

# SPORTS



**Bronco baseball**  
FHS season ends in 7AA tourney opener  
**B2**

## QUICK HITS

### Three Bronco golfers advance to state meet

Three golfers from International Falls have qualified for the Class AA State Tournament with two of them returning for the second year in a row.

The Bronco boys and girls golf teams closed out the two-day Section 7AA Tournament on Thursday at the Pokegama Golf Course in Grand Rapids with two boys and a girl finishing among the top-five individuals not on the state-qualifying team that finished first.

Falls' entire boys team came within eight strokes of qualifying for state with a two-day score for 36 holes of 625 (322-303), finishing runner-up to Virginia at 617 (317-300). Hermantown placed third at 630 (313-317), while Marshall came in fourth at 633 (316-317).

Virginia's Andy Sederlund had the top individual score of 145 (73-72).

Two Bronco golfers tied for fourth overall and also qualified for state with sophomore Eric Cann and senior Brady Walls each ending up with a 152. Walls also was a state qualifier last year.

In the girls competition, the Broncos ended up third. Pequot Lakes placed first at 604 (305-299), followed by Hibbing at 721 (366-355), the Falls at 771 (395-376) and Eveleth-Gilbert at 836 (427-409).

Pequot Lakes also had the top-four individuals with Maggie Heggerston placing first at 129 (67-62).

Broncos senior Katie West finished fifth individually at 166 (83-83) and has qualified for the state meet for the second year in a row.

### L-BF baseball team knocks off Barnum

The clock has yet to strike midnight on the Littlefork-Big Falls baseball team's Cinderella postseason.

The No. 7-seeded Vikings remained undefeated in the Section 7A Tournament and knocked off another higher seed Thursday when the Vikings rallied for four runs in the final inning to defeat top-seeded Barnum, 6-5, in a winners' bracket game at Proctor.

The Bombers got on the scoreboard first in the bottom of the second when they pounded L-BF pitcher Taylor DeLack with a triple and three RBI doubles to lead 3-0.

Barnum added two more runs in the bottom of the third that included an inside-the-park solo home run by Zachary Carlson, who also pitched the first five innings for the Bombers.

The Vikings scored their first two runs in the top of the fifth when Robert Taylor Nelson doubled, Rylan Henrickson hit an RBI single and DeLack drove in a run with a triple.

Barnum switched pitchers in the sixth inning when Christopher Carlson took the mound.

L-BF was down to its final out in the seventh inning when four consecutive batters produced four runs. Henrickson singled, DeLack was intentionally walked, Darian Erickson singled and Tommy Manninen singled and reached home on an error to give the Vikings a 6-5 lead.

Barnum advanced the tying run to third base in the bottom of the seventh when Christopher Carlson hit an infield single and moved to second on a sacrifice bunt and to third on a sacrifice fly. However, he remained stranded there when Chase Peterson was called out attempting to bunt on the third strike.

## TRACK AND FIELD

# Bronco girls repeat as Section 7A champs

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

For the second year in a row, the International Falls girls track and field team has won a section title and sent several qualifiers to state in the process.

At Thursday's Section 7A Meet in the warm, sunny weather at the University of Minnesota Duluth, the Broncos topped the team standings at 139 points, followed by Proctor (90.5), Esko (79.5), Mesabi East (70) and Cromwell (43) rounding out the top five out of 24 teams scoring points.

"The girls just had a phenomenal meet," said Falls head coach Jen Erickson. "They were on fire."

Broncos senior Breanna Shofner qualified for state for the fourth year in a row in the 100- and 200-meter dashes by placing first in both in respective times of 12.72 seconds and 26.3. Her 100 dash time also surpassed the state-qualifying standard to automatically advance her to the Class A Meet regardless of her place.

Shofner also anchored Falls' 4X100 relay to victory in 51.59, two-tenths of a second ahead of Esko. Broncos eighth-grader Emma Gilbert, freshman Valandre Butler and senior Lexi Owen ran the first three legs when the team was out of the top two to qualify for state, before Shofner surged in front at the finish.

"I just really wanted to get up there for my team and run my hardest," Shofner said.

Broncos senior Hailey Fentem qualified for state for the third year in a row by winning the 100 hurdles (15.46) and breaking her own school record in the process, having also broken the record with a preliminary time of 15.6 before setting a new school mark in the finals and also surpassing the state-qualifying standard.

"I definitely run better in the warm (weather), so it was really nice finally having warm weather," Fentem said.

Fentem, who had also qualified for state last year in the high jump, came in



STAFF PHOTOS BY KEVIN BONESKE

At center, the Broncos' Breanna Shofner sprints to a first-place finish in the 100-meter dash between Two Harbors' Leann Fynboh (left) and Moose Lake/Willow River's Karina Cisar (right) in Thursday's Section 7A Meet at the University of Minnesota Duluth.



