

SPORTS



Who is...
Abby Thompson, Vikings senior middle hitter, is featured
B2

QUICK HITS

School board adds assistant golf coach

International Falls will be adding an assistant golf coach to the school district's coaching staff next season following board action Monday.

Athletic director Kevin Grover said the district will now be looking to fill the head golf coaching position as well as the newly-created assistant coaching job for 2014.

The head golf coaching job has been vacant following the departure of Bill Mason from the position after 18 years.

Grover said having an assistant golf coach will provide the boys and girls teams with additional supervision, such as when only one team is competing at a golf meet and the other team would be practicing.

An assistant boys swimming and diving coach will be sought for this winter following board approval of Dawnn Taylor as the next head coach. Taylor has been the head coach of the Fort Frances Aquanauts and replaces Hailey Silvers, who resigned after two seasons.

Grover said interviews for an assistant boys hockey coaching position will be held next Monday. The board approved the rehiring of Tom Biondich as an assistant after former assistant Ross Johnson was elevated last month to head coach to replace Bruce Elson, whose coaching contract was not renewed by the board after two seasons.

RRCC spikers 1-4 at Northland Classic

The Rainy River Community College volleyball team went 1-4 in matches at last weekend's Northland Classic in Thief River Falls.

The Voyageurs defeated Vermilion in two straight games, but lost to Lake Region, Hibbing, Itasca and Fergus Falls.

RRCC, which is 2-13 overall this season, plays in a Minnesota College Athletic Conference Northern Division match at 6:30 p.m. today at Hibbing.

RRCC 'Hire a Hitter'

The Rainy River Community College baseball team will begin its "Hire a Hitter" program this year by offering a window washing day on Saturday.

The Voyageur captains will be stopping by to talk with local businesses, or businesses may call Shelly Koenig at 283-3380 to sign up.

The "Hire a Hitter" program helps the team pay for its annual trip to Florida to play baseball in March.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Broncos derailed in 2nd half — again

Falls drops to 1-2 in 2013

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

For the second season in a row, the International Falls football team was unable to hold a double-digit halftime lead at home against Proctor.

The Falls led 14-3 at intermission of Friday's home opener at Sports Stadium, then saw the Rails pull in front in the fourth quarter when the Broncos' comeback effort late in game came up short in a 17-14 loss.

"It was an exciting game," said Falls head coach Jay Boyle. "We knew this was one of our toughest section opponents right here. I'm really looking forward to seeing these guys in the playoffs, hopefully."

In last season's regular-season game, the Broncos led 12-0 at halftime before being shut out in the final two quarters and losing, 19-12.

Both teams also faced each other in the 2012 Section 7AAA semifinals at Proctor when Falls' season came to an end with a 27-6 loss to the Rails.

In Friday's game, the Broncos scored first with just under 5 minutes left in the opening quarter when junior running back Nehemiah Olson ran 64 yards for a touchdown.

"Our running backs ran very hard, especially at the beginning of the game," Boyle said. "They were tough to bring down. That long run — that was just Nehemiah breaking tackles and running hard."

Olson ended up with 123

rushing yards on 21 carries, while senior running Jakob Ettestad carried the ball 32 times for 155 yards.

A pass from Ettestad to Ben Humbert on the 2-point conversion extended Falls' lead to 8-0.

Proctor scored its only points of the first half late in the first quarter on a 35-yard field goal by Cody Lewis.

The Broncos drove deep into the Rails' territory in the second quarter when Ettestad ran the ball into the end zone from the 4-yard line. The run for the two-point conversion failed as Falls remained in front, 14-3.

The scoreless third quarter wasn't without scoring opportunities for both teams.

A Proctor penalty on the kickoff to start the second half negated a long return by the Rails' Joe Carter. Instead of starting on offense near the Broncos' goal line, Proctor started the second half from Falls' 44-yard line.

