

SPORTS

QUICK HITS

Ben Gordon leads Oilers in points

Ben Gordon of International Falls now leads the Tulsa Oilers in points this season after scoring two goals and recording a pair of assists in Central Hockey League games over the weekend.

Gordon, who has three goals and five assists after eight games, had both a goal and an assist Friday in Tulsa's 4-3 home loss against the Missouri Mavericks.

He scored another goal Saturday night in the Oilers' 5-4 home loss against the Allen Americans.

Gordon recorded an assist Sunday when he relayed the puck to Michel Beausoleil for an empty-net goal in Tulsa's 3-1 road victory over the league-leading Americans, the Oilers' first win of the season.

Tulsa's two other players from the Falls both have two points apiece after also appearing in all eight games this season. Ryan Cramer has scored two goals, while Drew Fisher recorded a pair of assists.

The Oilers, who are 1-5-2 this season, will seek their second straight victory tonight when they host the Wichita Thunder.

Lakers bury Miners, win 12th straight

Bryce Lipinski scored two goals and set up another while Colton Spicer recorded three assists Saturday to help lead the Fort Frances Lakers to their 12th consecutive Superior International Junior Hockey League victory, a 4-2 win over the English River Miners at Ear Falls Arena.

The Lakers led 2-1 after the first period when they recorded power-play goals from Lipinski and Kevin Kurm sandwiched around an even-strength effort from the Miners' Kellen MacBlain.

Lyndon Lipinski increased the Fort Frances lead with the only goal of the middle period, which came at the 12-second mark of the session on an assist from 2013 Falls High School graduate Lucas DeBenedet.

John Morales scored to pull English River to within a goal at 6:05 into the final period, before Spicer fed Bryce Lipinski for an insurance goal at 13:44 as Fort Frances picked up its third man-advantage goal of the game to close out the scoring.

Jordan Cartney faced 18 shots in picking up the win in goal for the Lakers.

Greg Harney was peppered with 45 pucks in a losing cause for English River.

Fort Frances, which also played on the road Tuesday night against the Wisconsin Wilderness, will be back at Ice for Kids Arena on Thursday night to host the Dryden Ice Dogs.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Thursday's games
Girls swimming/diving
I. Falls in Section 7A preliminaries at Lincoln Park pool in Duluth, 4:15 p.m.

Saturday's games
Girls swimming/diving
I. Falls in Section 7A finals at Lincoln Park pool in Duluth, 11 a.m.
Women's hockey
RRCC at UMD, 2 p.m.

Sunday's games
Women's hockey
RRCC at UMD, 9 a.m.

Tuesday's games
Girls hockey
I. Falls at Roseau, 7:30 p.m.



Vikings-Redskins game preview

Ponder expected to start Thursday night

B2

CROSS COUNTRY

Bronco girls 15th at state

Lexi Erickson 30th in Class A

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

After finishing behind South Ridge at the Section 7A Meet, the International Falls girls cross country team didn't let that happen again at Saturday's State Class A Meet at St. Olaf College in Northfield.

On this warm, sunny afternoon in early November, the Broncos, who had been edged out by the Panthers in wintry weather by four points for the Section title, finished ahead of South Ridge at state by placing 15th out of the 16 teams.

Saturday's state meet was the third in a row for the Falls, which had finished 16th the previous two years.

"We just told the girls to go out and give it your all," said Broncos head coach Paul Hjelle, who noted he expected the team would finish ahead of South Ridge, which had it usual top runner, sophomore Gracelynn Otis, finish at the end of the 174-runner state field.

Annandale, which placed runner-up at state the past two years, won the Class A girls team



The Broncos' Lexi Edwards (727) and Park Rapids' Tayah Otterness (747) dash toward the finish line in Saturday's Girls State Class A Meet at St. Olaf College. Edwards edged out Otterness for 170th place.

TURN TO B10 FOR MORE PHOTOS.

title with the top score of 85. Lac qui Parle Valley finished runner-up with 113, while Perham took home the third-place hardware with 138.

The Falls ended up with 327 points for 15th place, while South Ridge finished with 485 for 16th.

Last year's individual runner-up, Cannon Falls senior Emi Trost, won this year's race by completing the 4,000-meter course in 14 minutes, 40.3 seconds, 10.2 seconds ahead of the runner-up, St. Paul Academy and Summit junior Mary Nass.

The Section 7A individual champion, Esko

Cross country to B2 ➤



STAFF PHOTOS BY KEVIN BONESKE

The Broncos' Lexi Erickson (721) runs downhill in the final 800 meters of Saturday's Girls State Class A Meet at St. Olaf College. Erickson placed 30th in 15 minutes, 40.3 seconds.

GIRLS SWIMMING AND DIVING

Broncos to seek state bids in Section 7A

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

A trip to the State Girls Swimming and Diving Meet will be on the line this week when International Falls' team begins competing Thursday at the Section 7A Meet hosted by Duluth Denfeld.

