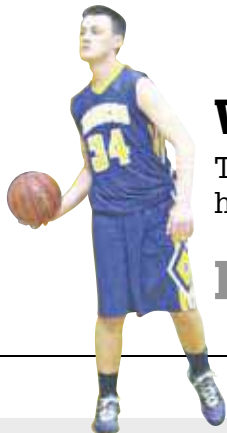


SPORTS



Who is...
Trace Clark, Bronco boys hoops center, is featured

B2

QUICK HITS

RRCC softball team 0-5 on Florida trip

The Rainy River Community College softball team returned from this week’s season-opening trip to Florida without a win in the first five games.

The Voyageurs lost all three games they played Tuesday at the Chain of Lakes Park in Titusville, Fla., after falling to Lincoln Land Community College of Illinois, 11-2, Cumberland County College of New Jersey, 16-8, and Parkland College of Illinois, 15-1.

RRCC then dropped both games Wednesday at the same park with losses to Rowan College of New Jersey, 8-4, and Kishwaukee College of Illinois, 14-0.

The Voyageurs, whose season record now stands at 0-5, will be back in action March 19-20 when they will play six games in two days at the Irish Dome in Rosemount.

Lakers win regular-season road finale

The Fort Frances Lakers pulled out to a five-goal lead after two periods Wednesday, then fended off a comeback by the Thunder Bay North Stars for an 8-5 victory in Superior International Junior Hockey League action at the Fort William Gardens, the Lakers’ regular-season road finale.

The North Stars assured themselves of fourth place in the SIJHL regular-season standings with the loss and will play the No. 5-seeded English River Miners in a best-of-five, opening-round matchup starting next week in Thunder Bay. Fort Frances, which is league’s regular-season champion, won’t begin the SIJHL playoffs until March 26.

The Lakers jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first period on goals from Carter Chorney and 2013 International Falls High School graduate Lucas DeBenedet.

Thunder Bay cut the lead in half at 15:02 of the opening period on a goal from North Stars defenseman Tim Cavar.

Fort Frances added two more goals early in the second period from DeBenedet and Bowen Alcock, which brought an end to North Stars goalie Eric Mann’s night when he was replaced by Nathaniel Dupuis.

Thunder Bay then got a goal from Kenny Turner at 7:17, before the Lakers scored three times in just over a 3-minute span.

The Lakers’ David Pryde made it a 5-2 game at 12:55, before goals from Miles Nolan and Chorney.

The North Stars scored in the third period on a trio of power-play goals from Ryan Walsh, Matthias Gardiman and Cavar to make it 7-5 with less than 3 minutes remaining in regulation.

The Lakers iced the game with a shorthanded, empty-net goal from A.J. Kapcheck to close out the scoring.



Lucas DeBenedet

GIRLS BASKETBALL

A win away from state

Falls edges Rush City, faces Esko in Section 7AA finals

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

All that now separates the International Falls girls basketball team from a trip to state is tonight’s Section 7AA championship game against top-seeded Esko.

The Broncos, seeded No. 1 in the north subsection, advanced to the title game after winning their semifinal Thursday night at the University of Minnesota Duluth over the south’s No. 3-seed, Rush City, 55-52.

“The big thing is that we’ve just got to keep fighting,” said Falls head coach Shawn Gilbert. “We kind of struggled at the end, but we kept fighting and made it to the next game.”

After breaking a 15-15 tie, the Falls pulled out in front by double digits in the first half by outscoring the Tigers, 15-3, with Teagan Anderson scoring as many first-half points as Rush City’s entire team when the Broncos led 30-18 at intermission. Fifteen of Anderson’s 18 first-half points came on 3-point baskets.

Falls’ lead grew by as much as 15 points near the midway point of the second half when a field goal by Janet Humbert extended the advantage to 41-26. However, turnovers and missed free throws began to take their toll on the Broncos when their double-digit lead dwindled in the final 5 minutes.

After Falls forward Emma Gilbert fouled out with 1:47 left to play, the Tigers’ Shawna Mell made one of two free throws to pull Rush City within one possession at 52-49.

The Broncos’ Cassie Tomczak extended the lead back to four points when she made one of two free throws with 42.4 seconds left, before a 3-point basket from the Tigers’ Sydnie Sybrant made it a one-point game.

“They kept chipping away (at the lead) and made some 3-point shots,” Shawn Gilbert said. “We didn’t see that in the other game that we had seen them play (in the Section 7AA quarterfinal against Moose Lake/Willow River).”

“We really didn’t know too much about them – who their shooters were or anything – but they came up big at the end and I’m happy we hung on.”

Tomczak drew a foul with 9.2 seconds remaining and made both free throws to give the Falls a 55-52 lead.

Rush City called time-out with 5.3 seconds left, after advancing the ball past midcourt, to plan a game-tying 3-point shot, but the Tigers’ Payton Ramberg couldn’t get off a clean shot from behind the arc when guarded by the Falls’ Maddie Filipiak as the Broncos held on for the 3-point victory.

“(The Tigers’) really fought back pretty good,” Shawn Gilbert said. “They really put some



STAFF PHOTOS BY KEVIN BONESKE

From left, the Broncos’ Maddie Filipiak (3) dribbles past the midcourt line while being guarded by Rush City’s Lindsey Williams (34) in Thursday night’s Section 7AA semifinal game at UMD.



