

SPORTS



Women's hockey
Voyageurs recruit four forwards from Fort Frances
B2

QUICK HITS

Ben Humbert named to All-IRC, All-Area

International Falls junior Ben Humbert has received a pair of honors following the 2013-14 boys basketball season.

Humbert, a 6-3 forward, has been named to the All-Iron Range Conference boys basketball team and the Duluth NewsTribune's All-Area second team.

This past season, Humbert tallied 572 points, 382 rebounds (153 offensive and 229 defensive) and 120 assists, averaging 21.2 points, 14.2 rebounds, 4.4 assists and 1.9 steals per game.

Humbert is also the Broncos' career leader in points (1,595), rebounds (1,022) and assists (339).

Another player on Falls' boys basketball team, 5-9 senior guard Cody Hallin, was named to the All-IRC defensive team.

Ben Gordon tallies 4 points in CHL playoffs

Tulsa Oilers forward Ben Gordon of International Falls scored two goals and added two assists last weekend when No. 7-seeded Tulsa opened the Central Hockey League playoffs at home by splitting two games against the No. 2-seeded Denver Cutthroats.

Gordon scored both of the Oilers' goals Saturday in their 4-2 loss to the Cutthroats in game 2 of the best-of-seven series.

He recorded a pair of assists Friday when Tulsa opened the series with a 4-3 victory over Denver. Another Oiler player from the Falls, Drew Fisher, also had an assist.

The series tied at 1-1 between Tulsa and Denver resumes today with the Cutthroats hosting game 3. Games 4 and 5 of the series will also be held in Denver this coming Friday and Saturday.

Mighty Mustangs qualify 21 for state

The Mighty Mustangs have qualified 21 local wrestlers for the northern Minnesota Jaycees State Youth Wrestling Tournament taking place this Saturday in Grand Rapids.

The Mighty Mustangs' state qualifiers, by grade/weight and name, include: PreK/37, Austin Randal; PreK/41, Kalvan Silvers; PreK/46, Parker Wiersema; K/42, Pablo Christianson; K/42, Trent Stenberg; K/48, Ashden Lennox; K/48, Kyan Swanson; K/52 Wyatt Jantzen; 1/44, Charlie Banmert; 2/53, Kalan Kittelson; 2/55, Carter Ellison; 2/59, Dawsyn Silvers; 2/70, Noah Armstrong; 3/76, Pierce Gouin; 3/90, Hudson Mann; 3/109, Nick Bernath; 4/65, Anthony Bechik; 4/83, Diego Christianson; 4/138, Nathan Anderson; 5/113, Cody Jantzen; 6/115, London Rasmussen.

GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD

Broncos win indoors at UWS

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Four first places and three runner-up finishes out of 14 events helped propel the International Falls girls track and field team to the top spot out of 15 teams scoring points at Saturday's Virginia indoor meet held at the University of Wisconsin-Superior.

The Broncos topped the team standings with 122.5 points, followed by Cloquet (92.5) Hermantown (84), Eveleth-Gilbert (54) and Mesabi East (49) rounding out the top five.

"We had a few girls missing from the roster but many of the schools competing (Saturday) were in the same situation where they didn't have a full team participating in the meet," said Falls head coach Jen Erickson. "The girls are having a great indoor season but we still have a lot of work to do before the big meets in May. Everything changes when we get outside and add four more events to the meet."

Broncos senior sprinter Breanna Shofner won the 200-meter dash (27.1 seconds) and finished runner-up in the 60 dash (8.2). Another Falls sprinter, sophomore Madeline Dahle, finished fifth in the 200 dash (29.8) and seventh in the 60 dash (8.71).

Shofner and Dahle joined freshmen Claire Herzig and



The Broncos' Lexi Erickson runs a leg of the girls 4X400-meter relay in Saturday's indoor meet at the University of Wisconsin-Superior. The Falls finished the race third in 4 minutes, 40.36 seconds.

Valandre Butler to place first in Falls' 4X200 relay (1:55.83).

"The girls really pulled together and worked hard to win this meet," Shofner

said. "I am really proud of this team and excited to see what we can do when everyone is able to perform

Broncos to B2 ➤



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

In front, the Broncos' Breanna Shofner reaches back to receive the baton from Claire Herzig during the girls 4X200-meter relay in Saturday's indoor meet at the University of Wisconsin-Superior. The Falls finished the race first in 1 minute, 55.83 seconds.

BOYS AND GIRLS GOLF PREVIEW

Broncos return three individual state qualifiers

Kelly Blair takes over as head coach

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor

Three individual state qualifiers return in 2014 to the International Falls boys and girls golf teams, which will have a new head coach this season.



