

SPORTS



Who is...
Greg Harris, Bronco boys hoops forward, is featured

B2

QUICK HITS

L-BF girls hoops team defeats Fond du Lac

The Littlefork-Big Falls girls basketball team is entering the Section 7A Tournament on a winning note following Thursday night's 61-24 home victory over Fond du Lac Ojibwe in the regular-season finale.

L-BF head coach Dan Beste said the team started out slow, but then cleaned up its game and played much better.

The Vikings, who led 30-14 at halftime, had three players end up scoring in double figures led by Breann Larson with 19 points. Kaylee Kennedy added 17 points with Emily Franz scoring 10 more.

L-BF, which improved its season record to 10-11, will open the Section 7A playoffs next Thursday in Hibbing.

Stirgus named to D3 All-Region 13 Team

Rainy River Community College men's basketball guard Sam Stirgus has been named to the 2014-15 NJCAA Division III All-Region 13 Team.

Stirgus, a sophomore from New Orleans, played in 24 games during the regular season and led the Minnesota College Athletic Conference's Northern Division in points per game (19.8) after scoring a league-leading 475 points with 59 3-point baskets, 107 2-point field goals and 84 free throws. His free-throw percentage (.778) ranked fourth in the league.

He also ranked fourth in the MCAC North in assists per game (5.1) with 123 assists and sixth in the division in steals per game (2.2) with 52 steals.

Stirgus was one of three RRCC players named to the MCAC All-Northern Division Team along with freshman forwards Antoine Tobias and Jammere Carlisle.

Roneisha Jordan on MCAC North 1st team

Rainy River Community College women's basketball forward Roneisha Jordan has been named to the Minnesota College Athletic Conference Northern Division First Team following the 2014-15 regular season.

Jordan, a sophomore from Fort Pierce, Fla., appeared in 21 games this season and ranked second in the MCAC North in rebounds per game (11.4) after hauling in 240 rebounds, third in the league in points per game (17.8) with 374 points and fourth in the division in field-goal percentage (.478).

BOYS BASKETBALL



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From left, the Broncos' Clay Tomczak (32) dribbles inside while being guarded by Greenway's Evan Skaar (31) in Tuesday night's Section 7AA Tournament game in the Falls High School gym.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Rangers run past Vikings, 87-41

L-BF ends season 6-19

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

After having opened the Section 7A Tournament two days earlier by avenging a regular-season loss to Mesabi Academy, the Littlefork-Big Falls boys basketball wasn't able to do so Thursday night against Mountain Iron-Buhl.

The No. 9-seeded Vikings saw their season come to an end when they lost to the No. 1-seeded Rangers, 87-41, at Hibbing Memorial.

"Offensively, we didn't hit some shots in the first half to kind of keep our confidence up," said L-BF head coach Jeff Maish. "We were at 10-5 quite a while – we held them at 10 points – and we just couldn't get our momentum going on the offensive end of the court to get our defense to work a little bit harder."

MI-B took advantage of L-BF's turnovers by scoring with fast-break opportunities and also attacked the Vikings' zone defense on the outside with 3-point shots, ending up with nine baskets behind the arc.

After the Rangers' lead stalled at 10-5 early in the first half, MI-B went on a 22-3 scoring run capped off with a pair of 3-pointers by Archie Winans. The half ended with MI-B in front, 43-19.

The second half had more of the same as the Rangers' continued to dominate L-BF and expanded their lead, putting the game on running time with just over five minutes to play.

MI-B had four players score in double figures led by Winans with a game-



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From right, the Vikings' Evan Wimmer (14) shoots in the lane while being guarded by the Rangers' Trevon Winger (5) in Thursday night's Section 7A Tournament game at Hibbing Memorial.

high 29 points, which included five 3-pointers. Jaylon Holmes added 18 points, Dante Josephson put in 12 and Trevor Winger scored 11 more.

The Vikings were led by Rylan Henrickson with 15 points. Zach Simon also scored in double figures with 13 points.

The loss closed out L-BF's season with a record of 6-19. The Vikings are losing five seniors to graduation, three starters – Henrick-

son, Simon and Tommy Manninen – and reserve players Evan Wimmer and Quin Vork.

"I couldn't have asked anything more from this senior group than I have," Maish said. "All five of these kids are pretty special to me. When I started coaching at Littlefork, these kids were in second grade, so I've got to see these kids grow and become men. I wish them luck in the future."

IF Broncos raid Greenway, 90-50

FHS to face Deer River in the 7AA quarterfinals

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

The outcome matched the pairings Tuesday night when the No. 1-seeded International Falls boys basketball team opened the Section 7AA Tournament at home with a 90-50 victory over No. 8-seeded Greenway.

"A good win for us – we played some pretty good basketball," said Falls head coach Derek Dowty. "We played at our level, for the most part, and we got the job done."

