

## 2006-07

**Volleyball 6-19** Coach Helen Jahr Riverland Community College returns three sophomores and has added six first year players to a team trying to get back to the state tournament after an absence last year. Rachael Jahr, Danielle Hewitt, and Laura Amundson provide a better defensive club than year's past according to Coach Jahr who enters her 13<sup>th</sup> season as the head coach. Waldorf JV's topped the Lady Blue Devils in the opener, using late rallies in all three games to win 30-23, 31-29, and 30-21. Riverland participated in the Ridgewater tournament and won one and lost two matches to drop to 1-3 on the season. Rachael Jahr had 26 assists in the three matches. In the conference opener, Ridgewater swept Riverland 30-23, 30-14, and 30-23. "It may be the best team I have seen in my thirteen years" said Coach Jahr. Defensive specialist Amy Mortensen recorded 18 digs on the night. Fergus Falls dominated the Blue Devils at the net while winning 30-15, 30-27, and 31-29 in conference action, dropping RVLD to 1-5 overall and 0-2 in the division. Riverland brought home a fourth place finish in the Rochester Invitational, winning two and losing two matches. In the opener, Riverland lost to Ridgewater 30-18, 30-14. They would rebound with a 30-25, 28-30, 15-9 win over Western Technical College. Riverland continued its winning ways with a 30-13, 30-9 win over Mid-State Technical College before falling to Fergus Falls in the third place match, losing 30-15, 30-28. "The best of our play was primarily on defense and we didn't have a lot of hitting statistics" said Coach Jahr. RVLD improves to 3-7 overall. Riverland struggled in committing 26 hitting errors and lost to MN West 26-30, 15-30, 29-31 in division action. "That's just too many errors to win a match with" said a disappointed Coach Helen Jahr. The Lady Blue Devils came away with two wins in LaCrosse, defeating Milwaukee Area Technical College 30-21, 3-20 and then knocking off host Western Technical College 30-23, 30-27. Marie Boe led with 11 kills, 22 digs, and 5 aces. Riverland Community College improves to 5-8 overall, but 0-3 in the conference. Rochester upended RVLD 30-24, 30-19, 30-17 to keep the Blue Devils winless in the conference. NIACC boasted a front line of a number of six footers and defeated RVLD 30-20, 30-23, 30-18 in non-conference action. "We lost in all three but played pretty well" said Coach Jahr whose team drops to 5-10 on the season. On parent's night at the gym, Riverland could not hold any leads and lost 30-21, 30-12, and 31-29 to the visiting Golden Rams from Anoka-Ramsey and staying winless in the division (0-5).

In the second round of the conference, Ridgewater handed Riverland a 30-9, 30-18, 30-18 a conference loss. MN West and WWTI would hand Riverland Community College two more losses to extend their losing streak to six matches. Power hitting at the net allowed Rochester to beat Riverland 30-22, 30-25, 24-30, 30-23 in southern division action. RVLD drops to 5-15 overall and 0-8 in the conference. Fergus Falls defeated the Lady Blue Devils 30-22, 30-26, 31-29 in a tightly contested division match. Riverland Community College wrapped up its conference season 0-10 with 3-1 setback to Anoka-Ramsey. The Lady Blue Devils won game two 30-26 after losing the first game 27-30. Game three and four went to the Rams, 30-19 and 30-23. RVLD ended on a winning note in Brainerd in the crossover tournament. After dropping its first two matches to Hibbing and Northland, the Lady Blue Devils topped Vermilion 30-25, 30-19 to salvage a win in its season finale. Danielle Hewitt was 15 for 15 serving with 4 aces in the victory. Hewitt and Willow Langerfeld each slammed home five kills and Rachael Jahr hoisted 17 set assists. Riverland finished the season 6-19 and 0-10 in the conference. Jahr was named to the Southern All-Division team.

#### Roster

Rachael Jahr	Danielle Hewitt	Laura Amundson
Amy Mortensen	Amanda Stoltz	Dena Blaschko
Willow Langerfeld	Marie Boe	Cassie Davis

**GOLF (men)** Coach David Lillemon Riverland opened its season with a four team meet at the Oaks Golf course in Hayfield. RVLD has three veterans returning, and despite not having two of the golfers (Vance Helgeland and Brett Wuerflein), the Blue Devils shot a 343 and brought home third place. Sophomore Matt Bennett, freshmen Tyler Fett and Casey Velt all tied with 84's to lead RVLD. Riverland Community College hosted its second meet in Albert Lea and finished 5<sup>th</sup> with a 326 score. Central Lakes won the six team event with a 293 score. Brett Wuerflein of RVLD shot a 71 and finished second to Derek Harris (71) of Central Lakes. Riverland did not field a team at Rochester but Casey Velt led them with an 87. The Blue Devils traveled to Madison to play on the course to be hosted for the Regional tournament and came away wet and nine holes short. The 15-field tournament was rained out after nine holes. Tyler Fett and Brett Wuerflein each had a 41, while Bennett (42) and Matt Schilling (44) were close behind. Riverland would field a team of three at MN West, and were led by Casey Vilt with an 87, and Fett (90) and Schilling (91) rounded out the scoring.

