

SPORTS



Scoring early, winning late
RRCC women's hockey team sweeps Wildcats
B2

QUICK HITS

L-BF girls hoops team halts K/N, snaps losing skid

After having lost the previous five games, the Littlefork-Big Falls girls basketball recorded a victory Monday night by winning on the road over Kelliher/Northome, 76-61.

“Offensively, we played very well,” said L-BF head coach Dan Beste. “I think we shot the ball well.”

The Vikings, who led 39-35 at halftime, had four players end up scoring in double figures led by Kaylee Kennedy with 32 points. Karly Swenson added 12 points, Breann Larson scored 11 and Emily Knaeble put in 10 more.

L-BF’s last win Jan. 8 had also been against the Mustangs. Monday’s victory improved the Vikings’ season record to 6-8 going into Thursday night’s home game against Chisholm.

FHS boys hockey team falls at KCC

After leading 1-0 following the first period Saturday, the International Falls boys hockey team wasn’t able to score again and lost on the road to Kittson County Central, 5-1.

Chase Bernard scored the Broncos’ only goal 2:28 into the game with an assist from Brandon Podpeskar.

KCC scored four times in the second period and added another goal in the third period.

The loss was the third in a row for the Falls and dropped the Broncos’ season record to 4-17 going into Friday’s game at Grand Rapids.

Drew Fisher leads Tulsa Oilers with 33 assists, 47 points

After recording four assists over two games late last week, Tulsa Oilers forward Drew Fisher of International Falls now leads the East Coast Hockey League team this season in both assists (33) and points (47).

Fisher, who has tallied points in the Oilers’ last four games, recorded three assists in Thursday’s 5-2 home victory over the Brampton Beast and added another assist in Friday’s 4-2 win over the Beast.

Tulsa, which is 21-19-13 this season and in fourth place in the ECHL’s Central Division, returns to action this Thursday when the Oilers open a two-game home series against the Rapid City Rush.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Today’s games
Women’s/men’s basketball
Itasca at RRCC, 6/8 p.m.

Thursday’s games
Boys swimming/diving
I. Falls at Mesabi East Invitational, 4:30 p.m.
Girls hockey
North Shore at I. Falls in Section 7A Quarterfinals, 7 p.m.

Girls basketball
I. Falls at Greenway, 7:15 p.m.
Chisholm at L-BF, 7:15 p.m.

Friday’s games
Girls basketball
Virginia at I. Falls, 7:15 p.m.
Boys basketball
L-BF at Mesabi East, 7:15 p.m.
Boys hockey
I. Falls at Grand Rapids, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday’s games
Women’s/men’s basketball
RRCC at Northland, 1/3 p.m.
Girls/boys basketball
Moose Lake at I. Falls, 3/4:30 p.m.
Boys hockey
Crookston at I. Falls, 3 p.m.

GIRLS HOCKEY

Broncos win regular-season finale

FHS opens 7A playoffs against North Shore

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

The International Falls girls hockey team closed out the regular season on a winning note Saturday afternoon with a 2-0 home victory over Long Prairie-Grey Eagle/Wadena-Deer Creek.

“The kids played really good. We played with a lot of energy,” said Broncos head coach Gerald Bolstad. “I thought we forechecked really well. Their goalie was really good. She certainly kept them in the game, but we found a way to get a couple (of goals) by her and won the game.”

The game remained scoreless until 5:43 remained in the second period when Falls sophomore forward Clara Palm put in a power-play goal assisted by Jenna Sullivan and Amber Tilander. “When you’re going against a good goalie, you’ve got to get rebounds,” Bolstad said. “Clara Palm was able to get down low and knock the rebound in and gave us the lead.”



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

At right, the Broncos’ Clara Palm (4) celebrates after shooting the puck past Blue Devils goalie Angela Hanson (1) in front at left to score Falls’ first goal in Saturday afternoon’s home game against Long Prairie-Grey Eagle/Wadena-Deer Creek.

The Broncos’ final goal came midway through the third period with Lexi Edwards scored assisted by Tilander and Ashley Jonson.

Shots on goals favored the Falls, 39-19, with Kailaya McConnell recording the shutout win and

Angela Hanson picking up the loss in net.

The Broncos, who evened their season record to 12-12, open the Section 7A Tournament as the No. 3 seed at 7 p.m. Thursday when they host a quarterfinal game against No. 6-seeded

North Shore. The winner advances to the semifinal game Feb. 10 at 8 p.m. in Virginia to face No. 2-seeded Hibbing/Chisholm.

“We’ve just got to keep playing like we’re playing right now,” Bolstad said. “We’re doing a good job

of moving our feet and attacking. We’re doing a good job of forechecking and taking care of our own end, so everything is going good.”

Int’l Falls 2, LPGE/WDC 0
LPGE/WDC 0 0 0 - 0
Int’l Falls 0 1 1 - 2

GIRLS BASKETBALL



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From right, the Broncos’ Cassie Tomczak (21) shoots in the lane while being guarded by Cherry’s Alexis Kudis (13) as the Broncos’ Teagan Anderson (23) looks on in Monday night’s game in the Falls High School gym.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Vikings devoured by Timberwolves and Golden Bears

L-BF now 5-13

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Littlefork-Big Falls boys basketball team is now on a four-game losing streak after falling twice in the L-BF gym by double digits.

The turnover bug bit the Vikings in the first half Friday when L-BF lost at

home to Ely, 60-50.

The Vikings trailed the Timberwolves at halftime, 34-24, and fell behind by as much as 19 points at 50-31 with 12:55 to play before cutting the deficit late in the second half.

“I thought we played a little bit better defensively in the second half and we were a little bit more aggressive on the boards than what we were in the first half,”

said L-BF head coach Jeff Maish. “That’s what helped us close the gap.”

Zach Simon led the Vikings in scoring with 18 points. Rylan Henrickson added 14 points.

Ely also had two players score in double figures led by Jeffrey Willis with 20 points and Spencer Gaulke adding 11 points.
E-G 55, L-BF 44

L-BF trailed by only a

point with just under 3 minutes left to play Monday night, but wasn’t able to score again and lost at home to Eveleth-Gilbert, 55-44.

“Offensively, it looked like it was a Monday game,” Maish said. “Defensively, we played well.”

The Vikings, who trailed 24-22 at halftime, were led by Simon recording a double-double with 13 points and 12 rebounds. Henrick-

son added nine points

L-BF’s season record now stands at 5-13 going into Friday’s road game at Mesabi East.

Friday’s game
Ely 60, L-BF 50
Ely 34 26 - 60
L-BF 24 26 - 50

Monday’s game
E-G 55, L-BF 44
E-G 24 31 - 55
L-BF 22 22 - 44