

SPORTS



RRCC women's basketball
Roneisha Jordan records two double-doubles in Voyageurs' victories
B2

QUICK HITS

FHS girls swimmers miss top 16 at state

The season ended for the International Falls girls swimming and diving team on Tuesday when none of the Broncos' three entries in the Class A State Meet had a preliminary heat time in the top 16.

Falls' best showing at the University of Minnesota's Aquatic Center in Minneapolis came from sophomore Abby Kostiuik, who set another school record in the 100-yard backstroke with a heat time of 1 minute, 3.4 seconds, 19th fastest out of the 23 swimmers at state.

Faribault senior Cecilia Hake had the top 100 backstroke preliminary time of 55.88.

Kostiuik was also part of the Broncos' state-qualifying 200 medley relay team, along with freshman Emily Saari and seniors Breanna Shofner and Blair Johnson. They finished that event with the 20th-fastest heat time of 1:56.94.

Visitation's 200 medley relay team set a new Class A Meet record with the top preliminary heat time of 1:45.61.

Saari, who was an individual state qualifier in the 100 breaststroke, also missed out on advancing to the finals in that event with the 27th-fastest preliminary time of 1:13.44.

Fisher third star in win over Brampton

Tulsa Oilers forward Drew Fisher of International Falls recorded a goal and an assist Sunday when he was named the third star in Tulsa's 6-3 Central Hockey League home victory over the Brampton Beast.

In the three games Tulsa won last weekend, Fisher posted 4 points (1 goal, 3 assists) and also has at least a point in four of his last five games.

Another Oilers player from the Falls, Ryan Cramer, also recorded a goal and an assist in Sunday's victory over Brampton and scored the game-winning goal in Friday's 7-4 come-from-behind road victory over the Wichita Thunder.

DeBenedet named performer of month

The Superior International Junior Hockey League has announced that Fort Frances Lakers forward Lucas DeBenedet of International Falls has been named the opening Gongshow Gear performer of the month award recipient.

DeBenedet was recognized for his on-ice contributions with Fort Frances for the month of October as well as for the opening two weeks of the season in September.

In 14 games during that span, DeBenedet racked up 24 points on 12 goals and as many assists.

GIRLS HOCKEY

Broncos sink Mariners in home opener

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

Broncos senior forward Amy Auran recorded a hat trick Friday to pace the International Falls girls hockey team to a 6-3 home victory over Silver Bay.

"(The Mariners) had no answer for (Auran)," said Broncos head coach Gerald Bolstad. "She was just dominant, I think, whenever she got the puck. She certainly put their defensemen on their heels. She can control a game and I think she did a good job of that (Friday night)."

Auran's first goal of the game came 2:03 into the opening period on an assist by Katie West.

Silver Bay then tied the game at 1-1 at 5:46 of the opening period on a goal credited to Brooke McMillen.

The Falls regained the lead 18 seconds later when freshman forward Lexi Erickson scored assisted by Lexi Edwards and Clara Palm.

Auran put the Broncos in front 3-1 in the first period

when she scored her second goal of the game on an assist by Edwards.

The Falls pulled in front by three goals early in the second period when Edwards scored an unassisted, shorthanded goal.

A pair of goals came late in the second and early in the third period from the Mariners' Hannah Johnson assisted by Anna Carman then cut the Broncos' lead to 4-3.

"I thought we played with energy, but we didn't play real smart," Bolstad said. "But it's early in the season, and that's what happens early in the year."

"You make a lot of mistakes, a lot of little things that we can correct very easily. But I thought the girls played really good."

The Falls pulled back in front by three goals in the final 7 minutes when Kaitlin Van Heel scored assisted by Abby Auran and Amy Auran scored the final goal of the game assisted by Edwards and West.

Broncos sophomore goalie Taylor Fish stopped 18 of



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From left, the Broncos' Amy Auran (8) controls the puck while being pursued by Silver Bay's Anna Carman (5) in Friday's game at Bronco Arena. Auran recorded a hat trick in the Falls' 6-3 victory over the Mariners.

21 shots to record the win, while the Mariners' Sara Carman made 36 saves out of the 42 shots she faced in the net.

The victory was the first win this season for the Falls, which improved its record to 1-1 going into Tuesday night's home game

against Park Rapids Area.

