

# SPORTS

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# Voyageurs sail past Hibbing Cardinals

RRCC now at 3-8 in MCAC

BY KEVIN BONESKE  
Sports Editor

The Rainy River Community College women's basketball team kept the possibility of a top-four finish in the Minnesota College Athletic Conference's North Division and a region tournament appearance alive Wednesday night with 61-49 home victory over Hibbing.

The Voyageurs, who had seven players back in the lineup with the return of guard Sarina Phratrep, faced the Cardinals with a five-player roster and no substitutions over the two 20-minute halves.

"(The Cardinals are) a good team – sometimes less is more," said RRCC head coach Dieter Humbert. "They really play well together. They're well-conditioned. They don't foul. They don't put you at the line. You've got to earn your baskets."

Four of the five players on

Hibbing's roster ended up with four fouls with no one fouling out as the Voyageurs led throughout the game after scoring the first six points and then pulling in front by as much as 14 points early in the second half.

"Our defense was paramount," Humbert said. "Our girls did a great job with a 2-3 (zone)."

On the offensive side of the ball, RRCC outshot Hibbing from the field overall, 25-56 (44.6 percent) to 17-63 (27 percent).

The Voyageurs' Roneisha Jordan recorded a double-double with 24 points and 11 rebounds, while CaseyLynn Fulton also scored 24 points.

Taylor Martin led the Cardinals with 17 points, while Christina Wickingson also scored in double figures with 11 points.

The Voyageurs' season record now stands at 3-8 in the MCAC North and 9-14 overall going into this afternoon's regular-season finale at home against Fond du Lac.

Hibbing has finished at 4-8 in the MCAC North. The team currently fourth

in the conference, Itasca, is at 4-7 and could clinch the final spot to qualify for the region tournament with a win today at Mesabi Range, the second-place team in the conference.

However, an Itasca loss and RRCC win would result in a three-way tie between Hibbing, Itasca and RRCC for the fourth and final spot in the region tournament, which takes place March 1-2 at Northland in Thief River Falls.

In that instance, given all the tiebreakers for the three teams would be the same, Humbert said the team that would advance to the region tournament would be determined with a coin flip.

**Rainy River 61, Hibbing 49**  
**Hibbing 19 30 - 49**  
**Rainy River 28 33 - 61**  
**Hibbing:** Christina Wickingson 11, Courtney Wirtanen 8, Danielle Bruns 6, Ashlyn Norman 7, Taylor Martin 17. 3-pointers: Wirtanen 2, Wickingson. Free throws: 12-14. Fouls: 19.  
**Rainy River:** Sarina Phratrep 3, Kurstyn Gordon 2, Roneisha Jordan 24, Tali Plate 6, CaseyLynn Fulton 24, Alisha Brinker 2. 3-pointers: Phratrep. Free throws: 10-18. Fouls: 14. Fouled out: Brinker.



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

Below from left, Hibbing's Ashlyn Norman (42) and Rainy River's Sarina Phratrep (3) battle on the floor for a loose ball in front of Rainy River's CaseyLynn Fulton (41) and Hibbing's Taylor Martin (44) in Wednesday night's game in the RRCC gym.

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

# Cardinals fly past Voyageurs, 98-65

RRCC drops to 1-12 in MCAC

BY KEVIN BONESKE  
Sports Editor

The Rainy River Community College men's basketball team has clinched last place in the eight-team Minnesota College Athletic Conference Northern Division and extended its losing streak to 10 games in the process.

At home Wednesday night, the Voyageurs trailed by 19 points at halftime and ended up losing to Hibbing, 98-65.

"We were close early in the first half – half of the first half – and we get out hustled," said RRCC head coach Jack Cook. "They're a big, strong, physical team and we just couldn't match up against them inside."

The Voyageurs led early when Andrew Nichols made a 3-pointer to pull in front, 7-6, but then gave up seven unanswered points and trailed for the rest of the game. A dunk shot by the Cardinals' Jerry Pratt midway in the first half put Hibbing up by double digits at 24-14. The half ended with Hibbing in front, 55-36.

The Cardinals out-rebounded the Voyageurs, 66-48, and also outshot them from the field overall, 40-79 (50.6 percent) to 25-88 (28.4 percent).

"We're not getting good position after the shot..." Cook said. "Our big men are worried about defending the fast break instead of getting in there and banging inside



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From right, Rainy River's Ahmad Poche (0) drives inside past Hibbing's Marcellis Beard (5) in Wednesday night's game in the RRCC gym.

and getting the rebound."

Pratt led three Hibbing players scoring in double figures with a game-high 32 points. Sam Willis added 19 points, while Marcellis Beard scored 18 more.

Ahmad Poche was the

only RRCC player to score in double figures with 12 points.

The Voyageurs' season record now stands at 1-12 in the MCAC North and 3-22 overall going into this afternoon's season finale at home against Fond du Lac.

## SIJHL HOCKEY

# Fort Frances Lakers slip past Ice Dogs

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Fort Frances Lakers forward Lucas DeBenedet of International Falls scored the game-winning goal in Wednesday evening's 4-2 victory over the Dryden Ice Dogs in Superior International Junior Hockey League action at Couchiching First Nation Arena in Fort Frances.

The Lakers took a 2-0 lead in the first period after Cameron Jackson scored on the power play at 9:08 and Bryce

Lipinski added another goal at even strength six minutes later.

Dryden tied the game on a pair of goals in the second period after Dane Feeney scored his team-leading 28th goal of the season at 5:02 and Cody Kaus notched the equalizer at 11:18.

The Lakers retook the lead early in the third when DeBenedet scored his league-best 44th goal of the season at 1:56.

Another Falls native, Mason Meyer, then iced the

game in the final seconds when he scored an empty-net goal.

Shots on goal favored Fort Frances, 36-18, with Devin Tappenden picking up the win and Joakim Jutras recording the loss in net.

The Lakers return to action next Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. when they host the Wisconsin Wilderness at Ice for Kids Arena.

**Lakers 4, Ice Dogs 2**  
**Ice Dogs 0 2 0 - 2**  
**Lakers 2 0 2 - 4**

## St. Thomas Aquinas School

### 27th Annual Live & Silent Auction

# Martedi Grasso

Saturday, March 1, 2014 • 6:00 p.m.

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Hall

*Tickets are \$20.00 in advance or \$25.00 at the door*

*Limited number of tickets available*

Tickets may be purchased at: The Hideaway, St. Thomas Aquinas School and Parish Office

**Dinner Buffet by the Knights of Columbus #1540**  
*Tuscan Salad, Italian Pork Roast or ½ Chicken, Italian Green Beans, Penne Pasta, Garlic Bread*

**Dessert by Mary Tomczak and Christy Earley**  
*Cannoli, Tiramisu, Tuxedo Cake, or Italian Almond Cake*

**Music by Mark G/King of the Road Entertainment**

**Auctioneer: Dean Tviet**

**Host/Hostesses for the Evening: Catholic Daughters of America, School Parents, Staff, Students, and Alumni**



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at 9 p.m. 2 - \$1000.00 prizes

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