

SPORTS



Who is...
Karli Little, L-BF girls softball senior infielder, is featured

B2

QUICK HITS

Jay Boyle resigns as head football coach

The International Falls football team will have a new head coach next fall.

Current FHS head football coach Jay Boyle has submitted his resignation from the position, effective immediately upon the Falls School Board's acceptance, which is on Monday's board agenda.

Boyle, who took over the head coaching job in 2009 from longtime coach Stuart Nordquist, has compiled a 12-31 overall record in the past five seasons. The Broncos didn't finish above the .500 mark in any of those seasons with the football team's best season record of 4-5 coming in 2013.

The Falls' other three varsity head coaches for the fall sports are all seeking their jobs back. The board on Monday will consider rehiring Erin Shikowsky as head volleyball coach, Paul Hjelle as head cross country coach and Jill Herzig as head girls swimming and diving coach.

The rehiring of Deanna Lorenson as an assistant volleyball coach and Sheryl Hendrickson as an assistant cross country coach is also on Monday's board agenda.

Season ends for Falls forward trio on Oilers

The season came to an end in overtime Tuesday night for three forwards from International Falls on the Central Hockey League's Tulsa Oilers.

Falls natives Ben Gordon and Drew Fisher tallied two points apiece when the No. 7-seeded Oilers lost game 6 of the opening-round CHL playoff series at home in overtime to the No. 2-seeded Denver Cutthroats, 5-4.

As a result of the Cutthroats' Garrett Bembridge scoring at 14:15 of the extra session, Denver =wins the best-of-seven series, 4-2, and advances to the CHL playoff semifinals.

Gordon, who scored Tulsa's first goal in the second period assisted by Fisher and Ryan Menei, also had an opportunity to put in a game-winning shot in overtime, but hit the crossbar.

In the playoff series, Gordon led the Oilers with four goals and also had three assists. He had been named the team's Most Valuable Play this season, his second with Tulsa.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Today's games
Men's baseball
RRCC vs. Fond du Lac (DH), TBA

Monday's games
Girls softball
Deer River at L-BF, 4:30 p.m.
Women's softball
RRCC vs. Hibbing at Grand Rapids (DH), 5:30/7:30 p.m.

Tuesday's games
Women's softball
Northland at RRCC (DH), 3/5 p.m.
Track and Field
I. Falls hosting Falls Invite, 4 p.m.
Girls golf
I. Falls vs. Mesabi East at Hoyt Lakes Golf Course, 4:15 p.m.
Girls softball
MI-B at I. Falls, 4:30 p.m.
Kelliher/Northome at L-BF, 4:30 p.m.
Boys baseball
Eveleth-Gilbert at I. Falls, 4:30 p.m.
Chisholm at L-BF, 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday's games
Men's baseball
Northland at RRCC (DH), 1 p.m.
Boys baseball
Mesabi East at L-BF, 4:30 p.m.

TRACK AND FIELD

Bronco girls win Beaver Relays

FHS boys 4th

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

While the weather outside was more like winter than spring Thursday in Bemidji, the International Falls girls track and field team won the mostly indoor Beaver Relays at Bemidji State University.

The Falls, which came in first in six events and also had a half dozen runner-up finishes, topped the team standings with 155.6 points, followed by Bemidji (140.3), East Grand Forks (71), Bagley/Fosston (70) and Park Rapids Area (66.6) rounding out the top five out of 12 teams that scored points.

"The girls were ready to compete after going a week without a meet," said Broncos head coach Jen Erickson. "We were really hoping to be outside with (Thursday's) meet but at least Bemidji had the option to move it indoors instead of canceling because of the cool weather. Having the discus and 200-meter hurdles really helped the team out when the point totals were added up."

The head coach's daughter, freshman Lexi Erickson, won two events that were held outside by finishing first in both the 1600 run (5 minutes, 53 seconds) and the 3200 run (12:27:01).

The 3200 run was one of four events the Falls had three competitors score points in with seventh-grader Faith Black adding a seventh-place finish in 14:09.26 and senior Amy Auran coming in eighth in 14:12.2.

The Broncos went 1-2 in the shot put with junior Savanah Olson winning with a toss of 35 feet, 6.5 inches, and eighth-grader Emma Gilbert placing runner-up with a throw of 34-4.

