

SPORTS

FOOTBALL

► continued from B1

The Falls set up its first touchdown less than a minute later when senior Cody Hallin ran back the ensuing kickoff 73 yards inside Cloquet's 10-yard line.

"I think our special teams played very well, better than they have in a while," Boyle said. "We had a few returns that were very close to taking it to the house, so I was very happy with our special team effort."

The Broncos got on the scoreboard when sophomore quarterback Jakob Eide connected with senior running back Jakob Ettestad for a 6-yard touchdown pass with 5:52 to play in the first quarter. The Falls continued to trail by a point at 7-6 when the run for the 2-point conversion failed.

Cloquet had the ball around midfield and pulled back in front by seven less than a minute later when Niemi broke tackles on a touchdown pass from senior quarterback Maxxton Brenner. Niemi missed the extra point as the score remained 13-6.

A series of three turnovers — two from the Broncos and one from the Lumberjacks — preceded Cloquet scoring its third touchdown of the quarter.

A fumble by Falls junior running back Nehemiah Olson gave the Lumberjacks the ball on the Broncos' 27-yard line. However, the Falls' Ben Humbert stopped Cloquet with an interception as the Broncos regained possession on their 23-year-line.

Eide then threw one of his two interceptions for the game as Cloquet got the ball back on Falls' 18-yard line. Backus scored his second rushing touchdown and Niemi added the extra point to give the Lumberjacks a 20-6 lead with 1:32 to play in the opening quarter.

For the game, the Broncos had seven fumbles and lost four of them to go along with the two interceptions for six turnovers, compared to one interception and no fumbles for Cloquet.

"I don't think (the number of turnovers) was the deciding factor, but it's obviously something that we did far too much of and we need to fix," Boyle said. "We need to rededicate efforts to ball security, make sure we're taking those drills



STAFF PHOTOS BY KEVIN BONESKE

In front, Cloquet's Austin Gotchnik is tackled by the Broncos' Luke Spilde in Friday's Sea Range Conference game. Also shown for the Falls are Ben Humbert (2) and Nehemiah Olson (21).



The Broncos' Ben Humbert (2) lines up wide for a 2-point conversion play while being covered by Cloquet's Zachary Gerlach (10) in Friday's Sea Range Conference game.

seriously, and we absolutely need to do better."

The Falls started its final scoring drive late in the first quarter from its own 20-yard line and capped it off with 9:04 left before halftime by Olson's 23-yard rushing touchdown. The score remained 20-12 after the pass for the 2-point conversion failed.

The Lumberjacks then closed out the first half with three touchdowns.

Backus' third rushing touchdown from 38 yards away came with 6:03 remaining in the second quarter.

After the Broncos' Luke Spilde returned the ensuing kickoff to Cloquet's 48-yard line, the Lumberjacks soon were back on offense when they recovered a fumble on their own 45.

Cloquet junior running back Kyle Klatt extended the lead to three touchdowns by running the ball into the end zone from 41 yards away with 4:36 left in the first half.

The Lumberjacks were able to score again after recovering a fumble on the Broncos' 35-yard line with 30.1 seconds to play before halftime. Brenner called

his own number to run in the end zone from 2 yards away as time expired. Niemi added the extra point to give Cloquet a 40-12 lead at intermission.

The Lumberjacks, who received the second-half kickoff, started the third quarter on offense from their own 40-yard line, where senior running back Austin Gotchnik ran 60 yards for a touchdown on the first play. Cloquet remained in front 46-12 after the extra point failed.

Neither team scored again as the reserve players saw action as the second half progressed.

The Lumberjacks ended up outgaining the Broncos in total yardage, 420-240. Both teams ran the ball primarily with Cloquet also having more yardage on the ground, 284-193.

Ettestad accounted for almost half of Falls' rushing yardage when he ran for 95 yards on 20 carries. Olson added 58 yards on 15 rushing attempts.

The loss dropped the Broncos' season record to 1-1 overall and 0-1 in the Sea Range Conference, while Cloquet is 2-0 overall and 1-0 in conference play.

The Falls will play its 100th season home opener at 7 p.m. Friday against Proctor at Sports Stadium.

Cloquet	46	I. Falls	12
I. Falls	6	6	0 0 - 12
Cloquet	20	20	6 0 - 46

Turnover-prone Ponder must improve for Vikings

EDEN PRAIRIE (AP) — The Minnesota Vikings are set up to win without commanding performances by Christian Ponder.

This run-first team that relies on stingy defense, favorable field position and strong special teams play doesn't need Ponder to put on a passing clinic each week. But if he continues to play the way he did in the season opener, the Vikings soon will have to find a new quarterback.

Ponder not only struggled with his accuracy again during the 34-24 loss at Detroit, he failed to produce the important completions to finish drives. The Vikings might have been able to overcome those problems, but Ponder also was responsible for four turnovers against a Lions team he beat twice last year.

"You have to be exceptional to win those games when you finish minus in the turnover ratio," coach Leslie Frazier said. "We haven't shown that we are exceptional to be able to do that."

Ponder's midseason problems were so glaring in 2012 they cast a shadow over his whole year, despite these combined statistics in the first four and last four games: eight touchdown passes, a completion percentage of 64.9 and only one interception. Oh, and that 7-1 record for the team.

There was enough success to create a blueprint that Ponder could follow to become a capable starter for the Vikings for years to come, but there were also so many red flags that he entered his third NFL season under as much scrutiny as any quarterback in the league.

After qualifying for the playoffs with a 10-6 record last year, well, the speculation was only natural about how a weak passing game was wasting Adrian Peterson's prime and the rest of the talent on the roster.

The biggest problem for the Vikings, for all their players who've been to a Pro Bowl or were high draft picks with potential, is they can't overcome an off game as quickly or as easily as other teams.

