

SPORTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Babler resigns as RRCC head coach to deploy overseas

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Kristofer Babler is leaving after one season as Rainy River Community College's head men's basketball coach.

On Tuesday, Babler submitted a letter of resignation, citing to an impending overseas deployment as a member of the United States Army Reserves.

"It's a very challenging situation," Babler said. "I have loved my brief time here at Rainy River and in International Falls. We

had an excellent group of players who I had built strong bonds with. This community had welcomed my family and me with open arms. It's a difficult time."

During the 2014-15 season, the Voyageurs had an overall record of 17-12 and qualified for the NJCAA Division III Region XIII



Kristofer Babler

Tournament after finishing fourth in the Minnesota College Athletic Conference's Northern Division with an 8-6 league record.

"We had a great year. This group was so fun to work with," Babler said. "I'm very proud of their growth as players and as people. There are several guys with a chance to play at a high level of basketball and there was a lot of excitement about next season."

"I love this team, which is one of the reasons I resigned. I feel it's important

to bring in an enthusiastic coach who can be here and build on what's been started."

RRCC Athletic Director Mel Millerbernd said Babler will be missed by students as well as faculty and staff.

"He has developed a great program at Rainy, both on the court and in the classroom," Millerbernd said "We will begin a search immediately with the intent to have a highly qualified coach and instructor in place very soon. We wish

him and his family only the best."

Babler is a member of the 364th Press Camp Headquarters out of Fort Snelling. His unit will be deploying to the CENTCOM area of responsibility this summer.

"I made a commitment to serve the country," he said. "I believe I have made a positive impact on several young people's lives here at Rainy River – which is what this college is all about. Hopefully through this mission I can make a positive impact in another part of

the world."

RRCC Provost Carol Helland said Babler "has modeled excellence in the classroom and on the court."

"His role as instructor and coach has demonstrated 'The Rainy Experience' to many students and the community," Helland said. "We are grateful for his work ethic and giving his best to our athletes and students. We are appreciative of his service to this country...we will be thinking of him and his family throughout the upcoming year."

MEN'S BASEBALL

Voyageurs swept in league-opening twin bill

RRCC now 0-2 in MCAC North

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Rainy River Community College baseball team opened Minnesota College Athletic Conference Northern Division play Wednesday with one close extra-inning game and another contest shortened by the 10-run rule when RRCC came out on the losing end of both match-ups at Northland Community and Technical College.

In game one, the Voyageurs lost to the Pioneers in 10 innings, 3-2.

"I really liked our effort in the first game," said RRCC head coach Josh Koenig.

After giving up a run in the bottom of the first, the Voyageurs took the lead with two runs in the top of the sixth when Sam Pelechaty and Sean Deviney both singled and scored as part of a five-hit inning. NCTC then picked up a run



Sam Pelechaty



Tanner Helms

in the bottom of the sixth to tie the game at 2-2.

The game remained tied until the bottom of the 10th when the Pioneers' Zack Spence led off the inning with a walk and scored following back-to-back singles from Riley Sonderstrom and Preston Brown off of RRCC reliever Tanner Helms, who recorded the loss facing only those three batters in the final inning.

The Voyageurs started the first four innings on the mound with Landon Freeman, who allowed an earned run on two hits with a hit batter while striking out three. Jaymon Cervantes pitched the next five innings, giving up an

unearned run on five walks with a hit batter while striking out eight.

NCTC's Nick Hoffard pitched all 10 innings to record the victory, allowing two earned runs on nine hits with two walks and a hit batter while striking out five.

Pelechaty had three of RRCC's nine hits. Talon Kunkel added two singles with an RBI.

NCTC 11, RRCC 1

In game two, the Voyageurs stayed close for 3 ½ innings, before giving up six runs in the bottom of the fourth and ending up losing to the Pioneers, 11-1, in six innings.

"We lost our mental focus," Koenig said. "In conference play, you can't afford to lose mental focus."

RRCC gave up two runs in the bottom of the first, before cutting the deficit to 2-1 in the top of the fourth when Helms led off with a double and scored following singles by Kunkel and Cervantes.

NCTC then tallied six

runs on six hits when 10 batters went to the plate in the bottom of the fourth. The Pioneers ended the game in the bottom of the sixth by scoring three runs on four hits.

Connor McGuinness pitched the first 4 2/3 innings for the Voyageurs and recorded the loss, allowing eight runs, seven earned, on 13 hits with a hit batter while striking out three. Will Aesoph pitched an inning in relief when he gave up three unearned runs on five hits with a walk while striking out a batter.

RRCC only mustered three hits over six innings off of NCTC winning pitcher Gabriel Cavazos, who gave up an earned run while also walking three and striking out three.

The Voyageurs, whose season record now stands at 13-17 overall and 0-2 in the MCAC North, return to action today at Virginia in a league doubleheader against Mesabi Range.

RRCC hosts Hibbing in a twin bill Wednesday.

GIRLS SOFTBALL



PHOTOS BY TOM KLEIN OF THE TIMBERJAY

From left, the Vikings' Breann Larson (13) beats the throw to North Woods' catcher Tuesday while sliding into home plate to score.

