

SPORTS



Who is...
Jack Bartkowski, Bronco boys baseball senior first baseman/pitcher, is featured

B2

QUICK HITS

L-BF softball team opens season 0-2

The Littlefork-Big Falls softball team opened the season 0-2 following a pair of road losses this week.

L-BF fell Tuesday at Deer River, 6-4. The game had been tied at 3-3 going into the bottom of the sixth when the Warriors scored three runs.

Karly Swenson pitched all six innings in recording the loss for the Vikings.

Of L-BF's seven hits, Emily Knaeble had three of them with a pair of doubles.

On Thursday, the Vikings led by a run after three innings before losing at Cherry, 11-1, in five innings.

The Tigers, who took the lead with five runs in the bottom of the fourth and scored six times in the fifth inning to end the game on the 10-run rule, outhit L-BF, 10-2.

Swenson pitched all five innings and picked up the loss after giving up the 11 runs on 10 hits with five walks and a hit batter while striking out three.

FHS softball team wins opener at ME

The International Falls softball team won its season opener in a big way Thursday with a 21-0 road victory over Mesabi East in five innings.

Teagan Anderson pitched the shutout victory by scattering three hits and a walk over five innings while striking out six.

Three Bronco players – Meghan Tomczak, Cassie Tomczak and Janet Humbert – recorded three hits each with Cassie Tomczak picking up a double. Anderson, Amber Tilander and Emma Johnson added two hits apiece. Emily Treat, McKenna Rasmussen and Briauna Becvar each had a double.

Alumni tournament raises over \$8,200

The Bronco Alumni Basketball Tournament Committee has announced that this year's tournament held last weekend in the Falls High School gym raised more than \$8,200 for the Bronco basketball program, up from the \$6,400 raised in 2014.

A record number of players (93) participated in this year's tournament, which had 13 games with 12 teams playing in three divisions — six teams in the Men's Open Division, four teams in the Men's Masters Division (35 and older) and two teams in the Women's Division.

The tournament committee hopes to add a third women's team next year to have 13 teams and 15 games. The 2016 tournament is March 25-26.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Today's games
Men's baseball
RRCC vs. Vermilion/TBA at Ely, 11 a.m./1:30 p.m.
Women's softball
RRCC vs. Hibbing/Itasca/ Mesabi Range at Itasca Tournament in Grand Rapids, 11 a.m./1 p.m./3 p.m.

Sunday's games
Men's baseball
RRCC vs. TBA/Vermilion at Scheela Field, 11 a.m./4 p.m.

Monday's games
Women's softball
Northland at RRCC (DH), 3 p.m.
Girls softball
LOW at I. Falls, 4:30 p.m.
L-BF at Nashwauk-Keewatin, 4:30 p.m.
Boys baseball
South Ridge at L-BF, 4:30 p.m.

TRACK AND FIELD

Falls 1st at Bronco Booster Invite

Phung, Olson set meet records

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

The International Falls varsity track teams competed outdoors and at home for the first time this season when they won Thursday's Bronco Booster Invite.

In the boys competition, the Falls had the top score of 121.5, followed by Dryden (93.5), Warroad (89), Fort Frances (26) and Lake of the Woods/Rainy River (24).

"The team responded with some good times and distances," said Bronco boys head coach Paul Hjelle. "Ethan Phung continues to impress in the field events. To go (6 feet, 2 inches in the high jump) at his first outdoor meet of the year was very encouraging."

Phung's leap of 6-2 to win the high jump set a new meet record by breaking the old mark of 6-0 set in 2004. He also placed first in the long jump (18-11) and triple jump (39-0).

Falls junior Wyatt Helgeson, who finished runner-up to Phung in the high jump (5-8) and long jump (18-0.5), won the pole

vault (9-0).

"Wyatt Helgeson is also showing signs of being able to really help us this year," Hjelle said. "He is a fierce competitor and always gives it his best shot."

The only first-place finish for the Bronco boys in the track events came from senior Cole Tatsak winning the 110-meter hurdles (19.11 seconds). He also came in second in the 300 hurdles (45.25).

Falls freshman distance runner John Cowman placed runner-up in the both the 1600 run (5:07.55) and 3200 run (11:18.88).

Broncos senior Nehemiah Olson placed runner-up in the shot put (38-5.5) and third in the 100 dash (12.35).

Falls sophomore Nick Hedtke also had a top-three individual finish when he placed runner-up in the 200 dash (26.49). Others finishing in the top three were Owen Amundson and Wyatt Amdahl placing second and third, respectively, in the pole vault at 9-0 and 8-6.

The Broncos finished runner-up in two relays



STAFF PHOTOS BY KEVIN BONESKE

The Broncos' Ethan Phung competes in the high jump during Thursday's Bronco Booster Invite. Phung set a new meet record after clearing 6 feet, 2 inches.

with Hedtke, Tatsak, Olson and Tanner Budris in the 4X100 (49.42) and Jordan Anderson, Jared Hunter, Amundsen and Budris in the 4X200 (1:50.17).