Wearing his sister’s No. 25, Blaine Humbert waves a Broncos flag in Thursday night’s Section 7AA semifinal against Rush City.

pressure on us. Making free throws down the stretch was the key to the game for us.”

Anderson, who made only one point in the second half, ended up as the Broncos’ only player to score in double figures with a game-high 19 points.

Ramberg led Rush City with 13 points. Sybrant added 10 points.

Tonight’s Section 7AA title game between the Falls, now 23-6, and Esko, now 25-4, is the third time

the two teams have faced each other this season. The Broncos won the Dec. 1 season opener, 50-48. The Eskomos won Dec. 27 in their holiday tournament title game, 68-55.

Esko, the defending section champion, won its Section 7AA semifinal game Thursday night over the north’s No. 2 seed, Eveleth-Gilbert, 62-32.

Int’l Falls 55, Rush City 52
Rush City 18 34 – 52
Int’l Falls 30 25 – 55
Rush City: Miranda Anderson 3, Haylie Gilbert 6, Elena Herberg 6, Payton Ramberg 13, Sydnie Sybrant 10, Kayla Nelson 9, Shawna Mell 5. 3-pointers: Gilbert 2, Sybrant 2, Herberg, Ramberg, Mell. Free throws: 7-17. Fouls: 19.
Int’l Falls: Grace Gilbert 3, Maddie Filipiak 7, Bianca Carlson 1, Cassie Tomczak 5, Teagan Anderson 19, Janet Humbert 6, Jena Sullivan 6, Emma Gilbert 8. 3-pointers: Anderson 5. Free throws: 14-26. Fouls: 17. Fouled out: E. Gilbert.

MEN’S BASEBALL

RRCC Voyageurs open the Florida trip 1-3

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Rainy River Community College baseball team opened the 2015 season this week on its annual trip to Florida with a win and three losses following a pair of doubleheaders.

The Voyageurs played their first games Tuesday in Lakeland, Fla., where they lost both games of a doubleheader to Owens Community College of Ohio.

RRCC could only muster four hits in the first game after losing in five innings to OCC, 13-3.

Tanner Helms led the Voyageurs at the plate by batting 2-2 with a double and a triple while driving in two runs. Dyan Zayas and Sam Pelechaty each added a single for RRCC.

The Voyageurs’ Landon Freeman recorded the pitching loss working the first three innings, allowing six runs, three earned,



Colten Boudreau



Talon Kunkel

on five hits with two walks and a hit batter.

Joseph Hudson pitched the final 1 2/3 innings, allowing seven runs, four earned, on seven hits with two hit batters. Both RRCC pitchers each gave up a home run.

In the field, Voyageurs committed five errors, compared to one for OCC.

OCC 7, RRCC 0

The Voyageurs tallied only two hits when they were shut out in the second game by OCC, 7-0.

Jake Schulte and Connor McGuinness each singled for RRCC.

Three pitchers saw action for the Voyageurs with Jaymon Cervantes recording the loss in four innings of work, allowing four runs, two earned, on four hits with four walks and a hit batter while striking out seven.

Will Aesoph pitched two innings in relief, giving up three runs, two earned, on four hits with a walk while striking out a batter.

Kris Barber didn’t allow a run or a hit pitching in the seventh inning when he walked two and hit a batter.

H-L JV 21, RRCC 6

The Voyageurs played a doubleheader in St. Petersburg, Fla., against the Hannibal-LaGrange junior varsity team from Missouri on Wednesday when they lost the first game in six innings, 21-6.

RRCC had a 13-11 advantage in hits, but committed eight errors compared to only two for the opposition.

The Voyageurs got multiple hits from four players. Colten Boudreau had three hits with a triple and drove in three runs. William Thomas added two hits with a double and a triple. Helms also had two hits with a double and a RBI. Talon Kunkel recorded two singles.

RRCC had four pitchers see time on the mound with Stephen Rivera recording the loss working the first 1 1/3 innings, allowing six runs, five earned, on three hits with five walks and three hit batters while striking out one.

Hudson pitched the next 1 2/3 innings, giving up five runs, three earned, on three hits with a hit batter while striking out three.

Schulte pitched an inning, allowing three unearned runs on two hits with a walk.

J.D. Knutson pitched the final two innings, allowing seven runs, three

earned, on three hits with two walks.

RRCC 11, H-L JV 0

The Voyageurs outhit the Hannibal-LaGrange junior varsity, 13-2, when they won the second game in five innings, 11-0.

Five RRCC players had two hits apiece. Kunkel tallied a pair of hits with a home run and 2 RBI. Sean Deviney singled and doubled and drove in two runs. Thomas singled and doubled with an RBI. Jacob Kulig had two singles and 2 RBI with Boudreau added two singles and an RBI.

McGuinness pitched all five innings to record the shutout victory, allowing two hits with a walk while striking out four.

The Voyageurs’ final two doubleheaders on their trip to Florida this week included facing Macomb Community College of Michigan on Friday and Sussex County Community College of New Jersey today.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Today’s games
Men’s baseball
RRCC vs. Sussex County CC in St. Petersburg, Fla. (DH), noon
Girls basketball
I. Falls vs. Esko in Section 7AA finals at UMD, 7 p.m.

Thursday’s games
Women’s softball
RRCC vs. MN West/Central Lakes/Ridgewater at Rosemount Irish Dome, 7:15/9/10:45 a.m.

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