

SPORTS



Who is...
Katie West, Bronco girls hockey senior captain, is featured

B2

QUICK HITS

Men’s city hockey and hoops meeting

There will be a preseason meeting for the men’s city hockey and basketball leagues next Tuesday evening in the Falls High School cafeteria. The hockey meeting will be at 6:30 p.m., followed by the basketball meeting at 7 p.m. For more information, contact the Recreation Office at 283-2571, extension 138.

RRCC ‘Hire a Hitter’

The Rainy River Community College baseball team is seeking to raise funds through its “Hire a Hitter” program to help send the team to Florida for spring ball next March. The Voyageurs would be interested in doing various work around the house or office, such as painting, cleaning or snow removal. To sign up, call Shelly Koenig at 283-3380.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Today’s games
Women’s/men’s basketball
RRCC at Vermilion Tourney in Ely, TBA
Women’s hockey
RRCC at North Dakota State, 8:15 p.m.
Sunday’s games
Women’s hockey
RRCC at North Dakota State, 9 a.m.

GIRLS HOCKEY

Broncos tame Park Rapids, then lose at Bemidji

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

Hillary Fox scored four goals Tuesday night when she returned to the lineup and led the International Falls girls hockey team to a 7-3 home victory over Park Rapids Area. “That’s huge (getting Hillary Fox back in the lineup for her first game of the season),” said Broncos assistant coach Kevin Erickson. “She’s a strong girl, plays with some grit, and she’s an older girl with some strength and she did really well (Tuesday night).” Goals by Fox and Amy Auran gave the Falls a 2-0 lead with 5:19 to play in the opening period, before the the Panthers’ Alex Pederson scored on the power play to cut the Broncos’ lead to a single goal after the first 17 minutes. Fox picked up her second goal on the power play 17 seconds into the second period and then recorded a hat trick 4:17 later to give the Falls a 4-1 lead. The Broncos added a goal by eighth-grader Amber Tilandar to lead 5-1 going into the final period. “I thought the girls played really good,” Erickson said. “They worked

really hard, and won a lot of battles and played better in our own end.” Falls junior forward Jenna Anderson extended the lead to five goals 3:57 into the third period. Both teams then exchanged power-play goals with Pederson picking up her second of the game and Fox closing out the Broncos’ scoring with her fourth goal. Park Rapids’ Jessie O’Hern scored the Panthers’ final goal with less than 2 minutes to play. Falls sophomore goalie Taylor Fish made 17 saves to record the win in net. **BEMIDJI 6, I. FALLS 4** The Broncos scored first Thursday night, but then gave up three first-period goals and lost at Bemidji, 6-4. “The first period we were really kind of flat-footed...,” said Falls head coach Gerald Bolstad. “We played well the last two periods.” A goal by Anderson gave the Broncos an early lead before the Lumberjacks pulled in front 3-1 after the first period. The Falls outscored Bemidji 3-2 in the second period to pull within a goal when Auran scored twice and



