

SPORTS



Who is...
Taylor Wendt, L-BF volleyball senior setter, is featured

B2

QUICK HITS

L-BF spikers swept at HC, win at LOW

The Littlefork-Big Falls volleyball team split the two road matches it played this week.

L-BF fell in three straight games Tuesday night at Hill City, 18-25, 20-25, 7-25.

L-BF's statistical leaders included: Sydney Wendt, 16 set assists and three ace serves; Amanda Nelson and Breann Larson, seven kills each; Karly Swenson, six kills; and Emily Knaeble, 12 digs.

The Vikings then won Thursday in four games at Lake of the Woods, 25-21, 25-19, 22-25, 25-22.

Nelson recorded 13 kills, three blocks and three ace serves. Knaeble tallied 19 digs and five ace serves. Breann Larson added 16 digs and six kills. Taylor and Sydney Wendt each had 15 set assists.

L-BF's season record stands at 6-9 going into today's tournament at Virginia.

RRCC spikers sweep Vermilion, now 2-4

The Rainy River Community College volleyball team snapped a four-match conference losing streak after winning Wednesday's road match in three straight games against Vermilion, 25-16, 25-16, 25-17.

RRCC was led by DyAna Imhof with 11 kills. Brooke Millerbernd added nine kills and 12 digs. Tali Plate dished out 23 set assists. Jasmine Draper picked up 13 digs, while Katie Langaas had four blocks.

The Voyageurs are now 2-4 in the Minnesota College Athletic Conference's Northern Division halfway through this season's league play.

RRCC is playing this weekend at the NDSCS Tourney in Wahpeton, N.D.

Tentative 2015 Bronco football schedule out

To go along with high school football teams in Minnesota organizing into districts next year, a tentative 2015 schedule has been put together for International Falls.

Next year's proposed eight-game schedule for the regular season, which was provided to coaches last week Friday, has four home games for the Broncos and would begin the season Aug. 22 with the Falls hosting Deer River.

The Broncos would also host their second game of the season Aug. 28 against Hibbing and play home games Sept. 11 against Eveleth-Gilbert and Sept. 25 against Virginia.

Falls' four roads games would be Sept. 3 or 4 at Two Harbors, Sept. 18 against Greenway/Nashwauk-Keewatin, Oct. 2 against Duluth Marshall and Oct. 8 or 9 against Crosby-Ironton.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Broncos swept at home by Virginia

Falls drops to 8-2 on season

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

After starting the season with eight consecutive match victories, the International Falls volleyball team is now on a two-match losing streak.

The Broncos lost their second home match in two days after falling in three straight games Tuesday to Virginia, 24-26, 23-25, 20-25.

"We played hard at times," said Falls head coach Erin Shikowsky. "We reacted a little slower than I would have liked to see on defense at times."

In the first game, the Broncos regrouped after a timeout trailing 19-13 by outscoring the Blue Devils 11-4 to be at game point on a kill by Maddie Filipiak, but then gave up three straight points and lost by two.

The Falls fell behind by as much as nine points in the second game, before waging a comeback that included serves from Libero Lauren Rautio



The Broncos' Briauna Becvar digs the ball in Tuesday's home match against Virginia.

that Virginia had trouble returning. However, the Broncos could only pull within a point before losing by two.

After game three was tied at 17-17, the Blue Devils went on an 8-3 scoring run to take the game and sweep the match.

"When we were able to bring our offense, then we were able to score some points," Shikowsky said. "But they also were very tough servers and we struggled on serve receive."

Falls' statistical leaders included: Rautio, 23 digs and four ace serves; Filipiak, six kills and five ace blocks; Tessa Walls, nine kills and four ace



STAFF PHOTOS BY KEVIN BONESKE

From right, the Broncos' McKenna Rasmussen hits the ball while facing blocking opposition from Virginia's Mackala Palo (16) in Tuesday night's match in the Falls High School gym.

blocks; McKenna Rasmussen, six kills; and Teagan Anderson, 20 set assists.

Virginia was led statis-

tically by: Mackala Palo, nine ace serves and 24 set assists; Emily Pluskwik, 10 kills and five digs; and Taija Harju, five ace

serves and five kills.

Next up for the 8-2 Broncos is today's tournament in Virginia. They play Tuesday at Mesabi East.

CROSS COUNTRY

Lexi Erickson finishes 1st at Ely, Hibbing

Bronco girls in top five at both meets this week

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Paced by two top individual finishes from sophomore Lexi Erickson, the International Falls girls cross country team finished in the top five at a pair of meets this week.

The Broncos placed second at Tuesday's Ely Invite.

The host school, Ely, topped the team standings with 36 points, followed by the Falls (49), Eveleth-Gilbert (67), Carlton (74) and Virginia (128).

Erickson, who was one of three Bronco girls in the top 10, crossed the finish line first by completing the 4,000-meter course in 16 minutes, 33 seconds. The race marked her first top finish at a cross country meet this season.

Falls senior captain Jenna Anderson came in ninth in 18:45, while Avery Sivonen placed 10th in 18:47.

"It was hot, but we overcame that," Anderson said. "It was a hilly course, so it tested the team's endurance."

Falls' two other runners whose finishes counted toward the team total included: Faith Black, 13th in 19:27; and Lexi Edwards, 16th in 19:52.

FHS BOYS 4TH

In the boys competition, the Broncos had two top-10 individual finishers and placed fourth in the team standings.

