

SPORTS



'Eye-opening' loss to Detroit
Bridgewater sacked 8 times and throws 3 interceptions
B3

QUICK HITS

Viking spikers finish regular season 12-11

The Littlefork-Big Falls volleyball team closed out its regular-season schedule Monday by losing in four games at Chisholm, 22-25, 25-12, 20-25, 18-25.

The Vikings' statistical leaders included: Amanda Nelson, 13 kills; Taylor Wendt, 12 kills and 15 set assists; Emily Knaeble, 20 digs; Sydney Wendt, 22 set assists; and Karly Swenson, 10 kills.

L-BF, which has a season match record of 12-11, opens the Section 7A Tournament next Monday against an opponent and at a location to be determined once the play-off pairings are finalized.

Bronco spikers end regular season 16-7

The International Falls volleyball team played its final regular-season matches Saturday at a tournament in Esko, where the Broncos went 2-2.

The Falls opened the tournament by defeating Esko in three games, 10-25, 25-21, 15-9, before being swept by Hermantown, 21-25, 20-25, losing in three games to South Ridge, 27-26, 18-25, 10-15, and then winning the final match in two straight games against Moose Lake/Willow River, 25-20, 25-20.

The Broncos finished the regular season at 16-7 and open the Section 7AA Tournament on Oct. 22 against an opponent and at a location to be determined once the play-off pairings are finalized.

RRCC spikers 1-1 at Northland triangular

The Rainy River Community College volleyball team went 1-1 in Saturday's triangular at Thief River Falls.

The Voyageurs lost their first match in three straight games to the host team, Northland, 20-25, 19-25, 18-25. Kate Howell led RRCC with 13 kills, while Jasmine Draper had 18 digs and Brooke Millerbernd added 16 digs. Tali Plate recorded 25 set assists and 14 digs. Roneisha Jordan registered eight blocks.

The Voyageurs then swept Bottineau, 25-9, 25-6, 25-11. Katie Langaas had 16 kills. Draper had 15 digs, while Plate, who has been named the Minnesota College Athletic Conference's Northern Division Setter of the Week, dished out 25 set assists.

On Monday, RRCC played a road match in Bemidji and won in three straight games against Oak Hills Christian College, 25-5, 25-3, 25-5.

The Voyageurs' reserves saw plenty of playing time. Jaimie Shaw recorded five kills and five service aces, Kristi Mills added 5 service aces and Megan Johnson had 12 set assists.

RRCC, which hosted its final home match Tuesday against Vermilion, returns to action next week Tuesday in a triangular at Mesabi Range.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

- Today's games**
Football
I. Falls at G/N-K, 7 p.m.
L-BF at MI-B, 7 p.m.
- Monday's games**
Girls volleyball
L-BF vs. opponent TBD in Section 7A Tournament, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday's games**
Football
I. Falls vs. opponent TBD in Section 7AAA Tournament, 7 p.m.
L-BF vs. opponent TBD in Section 7 Nine-man Tournament, 7 p.m.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Vikings fall to undefeated North Woods

L-BF at 3-4

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

The Littlefork-Big Falls football team hosted one of the top-ranked nine-man football teams in the state Friday night when the Vikings lost to undefeated North Woods, 30-18.

"We knew we were going to be outmatched—size, athletically," said Vikings head coach Derek Bilben. "Our game plan coming in was to control the ball and we did that on offense."

L-BF went primarily with a ground game on offense as quarterback Quin Vork threw only three passes and completed one of them for six yards. The Vikings rushed for 299 yards on 65 carries.

The Grizzlies scored first with 1:03 left in the first quarter when Travis Hooper ran 89 yards for a touchdown.

After North Woods recovered a fumble on L-BF's 43-yard line, Hooper scored again on a 23-yard touchdown run with 8.7 seconds left in the opening quarter.

"Big plays from them kind of hurt us," Bilben said. "Hooper is probably one of the best backs in the state, and we just weren't able to contain him. When he gets loose, he's not going to be stopped."

"But I'm proud of our kids. They worked their tails off. Offensively, they just kept grinding away and grinding away, and we took it to them."

Vikings running back Peter Franz, who was able to pick up rushing yardage in the middle of field and ran for 141 yards on 32 carries with two touchdowns, scored L-BF's first touchdown on a two-yard run with 3:12 left in the first half.

