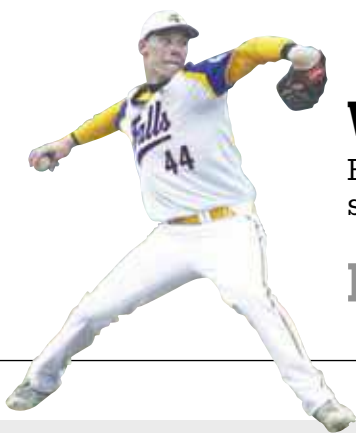


# SPORTS



**Who is...**  
Ben Humbert, Bronco boys baseball senior pitcher/infielder, is featured

**B2**

## QUICK HITS

### UNO men’s hockey team seeking first NCAA tourney win

The University of Nebraska Omaha men’s hockey team — which has two International Falls natives, head coach Dean Blais and sophomore defenseman Matt Youso — opens the NCAA Division I Tournament at 6:30 tonight when UNO plays Harvard in the first round of the Midwest Regional in South Bend, Ind.

The Mavericks, who are 18-12-6 overall this season and making their third appearance in the NCAA tournament in school history, are the regional’s No. 2 seed, their highest-ever seeding. They received an at-large NCAA tournament berth. UNO last played on March 13-14, when the Mavericks were swept by St. Cloud State in the quarterfinals of the NCHC Playoffs.

The No. 4-seeded Crimson, who won the ECAC playoff championship to earn an automatic NCAA tournament berth, are 21-12-3 overall and finished sixth in the ECAC with a record of 11-8-3.

UNO will be looking for its first NCAA tournament win this weekend. The Mavericks made their first NCAA appearance in 2006 as a No. 4 seed, losing to Boston University, 9-2. Their last NCAA tournament appearance was in 2011 when, as a No. 3 seed, they lost to Michigan in overtime, 3-2.

The winner of tonight’s regional semifinal between UNO and Harvard, which is being broadcast live on ESPN3, will advance to Sunday’s regional final to face the winner of the other regional semifinal between WCHA regular-season and playoff champion Minnesota State, the No. 1 seed overall and in the regional, and No. 4-seeded RIT, the Atlantic Hockey playoff champion.

The regional champion advances to the NCAA Frozen Four set for April 9 and 11 in Boston, Mass.

### Lakers’ Park named SIJHL’s top goalie

The Superior International Junior Hockey League announced Wednesday Fort Frances Lakers goalie Nathan Park has been named the SIJHL’s top goaltender award recipient for the 2014-15 season.

Park narrowly edged out fellow top goaltender nominees Tate Sproxton of the Dryden Ice Dogs and Greg Harney of the English River Miners in voting done by each of the five league member clubs.

The 20-year-old native of Edmonton, Alberta, led all SIJHL goaltenders in goals-against average at 1.92. He also paced all goalies in the league in save percentage at .931, while his three shut-outs were also tops among league goalkeepers.

## SPORTS SCHEDULE

- Today’s games**  
**Women’s softball**  
RRCC vs. Ridgewater/Fergus Falls at Rochester Dome, 7/11 a.m.  
**Men’s baseball**  
RRCC at Minnesota West (DH), 1 p.m.
- Sunday’s games**  
**Men’s baseball**  
RRCC at Minnesota West (DH), 11 a.m.
- Tuesday’s games**  
**Track and field**  
I. Falls at BSU Little Amik Indoor, 1 p.m.
- Wednesday’s games**  
**Men’s baseball**  
RRCC at Western Technical College (DH), 4 p.m.

## TRACK AND FIELD

# Bronco girls 6th at Paul Bunyan Invite

## FHS boys 12th

### JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The International Falls girls track and field team opened the season Tuesday in the Paul Bunyan Indoor Invitational at Bemidji State University, where the Broncos tied for sixth out of 22 teams.

The Falls, which recorded 40 team points along with Detroit Lakes, finished behind a top five that included Grand Forks Red River with the top score of 120.5, followed by Pequot Lakes (67), Shanley (50), Grand Rapids (45) and Bagley/Fosston (41).

“(Tuesday) was a challenge, but we competed well and had a good day,” Broncos sophomore Lexi Erickson said, who recorded the team’s only first-place finish by winning the 3200-meter run in 12 minutes, 21.69 seconds, more than 30 seconds ahead of her nearest competitor.

The Falls picked up a pair of 2-3 finishes in two field events.

Broncos senior Savannah Olson placed second in the shot put (38 feet, 4.5 inches) with freshman teammate Emma Gilbert finishing third in 37-10. Detroit Lakes senior Shay Nielsen won the event with a toss of 43-1.5.

“(Tuesday’s) meet was tough, but we all did so well for our first meet,” Olson said. “I’m so happy to start the season with my personal best and having a team that is so supportive. I’m excited to see what this season has in store for all of us.”

Falls sophomore pole vaulters Claire Herzig and Emily Saari placed second and third, respectively, with vaults of 8-6 and 8-0. Bagley/Fosston senior Gina Balstad won with a vault of 9-6.

“There were a lot of good teams for us to compete against, which really helped us push ourselves,” Saari said. “It was a great opening meet for us.”

The Broncos’ only other points came in the triple jump, where sophomore Valandre Butler placed seventh in 31-6.5. Grand Forks Red River senior Kya Glenn won the event in 35-8.5.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The Broncos’ Emily Saari competes in the pole vault in Tuesday’s Paul Bunyan Indoor Invitational at Bemidji State University. Saari placed third after clearing 8 feet.



Bronco shot putter Taylor Busch readies for a throw.