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| Broncos 6, Mariners 3 |
| Mariners 1 1 1 - 3 |
| Broncos 3 1 2 - 6 |

BOYS BASKETBALL PREVIEW

Broncos seek conference, section titles



STAFF PHOTOS BY KEVIN BONESKE

From left, the Broncos' Ben Humbert drives inside the lane while being guarded by Jack Bartkowski during a practice last week in the Falls High School gym.

Graduation losses include career scoring leader Anderson

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

After losing the Broncos' all-time career scoring leader and others to graduation, the International Falls boys basketball team will be seeking to do better in 2013-14.

Derek Dowty enters his fifth season as the Broncos' head coach with the key losses from last season including guard Gunnar Anderson, who set Falls' career scoring mark at 1,409 points.

Other starters who graduated for the Falls include guard Ben King, center Jason Pumper and forward Ryan Kilbride.

"The entire senior class was a very tough loss," Dowty said.

The Broncos won the Iron Range Conference last season with a 9-1 conference record and finished the 2012-13 campaign 23-5 overall after losing in the Section 7AA quarterfinals to Deer

River — the team the Falls will open the season against at home this Friday.

Dowty's list of top returning players includes junior forward Ben Humbert, who reached the 1,000-point mark in his sophomore season and had per-game averages of 19 points, 9.2 rebounds, 4.3 assists and 2.8 steals in 2012-13.

Also back is junior forward Jack Bartkowski, who averaged 4.7 points, 3.8 rebounds and 2 blocks per game last season, and junior guard Cole Miggins, who averaged 3.7 points and 1.3 assists per game in 2012-13.

Dowty said this year's team is strong in rebounding, but has inexperience playing at the varsity level.

He said he is concerned the most this season about injuries, while he is looking forward to "watching the team grow and develop as players and individuals."

Dowty said the team goals this season include winning the IRC and Arrowhead Conference titles and also advancing to the Class AA State Tournament.

He said the teams to watch out for in 2013-14 include Virginia, Cloquet and Esko.



From left, the Broncos' Jack Bartkowski shoots inside the lane while being guarded by Richard Fogelberg during a practice last week in the Falls High School gym.

BOYS BASKETBALL PREVIEW

L-BF seeks Northern Lakes title, top seed in 7A

Only one starter lost to graduation

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

After finishing 11-13 last season, the Littlefork-Big Falls boys basketball team has goals of doing better in 2013-14 with most of its starters and scorers returning.

The Vikings' season came to an end last March in a loss against No. 2-seeded Ely in the Section 7A Tournament, two days after having defeated No. 3-seeded Nashauk-Keewatin on a 3-point, buzzer-beating basket by Taylor DeLack.

During the 2012-13 regular season, L-BF for the first time in recent memory won in Chisholm, the team the Vikings will host Dec. 6 to

open the 2013-14 campaign.

Jeff Maish enters his eighth season as L-BF's head coach with only one starter lost to graduation, forward Bryce Burmeister, who averaged 6 points per game in 2012-13.

The Vikings return three players with per-game scoring averages in double digits last season.

DeLack, a senior guard, returns after averaging 17.5 points per game. Another junior guard, Rylan Henrickson, averaged 17.1 points per game. On the inside, senior center Jacob Franz returns after averaging 11.2 points per game.

This season's team, Maish said, has speed, quickness and "a lot of play-



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

At center, Littlefork-Big Falls boys basketball head coach Jeff Maish discusses strategy during a practice last week in the L-BF High School gym.

ers with good court vision."

Maish said he is looking

forward in 2013-14 to coaching "a great group of kids."

"This is a fun group of kids to coach," he said. "They are very eager to learn the game of basketball and adapt (easily) to what we teach them."

Maish said the team goals this season are to win the Northern Lakes Conference, qualify as a top seed in the Section 7A Tournament and "make a good run in (the) playoffs."

He said the teams to watch out for this season include Ely, Chisholm, Fond du Lac and Lakeview Christian Academy.

LCA won last season's Section 7A championship and graduated Anders Broman, who now plays for South Dakota State, but still has his younger brother, Bjorn Broman, on the team.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

- Thursday's games**
Girls hockey
I. Falls at Bemidji, 7:30 p.m.
- Friday's games**
Women's/men's basketball
RRCC vs. Gogebic at Vermilion Tourney in Ely, 2/4 p.m.
Boys basketball
Deer River at I. Falls, 7:15 p.m.
- Saturday's games**
Women's/men's basketball
RRCC at Vermilion Tourney in Ely, TBA
Women's hockey
RRCC at North Dakota State, 8:15 p.m.