

SPORTS

QUICK HITS

Bronco girls hockey results posted online

Tuesday night's season-opening girls hockey game at Bronco Arena between International Falls and Roseau took place after the production deadline for today's edition.

Results from that game are posted on the ifallsjournal.com website and will also be published in Saturday's paper.

Two FHS spikers named All-IRC

Two senior hitters on the International Falls volleyball team have received All-Iron Range Conference honors with another senior hitter and a setter for the Broncos receiving honorable mention.

Falls hitters Maddie Filipiak and Tessa Walls are among the 15 IRC players named All-Conference, while Broncos hitter McKenna Rasmussen and setter Teagan Anderson are among the 10 honorable mention players.

The Falls finished the season 17-8 after losing in the Section 7AA quarterfinals to Greenway.

Renollet, Draper named MCAC All-State 2nd team

Reva Renollet, a sophomore setter from International Falls on the Minnesota State-Fergus Falls volleyball team, has been named to the Minnesota College Athletic Conference All-State Second Team.

In 2014, Renollet registered 523 set assists in 79 games to average 6.62 assists per game – third highest in the MCAC South. She is one of two Fergus Falls players named to the MCAC All-State Second Team.

One volleyball player from Rainy River Community College has been named to the All-State Second Team, freshman Libero Jasmine Draper, who graduated from Lake of the Woods High School.

This season, Draper registered 504 digs in 100 games for an average of 5.04 digs per game – second highest in the MCAC North. She also recorded 28 ace serves to average .28 aces per game – ninth highest in the division.

Women's volleyball four-on-four league

Registration for a four-on-four women's volleyball league taking place this winter at Rainy River Community College will be held at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 25 in the RRCC gym.

The cost for the league, which begins Dec. 1 and ends Feb. 2, is \$25 per person.

For more information, contact Mel Millerbernd at (218) 285-2240 or (320) 333-3491 or e-mail mel.millerbernd@rainyriver.edu.

GIRLS SWIMMING AND DIVING

Broncos shut out from state

FHS fifth at the Section 7A Meet

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

After qualifying two individuals and a relay last year, no one on the International Falls girls swimming and diving team was able to advance to state in 2014.

In Saturday's Section 7A finals at Grand Rapids, the Broncos didn't have any swimmers finish in the top two nor any divers in the top four to be able to compete Nov. 12-14 in the State Class A Meet at the University of Minnesota Aquatic Center.

"I was proud of their performance and we swam well, but unfortunately we came up a little short this year," said Falls head coach Jill Herzig, who also noted the competition at the section meet was better than a year earlier.

The Broncos earned medals in all three relays and eight individual finishes in the top eight.

Falls' top individual finishes came from junior Abby Kostiuik, who placed third in two events.

Kostiuik set a new school record when she placed third in the 100-yard butterfly (1 minute, 4.49 seconds). Grand Rapids qualified two swimmers for state in that event with freshman Annalie Marinucci winning in 1:03.61 and sophomore Kate Bustrom finishing runner-up in 1:04.02.

The Broncos had two more swimmers in the 100 butterfly championship finals with sophomore Emma Misner placing sixth in 1:06.76 and junior Abby Auran finishing seventh in 1:08.8.

Kostiuik also came in third in the 100 backstroke (1:04.43). Mesabi East freshman Isabelle Kalb won the championship finals in 1:03.98 with Grand Rapids senior Katie Welshinger finishing runner-up in 1:04.19. Kostiuik, who qualified for state in that event last year, had won Thursday's preliminary race in 1:04.25.

The Falls' other third-place finish came from Kostiuik, Misner and sophomores Claire Herzig and Emily Saari in the 200 medley relay (1:58.07). Grand Rapids won in 1:55.32 with



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The International Falls girls swimmers who earned medals in Saturday's Section 7A finals at Grand Rapids by placing in the top eight include, from left, front row, Tayler Hebner, Emma Misner. Back row, Claire Herzig, Emily Saari, Abby Kostiuik, Abby Auran, Carolann Stone.

Mesabi East placing runner-up in 1:55.68. The Broncos last year had qualified for state in that event when they set the school record in 1:56.57.

The Falls recorded a pair of top-five finishes in the

100 breaststroke with Saari placing fourth in 1:14.54 and Claire Herzig coming in fifth in 1:15.81. Mesabi East senior Hailee Jofs had the winning time of 1:09.77. Saari had been a state qualifier in that event last year.

The Broncos recorded fifth-place finishes from Kostiuik, Misner, Claire Herzig and senior Tayler Hebner in the 200 freestyle relay (1:48.5) and Auran,

Swimmers to B2 ►

MEN'S BASKETBALL PREVIEW

Voyageurs seek MCAC North title with new coach

RRCC returns two players

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

Entering 2014-15 with a new head coach and only two players returning from last season, the expectations are great for the Rainy River Community College men's basketball team.

