

SPORTS

WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

Voyageurs seek return to region tourney

Incoming freshmen add depth to team

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

After finishing first in the Minnesota College Athletic Conference's Northern Division without having a home game before the region tournament last season, the Rainy River Community College women's softball team will be seeking to do better in 2014.

The Voyageurs, who topped the MCAC North with a 12-2 conference record during the weather-hampered 2013 season when many of the games ended up being rescheduled indoors, finished 20-9 overall after having been eliminated in the Region 13B Tournament it hosted last May.

Dieter Humbert, who was named the MCAC North Coach of the Year in 2013, enters his 14th season as RRCC's head coach with a roster that has eight returning sophomores and seven incoming freshmen.

Three players who are gone after using their sophomore year of eligibility last season include pitcher/infielder Colby Redhead and infielders Kendra Charrois and Kristen Cruickshank. Redhead was named to the MCAC All-Northern Division First Team and was an All-State Second Team selection. Cruickshank was named to the MCAC All-Northern Division Second Team.

Humbert's list of top returning players includes pitcher Oashaja Dobie, an MCAC All-State and All-Northern Division First Team selection, and outfielder Rachel Clark, who was named to the MCAC All-Northern Division First Team and the All-State Second Team.

"I'm just looking forward to a good season," said Clark, who is a team captain in 2014. "We've got a lot of



The Voyageurs' Alexis Fancy bunts during a practice last week in the RRCC gym.

depth on our team, which is really nice, and we have a really good freshman class, so I'm really excited for this season. I think we're going to go far."

After having dropped two of three games – losing twice to Mesabi Range – when the Voyageurs were knocked out of the double-elimination region tournament last season, RRCC sophomore utility fielder Alisha Brinker, another captain on the team, said the goal this year is to get back to the tournament and do better.

"I wasn't satisfied with the way I personally played, and I wasn't satisfied with the way our team played," Brinker said. "We want to get back there. We want to show them who the true Rainy River team actually is."

Though this year's team has been practicing well indoors, sophomore infielder and team captain Lynsi Emery said she hopes the weather this spring won't

be as much of a problem as last season when RRCC was prevented from playing outdoors.

“(Not being able to play outdoors last season) definitely, I think, was one of the big issues, because we were so used to playing inside in the dome and inside in the gym...,” Emery said. “Hopefully this year the snow melts and we can go play out in some dirt.”

Humbert said the strengths of this year's team are pitching, offense, chemistry and depth, while he lists mental toughness and a lack of confidence as weaknesses going into the start of the season, which begins Wednesday morning with three games at the Irish Dome in Rosemount.

Though he is concerned the most this season about injuries, Humbert said he is looking forward to "observing the players delighting in teammates' success and success of the team."

The Voyageurs topped the



STAFF PHOTOS BY KEVIN BONESKE

The Voyageurs' Oashaja Dobie delivers a pitch during a practice last week in the RRCC gym.

2013 MCAC North standings a game in front of Itasca, which went on to win the Region 13B title, and two games in front of Mesabi Range. Humbert said the teams to watch out for this

year include Mesabi Range, Central Lakes, Itasca, Hibbing, Vermilion, Northland and Fond du Lac.


After the nine games scheduled next week at the Irish Dome, RRCC is

slated to be back there for four more games March 28-29. The Voyageurs' first scheduled home and outdoor games, weather permitting, will be a doubleheader April 8 against Northland.