Riverland Community College traveled to Century and competed in a six team tournament. Rain again shortened the event to nine holes with Central Lakes winning the tournament (148), with RVLD firing a 163. Tyler Fett of Riverland was the medalist with a one over par round of 36. “The guys were on pace to their lowest score of the season” said a pleased Coach David Lillemon. Matt Bennett had a 39, Matt Schilling fired a 41. Riverland won its own invite at the Austin Country Club, shooting a 336. Brett Wuerflein and Bennett tied for medalists, each shooting an 80. In their past three meets that they have participated, Riverland’s Bennett, Wuerflein, and Tyler Fett each have been an overall medalist. “I really like these three men chances as we approach the state and regional tournaments next week. After the opening round of the MCCC state and Region XIII tournament at Madison, Riverland found themselves in fifth place out of thirteen teams (in the region scoring) and fourth out of ten teams in the state. After firing a 329 opening 18 holes of play, Coach Lillemon was pleased with his team’s effort. Matt Bennett was low with a 78, followed by Brett Wuerflein’s 80, who recorded an eagle on a par 4. “He slammed dunked it from 125 yards out” said Lillemon. Tyler Fett fired an 82, followed by Matt Schilling’s 89. The Blue Devils would shoot a 328 the following day and finish in 6<sup>th</sup> in the Region and 5<sup>th</sup> overall in the state, with a two day total of 657. Wuerflein was the Blue Devil’s low man with a two day total of 156 (80-76). He finished 11<sup>th</sup> overall and missed qualifying for the national tournament by two strokes. Other final results for the final day of the season for the Blue Devils were Bennett (78-82) with a 160, Fett (85-82) had a 187, Casey Velt (95-85), and Schilling (89-85). Brett Wuerflein earned All-Region honors with a top 15 finish out of 65 golfers who participated from the three-state region. Roster included: Matt Bennett, Matt Schilling, Eric Buntrock, Ben McCaulley, Casey Vilt, Tyler Fett, and Vance Helgeland.

**GOLF (women)** Coach David Lillemon The women's team was comprised of seven freshmen and no returning veterans. In their first meet hosted by Riverland at Albert Lea, Tracee Crowley shot a 122 while Beth Fynbo fired a 133. There were no team scores for the women. Liz Morrill, KK Hauge, Lindsay Larson, Amanda Follmuth, and Kim Bestul are the other women participating. Crowley was the lone participant in the MN West invitational and she shot 75-60=135 in tough windy and cold conditions. She would follow that up with her best score at Oakdale, MN with a 45 on the front side (rain cancelled the back nine). No other golfers participated in any tournaments the remainder of the season.  
Roster included: Beth Fynbo, Liz Morrill, Lindsay Larson, KK Hauge, Amanda Follmuth, Kim Bestul, and Tracee Crowley.

**Basketball (women's)** 5-19 Coach Suzy Hebrink Returning for her eighth year, Coach Hebrink returns four veterans including center Anna Huvumaki, guards Tibisa Thor and Nikki Lehnertz, and forward Laura Amundson. Five freshmen join the group in an always tough southern division. In the season opener on the road, Riverland was unable to hold its halftime lead (30-28) and lost 72-58 to non-conference foe Central Lakes. Huvumaki led the way with 17 points and Tibisa Thor added 15 in the loss. For the second straight game, the Lady Blue Devils saw a close first half turn into a double digit loss to Northland 66-55 in the opening round of the MN West tournament in Worthington. Six-footer Anna Havumaki again led RVLD with 17 points while Tracee Crowley chipped in with 11 tallies. Poor offense led to a second defeat in the MN West classic as Sioux Falls (S.D.) junior varsity pounded Riverland 64-46. Point guard Tibisa Thor poured in 20 points to lead all scorers while Havumaki added 11. Riverland dropped to 0-3 on the season. In the home opener, a lack of outside shooting led to a 64-61 loss to Western Wisconsin Technical College. "We've had the open shots but we have struggled from the perimeter in the first four games" said Coach Suzy Hebrink. Anna Havumaki had a game high 21 points followed by Tibisa Thor, who had 14 points, 8 rebounds and 6 assists. Riverland held North Iowa CC to a season low point total but it was not enough as the Iowans defeated the Lady Blue Devils 55-43 in non-conference action. Tracee Crowley and center Havumaki each had 10 points to lead Riverland Community College who are 0-5 on the season. RVLD scored a season low 14 points in the the second half and lost to Itasca CC 73-47. Tibisa Thor was the only Riverland player in double figures with 10 points on the night.

