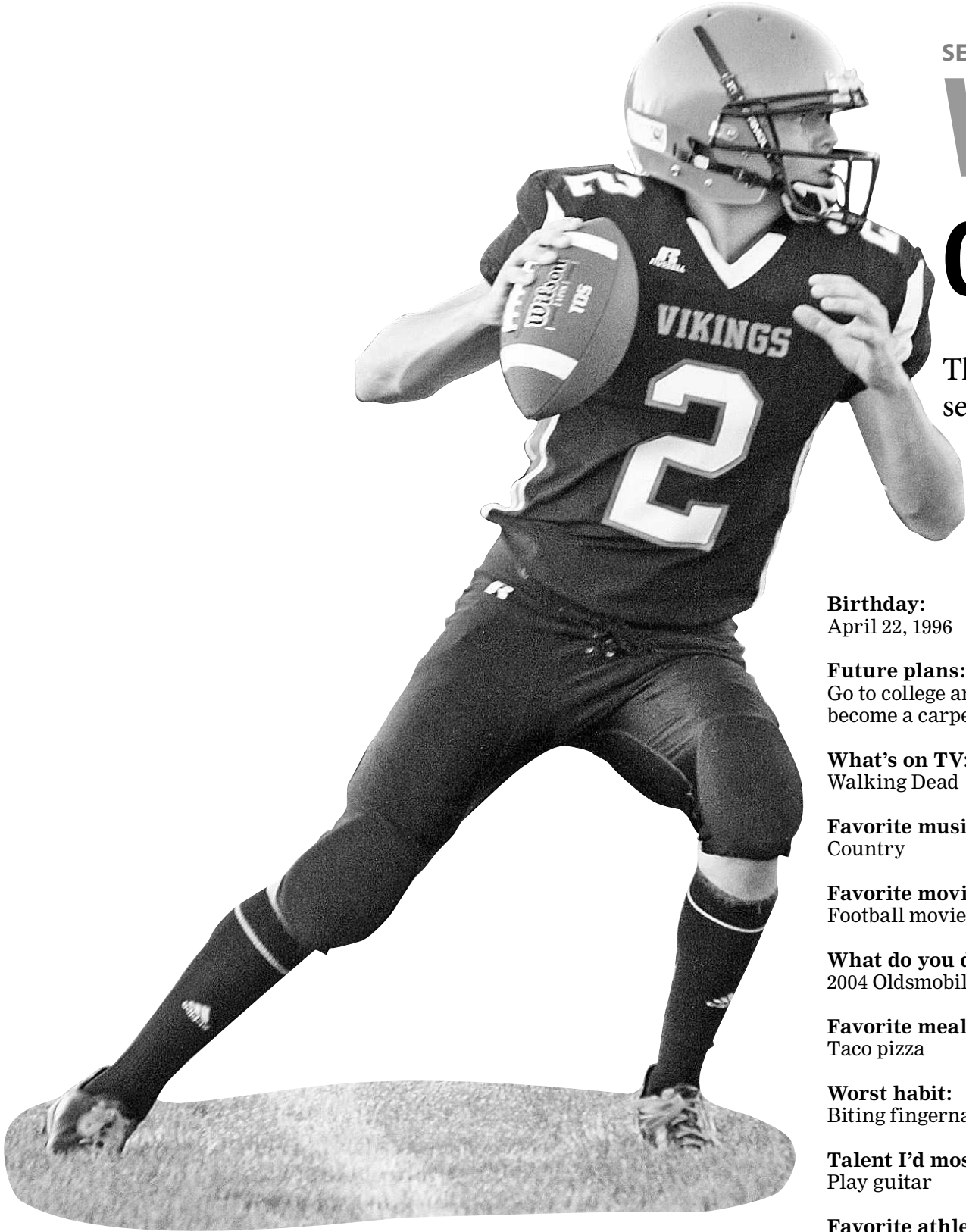


SPORTS



SENATHLETES  
Who is...  
Quinton Vork

The 18-year-old Littlefork-Big Falls High School senior plays quarterback on the Vikings’ football team.

