

SPORTS



High school football playoffs

Season ends for Vikings, Broncos

B3

QUICK HITS

L-BF spikers lose 7A playoff to MI-B

The season came to an end Wednesday night for the Littlefork-Big Falls volleyball team when the No. 5-seeded Vikings lost their Section 7A playoff match in three straight games on the road against No. 4-seeded Mountain Iron-Buhl, 19-25, 16-25, 24-26.

The two teams had faced each other during the regular season Oct. 9 when L-BF won at home against the Rangers in four close games.

“The (playoff) loss was disappointing,” said Vikings head coach Kim Wimmer. “We knew we needed to play well to win, and unfortunately we made too many mistakes throughout the match.”

L-BF’s statistical leaders included: Amanda Nelson, seven kills, Breann Larson, 20 digs; Sydney Wendt, 10 set assists; and Emily Knaeble, 16 of 16 serving.

The Vikings – who will have only one graduation loss, senior setter Taylor Wendt, going into next year – finished the season with a match record of 13-12.

“We did have successes this season, however, and I am proud of how this team represented L-BF volleyball,” said Wimmer, who returned to coaching the team in 2014 after having stepped down as the head coach after the 2010 season.

RRCC spikers split 2 matches at Virginia

The Rainy River Community College volleyball team split two best-of-five matches in a triangular Tuesday at Virginia.

The Voyageurs lost their first match to Mesabi Range in five games, 23-25, 22-25, 31-29, 25-19, 12-15.

Brooke Millerbernd and Katie Langaas had 14 kills each with DyAna Imhof adding 13 kills. Tali Plate recorded 38 set assists, while Jasmine Draper picked up 36 digs.

RRCC then defeated Gogebic Community College of Ironwood, Mich., in four games, 26-24, 25-20, 14-25, 25-19.

Millerbernd and Imhof each had nine kills. Megan Johnson tallied 32 set assists, while Draper had 23 digs.

The Voyageurs, who have been mathematically eliminated from qualifying for the Region 13B Tournament, close out their season today with a road match against Northland.

Broncos lose dual meet at Mesabi East

The International Falls girls swimming and diving team lost a close dual meet Thursday at Mesabi East, 98-88.

The Broncos finished first in five of the 12 events with a pair of 1-2 finishes.

Falls’ Emma Misner and Claire Herzig went 1-2 in the 50-yard freestyle in respective times of 27.95 and 28.06 seconds, while Jessie Hell and Kylie Skallman took the top-two places in the one-meter diving competition with 159.8 and 136.8 points, respectively.

The Falls also got first-place individual finishes from Abby Kostiuk in the 100 butterfly (1:06.66) and Carolann Stone in the 200 individual medley (2:37.7), while Kostiuk, Misner, Herzig and Emily Saari teamed up to win the 200 medley relay (2:00.97).

The Broncos will hold their final home dual meet of the season at 4:30 p.m. next Tuesday against Virginia.

CROSS COUNTRY

FHS girls 9th, boys 11th in Section 7A

John Cowman finishes 19th

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

For the first time in five years, no one on the International Falls cross country teams has qualified for state.

In Thursday’s Section 7A Championships at the Cloquet Country Club, the Bronco boys and girls were unable to finish in the top two in the team standings or a have a high enough individual finish to qualify for next week’s Class A State Meet.

“It’s unfortunate, but that’s how things go,” said Falls head coach Paul Hjelle. “You never know at this (Section 7A) meet.”

The Bronco girls, who had qualified as an entire team for state the past three years with a runner-up finish in Section 7A, ended up this year in ninth place with 185 points out of the 15 teams with at least five finishers to score in the team standings.

Crosby-Ironton won the girls team title at 99 with South Ridge finishing runner-up at 108 to also qualify for state.

Esko senior Kailee Kiminski repeated as the Section 7A individual champion by completing the 4,000-meter course in 15 minutes, 10.3 seconds, more than 10 seconds ahead of her nearest competitor, Gleenway/Nashwauk-Keewatin sophomore Ellyssa Peterson.