Nikki Lehnertz broke out her recent shooting slump with a game high 19 points but here wasn't enough balance as Northland upended Riverland 74-54 to keep the Lady Blue Devils winless on the season (0-7). "We're struggling big time and can't find any rhythm" said a disappointed Coach Hebrink. "We have to get over this losing hump or it will be a long season". Riverland fell to Des Moines Area CC 80-45 in a non-conference tilt. Kim Bestul led Riverland with a team high 13 points on the night. The Lady Blue Devils was oh-so-close to taste its first victory but turnovers down the stretch cost them a win as the fell 57-56 to Rainy River Community College. Leading 53-47 late in the half, RVLD turned the ball over four consecutive times to fall short in their ninth attempt to win their first ballgame. Lehnertz led with 13 and Thor chipped in with 11 points in the defeat. Riverland Community College (1-9) captured its first win of the season with a 61-51 win over Hibbing Community College. Anna Havumaki posted a double/double in scoring 22 points and hauling down 13 rebounds to lead the way to victory. Tibisa Thor, Havumaki, and Lehnertz combined for 53 points but it wasn't enough as the Lady Blue Devils suffered a 71-60 setback to WWTI in the second meeting of the season. In the final contest before the break, Riverland lost in the closing seconds 53-49 to Ellsworth CC in non-conference action. Tied at 49-48 with 13 seconds to go, Ellsworth connected on a shot a took two point lead only to see Tibisa Thor's 15-footer fall short with six seconds remaining to lose for the 11<sup>th</sup> time in 12 contests this season. Thor led RVLD with 16 points while center Anna Havumaki added 11 points and 6 rebounds before fouling out. In the opening game of the MCCC conference, Riverland lost 82-55 to Minneapolis C & TC. The Lady Blue Devils had no answer for the outside shooting of the Marauders (canned seven treys). Havumaki led RVLD with 18 points and 10 rebounds. Rochester handed Riverland its second conference defeat with a 60-51 win over the Blue Devils. Seventeen offensive rebounds kept Riverland in the contest but 28% shooting kept them from a victory. The loss drop Riverland to 1-13 overall and 0-2 in the league. The Lady Blue Devils blew a halftime lead and lost 60-49 to Ridgewater College as Anna Havumaki was the only player in the double figures with 19 points in the division loss. Riverland put an end to a five game losing streak with a 56-40 win over MSCTC-Fergus Falls. Tibisa Thor paced Riverland with 23 points (21 in the first half), while Nikki Lehnertz tallied 16 points. "We badly needed a win and this was a big lift" said Coach Suzy Hebrink. Riverland Community College lost to MN West 61-48 in southern division play to drop to 0-4 in the league and 2-15 overall. Tibisa Thor led all scorers with 18 points while Tracee Cowley chipped in with 11 tallies.

Top ranked Anoka Ramsey manhandled the Lady Blue Devils 80-29 in a lopsided loss that saw the Austin squad unable to do anything, according to Coach Suzy Hebrink. Riverland bounced back with their first conference win by upending Minneapolis & Technical College 80-60 (RVLD lost by 30 points in their first meeting with Minneapolis). Thor led the victory with 25 points (including four treys) and ignited a 13-0 run to finish the game. Crowley added 13 points in the win. Anna Havumaki made a pair of free throws with five seconds to go to give Riverland a 72-71 victory over Fergus Falls in overtime for their second straight win. “This was a huge win” said an elated Coach Hebrink. “We over-came foul trouble and battled the whole way. Our kids played a great game”. Nikki Lehnertz hit for a team high 21 points while Havumaki had 18 tallies. Thor added 16 and Crowley chipped in with 11 points. Tibisa Thor led a balanced attack as Riverland Community College beat Ridgewater College 62-59 for their third straight victory. Tibisa Thor had a team high 16 points, followed by Crowley with 15, Lehnertz with 14 and Havumaki with 11 points. The win improved Riverland’s record to 5-16 overall. Rochester ended Riverland’s winning streak emphatically with a 36 point win over the Lady Blue Devils. The final score was 77-41 and from the tip off RVLD was never in the game. “We forgot how to play defense as they had so many easy shots inside” said a dejected Coach Suzy Hebrink. Tibisa Thor was the only player in double figures with 11 points. Minnesota West overcame an early deficit and defeated Riverland 69-61 in conference action. Thor led all scorers with 22 and Tracee Crowley added 11 points, ten in the second half. In the seasons finale at home, Riverland lost to number one rated Anoka Ramsey 60-50 in a very respectable game (this is the same team that handed RVLD a 51 point loss earlier in the year). “Our kids showed a lot of character” said a satisfied Coach Hebrink. “We battled the top team in the state the whole way. We played pretty well over the final three weeks and it was a good way for our team to finish the season”. Thor led her team with 14 points, who finished the season 5-19. Tibisa Thor was named to the All-MCCC southern division team along with earning All-State honors.