“Despite all the big teams and tough competition, (Tuesday) was a good meet for a lot of us,” Butler said. “It’s always good to start the season off with a new personal record, which a few of us got.”

## FHS BOYS 12TH

In the boys competition, the Falls scored 17 points to place 12th among 16 teams scoring points.

Red River had the top score of 174, followed by Thief River Falls (62), Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton (54.5), Shanley (54) and Detroit Lakes (46) rounding out the top five.

Broncos junior Ethan Phung, who accounted for 16 of the 17 team points, placed runner-up

in the long jump (19-7), 6 inches behind the top leap of Shanley’s Tre Fort.

Phung also recorded a second-place finish in the high jump (6-0), an inch below Fort’s winning jump. Falls junior Wyatt Helgeson tied for eighth after clearing 5-8.

Helgeson also tied for eighth in the pole vault (9-0). Roseau junior Scott Nelson won after clearing 12-0.

Falls’ boys and girls teams will be back at BSU next Tuesday when they compete in the Little Amik Indoor Invitational.

## Paul Bunyan Invite GIRLS

**Team scores:** Grand Forks



The Broncos’ Cole Tatsak sprints in Tuesday’s Paul Bunyan Indoor Invitational.



From left, the Broncos’ Grace Gilbert receives the baton from Anna Earley while competing in the 4X400-meter relay in Tuesday’s Paul Bunyan Indoor Invitational at Bemidji State University.

Red River 120.5, Pequot Lakes 67, Shanley 50, Grand Rapids 45, Bagley/Fosston 41, Detroit Lakes 40, International Falls 40, Crookston 36, Roseau 30, Frazee 28, East Grand Forks 22, Thief River Falls 19, Greenway/Nashauk-Keewatin 19, Park Rapids Area 15, Wadena-Deer Creek 8.5, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 2, Walker-Hackensack-Akeley 1, Bigfork 1.

**BOYS Team scores:** Red River Boys 174, Thief River Falls 62, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 54.5, Shanley 54, Detroit Lakes 46, Roseau 33, Crookston 29, East Grand Forks 23, Frazee 22, Pequot Lakes 20, Bagley/Fosston 18, International Falls 17, Wadena-Deer Creek 16, Park Rapids Area 11, Staples-Motley 5, Bigfork 0.5.

# Zimmer ‘fully expects’ Peterson to be with Vikings

PHOENIX (AP) — The Minnesota Vikings don’t plan to trade Adrian Peterson and fully expect him to be with the team for the 2015 season.

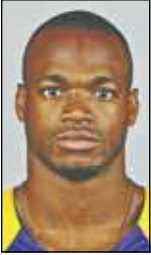
His agent and Peterson believe otherwise.

Vikings coach Mike Zimmer was emphatic about keeping Peterson at the NFL owners’ meetings Wednesday.

“We’re good to go. I mean, he’s under contract and we expect him to honor it,” Zimmer said. “I think when he goes into the Hall of Fame, he’s going to want to go in with the jersey that everyone remembers him as. That will be as a Viking.”

Not so fast, agent Ben Dogra told The Associated Press.

“Adrian and I feel it is in his best interest, and it would be his desire, to play elsewhere in the NFL,” Dogra said. “This is not personal in any way, it is



Adrian Peterson



Mike Zimmer

business.”

Peterson’s contract has three years remaining, with a \$12.75 million salary for 2015. None of the remaining money on the deal is guaranteed.

Peterson, 30, has not yet been reinstated by the NFL from his suspension under the personal conduct policy. The star running back and 2012 league MVP has balked at returning to the team, questioning the Minnesota organization’s support of him after he was suspended for disciplining his 4-year-old son with a

wooden switch. The case was resolved in court with a plea bargain.

“I think we are pretty firm,” Zimmer said. “I think we handled everything the way we are allowed to handle it.

“At times we were not able to speak with him, which really is kind of ridiculous because of the (league) rules.”

Peterson currently is on the commissioner’s exempt list while the NFL appeals a federal judge’s decision to nullify an arbitration ruling that upheld his suspension.

Dogra said the standstill comes down to how the Vikings view his client.

“I would like to have their position in writing, and they have not done so,” Dogra said. “Is Adrian the face of their franchise or is he in their mind a 30-year-old running back? I want them to tell (us) that.”

Asked if he thought Peterson and Dogra were try-

ing to force the Vikings’ hand, resulting in a trade, Zimmer didn’t hesitate in responding.

“I’m not going to speculate on what he wants and doesn’t want, but Adrian’s under contract for three more years for us,” Zimmer said. “And that’s why you sign these contracts, why you get these big bonuses.”

Dogra noted there are no ulterior motives on his and Peterson’s part.

“I will work in the best interest of my client,” he said, adding he and his partners at Relativity Sports, Eugene Parker and Doug Hendrickson, have nothing against the Vikings or Zimmer. “We had Shaun Hill sign with the Vikings to be Teddy Bridgewater’s backup (quarterback), and we signed Terence Newman there as a free agent so he could return to play with Mike Zimmer.”

In Zimmer’s first year

as coach, Minnesota had Peterson for just the season opener, when he rushed for 75 yards in a 34-6 win at St. Louis. Then he was suspended by the league and eventually wound up on the commissioner’s exempt list while his legal case proceeded.

Zimmer praised his players’ resourcefulness without Minnesota’s best player.

“During the time it all happened,” he said, “the big thing was to try to put our heads down and move forward and keep grinding. To overcome a situation like that during the course of the year, maintaining focus, there’s some resiliency.”

He added the obvious, saying Peterson’s presence in the lineup would only make Minnesota’s offense better. But ...

“I try to coach the guys we have,” he said, “and figure out how to win with the guys we have.”