The Rails ended up getting inside the red zone when a fake punt by Frank Napoli gave Proctor a first down on the Broncos' 5-yard line, where a fumble then turned the ball over to the Falls.

The Broncos were able to advance the ball to the other side of the field before their drive stalled on the Rails' 31-yard line when sophomore Jakob Eide wasn't able to pick up a first down on a quarterback sneak with inches to go on fourth down.

Proctor senior quarterback Brodie Nordquist got the Rails on the scoreboard with 10:26 left in the fourth quarter on a 5-yard touchdown run. Falls remained



STAFF PHOTOS BY KEVIN BONESKE

The Broncos' Nehemiah Olson (21) runs with the football while being tackled by Proctor players as Falls quarterback Jakob Eide (15) looks on in Friday's game at Sports Stadium.

in front, 14-9, after Proctor's 2-point conversion attempt failed.

The Rails went back on offense for their game-winning scoring drive after intercepting a pass from Eide on their own 30-yard line.

Eide ended up throwing two interceptions for the game as he completed five of 10 passes for 58 yards.

Proctor scored a touchdown with 6:22 remaining in the fourth quarter on an 18-yard run from Jake Wick. Carter ran in the 2-point conversion to extend the Rails' lead to 17-14.

"It's a game of momentum," Boyle said. "Our guys got stuck trying to do too much. We had guys try-



Broncos offensive end Ben Humbert (2) jumps up for a possible winning reception while being covered by Proctor's Shane Gould (87) and Frank Napoli (22) in Friday's game at Sports Stadium. The pass was ruled incomplete.

Football to B3 >

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Vikings devoured by Grizzlies in 57-24 loss



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

The Vikings' Cole Stiles (24) runs with the football after receiving the handoff from Quin Vork (2) in the first quarter of Friday's home game against North Woods.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Broncos sweep Timberwolves

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

The International Falls volleyball team picked up its third match victory of the season Monday when the Broncos won three straight games in the Falls High School gym over Ely, 25-10, 25-18, 25-17.

After winning the first game by double digits, the Broncos fell behind early in game two, 6-1, before coming out of a timeout with their own 6-1 scoring run to tie things up and then pulling in front to win. The Falls also trailed early in game three before going

on to win.

"I think they made some errors, but I think we did a lot of things well," said Broncos head coach Erin Shikowsky. "Our passing, our serve receive, was spot on. We were able to run some good offense and we played tough at the net. We also had some big digs. I just thought all around we had a good effort."

Tessa Wells led the Falls with 13 kills and also had two ace serves and five digs. Maddie Filipiak added eight kills and also had an ace block, while Hailey Pentem had four kills with two ace blocks and two ace

serves.

Other statistical leaders for the Broncos included: Teagan Anderson, 27 set assists, six digs; Lauren Rautio, 10 digs; and Clara Palm, three ace serves, six digs.

Erin Muhvich led the Timberwolves with 11 kills.

The Falls also had a road match Tuesday at Lake of the Woods. Results from that match, which took place after the production deadline for today's edition, are posted on the ifallsjournal.com website and will also be published in Saturday's paper.



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

The Broncos' Maddie Filipiak (4) hits the ball over blocking opposition from Ely's Adrianna Wittrup (13) in Monday's match in the Falls High School gym.

Sports Schedule

Today's games
Women's volleyball
RRCC at Hibbing, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday's games
Girls swimming/diving
Mesabi East at I. Falls, 4:30 p.m.
Girls volleyball
Duluth Marshall at I. Falls, 5:45 p.m.
L-BF at North Woods, 7 p.m.

Friday's games
Girls volleyball
L-BF at Burnsville Tournament, 5 p.m.
Women's volleyball
RRCC at Central Lakes, 6:30 p.m.
Football
Two Harbors at I. Falls, 7 p.m.

Saturday's games
Girls volleyball
L-BF at Burnsville Tournament, 9 a.m.
Women's volleyball
RRCC at Northland, Noon
Football
L-BF at MI-B, 1 p.m.