#### Roster Included:

Anna Havumaki	Tibisa Thor	Nikki Lehnertz
Laura Amundson	Tracee Crowley	Amanda McGuire
Heather Manahan	Kim Bestul	Cassie Davis

Ass’t Coach: Gary Erlandson

**Basketball (men) 10-15** Coach Dan Swift Dan Swift takes over the Riverland Community College program and replaces Darin Johnson who resigned in the spring. Swift becomes only the third coach in the last 20 years at the college. The Blue Devils return the starting guards from last year (Derek Roeder & DiJon Reese) and with a good group of prospects, the outlook is promising. In the season opener, Riverland lost a six point lead with four minutes to go and lost to Central Lakes 72-66. Roeder led the way with 20 points, while Edwyn Johnson tallied 19 points. The Blue Devils put four guys in double figures but lost to high powered Northland C &TC 101-75 in the MN West Classic. RVL D led 42-41 at halftime but could not stop Northland in the second half. Eddy Jensen led with 18 points followed by Lou Troszak with 13. Ryan Barthles and DiJon Reese each contributed with 10 points. Riverland recorded its first win of the season as they beat Hibbing CC 96-69 in the second game of the MN West Classic. Jensen again led with 22 points, followed by Roeder (19), Reese (18), Trosak and Mike Kraft each with 13 points. The win improved Riverland's record to 1-2 on the season. Free throw shooting was the difference as Riverland upended WWTI 71-69 in non-conference action. RVL D shot 11 of 13 at the line while WWTI was 7 for 17. Derek Roeder led the home team attack with 19 points, followed by DiJon Reese with 18 and Eddy Johnson who contributed with 15 points and 8 rebounds. A barrage of turnovers and a fast paced outfit from Mason City resulted in a 117-52 loss to NIACC to end the Blue Devils two game winning streak. Reese and Jensen each had 13 points to lead Riverland Community College. RVL D handed Itasca Community College a 65-62 loss in non-league action. DiJon Reese tallied a team high 26 points followed by Eddie Jensen's 15 that saw this tightly contested game go right down to the wire. The win improved the Blue Devil's record to 3-3 on the season. Northland defeated Riverland for the second time 73-59, jumping out to a 27-point lead at halftime. "We won the second half by a double digit margin and this will give us some confidence in our next contest" said Coach Dan Swift. Derek Roeder led with 21 points, followed by Eddy Jensen with 18. Playing in front of boisterous crowd, the Blue Devils battled Des Moines Area CC to the buzzer only to lose 76-66 to the third ranked team in NJCAA Division II. Roeder and Reese led Riverland with 18 points each on the night. Eddy Jensen also was in double figures with a dozen for RVL D, who dropped to 3-5 on the year. The Blue Devils traveled up north for a pair and split the weekend series, losing 94-86 to Rainy River and defeating Hibbing 82-72. In the weekend opener, the Blue Devils rallied from 11 down at halftime to take a lead midway through the second half but could not hang on for the victory.

Roeder led all scorers with 26 points, followed by Eddy Jensen with 25. Clutch free throw shooting allowed Riverland to bounce back to get a split as they made 28 straight free throws to propel them over the Cardinals from Hibbing. Reese led the way with 20, followed by Mike Kraft with 12 and Jensen added 11. Riverland finished 29 of 32 from the line to improve to 4-6 on the season. The Blue Devils lost to WWTI 76-72 to settle for a split in the season series. The difference of the game was at the free throw line as the Cavaliers had 20 more attempts (19 for 36) than the Blue Devils (7 for 16). DiJon Reese poured in a game high 24 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to lead Riverland Community College. Roeder (17) and Jensen (13) were also in double figures. Riverland lost 86-60 to Ellsworth CC from Iowa and dropped to 4-8 on the year. Reese led again with 16, followed by Eddy Jensen with 16 points. Riverland now rests during the holidays before opening the league schedule after the break. In the conference opener, Minneapolis handed Riverland an 85-64 loss which saw the Marauders come out firing to begin the contest (6 of 10 treys in the first half). Derek Roeder led the attack with 16, while DiJon Reese had 11 points and 10 assists. "We had a long layoff and the slow start in the first half was the difference" said Coach Swift. Riverland lost to Rochester 88-74 in league play as Roeder had a game high 22 points in the loss for RVLD, who remains winless in the southern division (0-2). Riverland Community College built a big lead (as many as 20 points) in the second half and hung on to defeat Ridgewater College 87-84 in conference play. Derek Roeder had a season high 30 points to pace the RVLD attack. Four players reached double figures as DiJon Reese added 18, Chris Stinger tallied 13, and Eddy Jensen scored 10 points in the initial division victory. The Blue Devils climbed right back into the playoff picture with a 98-84 win at home over MSCTC-Fergus Falls. "Our big three scorers came through and everybody else did their job" said an elated Coach Dan Swift. Eddy Jensen led with 25, followed by Reese who had 23 and Roeder's 16 points. RVLD improves to 6-10 overall and 2-2 in the MCCC South. Chris Stringer led a second half comeback as Riverland defeated MN West 83-77 and moved the Blue Devils into a tie for third place in the southern division. Stringer had 17 of his 21 points in the second half while Derek Roeder also tallied 21 points, including three treys. Riverland's three-game winning streak was snapped as Anoka Ramsey upended the Blue Devils 77-62. Down 16-5 in the beginning, RVLD never recovered from the deficit. DiJon Reese led with 19 while Roeder had 13 and Eddy Jensen finished with 10 points. Riverland improved to 3-0 at home in divisional play with a stunning 90-74 win over Minneapolis.

