

# SPORTS

## QUICK HITS

### Junior high football Sign-up

Boys in seventh and eighth grade interested in playing football can sign-up at 6 p.m. Thursday in the Bronco Arena Lobby. Fee is \$50. Fee for children on free/reduced lunch program is \$25. For more information contact the Recreation Department at 283-2571, ext. 138.

### 100 seasons recognized

The International Falls City Council Monday recognized 100 seasons of International Falls Bronco Football with the 2013 football season.

The council approved a mayor's proclamation acknowledging 100 seasons as a milestone in the football program's history. "I urge all football fans to pause this season to appreciate the blessings football has to offer our children in character building, discipline, strength and integrity," said the proclamation signed by Falls Mayor Bob Anderson, that noted that Bronco football started in 1914, and have a record of 454 wins, 323 losses and 32 ties.

The proclamation includes that the Broncos have produced National Football League players Bronko Nagurski, Jim Crotty and Frank Youso and Canadian Football League player Bronko Nagurski Jr.

The Broncos have won 17 conference championships, eight section championships and one state championship.

The proclamation lists the coaches: William Donnelly, D.C. Amo, Albert Zimmerman, William E. Wichierski, Burnett Fogelberg, G.V. Kinney, Al Crandall, Ralph J. Baker, Robert J. Haig, Robert Ewald, Dewey Huber, Fred Williams, Walt Scheela, Jack McClelland, Andrew Drogen, Gordon Paschka, Frank Larson, Stuart Nordquist, Timm Ringhofer, and Jay Boyle. It continues that the coaches have brought great honor not only to themselves, but also the community.

The proclamation concludes by recognizing "the young men, past and present and future on the International Falls Bronco Football Team for demonstrating tremendous talent and also the coaches for their dedication to the young men they have coached over numerous years. I declare the 2013 football season as a special season to celebrate 100 seasons of football with recognition and celebration throughout the community ..."

### Former NHL star helps girls play hockey

ST. CLOUD, Minn. (AP) — A 10-year-old St. Cloud girl had been resigned to not playing hockey this year because her family couldn't afford it. But now she's all signed up — and paid up — thanks to a tweet by a local hockey dad and some help from former NHL star Theo Fleury.

Last week, WJON-AM reports, Brent Pakkala learned his daughter's best friend could not play because her family with six children could not afford the \$435 fee for all three girls who play hockey.

Grasping at straws, Pakkala tweeted his favorite player of all time, Theo Fleury, who tweeted to his 75,000 followers. Within two days they had pledges of more than enough for all the girls.

Fleury now hopes to visit Minnesota to raise money for St. Cloud area youth hockey.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

International Falls native Ben Line takes off in his 1969 Ford Mustang at the Brainerd International Raceway last weekend. Line won the Stock/Super Stock class both days, and leads the season points standing.

## Local sweeps weekend races at Brainerd

BY SPENSER BICKETT  
Staff Writer

An International Falls resident is sitting on top of the Stock/Super Stock class standings after last weekend's drag racing at Brainerd International Raceway's Bracket Drag Racing Series.

Ben Line and his 1969 Ford Mustang have compiled 3,203 points to lead the Stock/Super Stock class by almost 1,000 points. Tim Lisson is in second place with 2,207 points. There are two

more weekends of racing left on the schedule, with the next weekend of racing Sept. 13-15.

Line said he wished he had an explanation for his success, but that most of it is "pure luck."

"The car worked perfect, it was consistent, and the weather was beautiful," he said.

There are elimination races on both weekend days this season, meaning a class winner is determined each day. Line swept his class this past weekend, defeating Glen

DeMenge in Saturday's final with a run of 10.639 seconds and 121.83 mph. He sped past Craig Meseroll in Sunday's final with a run of 10.733 seconds and 116.40 mph.

Line said he was happy with his times, and that the weather was a big factor in being able to run fast times.

Line has had the Stock/Super Stock class locked down recently, winning the series championship five of the last six seasons, including the previous two.

He'll look to complete the three-peat when competition wraps up with the finale weekend Sept. 28-29.

The Line family is full of drag racers, with Ben's brothers Lance and Jason racing as well. Jason races in the National Hot Rod Association's Pro Stock division, and Lance racing with Ben in the Stock/Super Stock class. There are good and bad things about racing with your brothers, Ben said, but there are more positives than negatives.

"We can compare cars and watch each other, it's really helpful," he said. "It's fun racing each other, I enjoy the heck out of it."

Line's parents also drag race, and the start can be traced back to Line's father Lawrence, who started racing in the late 1960s. He took a break in the 1970s when the kids were born, Ben said, but started back up in the 1980s. His older brother Lance started first, and "it snowballed from there."

## Bump, set, spike!

BY SPENSER BICKETT  
Staff Writer

Along with the end of summer, August brings the beginning of fall sports practices for Falls High School.

Football and volleyball players, as well as swimmers and divers, began captains practices this past week, and started preparing for the season.

Classes don't begin until Sept. 3, but teams will have put in plenty of work before then. Official varsity practices start Monday, which doesn't leave much time before the first game.

Volleyball kicks off the fall sports season 7 p.m. Thursday, August 22 against Mountain Iron-Buhl at Falls High School. Girls' swimming and diving has their first varsity meet 4:30 p.m. Thursday, August 29 at Falls High School. Cross country also has their first varsity meet that day 4 p.m. at Virginia.

Finally, football kicks off the 100th season of Bronco football 7 p.m. Friday, August 30 at Eveleth-Gilbert.

When their fellow students return to school Sept. 3, student-athletes have already began their quest for the postseason in their respective sports.



STAFF PHOTOS BY SPENSER BICKETT

Sophomore Meggan Flovick bumps the ball back to her partner during a warm-up drill during volleyball captain's practice Wednesday at Falls High School.



Sophomore Savannah Boe prepares to dig the ball during a drill at captain's practice Wednesday.



May 2013 graduate Briana Becvar watches the pass from her partner during captain's practice Wednesday. The girls open their season August 22 against Mountain Iron-Buhl.