- Birthday:**  
April 22, 1996

**Future plans:**  
Go to college and become a carpenter.

**What’s on TV:**  
Walking Dead

**Favorite music:**  
Country

**Favorite movies:**  
Football movies

**What do you drive:**  
2004 Oldsmobile Alero

**Favorite meal:**  
Taco pizza

**Worst habit:**  
Biting fingernails

**Talent I’d most like to have:**  
Play guitar

**Favorite athlete to watch:**  
Adrian Peterson
- Dream date:**  
Selena Gomez

**Favorite team as a kid:**  
Vikings

**Favorite city to visit:**  
Duluth

**Favorite holiday:**  
Christmas

**Your hero:**  
My brothers

**Top three things on your bucket list:**  
Fish on the Amazon River.  
Climb a mountain.  
Go whitewater rafting.

**Your motto:**  
Clear eyes, full hearts, can’t lose.

**Favorite memory about your high school career:**  
Junior year of baseball.

**Favorite thing to do that has nothing to do with sports:**  
Camp along the North Shore.

**Dream job:**  
NFL quarterback

**Love to trade places for a day with...**  
Chuck Norris

Brady Hjelle signs pro deal with Tulsa Oilers

CHL team  
to have four  
from the Falls

BY KEVIN BONESKE  
Sports Editor

A fourth hockey player from International Falls has signed with the Tulsa Oilers for this coming season.

Three forwards from the Falls, Ben Gordon, Drew Fisher and Ryan Cramer, previously re-signed with the Central Hockey League team to be together on the Oilers for a third consecutive season.

The fourth player – goalie Brady Hjelle – announced Tuesday on his Twitter account that he is “excited to be joining three former Broncos with the (Tulsa Oilers) for the season.”

The Oilers, who begin their training camp Oct. 13, confirmed Wednesday that Hjelle signed with the team. He is also the fourth goalie to sign with Tulsa during the offseason.

“I have to go down there and earn a spot,” Hjelle said.

Hjelle, who was a pro

goalie last season in Norway for the Rosenborg Elite Ice Hockey Club of Trondheim, had a tryout this summer for a pro team in Finland known as Tappara, but was released. He said he believes he is capable of being one of the two goalies the Oilers will have on their regular-season roster.

Hjelle said Gordon encouraged him to come to Tulsa.

“I’ve been talking to Ben Gordon quite a bit and he’s told me all summer that Tulsa is a great place to play,” Hjelle said. “Knowing those guys (Gordon, Fisher, and Cramer) makes me excited to be a part of the team. Even though those guys are a little older than me and I haven’t played on the same team with them before, I’ve skated with them and I’m looking forward to stopping them in practice.”

Hjelle, 24, who split his college hockey career between the University of Minnesota Duluth and Ohio State University, played his final season in college at Ohio State in 2012-13, then saw some playing time in the pro ranks as a back-up



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Brady Hjelle of International Falls, shown in goal last season for the Rosenborg Elite Ice Hockey Club in Norway, has signed to play with the Tulsa Oilers next season. Hjelle is one of four players from the Falls to have signed with the Central Hockey League team for 2014-15.

goalie for the East Coast Hockey League’s Florida Everblades, before playing a full year professionally in Norway last season.

As a senior at Ohio State, the 5-foot-11, 185-pound Hjelle appeared in 34 games

and finished the season with a 2.00 goals against average and a .935 save percentage. He helped the Buckeyes reach the CCHA semifinals for the first time since 2005 and also earned All-American honors as well as being named the CCHA Goalie of the Year.

“Everything about Brady’s background is impressive and anytime you have the opportunity to sign one of the top college talents in the country, you

have to find a way to get it done,” said Oilers head coach Bruce Ramsay. “Seeing the kind of numbers he put up at Ohio State and listening to our other players talk about his skill level was very convincing for me and I can’t wait to see him in training camp.”

Hjelle, who returned to the Falls following his tryout in Finland, said he hasn’t trained on the ice since arriving back from Europe at the end of summer. He also noted he plans on doing some hunting before heading to Tulsa next month a week before the start of training camp.

A return to the United States to play pro hockey, Hjelle said, will make it easier for his family to attend games.

“It’s going to be nice for my family,” he said.

Hjelle said he hopes playing for Tulsa, a mid-level minor pro hockey team that is not affiliated with any National Hockey League team, will enable him in the future to sign with any team in the American Hockey League, the minor league that is one step below being in the NHL.



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