Olson added a fourth-place finish in the discus (92-6) with Gilbert coming in sixth at 79-1.

Falls senior Breanna Shofner won the 200 dash (26.98) and placed runner-up in both the 60 dash (8.19) and triple jump (31-3.25).

Broncos freshman Valandre Butler added a seventh-place finish in



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The Broncos' Claire Herzig competes in the pole vault at Thursday's Beaver Relays at Bemidji State University. Herzig finished runner-up after clearing 8 feet, 6 inches, a height that put her in a tie as the third-best girls pole vaulter in Falls High School history.

both the 60 dash (8.74) and triple jump (29-7).

Falls senior Hailey Fentem, who came in fourth in the triple jump (30-1.75), had four top-four individual finishes by also placing first in the 60 hurdles (9.91), second in the long jump (15-1) and third in the high jump (4-10).

"I think the whole team did very well and I'm sure there was a lot of personal bests set (Thursday)," Fentem said. "I'm very proud of the team and glad we were able to end our indoor part of the season with a win."

Auran and freshman Emily Saari also scored points for the Broncos in the 60 hurdles by placing sixth and eighth, respectively in times of 11.08 and 11.34. Saari added a sixth-place finish in the long jump (14-4), while Lexi Erickson tied for eighth in the high jump (4-6).

Falls freshman Claire Herzig had the top height among three teammates scoring points by finishing second in the pole vault (8-6) and in the process tying for third among the top girls pole vaulters in school history. Auran, who has also cleared 8-6 in the past, placed fifth at 8-0 with Saari coming in sixth at 7-6.

Alicia Hendrickson set the FHS girls pole vault record of 10-2 in 2011.

Herzig also joined Shofner, Butler and seventh-grader Grace Gilbert to place runner-up in the 4X200 relay (1:53.7).

The Broncos added a



The Broncos' Austin Rupert sets up to throw the discus at Thursday's Beaver Relays at Bemidji State University. Rupert won the event with a toss of 140 feet, 4 inches.

fourth-place individual finish from sophomore Abby Kostiuik in the 400 dash (1:08.32), while in the 200 hurdles senior Lexi Owen and Auran placed fifth and seventh, respectively, in times of 32.75 and 33.7.

Kostiuk, Owen, Black and junior Tayler Heber finished sixth in the 4X800 relay (11:04.08), while Kostiuik, Grace Gilbert, Lexi Erickson and eighth-grader Jena Sullivan placed eighth in the 4X400 relay (4:40.06).

FHS BOYS 4TH

In the Boys competition, the Broncos had three top individual finishes and placed fourth out of 13 teams scoring points.

Bemidji finished first at 174, followed by East Grand Forks (87), Crookston (84), the Falls (67) and Northome/Kel-

liher/Blackduck (58) in the top five.

Falls sophomore Ethan Phung accounted for 26 team points by placing first in both the high jump (5-10) and triple jump (38-2.75) and coming in third in the long jump (19-7.5).

"Being short of many guys, we had to take the chance of pushing ourselves even harder," Phung said. "Everyone did an excellent job of doing this and overall we did the best we could have done."

Broncos sophomore Wyatt Helgeson recorded a personal best by clearing 5-8 in the high jump for fifth place and added a sixth-place finish in the long jump (18-2.25).

"I thought that even though we were lacking some key players like Paul (Skoglund) and Cole

(Tatsak), certain kids stepped up like Ethan (Phung) and Jake (Ettestad) and made up for the points we lost by not having those players," Helgeson said. "The meet went well in my opinion."

Ettestad placed third in the pole vault (10-6) with Helgeson clearing 9-0 for fifth place.

"Jakob Ettestad has been consistent in the pole vault all season long by placing third in that event," said Falls assistant coach Dan Zika.

Thursday's meet also marked the first time this season the Broncos have competed in the discus, which was won by junior Austin Rupurt with a throw of 140-4, more than 5 feet farther than his nearest competitor.

"Austin Rupurt's throw of 140-4 in the discus is outstanding for this time of year," Zika said.

Rupurt added a fifth-place finish in the shot put (41-1.5).

The Falls had two distance runners score points in the 3200 run, in which eighth-grader John Cowman finished fifth in 11:55.16 and freshman Chase Howdahl placed eighth in 12:33.67.

