

SPORTS



Who is...
Hillary Fox, Bronco girls hockey senior forward, is featured

B2

QUICK HITS

FHS girls hockey team shut out by Roseau Rams, 5-0

The International Falls girls hockey team began the 2013-14 season on a losing note Tuesday night when the Broncos were shut out at Roseau, 5-0.

The Rams took a 1-0 lead in the opening period on a goal by Josee Lundgren and then pulled in front by two after two periods when Mary Przekwas scored the first of her two goals for the evening.

Roseau sealed the victory in the final period on goals from Maddy Helgeson, Bailey Holter and Przekwas.

Brenna Cooper picked up the shutout in goal for the Rams, while Taylor Fish, who made 32 saves, recorded the loss in net for the Falls.

The Broncos returned to action Friday night when they hosted Silver Bay.

Ben Gordon records assist in Oilers' loss

Tulsa Oilers forward Ben Gordon of International Falls recorded an assist Tuesday when the Oilers' four-game winning streak came to an end in their 6-1 Central Hockey League home loss to Wichita.



Ben Gordon

Going into Friday's game against at Wichita, Gordon had 12 points (4 goals and 8 assists) after the first 12 games this season, second highest in points for Tulsa and tied for ninth in the CHL.

The Oilers are back in action tonight at Wichita.

RRCC women's hockey team gets community award

The Rainy River Community College women's hockey team is being honored for what it has done off the ice.

Specifically, the Voyageurs are being recognized for the amount of charity work they've done this fall.

RRCC, winner of the "Harrow Stars in the Community" award, teamed up to assist the staff and tenants of the Good Samaritan Nursing Home in moving to the new facility.

The Voyageurs also participated in a children's carnival as a way to give back to the community.

The team's duties with the Good Samaritan home dealt with packing and unpacking personal belongings and aiding to wrap up other last-minute tasks to get everyone into the new facility.

Team members also left personal notes in the room of each resident for them to read on their first day in the new facility.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Today's games
Women's/men's basketball
RRCC at Mesabi Tourney in Virginia, TBA

Tuesday's games
Girls swimming
I. Falls in State Class A preliminaries at U of M, noon

Girls hockey
Park Rapids Area at I. Falls, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday's games
Girls swimming
I. Falls in State Class A finals at U of M, noon

Thursday's games
Girls hockey
I. Falls at Bemidji, 7:30 p.m.

CLASS A GIRLS STATE SWIMMING AND DIVING MEET PREVIEW

Broncos seek top 16 in 3 events

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT



Abby Kostiuik



Emily Saari

A relay team and two individuals from International Falls will be competing early next week for state championships in Class A at the Girls State Swimming and Diving Meet at the University of Minnesota's Aquatic Center in Minneapolis.

The top-two finishers at each of the state's eight Section meets automatically qualified for state, plus those who met or surpassed the state standard time during the Section finals in the 11 swimming events.

The Class A preliminary swimming heats began at noon Tuesday when the Broncos' 200-yard medley relay team will be among the 24 teams in three heats.

Falls' 200 medley relay comprised of freshman Emily Saari, sophomore

Abby Kostiuik and seniors Breanna Shofner and Blair Johnson set the FHS girls record in last Saturday's Section 7A finals by placing first in 1 minute, 56.57 seconds.

The Broncos, who will swim in the third and final preliminary heat in lane 8, have the 22nd-fastest seed time. Four relay teams have seed times under 1:50, including top-seeded Visitation (1:48.47), which will be swimming in the same heat as the Falls.

Visitation, which is the

defending Class A champion in the 200 medley relay, is one of the seven teams to earn medals in that event at state in 2012 that will be returning this year. The other returning state medalists and their respective finishes from last year are: Albert Lea, runner-up; Sartell-St. Stephen, third; The Blake School, fourth; Breck School, fifth; Hutchinson, sixth; and Monticello, seventh.