Eveleth-Gilbert won the team title at 28, followed by Ely (53), Virginia (63) and the Falls (69).

Broncos senior Cole Tatsak placed eighth on the 5,000-meter course in 19:11, while freshman John Cowman came in 10th in 19:28.

"Even with the hills and warm weather, we all had good times," Tatsak said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Broncos' Lexi Erickson (3327) runs at the front of the pack en route to a first-place finish at Thursday's Hibbing Rotary Cross Country Meet. Erickson also placed first at Tuesday's Ely Invite.

"I'm glad to have John out there pushing me."

The Falls' three other finishers who counted toward the team score included: Ben Erickson, 15th in 20:24; Joe Glowack, 16th in 20:29; and Jake Erickson, 20th in 20:24.

"Some of the younger kids were moved up to varsity," Ben Erickson said. "We have a good fast group of younger kids."

GIRLS 5TH AT HIBBING

Lexi Erickson had the top time of 15:06 on Thursday when the Bronco girls placed fifth among Class A teams at the Hibbing Rotary Cross Country Meet.

"We didn't place as good as we wanted," Lexi Erickson said. "We ran very well individually and I'm very proud of our younger girls."

South Ridge had the top

score of 58, followed by Crosby-Ironton (89), Moose Lake/Willow River (99), Mesabi East (120) and the Falls (134) rounding out the top five out of the 10 teams with at least five finishers.

The Broncos' four other finishers who counted the team total included: Anderson, 20th in 17:11; Sivonen, 30th in 17:44; Black, 38th in 18:02; and Edwards, 45th in 18:33.

"We need our girls to run a better second mile and our 3-5 runners need to stay with Jenna," said Falls head coach Paul Hjelle. "October is coming and we need to be tougher mentally."

FHS BOYS 8TH

Falls' boys team came in eighth out of 11 teams. Proctor had the top score of 37, followed by Eveleth-Gilbert

(54), Mesabi East (86), Cook County/Two Harbors (120) and Moose Lake/Willow River (130) rounding out the top five.

"We had some good times from the (Bronco) boys," Hjelle said. "I liked what I saw (Thursday) in the effort they gave."

The Falls boys also had two runners in the top 25. Cowman placed 19th in 18:36, while Tatsak came in 25th in 19:02.

"It was a great day to run (except for) having a sore throat," Tatsak said. "Our team keeps improving by every meet and I'm so proud of everyone."

The three other Bronco runners whose finishes counted toward the team score included: Ben Erickson, 36th in 19:43; Joe

Glowack, 38th in 19:48; and Brock O'Loughlin, 53rd in 20:48.

The Falls doesn't have another meet scheduled until Oct. 9 when the Broncos will host the Hial Pike Invitational at the Falls Country Club.

Ely Invite GIRLS
Team scores: Ely 36, International Falls 49, Eveleth-Gilbert 67, Carlton 74, Virginia 128.
International Falls finishers: 1. Lexi Erickson, 16:33; 9. Jenna Anderson, 18:45; 10. Avery Sivonen, 18:47; 13. Faith Black, 19:27; 16. Lexi Edwards, 19:52; 18. Grace Gilbert, 20:06.

BOYS
Team scores: Eveleth-Gilbert 28, Ely 53, Virginia 63, International Falls 69.
International Falls finishers: 8. Cole Tatsak, 19:11; 10. John Cowman, 19:28; 15. Ben Erickson, 20:24; 16. Joe Glowack, 20:29; 20. Jake Erickson, 20:40; 21. Jaxon Germain, 20:41; 25. Tanner Wood, 21:33.

Hibbing Rotary Meet GIRLS
Team scores: South Ridge 58, Crosby-Ironton 89, Moose Lake/Willow River 99, Mesabi East 120, International Falls 134, Greenway/Nashwauk-Keewatin 137, Proctor 142, Cook County/Two Harbors 168, Deer River 177, Eveleth-Gilbert 229.
International Falls finishers: 1. Lexi Erickson, 15:06; 20. Jenna Anderson, 17:11; 30. Avery Sivonen, 17:44; 38. Faith Black, 18:02; 45. Lexi Edwards, 18:33; 49. Grace Gilbert, 18:57; 67. Lexie Graves, 23:44.

BOYS
Team scores: Proctor 37, Eveleth-Gilbert 54, Mesabi East 86, Cook County/Two Harbors 120, Moose Lake/Willow River 130, Virginia 145, Greenway/Nashwauk-Keewatin 167, International Falls 171, Mountain Iron-Buhl 254, Lake of the Woods 278, Chisholm 317.
International Falls finishers: 19. John Cowman, 18:36; 25. Cole Tatsak, 19:02; 36. Ben Erickson, 19:43; 38. Joe Glowack, 19:48; 53. Brock O'Loughlin, 20:48; 59. Jared Hunter, 21:44; 60. Billy Brockaw, 21:45.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Today's games
Women's volleyball
RRCC at NDSCS Tourney, TBA
Girls volleyball
I. Falls and L-BF at Virginia Tournament, 9 a.m.
Girls swimming/diving
I. Falls at Mesabi East Invitational, 9 a.m.

Tuesday's games
Girls volleyball
I. Falls at Mesabi East, 7 p.m.

Wednesday's games
Women's volleyball
RRCC at Mesabi Range, 6:30 p.m.