Kelly Blair

Kelly Blair, a 2012 FHS graduate who qualified for state her junior season in high school and has also played golf at the collegiate level at Bemidji State University, enters her first season as the Broncos' head coach, replacing Bill Mason, who had been in

charge of the Falls' golf program the past 18 years.

The Broncos' only graduation loss is on the boys side with Zach Manka having played his senior season last year. Both teams are comprised primarily of underclassmen with three of the four golfers past their freshman year being state qualifiers in 2013.

Falls' girls team returns a pair of state qualifiers. Junior Jenna Anderson came in 40th at the 2013 Class AA State Meet, while senior Katie West finished 70th at state. Five other girls on the varsity roster – Kaitlin Stallard, Olivia Besch, Tess Volloom, Sydney Anderson and Shelby Tanner – are all freshmen.

The boys team returns senior Brady Walls, who placed 44th at last year's Class AA State Meet. Other top returning boys golfers include sophomore Eric Cann and freshmen

Brady Wright and Riley Nemec. The varsity roster also includes freshmen Josh Milette, Dakota Hanson, Brock O'Loughlin and Austin VanHeel.

Blair said the this year's teams are young and competitive with "a lot of returning varsity players."

In her first season as head coach, she said she is looking forward to "a fun and successful season getting to know the players."

Blair said the teams to watch out for in 2014 include Hermantown and Virginia, while the Broncos' goals this season include sending both the boys and girls teams to state.

She said the "weather is always the challenge" with the spring golf season. The lingering snowfall from this winter has already affected this year's golf opener with Falls' boys and girls teams having

Golf to B2 ➤



FILE PHOTO

The Broncos' Katie West, shown putting during last year's Class AA State Tournament at the Ridges at Sand Creek in Jordan, will be seeking her second consecutive trip to state this season as a senior.

MEN'S BASEBALL

Voyageurs split twin bill with Central Lakes

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

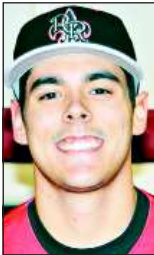
The Rainy River Community College baseball team found a playable site Monday for a doubleheader against Central Lakes at Veterans Field in Minnetonka, where both games went into extra innings.

In game one, the Voyageurs scored three runs in the seventh inning to tie the game at 4-4 and force extra innings. However, RRCC ended up losing, 5-4, in nine innings.

The Voyageurs stranded 12 runners on base for the



Colten Boudreau



Gino Strebing

game. Tanner Helms ended up as the losing pitcher of record.

RRCC 4, CENTRAL LAKES 3

In game two, RRCC trailed Central Lakes, 3-0,

before scoring three runs to tie it up at 3-3 and again head to extra innings.

The Voyageurs drove in the game-winning run in the bottom of the eighth inning when Colten Boudreau hit a walk-off triple for a 4-3 victory. Boudreau, who batted 2-4, also singled and had a stolen base.

RRCC's Gino Strebing pitched five innings and struck out 12 batters in a no-decision appearance. Strebing allowed all three runs, two earned. Joseph Hudson picked up his first college career win on the

mound coming in the game in relief.

Voyageurs head coach Josh Koenig said the team has had consistent pitching and shown improvement on defense this season, but he noted the "last piece of the puzzle" for RRCC is to be more consistent at the plate and come up with "timely hits" to drive runners home.

The Voyageurs, whose season record stood at 6-10 following the split with Central Lakes, had another doubleheader Tuesday at Veterans Field

in Minnetonka against Anoka-Ramsey. Results from those games will be published in Saturday's edition of The Journal.

RRCC next plays a pair of doubleheaders this coming Saturday and Sunday in LaCrescent.

Game one
Central Lakes 5, Rainy River 4
RRCC 0-1-0 0-0-0 3-0-0 - 4 8 1
C. Lakes 1-2-0 1-0-0 0-0-1 - 5 6 1

Game two
Rainy River 4, Central Lakes 3
C. Lakes 1-0-2 0-0-0 0-0 - 3 5 1
RRCC 0-0-0 0-0-1 2-1 - 4 5 1

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Thursday's games
Girls softball
L-BF at Cherry, 4:30 p.m.

Saturday's games
Men's baseball
RRCC vs. Fond du Lac/
Western Tech at LaCrescent,
12:30/3 p.m.

Women's softball
RRCC vs. Vermilion in Twin
Valley, TBA

Sunday's games
Men's baseball
RRCC vs. Vermilion/
Western Tech at LaCrescent,
12:30/3 p.m.

Women's softball
RRCC vs. Mesabi Range in
Twin Valley, TBA