It was the first time in 14 years Riverland Community College has beaten Minneapolis. Leading from the start, RVLD jumped to a 29-4 lead and never looked back as DiJon Reese poured in 31 points to lead all scorers. Roeder added 17, followed by Chris Stinger with 17 and Mike Polis who had 11. The win improved the Blue Devils to 8-11 overall and 4-3 in the south division. Fergus Falls got a season split by upending the Blue Devils 116-109 in a high scoring affair. RVLD shot 11 of 29 behind the arc and was led by Reese with 30 points. Eddy Jensen followed with 19, Chris Stinger had 18, Derek Roeder chipped in with 15 and Ryan Bartles had a dozen in the loss. Riverland took one step closer to the state tournament with a hard fought 78-73 win over Ridgewater College in division play, improving their record to 5-4 in the league and 9-12 overall. Balance again was the key with four players in double figures led by Jensen with 22 points and 10 rebounds. Rochester stopped the Blue Devil's home division winning streak at five games with an 86-79 victory. "We got off to a bad start (down 8-0) and had to chase them the whole way" said Coach Dan Swift". Derek Roeder had 22 to lead the way followed by Reese with 15 and Jensen with 14 points. Minnesota West erased a halftime lead by Riverland and blew the game open with a 92-71 win over the Blue Devils. The two teams came into the game tied for fourth place in the MCCC southern division. Eddy Jensen had 25 points to lead all scorers. Riverland Community College ended with a win in its final regular season game with a 76-51 win over Anoka Ramsey. Derek Roeder got the Blue Devils off to a good start with a pair of 3-pointers and led all scorers with 24 points. Eddy Jensen and DiJon Reese had 13 apiece in the victory. Due to a season ending loss by MN West, there is a tie for the fourth and final spot in the MCCC state tournament and by virtue of coin toss, RVLD will host a play-off game with MN West to determine the final spot. State tournament dreams were dashed as MN West defeated the Blue Devils 80-76 in the third meeting of the season of these two teams. Mike Polis led RVLD with 16 points, followed by Roeder with 14 and Chris Stringer's 11 points. The Blue Devils had the ball with 14 seconds to go and down three points but could not convert and end their season at 10-15. DiJon Reese was named to the All-Southern Division and MCCC All-State team. He was fourth in league scoring average (18.3) and led the league in assists with an 8.9 per game average. Reese set the all time assist record at Riverland with 195 assists in 22 games.

### Roster Included:

Derek Roeder	DiJon Reese	Abdul Wright
Lou Troszak	Josh Krell	Jake Bushlack
Mike Krueger	Chris Stinger	Shaun Martin
Ryan Bartles	Eddy Jensen	Mike Kraft

**Softball** 7-23 Coach David Lillemon Riverland Community College fielded a team for the first time in three years thanks in part to athletic director and new head coach David Lillemon. “I let the administration know I would be interested in taking the position over, so they reconstructed my contract and I became the coach in April and started recruiting from ground zero” Lillemon said. Fourteen student-athletes began the season, led by 2001 graduate Amber Wilson. Wilson was the only member on the team with any college experience (one year at Upper Iowa University). In the season opener on the road, RVLD lost to Dakota County Technical College 3-2 but rebounded with a 6-4 win in the nightcap. Wilson took the mound loss in the first game, giving up 7 hits and 3 earned runs but was able to come in pitch the final inning of game two to preserve the first win in three years at Riverland Community College. “What made the day so fun (playing inside the Irish Dome in Rosemount) is that this was our first day on any field the entire spring and did pretty well” said an elated Coach Lillemon. The Lady Blue Devils collected only three hits in the opener. Sam Schmidt led the team with two hits, two runs, and two RBI in the nightcap. This was a conference doubleheader rescheduled from 4/2 to open the season. Liz Morrill got the win scattering six hits. Iowa Lakes swept Riverland 9-0 and 11-0 in non-conference action. The Lady Blue Devils collected only two hits in the doubleheader and were no match for the Iowa team, who was playing their 20<sup>th</sup> contest of the season. Riverland again was shutout twice to JV’s from Luther College, losing 8-0 and 17-0. Both games RVLD were no hit. St. Cloud Technical College defeated the Lady Blue Devils 9-4 and 9-1 in conference action in a doubleheader played in the Husky Dome due to inclement weather. “It was nice to get a couple games and get on the field” said Coach Lillemon. Weather has been playing havoc on the spring schedule. Amanda McGuire and Amanda Follmuth each had two hits in the opener. Amber Wilson took the mound loss but four errors hurt the cause. In the nightcap, RVLD had four hits, with no one more than one apiece. The Lady Blue Devils drop to 1-3 in the MCCC southern division and 1-7 overall.