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

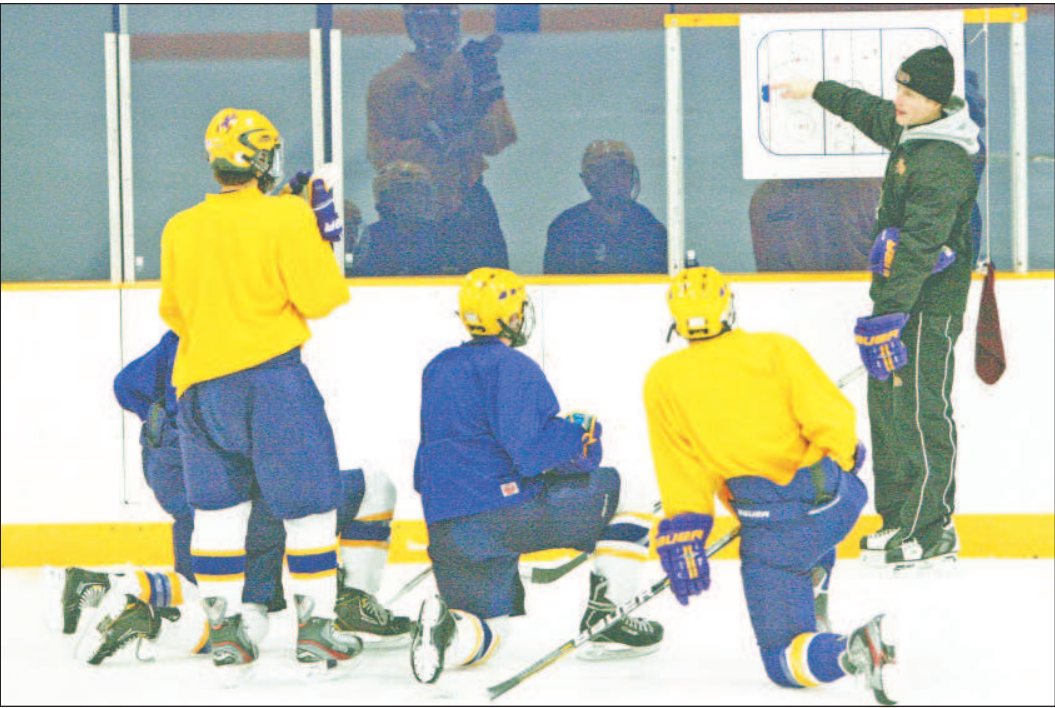
In back at left, the Broncos’ Hillary Fox celebrates scoring one of her four goals in Tuesday night’s home game against Park Rapids Area. Also shown at right for the Falls is Jenna Anderson (17).

Lexi Erickson added another goal. The Lumberjacks then sealed the victory by scoring the only goal in the final 17 minutes. Broncos eighth-grader Kalaya McConnell made 26 saves over three periods

when she recorded the loss in goal. Bemidji goalies Emily Frazer and Leighton Rockensock combined to make 18 saves for the win. The Falls’ season record now stands at 2-2 going into Monday’s road game against Lake of the Woods.

Tuesday’s game	
I. Falls 7, P. Rapids 3	
P. Rapids	1 0 2 - 3
I. Falls	2 3 2 - 7
Thursday’s game	
Bemidji 6, I. Falls 4	
I. Falls	1 3 0 - 4
Bemidji	3 2 1 - 6

BOYS HOCKEY PREVIEW



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

At right, Bronco boys hockey head coach Ross Johnson points out strategy on the ice during a practice last week at Bronco Arena. Johnson opens his first season as Falls’ head coach on Friday when the Broncos host Little Falls.

Broncos seek section title with new head coach

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

The International Falls boys hockey team enters the 2013-14 season with a new head coach, following the departure of Bruce Elson, as Ross Johnson takes over after two years of being one of Elson’s assistants. Johnson, who played on the Broncos’ last team that won the Section 7A championship in 2002, noted this year’s team will be seeking to get back to state. The Falls, which closed out the 2012-13 season 12-11-4 after losing to Duluth Denfeld in the Section 7A semifinals, has personnel losses that include the top-three scorers from last year’s team. Lucas DeBenedet, who recorded 29 goals and 31 assists (60 points) in 2012-13, has graduated and is now a forward on the Superior In-

ternational Junior Hockey League’s Fort Frances Lakers. Another graduation loss is forward Erik Lassila, who tallied 23 goals and 22 assists (45 points) last season. Forward Jack Mellstrom, who has moved out of the area, recorded 14 goals and 12 assists (26 points) in his sophomore season. Johnson’s list of top returning players includes the team’s three captains. Senior forward Luke Spilde was fourth on the team in scoring last season with 10 goals and 11 assists (21 points). Also back in senior forward Jakob Ettestad, who had five goals and two assists in 2012-13, and senior goalie Wyatt Ulrich, who had a 2-1-1 record last season with a save percentage of .911 and a goals-against average of 1.92. Ulrich shared time in

goal last season with Wes Gunnerson, who graduated after compiling a 10-10-3 record his senior year. Johnson said this year’s team has strong goaltending, but lacks experience at the varsity level. He said he is concerned the most this season about “keeping the team healthy since the numbers are a little lower than normal this year, but things look good in the youth program thanks to (recreation) hockey’s efforts.” Johnson said the team’s goals include winning the section championship, while he is looking forward to “having fun and winning games in the process.” He said the teams to watch out for this season include Hermantown, Duluth Marshall, Grand Rapids, Hibbing and Warroad. The Broncos open the season next Friday when they host Little Falls.

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