The Broncos, who led 50-25 at halftime, took advantage of the Raiders' turnovers to turn into points and also dominated the inside to score as the game went on running time in the second half with 9 minutes left to play.

"The more steals we get, the more fast-break points we get and it gets our offense moving in the right direction," Dowty said. "Defense is the key – forcing those turnovers – getting some pressure on the ball gets us going offensively."

The Falls, which had its reserves see several minutes on the court, had five players score in double

figures led by Jack Bartkowski with 18 points. Ben Humbert and Max Vergeldt added 13 points apiece. Clay Tomczak scored 12 and Kameron Koerbitz put in 11 more.

Greenway was led by Ben Skaar with 15 points. Terre Webb added 14 points with Sam Jensen scoring 10 more.

The Broncos, who improved their overall season record to 22-5, have advanced to the Section 7AA quarterfinal set for 2:45 p.m. today at Duluth Denfeld against No. 4-seeded Deer River, which had lost the Nov. 21 regular-season opener to the Falls, 75-64.

"It was the first game of the year for us, so it's a long way back there," Dowty said. "(The section quarterfinal game will have) two different teams, but I think we're playing great basketball right now and I hope we come ready to play on Saturday."

Int'l Falls 90, Greenway 50
Greenway 25 25 - 50
Int'l Falls 50 40 - 40
Greenway: Sam Skaar 2, Ben Skaar 15, Adrian Gould 6, Sam Jensen 10, Anto Vidovic 3, Terre Webb 14. 3-pointers: B. Skaar 3, Vidovic. Free throws: 8-13. Fouls: 13.
Int'l Falls: Ben Everson 5, Jack Bartkowski 18, Allen Johnson 2, Wyatt Helgeson 9, Ethan Phung 4, Max Vergeldt 13, Greg Harris 3, Clay Tomczak 12, Kameron Koerbitz 11. Ben Humbert 13. 3-pointers: Tomczak 2, Everson, Helgeson, Harris. Free throws: 11-16. Fouls: 16.

BOYS SWIMMING AND DIVING



FILE PHOTO

The Broncos' Alex Belanger, shown swimming the butterfly in the Feb. 12 home dual meet against Virginia, has advanced to the Section 6A championship finals at Grand Rapids in the 100-yard butterfly after placing eighth in Thursday's preliminaries in 1 minute, 3.55 seconds.

Belanger, 2 Bronco relays in section championship finals today at Rapids

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

A pair of relay teams from International Falls and one individual swimmer will be competing in today's Section 6A championship finals in Grand Rapids for the opportunity to advance to state after placing in the top eight during Thursday's preliminaries.

Falls freshman Alex Belanger had the eighth-fastest preliminary time in the 100-yard butterfly (1 minute, 3.55 seconds). Hibbing freshman Sam Iozzo topped the preliminaries in that event in 58.2.

Belanger joined senior Cole Tatsak, freshman John Cowman and sophomore Jared Hunter for a seventh-place preliminary finish in the 200 freestyle relay (1:44.84). Grand Rapids had the top time of 1:34.3.

Tatsak, Cowman and freshmen Joey Griffith and Tanner Sether had the eighth-fastest preliminary time in the 400 freestyle relay (4:13.57). Grand Rapids had the fastest time of 3:31.1.

Two Bronco swimmers

advanced to today's consolation finals with a preliminary finish between ninth and 16th place.

Cowman placed 10th in the 100 breaststroke (1:15.13), while Belanger came in 12th in the 200 individual medley (2:26.24).

Prior to today's finals starting at 3 p.m., the preliminary diving competition begins at 11 a.m.

Individual swimmers and relays that place in the top three in the championship finals, as well as the top-four divers, will advance to the Class A State Swimming and Diving Tournament being held March 5-7 at the University of Minnesota Aquatic Center.

The top-eight finishers in the section championship finals all receive medals, while finishers in the consolation finals will also score points for their teams.

This year's Section 6A meet includes the following nine teams: Grand Rapids, Mesabi East, Hibbing, Duluth Marshall, Virginia, Eveleth-Gilbert, Chisholm, Duluth Denfeld and the Falls.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

- Today's games**
Men's basketball
RRCC in Region 13
Tournament at Anoka-Ramsey, TBD
Boys basketball
I. Falls vs. Deer River in Section 7AA quarterfinals at Duluth Denfeld, 2:45 p.m.
Boys swimming/diving
I. Falls in Section 6A Meet at Grand Rapids, 11 a.m.
- Sunday's games**
Men's basketball
Region 13 Tournament at Anoka-Ramsey, TBD
- Tuesday's games**
Boys basketball
I. Falls/Deer River winner vs. Esko/MLWR winner in Section 7AA semifinal at UMD, 5:45 p.m.
- Wednesday's games**
Women's hockey
RRCC vs. Michigan St. at ACHA D2 National Tournament, 2:30 p.m.
Girls basketball
I. Falls vs. opponent TBD in Section 7A Tournament, TBA