"Obviously, they had a scouting report on our speed to the outside, so they were giving us the middle," Bilben said. "Peter's going to have prob-



From left, the Vikings' Rylan Henrickson (1) runs with the football while receiving a block from Darian Erickson (8) in Friday night's home game against North Woods.



From left, Grizzlies quarterback Cole Martin (12) drops back to pass while being rushed by the Vikings' Zach Simon (32) in Friday's game at John Thompson Field.

ably a majority of the carries (Friday night), and he did a great job."

One of the Vikings' outside running threats, Dar-

ian Erickson, was limited to 40 yards on 16 carries.

On the ensuing kickoff before halftime, L-BF recovered an onside kick near midfield, but wasn't

able to score again in the first half, which ended with the Grizzlies in front, 16-6.

North Woods added another touchdown and two-

point conversion less than 3 minutes into the third quarter and held a 24-6 lead going into the final 12 minutes.

Franz scored on a nine-yard touchdown run with 4:28 left to play, before Hooper scored another touchdown on a 30-yard run.

The Vikings closed out the game with Rylan Henrickson recording a touchdown run from more than 60 yards away with 3.3 seconds left to play. Henrickson ended up with 118 yards rushing on 17 carries.

L-BF's season record dropped to 3-4.

NW 30, L-BF 18
NW 16 0 8 6 - 30
L-BF 0 6 0 12 - 18
Team statistics: L-BF: 299 yards rushing, 6 passing, 305 total.
Rushing: L-BF: Darian Erickson, 16-40; Rylan Henrickson, 17-118, 1 TD; Peter Franz, 32-141, 2 TD.
Passing: L-BF: Quin Vork, 1-3, 6 yards.
Receiving: L-BF: Franz, 1-6.



Ben Gordon of International Falls, shown playing forward for the Tulsa Oilers, announced his retirement from pro hockey on Friday to become an assistant coach with the College of St. Scholastica men's hockey team.

Ben Gordon announces his retirement from pro hockey

Falls native accepts coaching job at St. Scholastica

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Ben Gordon of International Falls announced his retirement from professional hockey on Friday after a six-year career that spanned nine teams and

four leagues.

Gordon, who played his last two pro seasons on the Tulsa Oilers with two other forwards from the Falls, has accepted a position as an assistant coach with the men's hockey program

at the College of St. Scholastica.

"I don't want anyone to think that this was an easy decision," Gordon said. "I absolutely loved

Gordon to B2 ➤

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Broncos tormented by the Blue Devils

Falls drops to 0-7 for season

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The International Falls football team remained winless on the season after losing Friday night at Virginia, 27-8.

The Blue Devils jumped out to a 13-0 lead after a pair of first-quarter touchdowns.

The Broncos, who have been plagued by injuries this season, lost starting quarterback Riley Nemec to an injury early in the game after he completed only one pass for six yards. Jakob Eide returned to the quarterback position and completed six of 13 passes for 53 yards and a touchdown.

Falls' only touchdown came with less than a minute left in the first half when Eide connected on a nine-yard scoring strike to Riley Rasmussen. Nick Hedtke, who led the Broncos in rushing with 113 yards on 24 carries, ran in the two-point conversion to cut the deficit to 13-8.

Virginia went back in front by two touchdowns on the ensuing kickoff, which Justice Chaffee ran into the end zone from 85 yards away. The extra point gave the Blue Devils a 20-8 halftime lead.

After a scoreless third quarter, Virginia tacked on another touchdown in the 12 final minutes. The Blue Devils' victory was their second of the season.

The Broncos, who are now 0-7 overall and 0-5 in the Sea-Range Conference, will seek their first victory in today's regular-season finale on the road against Greenway/Nashwauk-Kewatin.

Virginia 27, I. Falls 8
I. Falls 0 8 0 0 - 8
Virginia 13 7 0 7 - 27
Team statistics: IF: 157 yards rushing, 59 passing, 216 total. **V:** 213 yards rushing, 12 passing, 225 total.
Rushing: IF: Nick Hedtke, 24-113; Lane Skallman, 11-37; Jakob Eide, 5-11; Wyatt Helgeson, 1-0; Tyler Coffield, 7-(-4); Team, 1-0.
Passing: IF: Eide, 6-13, 53 yards, 1 TD, 2 INT; Riley Nemec, 1-1, 6 yards.
Receiving: IF: Riley Rasmussen, 4-32, 1 TD; Aaron Bennett, 1-12; Coffield, 1-9; Hedtke, 1-6.