Riverland Community College was again forced inside with bad weather (snow storm) but managed to play two games with Fergus Falls in the Irish Dome in Rosemount. Amber Wilson was masterful, scattering six hits, walking none and striking out 8 batters in the opener. The defense was just as good as the Lady Blue Devils committed no errors and staked Wilson to an early 6-0 lead after two innings and went on to win game one 6-3 in divisional play. Tracee Crowley went 3 for 3 and Sam Schmidt had a two run triple in the first inning. The victory snapped a six game losing streak for Riverland Community College. Fergus Falls won the nightcap 14-5 to gain a split. Schmidt reached base four times in game two and scoring 3 runs while Amanda McGuire had three hits, including a double. RVLD was to travel to Worthington in its next contest but snow and ice forced the game to Austin and the Lady Blue Devils took advantage of it by sweeping MN West 5-0 and 3-2 in southern division action. Amber Wilson pitched both games, allowing six hits in each game. In the opener, Wilson walked the first three hitters, but centerfielder Sam Schmidt bailed her out after catching a fly ball and throwing a strike to home for a double play and the play sparked Wilson to throw her first shutout of the season. Schmidt had three hits, including two home runs and three RBI. Follmuth added two hits in the first game. In game two, MN West took an early 2-0 lead (both unearned runs) but RVLD came back with three runs in the third inning. The big blow was Amanda McGuire's two run double. "This was the best softball we have played this season" said an elated Coach David Lillemon. The Blue Devils have now won three of four games and climbed back to .500 in the conference (4-4) and 4-8 overall. RVLD lost a pair of close contests to division lead Ridgewater College, losing 2-1 and 11-7. Wilson was the tough luck loser in the opener as she allowed only four hits. The Lady Blue Devils out hit Ridgewater 6 to 4 and left eight runners on base and could not come up with the key hit. In game two, Riverland trailed 5-0 early but battled back and trailed 5-4 after five innings only to lose by four runs. Liz Morrill took the mound loss while Kim Bestul, Amanda Follmuth, Tracee Crowley, and Sam Schmidt all had two hits in the 12-hit attack. Key defensive plays in the seventh inning of both games led Riverland to a doubleheader sweep over Dakota County Technical College by the scores of 7-6 and 4-2. In the opener, Crowley went 3 for 3 and scored two runs and Sam Schmidt collected two hits. Amber Wilson was the winning pitcher going the distance. "Amber wasn't the sharpest but she battled and gave us a chance to win" said Coach Lillemon. The first game ended as Dakota County had loaded the bases in the seventh inning with one out.

A ground ball to second baseman KK Hauge led to a 4-6-3 double play and game one was in the books. Liz Morrill pitched her best game of the season in the nightcap, allowing only three hits, walking none and striking out six batters. RVLD led 4-0 going into the seventh inning but Dakota County rallied for two runs and had runners on second and third with one out. A shot to shortstop Amanda McGuire was snagged and she gunned down the runner at home and Morrill went to retire the last batter for a Riverland Community College sweep. The two wins improve the Lady Blue Devils record to 6-6 in the division and 6-10 overall. Sam Schmidt was named MCCC PLAYER OF THE WEEK for her play in last week. In six games the centerfielder went 10 for 17, scoring 10 runs and collecting 7 RBI as she led her team to three conference victories. Riverland dropped two games to Worthington in gale force winds, losing 11-2 and 16-8. RVLD collected 17 hits in the second game, led by Amanda McGuire going 4 for 4 with three runs scored. Amanda Follmuth had three hits while KK Hauge and Mehgan Vollbrecht each had two hits. Rochester swept Riverland in conference action by the scores of 5-0 and 9-7. Liz Morrill took the loss in game one which saw RVLD collect only four hits. In the second game, the Lady Blue Devils fell behind 7-1 after four innings but rallied for six runs in the 5th to tie the contest. Sam Schmidt capped the rally with a two run double. Kim Bestul, Vollbrecht and Amber Wilson all had two hits. Wilson took the loss in the nightcap. "Our girls battle all the way and gave them all they wanted" said Coach Lillemon. The loss drops RVLD to 6-14 overall and 6-10 in the league. Two weeks ago St. Cloud Technical College dominated Riverland but the Lady Blue Devils split with St. Cloud this time, losing a tough 5-2 contest in 10 innings before winning 5-2 in the nightcap. Both teams played errorless in game one as defense and pitching was the story. Liz Morrill went 9 plus innings, surrendering only two runs and striking out 11 batters but the flood gates opened in the 10<sup>th</sup> as St. Cloud plated 3 runs. RVLD had a chance to win the game in the 8<sup>th</sup> inning as they stranded two runners. In the nightcap, Amber Wilson dominated on the mound as she set down 12 of the final 13 batters and led Riverland Community College to the split. "I felt good coming into the game" said Wilson. "We got just hammered up there and it shows our improvement and we're willing to fight all the way through". She struck out six and did not walk a batter for Riverland, who improved to 7-11 in the division and 7-15 overall. Ridgewater College swept the Lady Blue Devils 11-0 and 9-1 in conference action. Wilson was forced into pitching both games to the top team in the conference who was too much for Riverland Community College.