Following Thursday's preliminary swimming heats, which begin at 4:15 p.m. at the Lincoln Park pool in Duluth, the top-eight times in each event advance to Saturday's finals for the opportunity to qualify for state, while the ninth-through-16th fastest times advance to the consolation finals.

Saturday's diving competition begins at 11 a.m. with the swimming finals



Abby Kostiuik



Breanna Shofner

starting at 3 p.m.

The top-two finishers in each of the 11 swimming events and the top-four divers in Saturday's finals all qualify for the State Class A Meet, which will held Nov. 18-20 at the University of Minnesota's Aquatic Center in Minneapolis.

Based on seed times, the Broncos have the top-seed-

ed swimmer in Section 7A in the 100-yard backstroke.

Sophomore Abby Kostiuik, who set FHS's 100 backstroke record this season in 1 minute, 5.18 seconds, has a seed time that is a second faster than the No. 2 seed, eighth-grader Isabelle Kalb of Mesabi East.

The No. 3 seed in the 100 backstroke is Grand Rapids junior Katie Welshinger at 1:06.31. Falls senior Courtney Klow is seeded No. 8 at 1:11.42.

Kostiuk is also seeded No. 4 in the 100 butterfly (1:08.8) with freshman teammate Emma Misner seeded No. 5 at 1:09.36. Hibbing senior Sammy Bird is the top seed at 1:04.7.

Falls freshman Emily

Saari is seeded No. 2 in the 100 breaststroke at 1:15.17. Mesabi East junior Hailee Jofs is the top seed at 1:13.7, while Two Harbors/Silver Bay junior Leann Fynboh is seeded No. 3 at 1:15.34. Saari's freshman teammate, Claire Herzig, is seeded No. 7 at 1:18.76.

Broncos senior Breanna Shofner will be competing against a defending state champion and state runner-up in the two individual events she is seeded in the top four.

Shofner's time of 26.32 in the 50 freestyle is seeded No. 3 and is 2.25 seconds behind the top seed, Grand Rapids senior Solveig Viren, the 2012 Class A state runner-up. Leann Fynboh

of Two Harbors/Silver Bay is seeded No. 2 at 25.89.

Viren, the 2012 Class A state champion in the 100 freestyle, is the top Section 7A seed in that event in 52.39, more than 5 seconds faster than the No. 2 seed, Kalb. Shofner is seeded no. 4 with a time of 58.71.

Each of the 10 teams at the Section 7A Meet is allowed up to four entries in the individual events.

In the relay events, the Broncos are seeded No. 3 in the 200 medley relay (2:02.77), fourth in the 200 freestyle relay (1:50.04) and sixth in the 400 freestyle relay (4:11.95). Grand Rapids has the top seed in all three relays in respective times of 1:49.33, 1:45.68 and 3:53.03.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

Voyageurs swept at Iowa State University

Rebekah Ford scores sole RRCC goal

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Goals were hard to come by last weekend for the Rainy River Community College women's hockey team when the Voyageurs played their first American Collegiate Hockey Association games of the season last weekend at Iowa State University.

RRCC, which had lost all three non-ACHA games the previous weekend hosting the "CAN-AM Tournament," could only muster a



Rebekah Ford

single goal in dropping both games of a two-game road series last Saturday and Sunday against the Cyclones. "We saw a lot of improvement from the previous week," said Voyageurs head coach Evan Amdahl, who also noted the team played five good periods last weekend when the breakdown of individual responsibilities and a "bad combination of everything" led to giving up a series of goals without being able to score.

ISU 1, RRCC 0

Saturday's game remained scoreless until the final period when ISU's Jenna Wormuth scored the only goal with 12:18 to play to defeat the Voyageurs, 1-0.

RRCC goalie Shay Perry stopped 20 of 21 shots, while the Cyclones' Sophie Puente recorded 20 saves to pick up the shutout victory in net.

ISU 5, RRCC 1

The Voyageurs took an early 1-0 lead Sunday when freshman defensive player Rebekah Ford scored the first goal of her collegiate career, only to see ISU do the rest of scoring and de-

feat RRCC, 5-1.

Ford's goal came with 8:49 to play in the opening period on an assist by Taylor Dixon.

The Cyclones' Millie Luedtke, who ended up with a hat trick, gave ISU the lead for good with a pair of goals late in the first period.

Two goals early in the second period from Taylor Armstrong and Luedtke extended the Cyclones' lead to 4-1.

Wormuth added ISU's final goal with 8:07 to play in the third period.

RRCC's Kristen Andrews played all three periods in goal when she made 24 saves. The Cy-

clones' Allison Stuckmayer stopped 18 of 19 shots to record the victory.

The Voyageurs, who are now 0-2 in ACHA games and 0-5 overall, return to action this Saturday and Sunday when they play a two-game ACHA road series against the club team from the University of Minnesota Duluth.

Saturday's game				
ISU 1, RRCC 0				
RRCC	0	0	0	0
ISU	0	0	1	1

Sunday's game				
ISU 5, RRCC 1				
RRCC	1	0	0	1
ISU	2	2	1	5