

SPORTS



State champions!

Fusion 14U win their USSSA north tournament in Class B

B2

QUICK HITS

Little Leaguers play in district tourney

The International Falls Little League All-Star teams began District 4 tournament action last weekend in Grand Rapids with one of the three teams surviving double-elimination action to play next weekend.

The Falls' 9-10-year-old team won Friday over Virginia, 10-3, but then lost to Itasca, 6-1. The Falls next faces Hibbing in a losers' bracket game at 6 p.m. Friday with the winner advancing to face Itasca at noon Saturday.

Falls' 11-year-old team lost 4-1 to Itasca and 7-2 to Hibbing and has been eliminated from the tournament.

The Falls' 12-year-old team lost by identical 13-3 scores to Itasca and Hibbing and has also been eliminated.

Backus Rainy Lake Triathlon on Aug. 9

The third annual Backus Rainy Lake Triathlon is still on for Aug. 9 at City Beach starting at 9 a.m.

The event includes swimming a quarter mile on Rainy Lake, biking 11 miles from City Beach to Jackfish Bay and back and then running 5 kilometers, starting and ending at City Beach on County Road 20.

The triathlon is open to ages 13 and up. Participants may enter as an individual, team of two or team of three.

Registration fees by Aug. 1 are \$60 per person, \$110 per team of two and \$150 per team of three. The early registration includes a T-shirt.

Prizes will be awarded for top finishers. Prize drawings will also be held during the event.

Triathlon organizer Ken Krueger said he hopes the water level on Rainy Lake will be going down before next month, so that this year's triathlon will still be able to take place at City Beach.

Registration forms for this year's triathlon are available at Backus Community Center or may be accessed online at www.rainylakeraces.com or www.backusab.org.

Completed registration forms and fees may be sent to: Backus Community Center, 900 Fifth St., International Falls, MN 56649.

For more information, call Backus at 285-7225.

Purple Pride having fund-raiser Aug. 14

Purple Pride, a designated fund of the Falls Educational Foundation, will be holding a golf scramble fund-raiser Aug. 14 at the Falls Country Club.

Proceeds from the golf scramble will be used to provide grants for extracurricular activities.

For more information, contact Purple Pride Committee Chairman Gordy Dault at 286-2083.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Today's games
Juniors baseball
Ely at I. Falls (DH), 5 p.m.

Thursday's games
Legion baseball
Greenway at I. Falls (DH), 3 p.m.

Friday's games
18U softball
I. Falls at Detroit Lakes (DH), 11 a.m.

Saturday's games
VFW baseball
I. Falls in Sub-District Tournament, TBA
Legion baseball
I. Falls at Two Harbors, 6 p.m.

Glenn Walls tops 60th Smokey

Bob Mason wins seniors championship

BY KEVIN BONESKE

Sports Editor

After recording all pars on the final nine holes Sunday, Glenn Walls won the championship flight in the 60th annual Smokey Bear Golf Invitational at the Falls Country Club.

Walls, a 2011 Falls High School graduate who golfed for the Broncos and now plays at the University of Northern Iowa, finished the two-day men's amateur invite with a 45-hole total of 178.

He opened the tournament Saturday carding a 71 after the first 18 holes to make the championship cut of 14 players, two strokes behind day-one leader Terry O'Loughlin, who ended up after 45 holes in ninth place at 191.

Walls topped the leaderboard Sunday when he recorded a 70 on the next 18 holes to be at three-under par for the tournament. His even-par round of 37 on the final nine then gave him the tournament victory, three strokes ahead of last year's champion, Dave Christensen of Elk River, at 181.

"I just had a consistent final nine," said Walls, who won the tournament for the first time after having finished fourth two years ago. "I hit a lot of good shots (and) never put myself in a tough spot where I had to recover. To be able to win the Smokey Bear, it's a great feeling."

Though Sunday's strong wind made playing on day two difficult, Walls said he was able to adapt his game to the weather conditions, which also included rain falling on and off during the final nine.

"You really had to adapt and be able to hit some different shots," he said. "I think I kept calm for most of the day and was able to maintain a solid attitude throughout the day."