The Voyageurs, who last season finished last in the eight-team Minnesota College Athletic Conference Northern Division with a record of 1-13 in the division and 3-23 overall, open the 2014-15 campaign Friday at the Mesabi Range Tourney with first-year head coach Kristofer Babler, who replaced Jack Cook after three seasons.

Babler's coaching experience includes being the head boys basketball and track coach at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Minneapolis, an assistant boys basketball coach at Bloomington Kennedy High School, an assistant men's basketball coach at the University of Wisconsin-Stout



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

At center, first-year Voyageurs head coach Kristofer Babler gets ready to throw up a jump ball between Antoine Tobias (11) and Jimson Clerveus during a recent men's basketball practice in the RRCC gym.

and a student assistant men's basketball coach at Gustavus Adolphus College.

Of the 12 players on this year's roster, the two back

from last season are sophomore guard Ahmad Poche, who led the team during 2013-14 in scoring with 15.4 points per game, and

sophomore forward Jimson Clerveus, last year's team leader in rebounding with 7.2 rebounds per game.

Incoming players of note include 6-6 freshman forward Antoine Tobias of New Orleans, 6-1 sophomore guard Sam Stirgus of New Orleans, a transfer from Pasadena City College, and 6-6 freshman forward Jammere Carlisle of Fort Pierce, Fla.

Two local players on the roster include 6-5 freshman forward Jacob Franz from Littlefork and 6-1 freshman forward Caleb McIntosh of Fort Frances.

Babler said the biggest strength of this year's team is its depth.

"We've got 12 guys who've demonstrated their commitment to the program through their effort in the classroom and on the court," he said. "We're in shape after an extensive preseason workout program. Every member of the team is capable of making contributions this season. We're excited to get on the court and prove it."

Going into the season, Babler said the team's biggest

weakness "is just a lack of time together."

"We're in the process of establishing our culture with many new players, several of which are freshmen," he said. "Adapting to the demands of college life and the pace of college basketball takes time for young student-athletes."

Babler noted that finishing first in the MCAC North and qualifying for the Region tournament are among the number of different team goals for this season.

"We have set a goal for a team Grade Point Average of 3.0; to qualify for the Region tournament; to win the North; to engage the community in both volunteer and fund-raising activities; to fill up our gym; to grow a great practice and work ethic; and, to build a strong team bond," he said.

Babler said he is the most concerned this season about the possibility of "Murphy's Law," in which anything that can go wrong will go wrong.

"We've worked hard to plan and prepare for a suc-

Basketball to B2 ►

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PREVIEW

Voyageurs enter season with new coach, small bench

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

Longtime head coach Dieter Humbert and most of the players from last season won't be with the Rainy River Community College women's basketball team in 2014-15 when the Voyageurs will have a new head coach and less than 10 players on the roster.

Humbert, who stepped down from coaching women's basketball after last season to spend more time watching his own children in grades 7-12 play sports, coached a team in 2013-14 that qualified for the Region 13B Tournament after tying for fourth in the Minnesota Collegiate Athletic Conference Northern Division and finished the season 10-15 overall.

Adam Rotar has taken over as head coach of the RRCC women's basketball team, which opens the season Friday at the Mesabi Range Tourney. Rotar's past coaching experience includes being with the Toledo Elite AAU, Lourdes University and Colorado College.

The key player losses from last season include three players who combined for more than 20 rebounds per game – Alisha Brinker, Nikeyia Jones and CaseyLynn Fulton.

The Voyageurs' top returning players include two guards, Sarina Phrathep, who averaged 6.7 points and 3.1 rebounds per game, and Reggie Krickeberg, who averaged 3.3 points and 1.5 rebounds per game.

The top incoming players

include guard-forward Shania Thompson of Zion, Ill., forward-post Dominique Hines of Minneapolis and guard Renee Pantophlet of Tamarac, Fla.

Rotar said this season's team has quickness and athleticism, but is also inexperienced at the collegiate level.

He said he is looking forward to "watching this team grow and develop as individuals and becoming an exciting team to watch."

Rotar said the teams in the MCAC North to watch out for this season include Northland, Mesabi Range and Vermilion.

RRCC opens the season with a pair of tournaments this month and non-conference road games Dec. 5-6 before the home opener Dec. 12 against Rochester.



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From left, the Voyageurs' Dominique Hines and Shania Thompson discuss offensive strategy with first-year head coach Adam Rotar during a recent women's basketball practice in the RRCC gym.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

- Thursday's games**
Girls hockey
Silver Bay at I. Falls, 7:30 p.m.
- Friday's games**
Women's/men's basketball
RRCC at Mesabi Range Tourney, 2/4 p.m.
- Saturday's games**
Women's/men's basketball
RRCC at Mesabi Range Tourney, TBA
Women's hockey
RRCC at UW-Stout, 4 p.m.
- Sunday's games**
Women's hockey
RRCC at UW-Stout, 10 a.m.