Vikings tame Grizzlies

L-BF now 3-2

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Littlefork-Big Falls softball team climbed above the .500 mark Tuesday when the Vikings won at North Woods, 13-9.

L-BF was led at the plate by Emily Knaeble and Breann Larson, who tallied three hits apiece. Knaeble recorded two triples, while Larson had a pair of doubles.

Vikings head coach Mike Imhof noted L-BF jumped out to a 13-2 lead when winning pitcher Karly Swenson threw at the start of game, before Anna Imhof pitched at the end and the Grizzlies picked up their final seven runs.

The Vikings, who won their third game in a row and improved their season record to 3-2, return to action April 23 when they host Hill City.



The Vikings' Karly Swenson delivers a pitch in Tuesday's game at North Woods.

SIJHL HOCKEY

Lakers, Ice Dogs open Bill Salonen Cup finals 2-2

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Superior International Junior Hockey League's Bill Salonen Cup championship finals won't be decided until at least tonight in game six after the Fort Frances Lakers and Dryden Ice Dogs each won two games out the first four in the best-of-seven series.

In game three Tuesday, a Derek McPhail goal near the midway point of the first overtime gave the Ice Dogs a 3-2 victory over the Lakers at Dryden's Memorial Arena.

Fort Frances scored first when Bowen Alcock put in his fourth goal of the playoffs at 4:18 of the first period.

Dryden tied the game with 8:32 left in the opening period when Troy Williams

scored.

The game remained even through a scoreless second period, then the Lakers took the lead at 5:30 of the third period with a power-play goal from Wyatt Cota.

The Ice Dogs tied it at 2-2 with just over 12 minutes left in regulation when Drew Walske put the puck past Fort Frances goalie Nathan Park.

In overtime, McPhail scored the game-winner at 8:39 when Dryden took a 2-1 lead in the series.

Tate Sproxton made 28 saves to record the win in goal for the Ice Dogs, while



Mason Meyer

Park stopped 37 shots in the loss for the Lakers.

LAKERS 3, ICE DOGS 2

In game four Wednesday, Fort Frances rallied with a pair of third-period goals to pull out a 3-2 victory over Dryden at Memorial Arena.

McPhail got the Ice Dogs on the scoreboard first with a goal 4:23 into the contest.

The Lakers tied the game at 14:51 of the first period when Cota scored his fifth goal of the postseason.

Dryden regained the lead when Dylan Cusmano scored at 18:21 of the second period to make it 2-1 in favor of the Ice Dogs going into the final 20 minutes.

Fort Frances tied the game when Nolan Ross scored on a shorthanded goal at 5:50 of the third period.

The game-winning goal came 79 seconds later when the Lakers' Bryson Jasper scored assisted by Mason Meyer and Dylan Robertson.

Fort Frances held on from there to earn the victory and make the series a best-of-three to determine a Bill Salonen Cup champion.

Shots on goal favored the Lakers, 32-24, with Park picking up the win and Sproxton recording the loss in net.

The series resumed Friday with game five at Ice for Kids Arena in Fort Frances. Game six is set for 7:30 tonight at Dryden's Memorial Arena. If necessary, a seventh and deciding game will be held at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at Ice for Kids Arena.



CENTRAL CANADA JUNIOR 'A' CHAMPIONSHIP
APR 28 - MAY 2 2015
DUDLEY HEWITT CUP
Hosted by
Lakers
Fort Frances

GAME SCHEDULE:
TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2015
2:00 pm - NOJHL vs SIJHL (H)
7:00 pm - Opening Ceremonies
7:30 pm - OJHL vs Fort Frances Lakers (H)
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2015
2:00 pm - OJHL vs SIJHL (H)
7:30 pm - Fort Frances Lakers vs NOJHL (H)
THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2015
2:00 pm - NOJHL vs OJHL (H)
7:30 pm - SIJHL vs Fort Frances Lakers (H)
FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2015
7:30 pm - 2nd Round Robin (H) vs 3rd Round Robin
SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2015
7:30 pm - 1st Round Robin (H) vs Semi-Final Winner


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Adults – \$100
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Carey Gosselin @ 807.274.7330
John Kotnik @ 807.274.2243



In Memory of Wanda McGregor
April 18, 2012

Three years have passed since you left us but not a single moment has gone by that you're not in our thought, actions and hearts. Our hearts break knowing that we don't have you anymore to lean on.

Your strength, courage, determination and love of family, friends and life was so inspiring.

We miss your hugs, humor and laughter, sparkling eyes and your amazing smile.


Life goes on..... we know that's true, But it's not the same, since we lost you.

Your family misses you more than anyone can imagine. We want to hug you, swing with you, play games with you, and listen to all your "funny" jokes and stories.

We miss seeing you sitting in your favorite chair.

You were the most incredible Wife, Mother, Grandmother, Great Grandmother and Friend.

We will, miss and cherish your memory forever Wanda. Your children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, family and friends.




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