

SPORTS



Voyageurs basketball
Jordan double-double at Northland Tourney
B2

QUICK HITS

International Falls sports postponed

Due to classes being called off Tuesday in the International Falls school district, all Bronco sporting events that had been planned for later in the day were postponed or canceled.

Falls' contests postponed Tuesday included boys basketball at home against Greenway, girls basketball at Warroad, boys hockey at Virginia and girls hockey at Eveleth-Gilbert, while the boys swimming and diving meet at Virginia was canceled.

The boys and girls hockey games have been rescheduled for 7:30 p.m. Thursday.

The boys swimming and diving meet that was postponed last Thursday at Mesabi East has been rescheduled for 4:30 p.m. Jan. 16.

Viking boys hoops team loses at MI-B

The Littlefork-Big Falls boys basketball team played its first game of the new year on the road Friday and lost to Mountain Iron-Buhl, 79-46.

Vikings head coach Jeff Maish said L-BF didn't shoot, rebound or pass the ball well against the Rangers, who led by 20 points at halftime.

Taylor DeLack was the only player for the Vikings to score in double figures with 13 points.

L-BF's road game that was scheduled for Tuesday night against Nashwauk-Keewatin has been canceled. The Vikings' season record now stands at 2-4.



Taylor DeLack

Billy 'The Kidd' in MMA main event

Mixed Martial Arts fighter Billy "The Kidd" Christianson of International Falls will be in the "main event" Saturday night at the Epic event center in Minneapolis.

Christianson, whose MMA pro record now stands at 9-3, is scheduled to be in the final fight of the evening in a 145-pound bout of up to five rounds against Dan Kiser, who lives in Wisconsin and has an 11-3 pro record.

This will be the first fight since last September for Christianson, who hopes to move up the MMA pro ranks by defeating Kiser in their non-championship bout.



Billy 'The Kidd' Christianson

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Today's games
Women's/men's basketball
RRCC at Hibbing, 6/8 p.m.

Thursday's games
Girls basketball
Grand Rapids at I. Falls, 7:15 p.m.
L-BF at Kelliher/Northome, 7:15 p.m.

Girls hockey
I. Falls at Eveleth-Gilbert, 7:30 p.m.
Boys hockey
I. Falls at Virginia, 7:30 p.m.

Friday's games
Girls basketball
I. Falls at Hibbing, 7:15 p.m.
Boys basketball
I. Falls at Mesabi East, 7:15 p.m.
Northland at L-BF, 7:15 p.m.
Girls hockey
I. Falls at Park Rapids Area, 7:30 p.m.
Boys hockey
Greenway at I. Falls, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday's games
Girls hockey
Crookston at I. Falls, 1 p.m.
Women's/men's basketball
Vermilion at RRCC, 1/3 p.m.

Monday's games
Girls basketball
Ely at L-BF, 7:15 p.m.
Boys basketball
L-BF at Kelliher/Northome, 7:15 p.m.

BOYS HOCKEY

Broncos edge Greenway, get blasted by Hawks

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

A seven-game losing streak came to an end last weekend for the International Falls boys hockey team, though the Broncos weren't able to win both games and put together a two-game winning streak.

On Friday, the Falls overcame a two-goal deficit after the opening period and won at Greenway, 6-4.

Jackson Vollom scored the Broncos' first goal in the second period on the power play. Falls' Luke Spilde, who ended up with four goals for the game, then scored twice in the period to give the Broncos a 3-2 lead, before a goal by Greenway's Darrin Estey tied the game going into the final 17 minutes.

Estey scored again on a power play early in the third period, before Spilde recorded a hat trick to once again tie the game.

The Broncos' Brady Walls put in the game-winning goal in the final period, before Spilde put in his fourth goal in the final seconds to seal the victory.

Wyatt Ulrich made 22 saves to record the win in goal for the Falls.

HERMANTOWN 10, I. FALLS 0

On Saturday, the Broncos were unable to score when the hosted one of the state's top-ranked teams in Class A, Hermantown, and lost, 10-0.

Ryan Kero recorded a hat trick, while Kori Ochs added a pair of goals for the Hawks. Hermantown outshot the Falls, 51-11.

The Hawks' Jace Thomas recorded the shutout in net. Ulrich made 41 saves and recorded the loss in goal for the Broncos, whose season record now stands at 4-9.

Falls' game initially scheduled for Tuesday night at Virginia was postponed and has been rescheduled for 7:30 p.m. Thursday. The Broncos then host Greenway on Friday night.

Friday's game

I. Falls 6, Greenway 4

I. Falls	0	3	3	-	6
Greenway	2	1	1	-	4

Saturday's game

Hermantown 10, I. Falls 0

Hermantown	2	5	3	-	10
I. Falls	0	0	0	-	0



Above – The Broncos' Luke Spilde (22) controls the puck behind the net while being pursued by Hermantown's Kyle Amundson (21) in Saturday afternoon's game at Bronco Arena.



Left – From left, the Broncos' Jackson Vollom (11) is knocked over by Hermantown's Ryan Kero (7) while battling for the puck in Saturday afternoon's game at Bronco Arena.