ICE ARENA SCHEDULE 3/17-2/23

Date	Time	Location	Comments
3-17	4:00pm-4:30pm	Bronco Arena	Figure Skating: Dance
3-17	4:30pm-5:00pm	Bronco Arena	Figure Skating: Foreign
3-17	5:00pm-6:00pm	Bronco Arena	Figure Skating: Study
3-17	6:00pm-6:30pm	Bronco Arena	Figure Skating: Marry/College (Basic 2)
3-17	6:30pm-7:00pm	Bronco Arena	Figure Skating: Alps/Theme (Basic 3/4)
3-17	7:00pm-7:30pm	Bronco Arena	Figure Skating: Sailboat/Orphanage (Basic 5/6)
3-17	7:30pm-8:15pm	Bronco Arena	Figure Skating: Egypt/Cruise (Basic 7/8)
3-17	8:30pm-9:30pm	Bronco Arena	High School Boys/Second Year Bantam Hockey
3-17	4:10pm-5:10pm	Kerry Park Arena	First Year Squirt/Second Year Mighty Mite Hockey
3-17	5:20pm-6:20pm	Kerry Park Arena	First Year Pee Wee/Second Year Squirt Hockey
3-17	6:30pm-7:30pm	Kerry Park Arena	Open Girls Rec. & High School Hockey
3-17	7:40pm-8:40pm	Kerry Park Arena	Second Year Pee Wee/First Year Bantam Hockey
3-18	6:10am-6:50am	Bronco Arena	Figure Skating: Hollywood
3-18	6:50am-7:40am	Bronco Arena	Figure Skating: Study
3-18	6:15pm-7:15pm	Bronco Arena	Figure Skating: Hollywood
3-18	7:15pm-7:45pm	Bronco Arena	Figure Skating: Synchro
3-18	7:45pm-8:30pm	Bronco Arena	Figure Skating: Junior
3-18	8:45pm-9:45pm	Bronco Arena	High School Boys/Second Year Bantam Hockey
3-18	4:10pm-5:10pm	Kerry Park Arena	Last Year Termitte/First Year Mighty Mite Hockey
3-18	5:10pm-6:10pm	Kerry Park Arena	Second Year Pee Wee/First Year Bantam Hockey
3-18	6:30pm-7:30pm	Kerry Park Arena	Pee Wee B Parent/Child Game
3-18	7:40pm-8:40pm	Kerry Park Arena	First Year Pee Wee/Second Year Squirt Hockey
3-19	6:10am-7:30am	Bronco Arena	Figure Skating: Shelly's Solos & Grad Seniors
3-19	5:00pm-7:00pm	Bronco Arena	FHS Hockey Cheerleader Try-Outs
3-19	7:00pm-7:40pm	Bronco Arena	Figure Skating: Grand Finale Senior

Date	Time	Location	Comments
3-19	7:40pm-8:15pm	Bronco Arena	Figure Skating: All Senior
3-19	8:30pm	Bronco Arena	High School Boys/Second Year Bantam Hockey
3-19	4:10pm-5:10pm	Kerry Park Arena	Second Year Mighty Mite/First Year Squirt Hockey
3-19	5:20pm-6:20pm	Kerry Park Arena	Second Year Squirt/First Year Pee Wee Hockey
3-19	6:30pm-7:30pm	Kerry Park Arena	Girls Rec. & High School Hockey
3-19	7:40pm-8:40pm	Kerry Park Arena	Second Year Pee Wee/First Year Bantam Hockey
3-20	6:10am-6:50am	Bronco Arena	Figure Skating: Cosmetic/Family/Grad Seniors
3-20	6:50am-7:30am	Bronco Arena	Figure Skating: Dance/Game
3-20	5:30pm-6:00pm	Bronco Arena	Figure Skating: Grand Finale Practice All Skaters To Attend!
3-20	6:00pm-8:30pm	Bronco Arena	Figure Skating: Ice Show Dress Rehearsal All Skaters!
3-20	4:10pm-5:10pm	Kerry Park Arena	Last Year Termites/First Year Mighty Mite Hockey
3-20	5:20pm-6:20pm	Kerry Park Arena	Second Year Pee Wee/First Year Bantam Hockey
3-20	6:30pm-7:30pm	Kerry Park Arena	Girls Rec. & High School Hockey
3-20	7:40pm-8:40pm	Kerry Park Arena	First Year Pee Wee/Second Year Squirt Hockey
3-21	9:00am-9:00pm	Bronco Arena	Figure Skating: Ice Decorating/Lobby Decorating
3-21	4:10pm-5:10pm	Kerry Park Arena	Second Year Mighty Mites/First Year Squirt Hockey
3-21	5:20pm-6:20pm	Kerry Park Arena	Second Year Squirt/First Year Pee Wee Hockey
3-21	6:30pm-7:30pm	Kerry Park Arena	Second Year Pee Wee/First Year Bantam Hockey
3-21	7:40pm-8:40pm	Kerry Park Arena	Second Year Bantam/ High School Boys Hockey
3-22	5:30pm-6:00pm	Bronco Arena	Figure Skating: Hollywood Warm-Up
3-22	6:00pm-6:30pm	Bronco Arena	Figure Skating: Foreign Warm-Up
3-22	7:00pm-10:00pm	Bronco Arena	Figure Skating: Falls Figure Skating Club Presents: "The Game Of Life" Ice Show
3-23	12:00pm-12:30pm	Bronco Arena	Figure Skating: Foreign Warm-Up
3-23	12:30pm-1:00pm	Bronco Arena	Figure Skating: Hollywood Warm-Up
3-23	1:30pm-4:00pm	Bronco Arena	Figure Skating: Falls Figure Skating Club Presents: "The Game Of Life" Ice Show



ECUMENIAL LENTEN SERIES

Theme: Our Time in the Wilderness

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Soup Supper at 6:00 PM
Prayer Service at 7:00 PM

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