Kim Bestul, Amanda Follmuth, and Tracee Crowley each had two hits in the 9-hit attack in the nightcap. Riverland struggled leaving runners on base as Fergus Falls picked up a pair of close contests, winning 4-2 and 5-2 over the Lady Blue Devils. After missing Friday's night contest, Liz Morrill allowed only two earned runs and struck out seven but had to work around five errors by her defense. The Blue Devils out-hit Fergus Falls 13 to 10, but left 13 runners on base. Crowley went 3 for 4 and Sam Schmidt and Follmuth each had two hits. Amber Wilson took the loss in game two, allowing six hits and five earned runs. "I am proud of the team, they played hurt and banged up and short handed the whole trip" said Coach Lillemon. Riverland ended the regular season at home and lost 14-0 and 7-2 to Rochester Community and Technical College. The Lady Blue Devils struggle offensively the entire day, collecting only six hits. The two losses drop RVL D to 7-17 in the league and 7-21 overall. Riverland Community College competed in the state tournament for the first time since 2003 and lost both contests, falling 11-3 to Itasca CC and then losing to Fergus Falls 10-3 in the loser's bracket to be eliminated. "Our team was up against some tough competition but we left all our effort on the field and that is all you can ask of them" said Coach Lillemon. The Lady Blue Devils finished the season 7-23 overall. Team awards voted upon their peers saw Amber Wilson awarded the "hardest worker" and MVP, KK Hauge voted "most improved" and Sam Schmidt was awarded the "golden glove award". Wilson and Schmidt were named to the Southern Division All-Conference team. In the early summer (2007) Riverland received notice from the NJCAA that Meghan Vollbrecht and Tracee Crowley earned Academic All-American honors for their performances in the classroom. The team had a team GPA of 3.04 and was recognized by the NJCAA for its academic excellence in the classroom for the 2006-07 year.

#### Roster Included:

Amanda McGuire  
Heather Shultz  
KK Hauge  
Lindsay Larson  
Kari Ponik

Amber Wilson  
Meghan Vollbrecht  
Sam Schmidt  
Naomi Knopps

Liz Morrill  
Amy Mortensen  
Tracee Crowley  
Kim Bestul

**Baseball-** Scott Koenigs 11-18 Eighteen players that included only three sophomores began the season in Florida that saw the Blue Devils get in five of the scheduled seven games. Outfielder Devin Kaasa, and pitchers Steve Hovland and Jamie Surdy are the only returning veterans. The spring trip opened the Blue Devils upending Penn State Scranton 10-6, then the split a pair to Cuyahogo CC, winning 6-3 and before dropping the nightcap 9-2. After a day off, Riverland lost a pair to Genesse CC 12-4 and 10-1. The final doubleheader was cancelled due to rain and the Blue Devils came back with a 2-3 record. A notice from the NJCAA to Riverland notified of them of an eligibility recording error which resulted in the forfeiture of the three wins in Florida, dropping them to 0-5. Riverland Community College split a double header with Vermilion at the Metrodome in Minneapolis to open the regular season, losing the opener 8-3 and winning the nightcap 8-0. RVLD collected only four hits and committed three errors in game one as Sam Srock had two RBI with a triple. Jamie Sturdy took the loss. Riverland pitchers Steve Hovland and Pat Wolard combined for a no-hitter in game two. Hovland was masterful, going six innings to get the win. He struck out five and walked three. Matt Suarez and Hovland each collected two hits. Two weeks of rain cancelled two home doubleheaders and the crossover tournament. The Blue Devils pounded Pillsbury College for 25 hits and a sweep by scores of 12-4 and 17-2. In the opener, Jim McKay picked up the mound win giving up only three hits. Teammates Devin Kaasa led the hitting attack with three hits while Jamie Sturdy had two hits and scored two runs. The Blue Devils stole 10 bases with Kaasa stealing four times. Matt Suarez pitched a three hitter in the nightcap in five innings and his team collected 15 hits, led by Pat Wolard, Andy Van Remortel and Nick Huebner, all who had two hits. RVLD also was notified by Vermilion they have to forfeit the win over Riverland so with the two victories over Pillsbury, the Blue Devils are now 4-5 overall. Riverland Community College dropped three of four divisional games to start the southern division schedule. After upending Rochester 5-4 in the first game of the doubleheader, RVLD lost 12-11 in game two and the following day dropped two games to Dakota County, losing 10-5 and 12-5. “We let the game in Rochester get away, and that loss affected how we played against Dakota County”, said Coach Scott Koenigs. In the only win over the weekend, Van Remortel had three hits and scored three runs. It took over two weeks to get in the games due to rain, but in the end Ridgewater College dominated the Blue Devils by winning 14-0 and 15-9 in a division doubleheader. Riverland has not lost five straight games and dropped to 1-5 in the MCCC south and 5-10 overall.