Part of that is the nature of relying on a running back as their primary weapon. The biggest challenge, though, is Ponder hasn't shown the ability to consistently complete the passes the Vikings

need for a late comeback or to keep the kickers on the sideline. Until then, he's either limited or, worse, a liability.

He threw two second-quarter interceptions Sunday, one that the Lions turned into a touchdown. A third throw, for Jarius Wright on a short out route, would've been picked off and returned for a score had Bill Bentley not dropped it. Then in the fourth, Ponder tripped and failed to give Peterson a clean handoff. The fumble was recovered by the Lions and, again, turned into a touchdown.

"We knew coming into this game that we would have a chance but we would have to play flawlessly," Ponder said. "It's a divisional game on the road. It's tough to win."

Amid the ugliness of that second quarter, Ponder flashed some rays of hope. Fred Evans batted a ball at the line that Erin Henderson intercepted one play after Ponder's second pass of the game was picked off.

Ponder then connected with tight end Kyle Rudolph for 21 yards and Jerome Simpson for 44 yards to set up a short touchdown scamper by Peterson. With that one and a diving, over-the-shoulder catch Simpson later made for a 47-yard gain, Ponder had two completions that would've ranked third and fifth on his 2012 list of longest passes.

"He did some good things, and you've just got to develop that consistency all the way throughout," Frazier said. "He did play with a lot of confidence at times, but you want it to be consistent throughout, over the course of four quarters."

The wide receivers played well, further highlighting Ponder's problems. Simpson caught seven passes for 140 yards.

"It's always frustrating, but you've just got to forget about it and move on to next week, the Chicago game," Simpson said. "I believe in the guy, and he's going to come back even stronger and more confident this next week."



Christian Ponder

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Koochiching County
SAP 036-598-029 (CR 71) Bridge replacement
BIDS CLOSE Wednesday, October 2, 2013 at 2:00 pm, local time

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS: Sealed proposals will be received by the Board of County Commissioners of Koochiching County, Int'l. Falls, Minnesota until **2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 2, 2013** at the office of the County Auditor/Treasurer in the Koochiching County Courthouse 715 4th Street Int'l. Falls, Minnesota 56649 at which time they will be opened and read publicly for the following:

Project Designation: SAP 036-598-029 (CR 71) Bridge replacement and grading on CR 71

Project Location: On CR 71, appx. 0.8 miles east of TH 65, appx. 6.75 miles south of Littlefork. Total Length – 0.04 miles, incl. bridge approach work

Major Project Quantities include:

- removal of existing timber bridge (appx. 22' long), Existing Bridge No. 93477
- 64 lin. Ft. of 10 ft. x 7 ft. precast concrete box culvert (2 lines x 32 ft. long = 64 ft., excluding aprons)
- appx. 681 CY of Common Excavation
- appx. 287 CU YD of Common Borrow
- appx. 386 tons of Aggregate Base Class 5

Project Start Date: No later than **October 21, 2013**

Project Completion Date: Within 10 working days of start date, and no later than **November 1, 2013**

Proposals, Plans and Specifications are available at:

Koochiching County Highway Department
715 4th Street
Int'l. Falls, MN 56449

Cost for Plans: Cost of one set of plans and proposals is \$75 (Minnesota State Sales Tax Included). There is no cost for electronic plans and specs, they are at <https://egram.co.koochiching.mn.us> or phone (218) 283-1186 or email to joseph.sutherland@co.koochiching.mn.us.

Bidder's Bond: Bids must be accompanied by a certified check or bidder's bond made payable to the Treasurer of Koochiching County in an amount not less than 5% of the total bid.

Bid shall be plainly marked on the exterior of the containing envelope: **"2013 Box Culvert, Letting Date, October 2, 2013"**.

The County Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive irregularities and informalities therein, and to award the contract in the best interests of Koochiching County.

Dated at International Falls, Minnesota **September 3, 2013.**

Joe Sutherland, Koochiching County Highway Engineer
Phone: 218-283-1186
Email: joe.sutherland@co.koochiching.mn.us

BACKUS COMMUNITY CENTER

Season Tickets for Backus Concert Series 2013-2014
All concerts 7:00 p.m. at Backus Auditorium

September 28, 2013

Chris Koza, Singer/Songwriter Folk/Rock Band
"Rogue Valley"

October 14, 2013

The Rose Ensemble, Vocal/Instrumental
"The Roots of Bluegrass"

November 8, 2013

Hard Travelin' with Woody (Guthrie)
Randy Noojin (One Man Show)

February 28 & March 1, 2014

Touring production of "The Mill" by
Jeannine Coulombe (1989 labor unrest in Int'l Falls)

March 22, 2014

The Galactic Cowboy Orchestra
Original/Traditional Bluegrass

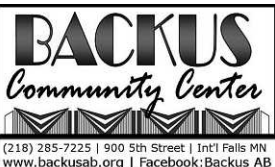
Season Tickets:

Adult \$45.00
Family \$95.00
Student \$10.00

Single Admission:

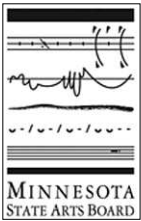
Adult \$12.00
Family \$25.00
Student \$6.00

Tickets available at Backus Office, City Drug and Betty's in Fort Frances



These concerts are made possible by the voters of Minnesota through the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund and a grant from the Marshall N. Knudson Family Community Fund.

Visit our website www.backusab.org or find us on facebook – Backus AB



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AGENDA

Special City Council Meeting

Thursday, September 12, 2013

4:30 P.M.

Council Chamber

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL

NEW BUSINESS

1. Adopt 2014 preliminary budget and levy
2. Any other business

ADJOURNMENT