Falls’ top individual finish came from senior Jenna Anderson, who placed 27th in 16:53.9. She improved her time by more than a minute from last year when she

finished 60th.

Falls sophomore Lexi Erickson, who last year was one of two Bronco girls to finish in the top 10 by placing third, was almost a minute behind her pace last year when she finished the 2014 race in 28th place in 16:56.

Erickson was near the front of the pack early in the race before falling back and being passed up by Anderson toward the end.

“Jenna, she had a goal in mind and she did it (Thursday),” Hjelle said. “I feel sorry for Lexi. She’s worked so hard all year. The last three weeks she’s really struggled. She’ll bounce back. She’ll get stronger from this.”

The three other Bronco girls whose finishes counted toward the team standings included: eighth-grader Avery Sivonen, 38th in 17:24.6; eighth-grader Faith Black, 49th in 17:40.8; and Lexi Edwards, 53rd in 17:55.9.

FHS BOYS 11TH

In the boys competition, the Broncos placed 11th out of 16 teams with 274 points.

Proctor won the boys team title at 50 with Eveleth-Gilbert finishing runner-up at 76 to also qualify for state.

Eveleth-Gilbert senior Reed Melicher finished first on the 5,000-meter course in 16:34.2, 13.5 seconds ahead of the runner-up, Mesabi East senior Daniel Radtke.

Falls’ top individual finish came from freshman John Cowman, who placed 19th in 18:18.9.

“I thought the race went pretty well,” Cowman said. “I was pretty close to my personal best, but I think I missed out (qualifying individu-

ally) at state by like one or two places, so that kind of upset me a little bit, although overall I thought it was a pretty nice race.”

The Broncos’ other four finishers who counted toward the team standings all finished in under 20 minutes. They included: seventh-grader Jake Erickson, 54th in 19:30.9; eighth-grader Joe Glowack, 64th in 19:42.3; seventh-grader Kian Gonzales, 72nd in 19:53.9; and seventh-grader Jaxon Germain, 73rd in 19:57.9.

“The boys, as young as we are, (everyone in the top five) was under 20 minutes – that’s really good, that’s great,” Hjelle said. “If we can get all the boys back in that seventh- and eighth-grade group, they’re just going to get better every year from here on out.”

Section 7A Championships GIRLS

Team scores: Crosby-Ironton 99, South Ridge 108, Mesabi East 133, Esko 143, Ely 147, Greenway/Nashwauk-Keewatin 161, Moose Lake/Willow River/Barnum 166, Proctor 171, International Falls 185, Carlton 251, Marshall 272, Cook County/Two Harbors 294, Eveleth-Gilbert 304, Deer River/Northland 319, Virginia 382.

Top individual: Kailee Kiminski, Esko, 15:10.3.

International Falls runners: 27. Jenna Anderson, 16:53.9; 28. Lexi Erickson, 16:56; 38. Avery Sivonen, 17:24.6; 49. Faith Black, 17:40.8; 53. Lexi Edwards, 17:55.9; 84. Shelby Layman, 19:02.9; 87. Grace Gilbert, 19:17.3.

BOYS

Team scores: Proctor 50, Eveleth-Gilbert 76, Mesabi East 122, Esko 132, Marshall 136, Moose Lake/Willow River/Barnum 158, Ely 180, Cook County/Two Harbors 181, Virginia 225, Greenway/Nashwauk-Keewatin 227, International Falls 274, South



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

The Broncos’ John Cowman (975) rounds a corner in front of Proctor’s Garrett Sargent (2251) in Thursday’s Section 7A Championships at the Cloquet Country Club. Cowman placed 19th in 18 minutes, 18.9 seconds.

Ridge 370, Mountain Iron-Buhl 378, Lakeview Christian Academy 382, Cromwell-Floodwood 411, Chisholm 474.

Top individual: Reed Melicher, Eveleth-Gilbert, 16:34.2.