Kostiuk, this year's Section 7A champion in the 100 backstroke, set a school record in that event in the Section preliminaries and will be swimming at state in lane 1 of the opening heat with a seed time of 1:04.26, 21st in the 23-swimmer Class A field, which has five swimmers with seed times under a minute. The top seed is Faribault senior Cecilia Hake

at 55.28. Hake finished fourth at state in 2012.

Litchfield senior Marissa Warren also returns in the 100 backstroke and is looking to improve on last year's runner-up showing. Four other 2012 medalists who have qualified again, and their respective finishes from last year, include: Visitation junior Caroline Gaertner, third; Waconia sophomore Jessica Stangret, fifth; Sartell-St. Stephen eighth-grader Anna Ellis, sixth; and Fergus Falls senior Abby Fisher, eighth.

In the 100 breaststroke, Saari finished runner-up in the Section 7A finals to qualify for state and set a school record in 1:12.28. Her seed time is 26th in the 27-swimmer Class A field, in which the top seed is the defending state champion, Albert Lea sophomore Lindsey Horejsi at 1:01.81. Saari

will be swimming in the first of four heats as part of three swimmers with the slowest seed times.

Three additional returning medalists in the 100 breaststroke and their finishes from last year include: Visitation senior Heather Farley, runner-up; Monticello sophomore Amber Eckstein, fourth; and Litchfield junior Anika Ellingson, sixth.

The top-eight heat times in each swimming event advance to Wednesday's finals for the opportunity to compete for a state title, while the ninth-through-16th fastest times advance to the consolation finals.

Broncos head coach Jill Herzig said the team's goal is to finish in the top 16 in each of the three events for which the Falls has qualified for state.

The Class A swimming and diving finals start at noon Wednesday.



STAFF PHOTOS BY KEVIN BONESKE

At center, Broncos goalie Wyatt Ulrich stops a shot during Wednesday's practice at Bronco Arena.

Bronco boys hockey, hoops practices begin

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The International Falls boys basketball and hockey teams began official practices this week for the 2013-14 season.

With the start of boys basketball in Minnesota beginning earlier this year than for the girls, the Bronco boys will open the season next Friday by hosting Deer River, the team that ended the 2012-13

season for the Falls in the Section 7AA Tournament.

Boys basketball season previews will be published in next Wednesday's edition of The Journal.

The Bronco boys hockey team opens its season at home Nov. 29 against Little Falls. The game will mark the first for Ross Johnson as the Broncos' new head coach. A season preview will be published in The Journal later this month.



From left, the Broncos' Cole Miggins (21) guards Paul Skoglund in Wednesday's practice in the Falls High School gym. The Broncos open the season at home next Friday against Deer River.

Hebner recommended for assistant boys swim coach

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

An International Falls School Board member is being recommended to the board for an assistant boys swimming coaching position.

The board will consider Monday whether to hire Michelle Hebner. If approved, Hebner would fill out the two paid boys swimming and diving coaching positions.



Michelle Hebner

When a vacancy occurs in a head coaching position, the district's policy

states that the related assistant coaching positions also become vacant until the head coach is hired with the assistants allowed to apply. The policy further states that new head coaches are allowed input in the hiring of their assistants.

Dawnn Taylor received board approval in September as the next boys swimming and diving head coach. Taylor has been

the head coach of the Fort Frances Aquanauts and replaces Hailey Silvers, who resigned after two seasons.

Falls superintendent Nordy Nelson said a board member is allowed to carry out any tasks for the district that wouldn't exceed \$5,000 in a school year.

The district's master contract agreement presently in effect calls for paying a new assistant swimming coach \$3,810,

while an incoming head swimming coach would be paid more than \$5,000 for the season.

In addition, to avoid a conflict of interest, Nelson said any board member recommended for a coaching position should abstain from voting on that position and also abstain from matters coming before the board concerning the team for which the board member would be a coach.