This was the third doubleheader in three days and coach Koenigs was short on pitching. Nick Huebner and Kris Pleiss both hit homeruns in the nightcap but it wasn't enough to complete a comeback. RVLD split a doubleheader with MN West, losing 6-5 but bouncing back with a 13-1 win in five innings. The Blue Devils led 5-2 in the 7<sup>th</sup> inning in the opener but the Blue Jays tallied four runs in their final at-bat to win the first game. Devin Kaasa and Andy Van Remortel each had two hits in game one and ace Pat Wolard took the loss in relief. Kaasa allowed only one earned run in game two and pitched a two hitter in the five innings (10 run rule). Van Remortel had two more hits and 4 RBI while Wolard scored three runs and had three RBI. Riverland Community College is now 2-6 in the league and 6-11 overall. Riverland dropped two games to league leading Ridgewater College 13-3 and 14-1 at Dick Seltz Field. "Our pitchers are not throwing strikes and when you get down in the count to good teams like Ridgewater they will hit you" said Coach Koenigs. A scheduled doubleheader with Dakota County was rained out with the score 7-3 (in favor of Dakota) after six innings of the first game. It will be made up at a later date. Riverland welcomed Pillsbury College to town and took advantage as they won easily 11-1 and 20-6 in non-conference action. Jake Kuehl was the pitcher in game one, scattering six hits for the win. Steve Hovland had three hits and scored three times in the opener. Ryan Barthels made his first pitching start of the season and went three innings for the win. Hovland scored four times with a double and two RBI to lead the hitting parade. Riverland improves to 8-13 overall. Riverland was swept by Dakota County in southern division action. The first game was the completion of a game rained out earlier in the week. Riverland lost the opener 8-3 and 5-2 in the nightcap. RVLD out hit Dakota County in both games but still lost. Devin Kaasa, Andy Van Remortel, Nick Huebner and Sam Srock all had two hits in game one. Steve Hovland took the loss for the Blue Devils. In the second game a pair of errors by RVLD led to another loss. Riverland drops to 2-10 in the MCCC southern division. Riverland swept Rochester 3-1 and 10-6 to keep themselves in the race for third place in the division. Hovland went the distance in the opener, scattering six hits and striking out eight batters. Devin Kaasa was the starting pitcher in the nightcap but the win wouldn't come easy. Van Remortel came on in relief in the fifth the preserve the win. Steve Hovland had three hits and three RBI to lead the team to the victory and the sweep. The wins improved RVLD to 4-10 in the MCCC southern division and 10-15 overall. Riverland Community College controlled its own destiny as a sweep over MN West in its final division doubleheader meant a third seed and trip the MCCC state tourney.

The Blue Devils lost game one 4-1 and rebounded with an 8-7 win to finish the division 5-11 and fourth place. The split left Riverland out of the state picture. "We just couldn't get it done in the first game" said Coach Koenigs, who saw his team collect 8 hits but score only one run. The last game of the home season saw Riverland score four runs in the bottom of the 7<sup>th</sup> inning to win the nightcap. Ryan Barthels got the key hit to keep the inning alive and Nick Huebner had the game tying RBI. Devin Kaasa drew a bases loaded walk to end the game. The season ended with two disappointing losses to WWTI (12-9 and 11-1), ending the Blue Devil's season with an 11-18 overall record. Catcher Pat Wolard earned All- Southern Division and MCCC All-State honors, batting .462 and driving in 28 runs.

Roster Included:

Steve Hovland	Jamie Sturdy	Devin Kaasa
Andy Van Remortel	Pat Wolard	Ryan Barthels
Sam Srock	Dave Cunningham	Cory Hernandez
Brian Stanton	Mim McKay	Curtin Retterath
Matt Suarez	Nick Huebner	Brian Rockers
Chris Peiss	Jake Kuehl	Adam Suckow

**Athlete of the Year-** DiJon Reese and Tracee Crowley were named Riverland Community College's Athletes of the Year for 2006-07. Reese, a sophomore from Minneapolis, was the team captain for the men's basketball team. He was selected to the MCCC All Southern Division team and All-State team after averaging 18.3 points per game and league leading 8.9 assists per game. Reese had a 3.19 GPA at Riverland. He plans to attend the University of Wisconsin, River Falls to major in physical education and minor in coaching. Crowley, a sophomore from Fulda, Minnesota, was a three sport athlete for the Blue Devils, competing in golf, basketball, and softball. She was the team's top golfer, fourth in scoring for the basketball team, second in assists and second in steals. This spring, she batted .319 for the RVLD softball team. Crowley earned her degree in construction electrician program with a GPA of 3.77.