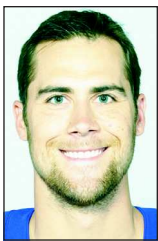


# SPORTS



**Vikings QB competition**  
Cassel part of the trio seeking starting spot  
**B2**

## QUICK HITS

### Kim Wimmer backed for L-BF volleyball coach

A former Littlefork-Big Falls head volleyball coach is being recommended to return to the position this fall.

Kim Wimmer, who last headed up L-BF’s volleyball program in 2010, would replace Sarah Bradley after three seasons, upon approval of the district’s school board at Monday’s meeting.

Bradley this fall will be in her second year as a full-time physical education teacher at International Falls.

L-BF has two other head coaching positions to fill for the upcoming school year. John Larson, who headed up the Vikings’ football and girls basketball programs this past season, is leaving the district to begin a physical education position in Warroad.

### RRCC seeks new softball, women’s hoops head coach

Rainy River Community College is now accepting applications for the softball and women’s basketball head coaching positions from which longtime coach Dieter Humbert has announced he is retiring.

The posted education requirement for both positions calls for a master’s degree in physical education, exercise science or kinesiology, or a master’s degree in any field with a minimum of 16 graduate semester credits (24 graduate quarter credits) in physical education.

“Hopefully we’ll get some great candidates,” said RRCC athletic director Mel Millerbernd. “We’re going to really miss Dieter.”

Millerbernd said the college benefited from Humbert’s ability to both recruit and coach players.

Interested applicants for the head coaching positions are being asked to submit a letter of interest, resume and a list of three to five references to Tammy Cook, RRCC’s director of Instructional Services.

### Fusion 16U, 18U games called off

The International Falls Fusion 16U and 18U softball teams didn’t play at home this week after their games were called off.

Following last weekend’s rainfall, the Fusion 16U’s home doubleheader that was scheduled for Monday against the Grand Rapids Black was postponed. The Falls has another home doubleheader scheduled for next Monday starting at 5:15 p.m. against Deer River.

The Fusion 18U had been scheduled Wednesday to host a doubleheader against Greenway, but Falls coach Dieter Humbert said those games were called off after Greenway didn’t have enough available players because of illness and injury.

As a result, Humbert said the doubleheader Greenway was supposed to host next month will instead be played in the Falls.

The Fusion 18U team is scheduled to play a doubleheader at Greenbush next Wednesday starting at 4:30 p.m.

## LEGION BASEBALL

# Falls splits with Brookston in opener

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The International Falls Legion baseball team played a pair of extra-inning games Tuesday when it opened the season splitting a road doubleheader against Brookston.

In game one, the Falls scored six runs in the top of the ninth to win, 11-5.

“It was a nice rally for us,” said Falls Legion coach Jay Bartkowski.

The Falls trailed 4-1 going into the top of the seventh when the team scored four times to take the lead. Brookston then picked up a run in the bottom of the frame to send the game into extra innings.

Ben Humbert tallied three of Falls’ 17 hits. Jackson Vollom added two hits and drove in three runs. Caleb Dahlin, Luke Spilde, Jake Kulig, Jack Bartkowski and Connor Ward had two hits apiece.

Falls’ pitchers scattered five hits with Jack Bartkowski picking up the victory working the last two innings. Wyatt Ulrich pitched the first three innings, before Cole Miggins threw four innings in relief.

**BROOKSTON 3, FALLS 2**  
In game two, the Falls held a two-run lead going into the seventh inning when Brookston



Ben Humbert



Jack Bartkowski

scored twice to send the game into extra innings. Brookston then picked up another run in the top of the ninth to defeat the Falls, 3-2.

Jay Bartkowski said the second game was “a little disappointing” when the Falls was on the verge of sweeping the doubleheader.

Of Falls’ 10 hits, Vollom batted 2-3 as the only player with more than one hit.

Humbert started on the mound for the Falls when he pitched two scoreless innings and didn’t allow a hit while walking three. Dahlin

allowed a hit and a walk without a run pitching the next three innings. Spilde recorded the pitching loss working the final four innings when he gave up three runs and four hits.

The split with conference foe Brookston evened the Falls’ season record at 1-1 going into this weekend’s tournament in Virginia.

<b>Game 1</b>									
<b>Int'l Falls 11, Brookston 5</b>									
<b>Int'l Falls</b>	<b>0-0-0</b>	<b>1-0-0</b>	<b>4-0-6</b>	<b>-11</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>			
<b>Brookston</b>	<b>3-0-0</b>	<b>0-0-1</b>	<b>1-0-0</b>	<b>-5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>			

<b>Game 2</b>									
<b>Brookston 0-0-0 0-0-0 2-0-1 - 3 5 1</b>									
<b>Int'l Falls</b>	<b>0-0-1</b>	<b>0-0-1</b>	<b>0-0-0</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>			

## VFW BASEBALL

# Falls wins season opener over Rapids

## Rapids wins second game

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The International Falls VFW baseball team won its season opener Tuesday at Scheela Field in a doubleheader against Grand Rapids.