International Falls runners:

19. John Cowman, 18:18.9; 54. Jake Erickson, 19:30.9; 64. Joe Glowack, 19:42.3; 72. Kian Gonzales, 19:53.9; 73. Jaxon Germain, 19:57.9; 78. Ben Erickson, 20:13.5; 85. Brock O’Loughlin, 20:33.9.

FHS spikers sweep Hibbing, advance to 7AA quarterfinals

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

For the second time this season, the International Falls volleyball team has defeated Hibbing.

The Broncos, who had won in three straight games during the regular season for their first match victory over the Bluejackets since 1980, opened the Section 7AA playoffs Wednesday in the Falls High School gym as a No. 4 seed and swept No. 5-seeded Hibbing, 25-10, 26-24, 25-17.

“It feels good to win two matches against Hibbing,” said Broncos head coach Erin Shikowsky. “(The Bluejackets) worked hard. They hustled. They dug a lot of what our offense threw at them. They played a great game. I thought, though, we came out tough and confident, and we did what we needed to do to win.”

The Falls’ statistical leaders included: Teagan Anderson, 32 set assists; Tessa Walls, nine kills; Maddie Filipiak, eight kills and three ace blocks; Lauren Rautio, 20 digs; McKenna Rasmussen, nine kills, 12 digs and three ace blocks.

Hibbing was led statistically by: Arielle Schaefer, 10 digs; Abby Frisell, seven kills; Lily Kriske, six kills; Jordan Jespersen, 20 set



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

The Broncos’ Tessa Walls (14) hits the ball past blocking opposition from Hibbing’s Jenna Stampohar (15) at left while Broncos Libero Lauren Rautio (20) looks on at right in Wednesday’s Section 7AA playoff match in the Falls High School gym.

assists and nine digs; Madi Sanders, 15 digs; and Tori Spotts, 11 digs.

The Broncos, who improved their season match record to 17-7, advanced to Friday night’s Section 7AA quarterfinals to face top-seeded Greenway on the Raiders’ home court. Greenway opened the playoffs

Wednesday by sweeping No. 8-seeded Two Harbors in three straight games.

Results from Friday’s 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 Wednesday’s paper.

SIJHL HOCKEY

Alcock scores late to lift Lakes over Ice Dogs

Meyer tallies goal, assist

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Bowen Alcock’s goal with 12 seconds remaining Tuesday night helped the Fort Frances Lakers rally to edge the Dryden Ice Dogs, 5-4, in Superior International Junior Hockey League play at Ice for Kids Arena.

The visiting Ice Dogs scored first when Cole Golka notched his league-leading 12th goal of the season at 2:31.

Special teams allowed the Lakers to pull even just over 6 minutes later when Miles Nolan scored on the power play.

Dryden went up 3-1 by the midway mark of the second period on goals by Jonathon Phillely and Joel Zieroth, which resulted in an early end to Fort Frances starting goalie Devin Tappenden’s night when he was replaced by Ryan Ferguson.

The goaltending change spurred the Lakers with goals by Mason Meyer of International Falls and Wyatt Cota to tie things up at 3-3 after 40 minutes.

In the final period, Dryden went back on top 4-3 at 5:55 on a power-play goal from from Josh Brunton, who scored his first goal in the SIJHL.

Fort Frances struck back on the power play with 4:18 to go to tie the game when Alex Rezan-soff picked up his first goal as a Laker assisted by Meyer and Sam Schultz.

Then with overtime looming, the Lakers’ Carter Chorney worked the puck free in the corner and fed Alcock, who fired the puck past Ice Dogs goalie Tate Sproton to complete the comeback.

Shots on goal favored Fort Frances, 38-28, with Ferguson picking up the win in relief, while Sproton recorded the loss in net.

The Lakers, who then played Friday night on the road against the Minnesota Iron Rangers, host Dryden once again at 7:30 tonight at Ice for Kids Arena.



Mason Meyer