Ettestad, Helgeson, Phung and senior Jacob Piekarski came in fifth in the 4X200 relay (1:44.26), while Ettestad picked up another team point by placing eighth in the 200 dash (25.8).

Next up for the Broncos, weather permitting, is their first home and entirely outdoor meet of the season on Tuesday when they're scheduled to host the Falls Invite.

BSU Beaver Relays GIRLS

Team scores: International Falls 155.6, Bemidji 140.3, East Grand Forks 71, Bagley/Fosston 70, Park Rapids Area 66.6, United North Central 36.2, Warroad 33.6, BGMR Freeze 27, Crookston 26.6, Northome/Kelliher/Blackduck 21, Red Lake County 13, Cass Lake-Bena 2.

BOYS

Team scores: Bemidji 174, East Grand Forks 87, Crookston 84, International Falls 67, Northome/Kelliher/Blackduck 58, Bagley/Fosston 50, BGMR Freeze 34, Warroad 33, United North Central 29, Red Lake County 21, Lake of the Woods/Rainy River 14, Park Rapids Area 10, Cass Lake-Bena 1.

SIJHL HOCKEY

Iron Rangers lead Fort Frances 3-1 in finals

Game 5 tonight

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Unless the Fort Frances Lakers can win three playoff games in a row, starting at 7:30 tonight at Ice for Kids Arena, their season will be over without winning the Bill Salonen Cup.

The Lakers, who opened the Superior International Junior Hockey League playoff finals by splitting two games at home last weekend, now find themselves down 3-1 in the best-of-seven series after losing two road games this week to the Minnesota Iron Rangers.

On Wednesday night in game 3, a Jason Reynolds goal 40 seconds into the second overtime propelled the Iron Rangers to a 5-4 victory over the Lakers at Hoyt

Lakes Arena.

After a scoreless opening 20 minutes, Minnesota opened the scoring 3:31 into the second period on a goal by Jay Routheau.

Fort Frances then responded with goals by Bryce Lipinski and International Falls native Mason Meyer to lead 2-1 after two periods of play.

Matt O'Dea's fifth goal of the postseason tied it for Minnesota just 41 seconds into the third period, while Matt Audet gave the Iron Rangers the lead once again at 5:14.

The Lakers tied the game midway through the period



Mason Meyer

on a Tanner Fricke power-play goal.

Minnesota went back on top at 12:58 of the third period on a goal by Trevor Hoth, but the Lakers forced overtime with 22 seconds left in regulation when Brent Aiken scored the equalizer.

Neither side found the back of the net in the first 10-minute overtime, but Reynolds won it early in the second overtime when he took a pass from the left side and chipped the game-winner past a sprawled Devin Tappenden in the Lakers' net.

Alex Reichle made 39 saves to pick up the win in goal for Minnesota, while Tappenden faced 38 shots in a losing cause for Fort Frances.

MINNESOTA 3, FORT FRANCES 0

Reichle stopped all 43 shots he faced to backstop the

Iron Rangers to a 3-0 victory Thursday night over the Lakers in game 4 of the SIJHL Bill Salonen Cup finals at Hoyt Lakes Arena.

With the win, the Iron Rangers will have a chance to capture their first championship in franchise history this evening in game 5 at Ice for Kids Arena.

In game 4, neither side could score in the opening period when the Lakers outshot the Iron Rangers, 14-11.

T.J. Samec put in the eventual game-winner at 7:11 of the second period when he got the Iron Rangers on the scoreboard.

Just over 5 minutes later, Minnesota extended its lead when Seth Chumley put the puck past Tappenden to make it a 2-0 game.

The Lakers came out hard in the final period, firing 21 pucks on the Iron Rangers

net, but could not score on Reichle, who stopped the opposing shooters all evening.

Eric Madison iced the game in the final minute with an empty-net goal to put Minnesota in command of the series and a win away from claiming the Bill Salonen Cup.

Tappenden had 30 saves in a losing cause for the Lakers.

The SIJHL champion will advance to represent the league at the Dudley-Hewitt Cup Central Canada Junior A championship April 29-May 3 in Wellington, Ontario.

Game 3
Minnesota 5, Fort Frances 4 (2 OT)
Fort Frances 0 2 2 0 0 - 4
Minnesota 0 1 3 0 1 - 5

Game 4
Minnesota 3, Fort Frances 0
Fort Frances 0 0 0 - 0
Minnesota 0 2 1 - 3