

SPORTS



Who is...
Cassie Tomczak, Bronco girls hoops senior guard, is featured

B2

QUICK HITS

Bronco boys hockey team falls to Grafton

The International Falls boys hockey team gave up a goal with just over 2 minutes left in the final period Tuesday and lost 4-3 to Grafton/Park River, N.D., in the Hockeytown Holiday Classic in Warroad.

The Broncos got a first-period goal from Jakob Eide to tie the game at 1-1 after the first 17 minutes.

Neither team scored in the second period.

Grafton/Park River took a 3-1 lead with two goals early in the third period, before the Falls tied the game with 3:15 to play after two goals within 15 seconds from Trevor Becvar and Jackson Vollom. Grafton/Park River's game-winning goal came about a minute later.

The Broncos, who closed out the tournament Wednesday against the host school, Warroad, return to action this afternoon at Hermantown.

35th FYGBR coming in two weeks to the Falls

January has arrived in the "Icebox of the Nation" to set the stage in two weeks for the 35th annual "Freeze Yer Gizzard Blizzard Run."

This year's 5- and 10-kilometer races, which start and finish at Rainy River Community College, will take place the morning of Jan. 17 during the annual Icebox Days festivities in International Falls with the 5K fun run beginning at 9:30 a.m. and the 10K run starting at 10:30 a.m.

The entry fee for each race is now \$45, though those wishing to enter both events may do so for an extra \$10 fee.

The FYGBR, which draws runners from all over the United States and Canada, has never been canceled in its 34 previous years, but in 1982 was abbreviated when an air temperature of -28 degrees Fahrenheit felt like -72 degrees when factoring in the wind chill.

One runner, Bob Conner of Bemidji, has participated in all 34 previous races.

Awards will be presented in eight age categories. This year's FYGBR will also feature a return of the 0-12 age category.

More information about the 5K or the 10K run can be found online at www.freezeyergizzard-run.com or by calling the Falls Chamber at (218) 283-9400 or (800) 325-5766.

Borderland sports 2014 in review

Legion baseball state trip top story

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

The top sports stories in Borderland for 2014 include state and national qualifiers and also those coming close to qualifying.

International Falls fielded a Legion baseball team this past summer for the first time in several years and qualified for the state tournament after the Post 66 Broncos went undefeated in their double-elimination district tournament.

The Rainy River Community College softball team qualified for the 2014 NJCAA Division III National Tournament in Rochester after winning the Region 13B Tournament it hosted last May.

Among the state qualifiers on the International Falls girls track and field team, five earned medals at the Class A State Meet.

The Littlefork-Big Falls girls softball team came close to qualifying for state after finishing runner-up at the Section 7A Tournament for the second year in a row. L-BF's baseball team had a Cinderella postseason of sorts as a No. 7 seed by winning four tournament games in a row before the Vikings were eliminated in Section 7A.

The Journal's top-five sports stories for 2014 include:

1 Falls Legion baseball team wins district title, advances to state

After falling behind by three runs July 27, the International Falls Legion baseball team rallied for seven runs in the fourth inning and defeated Two Harbors, 9-3, to win the Division II District Eight championship in Ely.

"It was kind of a good thing to see how we were going to react to playing from behind a little bit," said Falls Legion head coach Eric Walls. "It's not a bad thing for Ben (Humbert) to give up a few hits, because

we're going to face some tough teams going forward (in the state tournament), but we sure responded nice."

Humbert, who also signed a letter of intent in 2014 to play Division I baseball at the University of Minnesota, recorded the complete-game pitching victory for the Post 66 Broncos, allowing three runs on six hits with two walks while striking out 12.

Two Harbors picked up all three of its runs in the top of the third when Kyle Omtvedt walked and scored, Luke Small singled and scored and Alex Lemke reached base on an error and scored.

The Falls scored its first run in the bottom of the fourth after Gunnar Anderson hit an infield single, Humbert walked and Jackson Vollom doubled to drive in Anderson.

The Falls had a string of six consecutive batters reach base safely as Two Harbors' starting pitcher, Omtvedt, was replaced by Kyler Kinn, who lasted two-thirds of an inning before Small took the mound to get the final out.