From right, the Broncos' Hailey Fentem clears the first hurdle next to Proctor's Megan Sundstrom while competing in the 100-meter hurdles at Thursday's Section 7A Meet at the University of Minnesota Duluth. Fentem placed first in 15.46 seconds and also set a new Falls High School record.

fourth at 4-10, 2 inches below the runner-up height to qualify.

The Falls went 1-2 in a pair of field events to send two girls to state for the first time in both the pole vault and shot put.

Broncos senior Amy Auran and freshman Claire Herzog topped the pole vault competition when both cleared 8 feet, 6 inches, with Auran finishing first based on fewer misses.

"It's pretty exciting," Auran said. "I'm proud of Claire. She did really good

(Thursday). We've been working for it all year, so it's nice to get rewarded like that."

In the shot put, Falls junior Savannah Olson earned a return trip to state by finishing runner-up to Gilbert, whose winning toss of 39-0 was two inches farther than Olson's best throw.

Olson just missed on also qualifying for state in the discus by finishing third at 102-9, 3 inches short of the runner-up toss by Cromwell senior Samantha Suhonen.



The Broncos' Ethan Phung competes in the long jump at Thursday's Section 7A Meet at the University of Minnesota Duluth.

The Broncos' other state qualifier was freshman Lexi Erickson, who placed second in the 3200 run (12:17.17).

The 2014 Class A State Track and Field Meet will be held June 6-7 at Hamline University in St. Paul.

**FHS BOYS 10TH**  
In the boys competition, the Broncos came in 10th with 26 points and missed out on qualifying anyone to state for the third year in a row.

"(Almost) all of the boys who qualified for Sections will be coming back next

year, so we should be a much better team," said Falls head coach Paul Hjelle. "Getting Austin Rupert back will really help us, too."

Esko won this year's team title with 79.5 points, followed by Moose Lake/Willow River (76) Mesabi East (74), Crosby-Ironton (67.5) and Eveleth-Gilbert (58) in the top five out of 22 teams.

Broncos sophomore Ethan Phung came the closest to qualifying for state when he placed third in the high jump (5-10), 2 inches below the height of the runner-up, Esko senior Cal Beaudot.

Phung had a part in scoring 17 of Falls' points when he also placed fifth in the triple jump (40-0.5) sixth in the long jump (19-2.5) and joined senior Jakob Ettestad, sophomore Wyatt Helgeson and junior Nehemiah Olson to finish fifth in the 4X100 relay (46.73).

"(Thursday) had some ups and downs," Phung said. "The weather was perfect and we wouldn't have asked for any better. It's sad that the season is over and none of us could qualify (for state). All we can do now is look forward to next year and get better."

## SECTION 7A GIRLS SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

# Vikings scorched by Cherry Tigers in title game

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Littlefork-Big Falls softball team was able to win once, but not twice, in Thursday's matchup against Cherry for the Section 7A championship at Cohasset.

The Vikings, who had lost Tuesday to the Tigers in the double-elimination tournament, picked up an 8-2 victory over Cherry in the first game Thursday to force another winner-take-all contest.

"The key (in the first game) was we came out and hit the ball hard," said L-BF head coach Mike Imhof. "We chased their (starting pitcher) out in the second inning, because we were getting bats on the ball."

Tigers starting pitcher Kacey Herring made an early exit in the first game when she was replaced by Joely Roberts.

The Vikings scored the game's first seven runs capped off with a two-run



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From right, Cherry's Breann Gruenhagen (26) dives back to third base to avoid the tag of the Vikings' Amanda Nelson (4) in Thursday's Section 7A championship game at Cohasset.

homer in the top of the fourth by DyAna Imhof. Cherry got on the score-

board with a run in the bottom of the fourth and plated another run in the

fifth inning, before L-BF added an insurance run in the top of the seventh.

Brooke Millerbernd pitched all seven innings to record the victory for the Vikings. However, the hot, sunny weather began to take its toll on her when she pitched the second game.

"Brooke was pooped, but she gave it her all," Mike Imhof said.

L-BF couldn't generate a run or a hit against Herring in the second game and ended up losing to the Tigers, 12-0, in five innings.

"We didn't hit the ball," Mike Imhof said. "It wouldn't have mattered if Brooke would have thrown a 1-0 game. We still would have lost because we just didn't score."

The Vikings finish as the Section 7A runner-up for the second year in a row, while Cherry wins its fifth-consecutive section title.

The Tigers advance to the state softball tournament June 5-6 in North Mankato.