STAFF PHOTOS BY KEVIN BONESKE

SIJHL HOCKEY

Fort Frances Lakers take two from Miners

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Fort Frances Lakers resumed Superior International Junior Hockey League action last weekend with a pair of victories over the English River Miners.

In Friday's road game, the league-leading Lakers defeated the Miners, 7-4.

The Lakers got two goals apiece from 2012 Falls High School graduate Mason Meyer and Kevin Kurm, along with four assists from 2013 FHS graduate Lucas DeBenedet.

Fort Frances led 3-2 after one period of play on goals by Kurm, Kyle Lipinski and Meyer with John Morales and Vincent Currao scoring for English River.

The Miners tied the game after 40 minutes by sandwiching goals from Brendan Wilde and Paul Lamoureux around one by Cam Gobeil for Fort Frances.

The Lakers took control in the final period with goals from Kurm, Meyer and Patrick Sofer to secure the victory.

Jordan Cartney picked up the win in goal, while P.D. Melgoza suffered the loss.

LAKERS 3, MINERS 1

On Saturday, a Lipinski power-play goal 5:03 into the second period turned out to be the game-winner as Fort Frances defeated the visiting Miners at Ice for Kids Arena, 3-1.

Kurm put the Lakers in front early as he found the back of the net 35 seconds after the opening faceoff for the only goal of the first period.

Lipinski then added the lone goal in the second period to put the home team up a pair after 40 minutes.

Bryson Jasper scored at 7:19 of the third period to get English River on the

board, but Sofer iced the game with an empty-net goal with 9 seconds to go to close out the night's scoring.

Fort Frances outshot the Miners, 41-29, with Cartney picking up the win and Greg Harney recording the loss in goal.

The Lakers, who have won six games in a row and are presently fifth in the Canadian Junior Hockey League's top-20 rankings, return to action at 7:30 tonight when they host the Minnesota Iron Rangers.

Friday's game

Lakers 7, Miners 4

Lakers	3	1	3	-	7
Miners	2	2	0	-	4

Saturday's game

Lakers 3, Miners 1

Miners	0	0	1	-	1
Lakers	1	1	1	-	3



Mason Meyer



Lucas DeBenedet

BOYS BASKETBALL

Broncos fall in second half to Blue Devils

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

After leading by three points at halftime, the International Falls boys basketball team lost its first game of the new year on Friday at Virginia, 70-66.

The Blue Devils outscored the Falls in the final 18 minutes, 44-37.

Ben Humbert led the Broncos with 24 points and 15 rebounds. Also scoring in double figures for the Falls were Jack Bartkowski with 16 points and Cody Hallin with 13 points.

The Broncos, who made one 3-point basket in four attempts, shot 22-41 (53.7 percent) from the field overall and went 21-31 (67.7 percent) from the free-throw line.

The Falls' season record now stands at 4-8. The Broncos' home game initially scheduled for Tuesday night against Greenway was postponed.

Virginia 70, I. Falls 66

I. Falls	29	37	-	66
Virginia	26	44	-	70

I. Falls: Ben Humbert 24, Cody Hallin 13, Cole Miggins 2, Connor Ward 1, Cory Netland 3, Jack Bartkowski 16, Max Vergeldt 7. 3-pointers: Hallin. Free throws: 21-31. Fouls: 20. Fouled out: Vergeldt.



Ben Humbert

Five Wild players named to Winter Olympic rosters

ST. PAUL – The National Hockey League's Minnesota Wild announced Tuesday that five players on the team have been named to rosters for the 2014 Winter Olympic Games.

Forward Zach Parise and defenseman Ryan Suter were named to Team USA on Jan. 1. Forward Nino Niederreiter was named to Switzerland's roster Monday. Forwards Mikael Granlund and Mikko Koivu were named Tuesday to Finland's roster.

Parise tallied eight points (four goals and four assists) in six games for the United States at the 2010 Olympics and won a silver medal. He tied for third in the tournament in scoring, served as an alternate captain and scored the game-tying goal with 24.4 seconds remaining to send the gold-medal game against Canada into overtime.

Suter recorded four assists in six games as an alternate captain for Team USA in the 2010 Olympics and also won a silver medal. He led Team USA in time on the ice per game at 22:50, tied for first on the team in assists and tied for the tournament lead with a plus-nine rating.

Koivu played for Finland at the 2006

and 2010 Olympics. He skated in eight games in 2006 as Finland captured the silver medal and tallied four assists in six games in 2010 as Finland earned a bronze medal.

Granlund and Niederreiter will be representing their countries for the first time in the Olympics.

The Sochi Olympics open Feb. 6, with men's ice hockey beginning Feb. 12. The participating teams are based on the nations ranked 1-9, according to the 2012 IIHF Men's World Ranking, plus three qualifiers. The four teams with the best records (the group winners and the second-place team with the best record) advance to medal-round play Feb. 19. The gold medal game is scheduled for 6 a.m. Feb. 23.

The 12 countries that will be competing next month in Olympic men's ice hockey are grouped as follows with their respective rankings:

Group A: Russia (1), Slovakia (6), USA (7), Slovenia (18)

Group B: Finland (2), Canada (5), Norway (8), Austria (15)

Group C: Czech Republic (3), Sweden (4), Switzerland (9), Latvia (11)