

SPORTS

QUICK HITS

Bronco girls hockey team ties, wins on its long road trip

The International Falls girls hockey team improved its season record to 4-5-1 after going on a long road trip last weekend and coming back with a tie and a win.

“It was a good weekend,” said Falls head coach Gerald Bolstad. “We played pretty good.”

On Friday, the Broncos tied St. Francis/North Branch, 1-1.

Broncos junior defensive player Ashley Jonson scored the first goal of her varsity career when she tied the game in the third period. Falls senior goalie Keanna Carlson made 26 saves playing the entire game in net.

On Saturday, the Broncos shut out Long Prairie-Grey Eagle/Wadena-Deer Creek, 3-0.

Freshman Lexi Edwards scored an opening-period goal for the Falls with senior Hillary Fox adding two more in the final period. Sophomore goalie Taylor Fish made 13 saves to record the complete-game shutout victory, while the Broncos put 39 shots on goal.

The Falls returns to action at 5:30 p.m. Friday when the Broncos host Thief River Falls.



Hillary Fox

FHS boys swimmers lose opening dual

The International Falls boys swimming and diving team opened the season Monday at Chisholm, where the Broncos lost a dual meet to the Bluestreaks, 54-33.

Chisholm swam the final three varsity events — the 100-yard backstroke, 100 breaststroke and 400 free-style relay — for exhibition purposes only after the Bluestreaks took a large enough lead early in the meet to win the dual.

Among contested events, the best showings for the Falls included a pair of runner-up finishes by senior Levi Lucy, who placed second in both the 160 individual medley (1 minute, 59.2 seconds) and the 100 butterfly (1:11.58).

Joey Griffith also placed second for the Broncos in the 200 freestyle (2:30.14).

The Falls had another road dual meet Tuesday against Eveleth-Gilbert, prior to Friday’s triangular meet at Virginia.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Thursday’s games

Girls basketball
Bemidji at I. Falls, 7:15 p.m.
Greenway at L-BF, 7:15 p.m.
Boys basketball
L-BF at Greenway, 7:15 p.m.

Friday’s games

Women’s/men’s basketball
RRCC in Central Lakes
Tourney at Brainerd, TBA
Boys swimming/diving
I. Falls in triangular at Virginia, 5 p.m.
Girls/boys hockey
Thief River Falls at I. Falls, 5:30/7:30 p.m.
Boys basketball
Eveleth-Gilbert at I. Falls, 7:15 p.m.

Saturday’s games

Women’s/men’s basketball
RRCC in Central Lakes
Tourney at Brainerd, TBA
Boys hockey
Duluth Denfeld at I. Falls, 3 p.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Broncos bombard Vikings 68-47



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From right, the Broncos’ Cory Netland (14) shoots underneath the basket while being guarded by the Vikings’ Jacob Franz (23) during Monday night’s game in the Falls High School gym.

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

This season’s local rivalry game in boys basketball between International Falls and Littlefork-Big Falls has ended up decisively in favor of the Broncos, who won for the second year in a row.

FHS made nine 3-pointers, compared to none for the Vikings, when the Broncos won big Monday night in their home gym over L-BF, 68-47.

“I thought we played pretty well (Monday night),” said FHS head coach Derek Dowty. “I felt we shot pretty well from the 3-point line. That helped open up the inside game as well.”

The game remained close early as the lead changed hands before a 3-pointer by senior guard Cody Hallin gave the Broncos a 12-10 lead and put them in front to stay.

Hallin ended up scoring all 15 of his points on 3-pointers, while junior guard Cole Miggins made four 3-point shots as part of his 16 points.

“We probably made more (3-pointers Monday night) than we shot in most games this year, but I think we’ve got to start taking advantage of that more,” Dowty said. “We got a lot of big guys down low that can score, so a lot of the defensive focus goes inside. That should open up our outside game. We’ve just got to hit (3-pointers) like we did (Monday night).”

On the inside, FHS also found scoring opportunities as junior forward Ben Humbert led the Broncos with 19 points and recorded a double-double by also hauling in 15 rebounds.

Humbert, who was three assists short of picking up a triple-double with seven, dribbled the length of the court for a layup late in the first half to give the Broncos a 26-14 lead. He also put in the final field goal of the first half to put FHS in front, 41-24, at intermission.

After L-BF senior guard Taylor DeLack made a layup to open the second half’s scoring, the Broncos went on a 9-0 scoring run capped off by a 3-pointer by Hallin. DeLack then broke the Vikings’ scoring drought by sinking two free throws with 11:44 to play.

