

# SPORTS



## Tied at the top

RRCC softball team in 1st with Mesabi Range

B3

### QUICK HITS

#### FHS boys golf team fifth at Eagle Ridge

The International Falls boys golf team played in its first tournament of the season Saturday when the Broncos placed fifth at the Eagle Ridge Golf Course in Coleraine with a team score of 340 for 18 holes.

Eagan won the team title with the top score of 310 out of more than 10 teams.

Greenway/Nashwauk-Keewatin junior Ben Skaar had the top individual score of 74. The Falls' top individual was senior Brady Walls, who placed seventh with a 79.

Next best for the Broncos were sophomore Eric Cann and freshman Brady Wright, who both carded an 84, followed by freshmen Riley Nemec (93), Josh Milette (100) and Brock O'Loughlin (102).

The Falls' next varsity tournament will be Friday at the Mesaba Country Club in Hibbing.

#### L-BF softball team goes 1-2 at weekend Twin Valley tourney

The Littlefork-Big Falls softball team headed to Twin Valley last Saturday for a tournament in which the Vikings went 1-2 facing three teams from North Dakota.

In game one, L-BF lost to Grand Forks Red River, 11-5.

The Vikings' Amanda Nelson pitched the first innings in recording the loss, giving up seven runs on six hits while striking out three. Brooke Millerbernd pitched the final two innings, giving up four runs on four hits with a strikeout.

Of L-BF's eight hits, Emily Knaeble had three of them.

In the second game, the Vikings erupted for 10 runs in the second inning when they defeated Thompson, 12-8.

Nelson recorded the pitching victory working the first three innings, allowing a run and a hit with three strikeouts. Millerbernd closed out the final three innings, giving up seven runs on five hits with two strikeouts.

Of L-BF's 10 hits, Nelson, Breann Larson and Karli Little had two apiece.

The Vikings were trounced in the third game by Central Cass, 18-1, in four innings.

L-BF gave up 14 hits with Nelson pitching the first two innings and Millerbernd and Karly Swenson each pitching an inning.

The Vikings tallied four hits with DyAna Imhof recording a triple.

### BRONCO ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

## 2014 inductees honored at banquet

BY KEVIN BONESKE  
Sports Editor

More than 240 people were on hand Saturday night when the latest group of inductees into the Bronco Athletic Hall of Fame was honored during a banquet held at the AmericInn in International Falls.

The Hall of Fame's "Class of 2014" includes distance runner Tina (Bahr) Ostroot, hockey coach Dean Blais, hockey players Keith "Huffer" Christiansen and Oscar Mahle and the 1954 International Falls football team.

Ostroot, who is the first female to be inducted in the Hall of Fame's three years of existence, still holds the school records she set at FHS more than 30 years ago in the girls 1600-meter run (5 minutes, 7.5 seconds) and 3200 run (11:06).

"International Falls has an incredible athletic legacy," she said. "Just look at the athletes who have preceded me and those that are being inducted with me. Growing up I knew there were high expectations if you competed athletically in International Falls."

A 1980 FHS graduate, Ostroot participated in cross country, basketball and track and field and was a six-time state qualifier.

Ostroot noted she was one of two girls in Falls' first girls cross country team in 1977 when Stan Johnson was the head coach of the boys team.

"Looking back now, I realize how hard this was for him and I have the deepest respect for him," Ostroot said. "The times were different then they are now, and here we're a couple of young girls 15 years old upsetting the norm...."



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

**Hockey coach Dean Blais speaks at Saturday night's Bronco Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony at the AmericInn. Blais is one of four individuals inducted with the Hall of Fame's "Class of 2014."**

"What 15-year olds didn't want to go run with those cute boys on the team. We weren't aware of Title IX. All we wanted to do was get better at running, so that we could compete with other female runners from northern Minnesota."

The following year, Ostroot said more runners joined the team "and that's when the girls cross country team took off."

When girls cross country runners in Minnesota competed on a 3200-meter course in the late 1970s, Ostroot was the state champion in Class AA her junior and senior years.

She also finished sixth as a sophomore when girls

cross country runners competed in a single class on a 2-mile course.

Ostroot's top track and field finishes at state include being second in the 3200 run her senior year and a fourth- and third-place finish in the 1600 run in her sophomore and junior years, respectively.

She continued to compete in running after high school and was named to the Idaho State University Hall of Fame in 1993.

Ostroot, who now resides in Elk River, where she has been a teacher for nearly 30 years, continues to run in various distance events, including having finished the last two Boston Marathons.