The Post 66 Broncos finished the fourth inning with seven runs on six hits as 12 batters went to the plate.

The Falls added two more runs in the six inning when Anderson recorded his fourth hit of the game with a two-run homer off of Small.

The Post 66 Broncos, who went undefeated at 4-0 in the double-elimination district tournament, advanced to the Division II State Tournament held Aug. 1-3 in Luverne, where they went 1-2 in three games, losing to St. James, 1-0, defeating La Crescent, 8-4, and then losing to Osakis, 6-2.

The Falls ended the season with an overall record of 24-7.

2 RRCC softball team wins region title, advances to nationals

The top-seeded Rainy River Community College softball team closed out the four-team, double-elimination region tournament it hosted in May with a perfect 3-0 record after winning the title game by shutting out No. 2-seeded Mesabi Range,



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

The International Falls Legion baseball team celebrates winning the Division II District Eight championship after defeating Two Harbors, 9-3, in the July 27 title game at Ely.

4-0, in Littlefork.

"Mesabi's a good team, and I know they would come out and play hard," said RRCC head coach Dieter Humbert, who was named the Region 13B Coach of the Year.

The Voyageurs got on the scoreboard in the first inning when shortstop Sam Cantu hit the first of her two solo home runs off of Mesabi Range starting pitcher Shania Novak.

"I just went up there to hit base hits....," Cantu said. "I just pushed through the ball the way I was taught – just find the middle of the ball and push right through it."

Novak, who recorded the loss, left the pitching circle with two outs in the bottom of the second after RRCC second baseman Andrea Barylski doubled to place runners on second and third. Lady Norse reliever Kendra Dallmann then got outfielder Rachel Clark to fly out to the infield to end the inning.

Cantu led off the fifth inning with a solo home run off of Dallmann. RRCC pitcher Oashaja Dobie then came to the plate and singled, reached second base on a fielder's choice and scored on a single by Alexis Fancy to give the Voyageurs a 3-0 lead.

RRCC plated its final run in the bottom of the sixth when Barylski reached first on an infield hit, stole second base, advanced to third on a wild pitch by Dallmann



PHOTO BY ERIC KRAUSHAR OF THE CHASKA HERALD

The Broncos' Savanah Olson throws the shot put June 7 during the State Class A Track and Field Meet at Hamline University. Olson placed seventh with a throw of 37 feet, 1/4 inch.

and scored on a sacrifice fly by Clark.

Of the Voyageurs' 12 hits, Cantu had three of them by also adding a single. Fancy and Barylski had two hits apiece.

Dobie allowed only two hits with a hit batter while striking out 13 over seven innings to record the complete-game shutout victory. She picked up all three pitching victories for RRCC and was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

At the national tournament, the Voyageurs finished sixth after winning only one of four games they played and closed out the season 30-9.

3 Five Bronco girls medal at state track meet

The International Falls girls track and field team scored 14 points to tie for 23rd place when the Broncos earned five medals at the 2014 State Class A Meet held June 6-7 at Hamline University in St. Paul.

Falls' Breanna Shofner had the team's best finish in the finals when she closed out her high school track and field career finishing fifth in the 200-meter dash (26.35 seconds).

"I'm really excited to get fifth," said Shofner, a state



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From right, Mesabi Range's Kendra Dallmann (7) slides into second base and beats the throw to the Voyageurs' Sam Cantu while Andrea Barylski looks on in the May 10 Region 13B Tournament title game at Littlefork.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Today's games

Girls hockey

I. Falls at Kaposia Classic, TBD

Boys hockey

I. Falls at Hermantown, 3 p.m.

Monday's games

Men's basketball

Leech Lake at RRCC, 6 p.m.

Girls basketball

Mesabi East at L-BF, 7:15 p.m.

Tuesday's games

Boys swimming/diving

I. Falls at Grand Rapids Quad Meet, 5 p.m.

Girls basketball

Warroad at I. Falls, 7:15 p.m.

Boys basketball

Nashwauk-Keewatin at L-BF, 7:15 p.m.

Boys hockey

Virginia/MI-B at I. Falls, 7:30 p.m.