FHS GIRLS 1ST

In the girls competition, the Falls had the top score of 170.5, followed by Dryden (75), Warroad (68), Fort Frances (40.5) and Lake of the Woods/Rainy River (8).

Broncos senior Savannah Olson was a double individual winner by placing first in both the shot put (39-1.5) and discus (100-1). Falls freshman Emma Gilbert finished runner-up to Olson in the shot put (36-4) and discus (96-4).

Olson's top toss in the shot put set a new meet record by a half an inch to break the previous top mark of Robyn Cody in 2005.

The Bronco girls also recorded first-place individual finishes from Emily Saari in the 100 hurdles (19.18), Bailey Milette in the 300 hurdles (58.02), Lexi Erickson in the high jump (4-8), Claire Herzig in the pole vault (8-6) and Jena Sullivan



The Broncos' Cole Tatsak clears the first hurdle en route to finishing first in the 110-meter hurdles in 19.11 seconds during Thursday's Bronco Booster Invite.

in the triple jump (27-7.5). Other runner-up individual finishes for the Falls included Abby Kostiuk in the 200 dash (31.43), Erickson in the 800 run (2:32.47), Tayler Hebner in the 3200 run (13:36.88), Carolann Stone in the 300 hurdles (1:02.2), Saari in the pole vault (8-0) and Herzig in the long jump (13-5).

In the four relay events, the Bronco girls won the 4X100 (56.02), 4X200 (1:57.83) and 4X400 (4:43.04) and placed runner-up in the 4X800 (11:33.27).

The Falls teams return to action Tuesday for an invitational hosted by Lake of the Woods.

SIJHL HOCKEY

Lakers win Bill Salonen Cup opener over Dryden

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Fort Frances Lakers got goals from six different skaters Thursday night to defeat the Dryden Ice Dogs, 6-2, in game one of the Superior International Junior Hockey League's Bill Salonen Cup championship series at Ice for Kids Arena.

The defending SIJHL champion Lakers scored first 3:06 into the contest when Colton Spicer recorded his third goal of the playoffs.

Dryden tied the game midway through the first period when Jonathon Philley put the puck past Fort Frances goalie Nathan Park.

Fort Frances added two goals in the final 5 minutes of the first period when Miles Nolan and Matt Vela scored to give the Lakers a 3-1 lead.

The SIJHL's most valuable player, Cole Golka, pulled the Ice Dogs within a goal at 4:55 of the second period when he scored for the sixth time in the post-season.

Fort Frances went back in front by two goals late in the second period when 2012 International Falls High School graduate Mason Meyer scored on Dryden goalie Tate Sproxtion at 18:12 to make it a 4-2 game after 40 minutes.

The Lakers added a goal on the power play when Bryson Jasper scored at 12:12 of the third period.

Marco Romano then closed out the scoring for Fort Frances with just over 3 minutes left to play with his second playoff goal.

Shots on goal favored the Lakers, 39-25, with Park picking up the victory and Sproxtion recording the loss in net.

Fort Frances took a 1-0 lead in the best-of-seven series going into game two Friday night at Ice for Kids Arena.



Mason Meyer

BOYS BASEBALL

Broncos bounce Cherry in six innings, improve to 2-0

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The International Falls baseball team won its second game of the season Thursday when the Broncos were victorious in six innings at Cherry, 13-3.

The Falls scored first in the top of the first on a two-run single by Tyler Coffield, only to see the Tigers tie the game in the bottom of the inning on a two-run single by Colton Herring.

The Broncos pulled back in front with four runs in the top of the second when Lane Skallman and Ben Humbert doubled and Jack Bartkowski singled.

The Falls added two more runs in the top of the third when Coffield had a leadoff double. Brett Lindvall came in as a courtesy runner and scored on a single by Cole Miggins, who scored on a sacrifice fly to center field by Jackson Vollom.



Jack Bartkowski

Cherry tallied its final run in the bottom of the third off of Bartkowski, who pitched the first three innings and recorded the victory, allowing all three runs, two earned, on two hits with four walks and two hit batters while striking out six.

Miggins pitched the final three innings without giving up a run on a hit with two walks while striking out four.

D.J. Lind recorded the pitching loss for the Tigers after throwing five-plus innings. He allowed 12 runs, seven earned, on 12 hits with three walks and a strikeout. Herring gave up an unearned run on two hits with a strikeout closing out the sixth inning.

The Broncos picked up a run in the top of the fourth and then added four more runs in the sixth inning when Coffield drove in two of those runs with a single – his fourth hit of the game in which he also ended up with 4 RBI. Humbert, Bartkowski, Skallman and Kevin Kilbride each tallied two hits for the Falls.

The game ended on the 10-run rule in the bottom of the sixth when Cherry was unable to score, the second game in a row to start the season that the Broncos were able to win in six innings.

The Falls improved its record to 2-0 going into its first scheduled home game of the season Friday afternoon against Virginia.

I. Falls 13, Cherry 3
I. Falls 2-4-2 1-0-4 - 13 14 3
Cherry 2-0-1 0-0-0 - 3 3 4
WP-Jack Bartkowski;
LP-Colton Herring