In the first game that counted for tournament seeding purposes, the Falls defeated Rapids, 12-4.

The Falls trailed 4-3 in the fourth inning before rallying with four runs in the bottom of the fifth and scoring five more times in the sixth inning.

Riley Nemec recorded the complete-game pitching victory for the Falls.

At the plate, three Falls players, Darian Erickson, Lane Skallman and Tyler Coffield, had three hits apiece. Coffield hit two doubles, while Skallman and Erickson each contributed a double.

Dallas Pearson added a pair of doubles with Gage Wherley also hitting a double.

**RAPIDS 20, FALLS 1**  
In game two, which did not count for tournament seeding purposes, the Falls fell to Rapids, 20-1, in five innings.

Rapids led 2-1 after two innings before erupting for eight runs in the fourth and

10 more runs in the top of the fifth as the Falls used multiple pitchers.

The Falls returned to action Thursday in Bovey to face Greenway.

<b>Game 1</b>									
<b>Int'l Falls 12, G. Rapids 4</b>									
<b>G. Rapids</b>	<b>1-2-0</b>	<b>1-0-0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-4</b>					
<b>Int'l Falls</b>	<b>0-0-3</b>	<b>0-4-5</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>-12</b>					

<b>Game 2</b>									
<b>G. Rapids 1-1-0 8-10 - 20</b>									
<b>Int'l Falls</b>	<b>1-0-0</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>-1</b>						

**In front at right, Lane Skallman leads Falls’ VFW baseball team in shaking hands with Grand Rapids’ players following Tuesday’s doubleheader at Scheela Field.**



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

## JUNIOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

# Falls sweeps Rapids in first road games

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The International Falls Junior League baseball team won big Wednesday in its first road games of the season by sweeping a doubleheader at Grand Rapids.

In game one, the Falls shut out Rapids, 24-0.

Of Falls’ 14 hits, Gage Wherley and Riley Beck

had three hits apiece with both recording a double. Blaine Humbert and Trimble Butler each added two hits with Butler picking up a double. Casey Maruk also doubled.

Butler started on the mound and recorded the victory, pitching three innings without giving up a run or a hit while walking a batter and striking out

four. Humbert pitched the final two shutout innings, allowing a hit and a walk.

**FALLS 12, RAPIDS 5**  
Game two went only four innings when the Falls defeated Rapids, 12-5.

Garrett Koenig pitched the first three innings to record the victory, allowing all five runs on three hits and two walks while striking out three. Wherley

closed out the final inning, walking one and striking out another.

Of Falls’ seven hits, one was an inside-the-park home run by Nathan McRoberts. Butler added two hits with a double. Maruk also doubled.

The doubleheader sweep improved the Falls’ season record to 3-0 in the Iron Range Baseball League

and 6-0 overall going into Thursday’s doubleheader at Virginia.

<b>Game 1</b>									
<b>Int'l Falls 7-2-11 0-4 -24 14 0</b>									
<b>G. Rapids</b>	<b>0-0-0</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>-0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>				
<b>WP-Trimble Butler</b>									

<b>Game 2</b>						
<b>Int'l Falls</b>	<b>2-7-0</b>	<b>3-12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>		
<b>G. Rapids</b>	<b>3-0-2</b>	<b>0-</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	
<b>WP-Garrett Koenig</b>						

## Falls Fusion 14U softball team sweeps Virginia

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The International Falls Fusion 14U softball team swept a home doubleheader Tuesday against Virginia.

In game one, the Falls recorded 12 hits and defeated Virginia, 10-7.

Taylor Sears tripled and had two singles for the Fusion 14U, while Sara Coffield doubled and singled and Marissa Kerry and Grace Bragg added two singles apiece for the Falls.

Mariah Leahy pitched the first five innings for the Fusion 14U with Kerry closing out the final two innings.

In game two, the Falls tallied eight hits from among eight different batters and defeated Virginia, 9-5.

Libby Miggins recorded the pitching victory for the Fusion 14U.

The Falls is scheduled to be back at home next Tuesday when the Fusion 14U will host Eveleth.



**The Fall Fusion 14U’s Marissa Kerry lays down a bunt in the second game of Tuesday’s home doubleheader against Virginia.**



**In front at right, the Fusion 14U’s Macey Marcotte (13) slides into home plate to score in the second game.**

STAFF PHOTOS BY KEVIN BONESKE

**Right — In front at center, the Falls Fusion 14U’s Mariah Leahy is caught in a rundown between third base and home in the first game of Tuesday’s home doubleheader against Virginia, but ends up being ruled safe after the third baseman blocks the running path without having the ball.**



**Left — In front at right, the Falls Fusion 14U’s Taylor Sears reaches third base in the first game of Tuesday’s home doubleheader against Virginia. Sears hit a triple and two singles in game one.**