DeLack ended up as L-BF’s leading scorer with 20 points, while senior center Jacob Franz was the only other Viking player to score in double figures with 11 points.

The Broncos pulled in front by as much as 27 points in the second half before reserve players came in to close out the game.

L-BF head coach Jeff Maish said the Vikings didn’t play well in any aspect of the game.

“It was a complete breakdown,” he said.

Maish said FHS, which shot 9-17 (53 percent) from 3-point range, was able to

Boys to B3 ➤

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Broncos edge Blue Devils, trounce Bigfork Huskies

FHS unbeaten at 4-0 for 2013-14

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

The winning ways continue for the International Falls girls basketball team, which is now undefeated at 4-0 after two more victories.

In the closest game so far this season, the Falls led by only two points at halftime and ended up winning at home Friday night against Virginia, 56-49.

“It was really a good game for us to have early in the season, where we had to kind of gut it out at the end, and I thought we did pretty well,” said Broncos head coach Shawn Gilbert.

The Blue Devils stayed with the Falls early by making baskets outside the arc with 15 of Virginia’s 31 first-half points coming from 3-point range. Virginia senior guards Kaylie Pucel and Morgan Duetsch-Woods made two 3-pointers apiece before intermission.

“They had some really good shooters, and I guess if we don’t get that (defensive) pressure up in front early enough, they’re going to get that ball to the corners and they were hitting their shots (Friday night),” Gilbert said.

The Broncos also found scoring opportunities outside in the first 18 minutes when junior guard Teagan Anderson made four 3-pointers as part of her 15 first-half points. The half ended with the Falls in front, 33-31.



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From left, the Broncos’ Cassie Tomczak (21) advances the ball down the court while being pursued by Virginia’s Brylee Seitz in Friday’s game in the Falls High School gym.

Virginia tied the game in the second half, but then trailed for the final 3:48 after Pucel fouled out and Emma Gilbert made the second of two free throws to give the Falls a 47-46 lead.

Anderson led the Broncos in scoring with a game-high 18 points, while Emma Gilbert, Lexi Owen and Cassie Tomczak each added eight points.

Duetsch-Woods was the only Blue Devil player to score in double figures with 10 points.

I. FALLS 73, BIGFORK 43

In Monday night’s game at Bigfork, the Broncos trounced the Huskies, 73-43.

The Falls, which led 39-17 at halftime and only made field goals inside the 3-point arc, had three players score in double figures led by Maddie Filipiak with 15 points, followed by Owen with 12 and Anderson with 10.

Bigfork had two play-

Girls to B3 ➤

BOYS HOCKEY



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From left, the Broncos’ Luke Spilde (22) advances the puck while being pursued by the Blue Devils’ Louie Judnick (3) in Friday’s game at Bronco Arena.

Broncos fall to Blue Devils, Hilltoppers

FHS drops to 3-3 on season

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The International Falls boys hockey team’s season record dropped to 3-3 after losing a pair of games last weekend.

On Friday night, the Broncos gave up only one goal, but couldn’t score themselves and ended up losing at home to Virginia/Mountain Iron-Buhl, 1-0.

The Blue Devils’ Travis Kemp scored the only goal of the game assisted by Colton Anderson with 2:21 left in the opening period. Falls senior goalie Wyatt Ulrich didn’t let another puck get past him as he ended up with 25 saves. Virginia/MI-B’s Lucas Murray stopped all 16 shots he faced in the net to record the shutout victory.

MARSHALL 5, I. FALLS 1
Ulrich stopped 60 shots

Saturday, but it wasn’t enough as the Broncos lost a road game against Duluth Marshall, 5-1.

The Hilltoppers took a 4-0 lead into the final period before Jordan Tilander scored Falls’ only goal of the game on a power play assisted by Jackson Vollom and Luke Spilde.

The Broncos had only 10 shots on goal over three periods as Alex Murray recorded the win in the net for Duluth Marshall, which had five different players score goals.

The Falls returns to action at 7:30 p.m. Friday when the Broncos host Thief River Falls following the girls game between the two schools.

Friday’s game
Virginia 1, I. Falls 0
Virginia 1 0 0 - 1
I. Falls 0 0 0 - 0

Saturday’s game
Marshall 5, I. Falls 1
I. Falls 0 0 1 - 1
Marshall 1 3 1 - 5