

SPORTS

MEN'S HOCKEY

Minnesota Duluth sweeps Nebraska Omaha at home

Willie Corrin plays in both games of series

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Defense made the difference last weekend when two defensemen from International Falls were on opposing Division I men's college hockey teams.

The University of Minnesota Duluth, for which Willie Corrin is in his sophomore season, swept the two-game series hosted by the University of Nebraska Omaha, for which Matt Youso is a freshman and Corrin's uncle from the Falls, Dean Blais, is in his fifth season as a head coach.

UMD won 3-2 Friday and also picked up a 3-1 victory Saturday. The sweep improved the Bulldogs' season record to 5-5 in the National Collegiate Hockey Conference and 9-8-1 overall, while UNO dropped to 5-4-1-1 in league play and 8-11-1 overall.

Corrin and Youso, 2010 Falls High School graduates, both saw action Friday. "It was nice to see Matt get out there," said Corrin, who also noted they weren't on the ice at the same time during the opening game of the series.

Corrin – who has recorded two assists, 11 shots and 14 blocks in eight games this season – had three shots and a block Friday.

Youso, who has two shots and five blocks in seven games, recorded two blocks Friday. Youso has been battling for playing time in his first season of Division I college hockey and didn't see action Saturday.

Corrin, who noted he was on the injured list for four games earlier this season because of a knee injury, saw action in the series finale, in which he recorded a block but also picked up two penalties – one for tripping and another for unsportsmanlike conduct – and had to sit out 4 minutes.

Blais was only behind the Mavericks' bench for Saturday's game when he returned from a three-game suspension.

The Omaha World-Herald reported Blais and UNO defenseman Jaycob Megna violated NCAA rules when the coach reimbursed the player \$400 after Megna's wristwatch had been taken



Willie Corrin



Matt Youso



Dean Blais

from the CenturyLink Center locker room in October 2012.

"It felt very doggone good" being back coaching, Blais said.

Blais attributed the goaltending of UMD's Aaron Crandall for Saturday's loss after the Mavericks outshot the Bulldogs, 53-13, but could only score one goal. Crandall also recorded the win in goal Friday.

After dropping both games last weekend, Blais said he hopes UNO will be able to have "a little payback" when the two teams have another pair of games against each other to close out the NCHC regular season March 7-8 at AMSOIL Arena in Duluth.

UMD and UNO split the four games the two teams had against each other last season when Blais and Corrin faced each other on opposite college hockey teams for the first time.

BOYS HOCKEY



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

In front, the Broncos' Clay Bergstrom (9) controls the puck behind the net while being pursued by Greenway's Andrew Stish (19) in Friday night's game at Bronco Arena.

Broncos tie Greenway 0-0

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

After scoring 10 goals between them a week earlier, the International Falls boys hockey team skated to a 0-0 tie with Greenway on Friday night at Bronco Arena. Shots on goal also ended up being close to even

with the Raiders barely outshooting the Broncos, 29-28, over three 17-minute periods and an 8-minute overtime.

Wyatt Ulrich recorded the shutout in goal for the Falls, while Austin Anick stopped all the shots for Greenway, which had

given up six goals when the Broncos won 6-4 on the road Jan. 3.

The Falls returned to action Tuesday night at Eveleth-Gilbert.

I. Falls 0, Greenway 0
Greenway 0 0 0 0-0
I. Falls 0 0 0 0-0

SQUIRT HOCKEY



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Falls Purple squirt hockey team won last weekend's Icebox Classic, an eight-team tournament. Players shown include, below, goalie Mitchell Nemec. Kneeling, from left, Emma Erickson, Gavin Loveless, Gary Tilander, Brady Wicklund, Paul Harder, Cameron Schulz, Adrion Mannausau, Jack Maxwell, Tucker Hell, Ben Glowack. The team is coached by Derek Hell, Marc Glowack, Jay Schulz and Kevin Erickson.

Falls Purple wins Icebox Classic

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Two local squirt hockey teams went 1-2 at last weekend's International Falls Icebox Classic held at Kerry Park Arena.

In the eight-team tournament, the top-seeded Falls

Purple defeated the No. 2-seeded Falls Gold, 8-2, in the championship game.

The Falls Purple also won a Sportsmanship Award as voted on by the referees.

The Sportsmanship Award had a three-way tie

between the Falls Purple, Fort Frances Family Motor Sports and Hermantown White.

The Hermantown White won Saturday's shootout, in which the winning goalie was Falls Gold goaltender Owen Sether.

SIJHL HOCKEY

Lakers upset after Wilderness snap 32-game losing streak

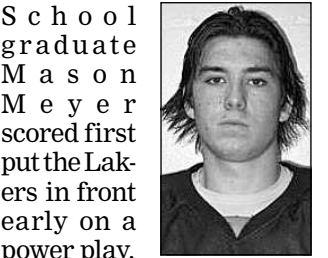
JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

After 32 straight losses, the Wisconsin Wilderness got back in the win column in the Superior International Junior Hockey League.

An Alex Rezansoff second-period goal turned out to be the game-winner Saturday night when Wisconsin upset the league-leading Fort Frances Lakers, 4-2, at the Spooner Ice House.

The Wilderness picked up their first home win of the season and first victory since Sept. 22 in Dryden, while also snapping the seven-game winning streak of Fort Frances.

After 2012 Falls High



Mason Meyer

School graduate Mason Meyer scored first put the Lakers in front early on a power play, Wisconsin answered with a pair of goals from Shane Billings and Justin Gregory to go up 2-1 after 20 minutes.

The Wilderness extended their lead by netting the only two goals of the second period from Rezansoff and Jake Lobato.

A Tanner Fricke power-play goal assisted by Meyer

and Lyndon Lipinski 8:52 into the final period pulled the Lakers closer, but the Wilderness held on from there to snap the lengthy losing streak.

Griffin Strain recorded his first SIJHL victory in goal for Wisconsin, while Devin Tappenden picked up the loss in his league debut for Fort Frances.

The Lakers returned to action Tuesday night at Thunder Bay and have another road game tonight against the Minnesota Iron Rangers.

Wisconsin 4, Fort Frances 2
Fort Frances 1 0 1-2
Wisconsin 2 2 0-4

GOPHERS

► continued from B2

The Gophers needed more than 4 minutes to score in the extra period and those points pulled it within seven.

Smith scored 11 of his

points, nine on 3-pointers, in the first 12 minutes of the game to help the Gophers lead 41-36 at halftime after making 7 of 12 shots beyond the arc. They made just 3 of 14 3-pointers in the second half and overtime.

"I am certainly disappointed in the loss," Pitino

said. "It thought it came down to them getting to the foul line and we did not toward the end of the game. It is very difficult to beat a team when they make 32 free throws to your 19. That is not to say I am complaining about the officiating."

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Birthday

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