-best performances for the year."

The head coach's daughter, sophomore Lexi Erickson, earned All-Conference honors in three individual events by placing first in both the 1600-meter run (5 minutes, 28.21 seconds) and 3200 run (11:53.03) and finishing runner-up in the high jump (4 feet, 10 inches).

"The weather was hard to compete in with spotty rain showers and the quick cool down later in the evening," Lexi Erickson said. "The competition was tough but the team had a great day with numerous best performances in almost all events."

Falls senior Savanah Olson earned All-Conference honors in two events by winning both the shot put (38-3) and discus (104-7).

Broncos sophomore Emily Saari received All-Conference honors by winning the pole vault (8-6).

"The weather for the meet



The Broncos' Cole Tatsak competes in the 300-meter hurdles in Tuesday's Iron Range Conference Meet at Grand Rapids.

wasn't as awful as predicted and fortunately the wind died down," Saari said. "We had an amazing meet competing against some talented teams that had more depth in events."

Falls sophomore Claire Herzig, who just missed out on being All-Conference in the pole vault after clearing 8-6 and finishing third on tiebreaker criteria that include the number of missed attempts, earned All-IRC honors after placing second in the long jump (14-8).

"It was a tough meet with good teams, but we competed well even though Grand Rapids pulled ahead of us to win the meet," Herzig said.

Broncos freshman Emma Gilbert missed out on being All-Conference in the shot put by 5 1/2 inches when she placed third in 37-4.

While the top-two fin-

ishers in the 14 individual events earned All-Conference honors, only the winning relays were named All-IRC.

Falls' girls team had two relays finish runner-up with Herzig, Valandre Butler, Grace Gilbert and Emma Gilbert in 4X100 (54.36), 27-hundredths of a second behind Rapids' winning time, and Abby Kostiuik, Tayler Hebner, Avery Sivonen and Carolann Stone in the 4X800 (10:42.79).

FHS BOYS 5TH

The Bronco boys had one athlete earn All-Conference honors in two events Tuesday when the team finished fifth at the IRC Meet.

Rapids also won the boys team title with 197 points, followed by Mesabi East (122), Eveleth-Gilbert (106), Hibbing (77.5) and the Falls (66.5) in the top five.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

From left, the Broncos' Lexi Erickson and Greenway/Nashwauk-Keewatin's Allyssa Peterson compete in the 1600-meter run at Tuesday's Iron Range Conference Meet in Grand Rapids.

Broncos junior Ethan Phung earned All-Conference honors by winning both the long jump (19-9) and triple jump (39-8).

"Ethan had another good day. Winning the long jump and triple jump is not easy at this meet," said Falls boys head coach Paul Hjelle. "He has led us all year, so (Tuesday) was really no surprise. He just continues to be impressive."

Though Phung also cleared the same height as the runner-up in the high jump (6-0), he came up short on being All-IRC in that event after finishing third based on tiebreaker criteria that include the number of missed attempts.

Other individual third-place finishes for Falls' boys included senior Cole Tatsak

in the 300 hurdles (44.69) and junior Wyatt Helgeson in the pole vault (11-0).

The best finish the Bronco boys had in the four relay events came from Tatsak, Tanner Budris, Jared Hunter and John Cowman placing fourth in the 4X400 (3:52.38).

IRC Meet GIRLS

Team scores: Grand Rapids 160, International Falls 131, Hibbing 92, Greenway/Nashwauk-Keewatin 81.5, Mesabi East 78, Eveleth-Gilbert 76.5, Virginia 52, Deer River/Northland 17, Chisholm 11.

BOYS

Team scores: Grand Rapids 197, Mesabi East 122, Eveleth-Gilbert 106, Hibbing 77.5, International Falls 66.5, Virginia 47, Greenway/Nashwauk-Keewatin 39, Chisholm 24, Deer River/Northland 18.



The Broncos' Savanah Olson follows through on throwing the shot put at Tuesday's Iron Range Conference Meet in Grand Rapids.

Tony Casareto recommended for FHS head football coach

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The International Falls varsity football team could have its third head coach in three years upon approval Monday by the district's school board.

Tony Casareto, a science teacher at FHS who previously was an assistant varsity football coach, has been recommended for the head coaching position. If approved, Casareto would replace Glen Anderson, for whom the board on Monday will formally consider his resignation after one season.

Anderson, who previously had been an assistant football coach for the Broncos, took over the head coaching position in 2014 following the resignation of Jay Boyle after five seasons.

The Falls went 0-9 last year in Anderson's only season as head coach, the first time the Broncos finished a year winless since 1972 when the football team also went 0-9.

Along with Casareto's

hiring as the new head coach, the board is being asked to hire Ryan Puncocar and Chris Wade as assistant football coaches. Puncocar and Wade both were assistant coaches last season under Anderson.

All the other head coaches and assistant coaches for the fall sports at FHS are being recommended to be rehired for the next school year. The others up for board consideration Monday include: head girls swimming coach Jill Herzig; assistant girls swimming coach Teresa Stone; head boys and girls cross country coach Paul Hjelle; assistant boys and girls cross country coach Sheryl Hendrickson; head girls volleyball coach Erin Shikowsky; and assistant girls volleyball coach Deanna Lorenson.

BOYS HOOPS COACHES

In addition to the Falls school district looking to fill coaching vacancies for next winter that include the boys hockey head coach and two assistants after all three resigned following

last season, the boys basketball head and assistant coaching positions are also being vacated.

The board on Monday will formally consider the resignations of FHS head basketball coach Derek Dowty and assistant Luke Zika.

Dowty, who replaced Josh Koenig after the 2008-09 season, has been the Bronco boys head basketball coach the past six seasons, compiling an overall record of 117-51 over those years. The Falls finished 22-6 in 2014-15 and won the Iron Range Conference championship for the second time in the past three seasons.

The Broncos' deepest tournament run during Dowty's tenure as head coach came in 2010-11 when they lost to Moose Lake/Willow River in the Section 7AA semifinals.

Falls superintendent Kevin Grover said he expects the winter coaching positions to be approved by the board at its June meeting.



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Many of you may have seen us working downtown this past month on the building just east of Coffee Landing, and you may also have noticed our temporary sign above the door. Quite a few local residents also stopped by to congratulate us on opening a downtown International Falls location. However, we are not quite there yet.

Because of circumstances beyond our control, we have put our plans to open our International Falls office on hold for the time being. We will continue to focus our efforts on expanding our Ranier location at Spruce Street Landing, and we will revisit the idea of an International Falls office in the near future. We are no longer associated with any operation at the above mentioned location.

We remain committed to building a cooperative real estate market in the Borderland Area through new agents who appreciate the value that MLS and Buyer Representation bring to the consumer. Our company philosophy is to share in commissions with all other brokerages for the benefit of the consumer, just as we do in all of our other Minnesota locations.

We appreciate the support we've received throughout this past month, and hope to continue expanding our local services as quickly as possible. If you have any questions regarding our company – whether to buy, sell, or to inquire about becoming a licensed agent with us – please contact any of our local staff:

• Dan & Sandy Anderson	Broker /Owners	218-327-9889
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