### TRACK AND FIELD

## Broncos win May Day Invitational

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

After having a meet they initially planned to compete in canceled Friday at Virginia, the International Falls boys and girls track and field teams headed that day to Walker, where they both won the May Day Invite.

In the girls competition, the Broncos finished first with 154 points, followed by Bagley/Fosston (133.5), Park Rapids Area (119), Pequot Lakes (85.5) and Northome/Kelliher/Blackduck (50) rounding out the top five out of 11 teams scoring points.

"When our meet in Virginia looked like it might be canceled due to poor weather, we were scrambling to find a backup meet," said Falls head coach Jen Erickson. "Walker had a meet scheduled and they were on the edge of the last snowstorm that moved through, leaving their track dry and ready for a meet...."

"It was a little cool but the sun was out and the ground was dry - perfect conditions when you compare them to what we have had over the past month."

The Broncos, who were without their top sprinter, senior Breanna Shofner, and others, had four first-place individual finishes and also came in second in five events.

Falls senior Hailey Fentem won the 100-meter hurdles (16.84 seconds) and placed second in the high jump (4 feet, 10 inches) and

fourth in the long jump (14-4).

Broncos junior Savannah Olson and eighth-grader Emma Gilbert went 1-2, respectively, in the shot put with top throws of 37-3.75 and 34-9.5. Olson added a third-place finish in the discus (93-1) with Gilbert coming in seventh at 80-1.

Falls senior Lexi Owen won the 300 hurdles (50.08), while sophomore Abby Kostiuk had the top time in the 400 dash (1:07.99). Freshman Anna Earley placed fourth in the 400 dash in 1:09.84.

"Both boys and girls teams had an amazing day despite the cooler temps and the missing teammates in several events," Owen said.

Broncos freshman Lexi Erickson placed runner-up in the 1600 run (5:39.58), 5.56 seconds behind the top time of Bagley/Fosston junior Marissa Carlson.

Falls freshman Claire Herzig came in second in the pole vault (8-0), 6 inches below the top height of Bagley/Fosston junior Gina Balsstad. Herzig added a third-place finish in the long jump (14-5) and came in fourth in the 200 dash (28.61).

"I'm very proud of my teammates and the way they performed (Friday), improving their performances in numerous events," Herzig said.

Herzig, sophomore Madeline Dahle, seventh-grader Grace Gilbert and Emma Gilbert placed second in the 4X200 relay (1:57.14). Bagley/Fosston won in 1:51.55.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

**At left, the Broncos' Faith Black competes in the 4X800-meter relay next to a runner from Pequot Lakes in Friday's May Day Invite in Walker. The Falls placed third in 10 minutes, 56.18 seconds.**

Two of the Broncos' relays came in third with Kostiuk, Owen, Lexi Erickson and seventh-grader Faith Black part of the 4X800 (10:56.18) and Kostiuk, Lexi Erickson, Grace Gilbert and Earley joining forces in the 4X400 (4:35.3).

Falls freshman Valandre Butler placed third in the 100 dash (13.78) and added a seventh-place finish in the triple jump (29-1.5).

"(Friday) we didn't know what to expect of the meet with 12 teams competing on a track we had never seen before," Butler said. "We were missing a few top point scorers and were worried about facing a team that will



**At left, the Broncos' John Cowman competes in the 3200-meter run in Friday's May Day Invite in Walker. Cowman came in second in that event and added an eighth-place finish in the 1600 run.**

### SPORTS SCHEDULE

#### Today's games

##### Men's baseball

Hibbing at RRCC (DH), 2 p.m.

##### Women's softball

Northland at RRCC (DH), 3 p.m.

##### Girls softball

I. Falls at Hibbing, 4:30 p.m.

#### Thursday's games

##### Track and field

I. Falls at Old River Meet in Grand Rapids, 4 p.m.

##### Boys baseball

Virginia at I. Falls, 4:30 p.m.

L-BF at Hill City, 4:30 p.m.

##### Girls softball

I. Falls at Nashwauk-Keewatin, 4:30 p.m.

L-BF at Blackduck, 4:30 p.m.

#### Friday's games

##### Boy and girls golf

I. Falls at Hibbing Invite, 8:30 a.m.

##### Boys track and field

I. Falls at LOW AAA Meet, 4 p.m.

##### Girls softball

L-BF at I. Falls, 4:30 p.m.

##### Boys baseball

I. Falls at Mesabi East, 4:30 p.m.

##### Men's baseball

RRCC at Fond du Lac (DH), 6 p.m.

Track to B2 ►