Golf to B2 ➤



STAFF PHOTOS BY KEVIN BONESKE

Glenn Walls hits a chip shot Sunday onto the green of hole No. 3 during the Smokey Bear Golf Invitational at the Falls Country Club. Walls won the two-day men's amateur invite with a 45-hole score of 178.



From right, Bob Mason receives a crystal cup from Smokey Bear Golf Invitational tournament director Dave Cronin on Sunday after winning the seniors championship with a 45-hole score of 190.



Jeff Shermoen hits a sand trap shot Sunday on hole No. 2 during the Smokey Bear Golf Invitational at the Falls Country Club. Shermoen placed fourth in the championship flight with a 45-hole score of 187.

LEGION BASEBALL

Post 66 Broncos 3-1 at Ely Legion Classic

Falls top-seeded in District Eight

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The International Falls Legion baseball team went 3-1 at last weekend's Ely Legion Midsummer Classic and also defeated the team that won the 10-team tournament of a tiebreaker.

"We beat three really quality baseball teams," said Falls Legion head coach Eric Walls. "We pitched it extremely well."

The Post 66 Broncos opened the tournament Friday with a 4-3 victory over Cloquet.

The lead see-sawed back and fourth before the Falls scored twice in the seventh inning when Wyatt Ulrich singled off of Cloquet pitcher Gavin Takkunen to drive in both runs for the win.

Ulrich led the Falls both at the plate and on the mound. He accounted for three of the team's six hits.



Wyatt Ulrich



Ben Humbert



Gunnar Anderson

Ulrich also recorded the pitching victory working 6 2/3 innings, allowing all three runs, two earned, on six hits with three walks while striking out seven.

Gunnar Anderson added two hits with a double and 2 RBI for the Falls.

FALLS 3, ELY 0
In a game that also counted toward the conference standings, the Post 66 Broncos opened Saturday's tournament action by shutting out the host team, Ely, 3-0.

Ben Humbert struck out 13 and allowed only four hits in recording the complete-game victory for the Falls.

At the plate, the Post 66 Broncos mustered only three hits and scored all three of their runs on passed balls.

Louie Gerzin pitched all seven innings and recorded the pitching loss for Ely.

PROCTOR 7, FALLS 0
The Post 66 Broncos lost their only game of the tournament Saturday when they were shut out by Proctor, 7-0.

Proctor led by only a run until the top of the fifth when an error scored two runs as part of a four-run inning. The Falls ended up with four errors for the game.

Cole Miggins recorded the pitching loss after working four-plus innings and allowing five runs. Jack Bartkowski closed out the final three innings for the

Post 66 Broncos. They gave up a combined eight hits and struck out four.

Matt Morris pitched all seven innings to pick up the win for Proctor, scattering six hits and striking out six.

Ulrich and Humbert had two hits apiece for the Falls.

FALLS 5, LAKEVIEW 3
The Post 66 Broncos closed out the tournament Sunday by defeating Duluth Lakeview, 5-3.

After giving up a run in the first inning, the Falls scored twice in the second inning and added three more runs in the third to lead 5-1 and stay in front for good against Lakeview, which also ended up with a 3-1 tournament record but finished first on a tiebreaker based on fewest runs allowed.

Of Falls' 11 hits, Darian Erickson and Bartkowski had two apiece with Erickson also recording 3 RBI. Ulrich drove in the other two runs.

Caleb Dahlin picked up

the pitching victory for the Falls. In six innings of work, Dahlin allowed three runs on four hits with three walks while striking out eight. Humbert came in for the final three outs in the seventh inning to record the save.

Elliott Kuberra recorded the pitching loss for Lakeview after giving up all five runs in five innings of work.

Following last weekend's tournament, the Post 66 Broncos improved their overall season record to 15-4 going into Tuesday's non-conference doubleheader at Grand Rapids.

The Falls' conference record of 8-1 for 11 points in the Eighth District Division II standings also places the team as the No. 1 seed for the district tournament that begins next week.

The Post 66 Broncos' remaining conference games include a home doubleheader Thursday against Greenway and a road game Saturday at Two Harbors.