

2001-02

VOLLEYBALL Coach Helen Jahr 16-16 Riverland opened the season taking third in the Willmar Invitational. After winning the opener, RVLD defeated Fergus Falls 31-29, 26-30, 15-9 in second day action. NDSCS downed Riverland 30-20, 30-26 in the second round. The Blue Devils bounced back by defeating Vermilion 32-30, 20-30, 30-10 and eventually lost to champions Ridgewater 30-28, 30-10. “We played a lot of volleyball and were just worn out by the last match” said Coach Helen Jahr whose team now stands 3-2 on the season. The Blue Devils lost their conference opener to Bethany 30-17, 30-20, and 30-24. “We just didn’t communicate very well” said Coach Helen Jahr. Melissa Bemis led with 11 kills while Amanda Seabright handed out 21 assists. The Blue Devils went 1-3 in the Rochester invitational. RVLD lost to Iowa Lakes, Ridgewater, and UW LaCrosse before bouncing back and defeating Madison 30-22, 28-30, 15-9. Bemis, who was named MCCC player of the week, led the Blue Devils with 40 kills and 24 digs. RVLD drops to 4-6 overall. The Blue Devils evened their conference record at 1-1 with a convincing 3-1 win over Rochester. Riverland won game one 30-16, lost 27-30 in the second game, then came back strong winning 30-28, 30-28. “It was a good road win for us” said Jahr. Bemis and Sara Nagele each had 18 kills while Nagele led with 24 digs. Riverland Community College lost all three matches at the Anoka-Ramsey invitational to drop to 5-9 overall. The Blue Devils won their home opener 3-0 over Anoka-Ramsey improving to 2-1 in the division. Riverland Community College flexed its muscles early led by middle hitter Melissa Bemis who finished with 10 kills, four blocks, and four aces. The Blue Devils defeated Ridgewater 30-26, 24-30, 30-24, 30-13 to up their record to 7-9 and 3-1 in the league. It was the first win for Coach Helen Jahr over Ridgewater in her eight years at the helm at Riverland Community College. “It was a fun and exciting match to watch” said an elated Jahr. Missy Avert led with 20 kills and added a team high 23 digs. Melissa Bemis added 8 ace attacks, 10 kills, and 13 digs in the Blue Devil’s victory. Riverland improved to 4-1 in the league with a sweep over Minnesota West 30-17, 30-12, 30-18. The win was propelled by 17 kills from standout middle hitter Melissa Bemis. Bethany upended the Blue Devils 30-28, 30-27, 29-31, 30-24 in conference action. “It was a night of great volleyball” said Jahr despite the loss. Only nine points separated the two teams in four games. Bemis again led with 23 kills and contributed 31 digs. RVLD dropped to 4-2 in the league and 8-10 overall. Rochester downed Riverland 3-1 after the Blue Devils had upended the Yellowjackets earlier in the year. The loss dropped RVLD to 4-3 in the conference. “This was a division loss for us I was hoping we could win” said a disappointed Coach Jahr.

The following day the Blue Devils avenged the loss the night before and defeated Rochester 30-23, 3-25 to win the Riverland Community College invitational. Earlier in the tournament the Blue Devils defeated LaCrosse 29-31, 30-27, 15-7 and Minnesota West 30-19, 30-17. This was the first time in eight years RVLD has won its own tournament. Ridgewater defeated Riverland 3-2 putting the Blue Devils in a must win situation for the season finale with Minnesota West. The five game scoring total was 119-118 in favor of the Warriors (30-18, 26-30, 17-30, 31-29, 30-11). “Both teams played really well” said Coach Jahr. “It was pure momentum all night”. Melissa Bemis led with 18 kills, while Sara Nagele and Missy Avery added 35 and 36 digs respectively. This put RVLD in a must win situation to advance to the regional tournament. Riverland Community College (5-4, 12-12) concluded its regular season with a 3-0 sweep of Minnesota West and with the victory qualified for the state tournament. The win pushed RVLD’s record to 6-4 in the conference and 13-12 overall. Jahr and the Blue Devils are on their way to their sixth straight trip in the eight team state tournament. In pool play, RVLD lost 2-1 in lackluster performances to Rochester and Northland. Entering the first rounds finale, the Blue Devils needed all three games from Rainy River to advance to the championship bracket. Two games and two victories later, Riverland was in position to keep Rainy River out of the final four. But the Voyaguers fought back and won the must win third game and sent the Blue Devils into the consolation bracket. “It felt good to beat the best team in the north division” said Jahr whose team hopes to finish as high as fifth. Riverland defeated Mesabi 3-2 with a 15-13 victory in the rally scoring in the fifth and final game. Melissa Bemis finished the match with a thunderous kill. Bemis finished the tournament with 90 kills, 24 blocks, and 107 digs. In consolation title match, the Blue Devils fell 30-12, 30-17, 29-31, 30-28 to Northland. Riverland had qualified for the Region tournament prior to the state tournament and played WWTI for a chance to advance to the NJCAA national tournament. RVLD is now 15-15 overall. In the single elimination Regional tournament, the Blue Devils defeated WWTI 30-15, 30-17, 30-21 to advance to the championship match. The Blue Devils were led by All-Conference vote getter Melissa Bemis with 16 kills, three blocks, and seven ace services. Ridgewater defeated Madison to earn the right to play Riverland Community College in the Region XIII finals. The Blue Devils would take runner-up honors as Ridgewater handed Riverland a 3-0 loss in the finals. RVLD ended its season 16-16. Melissa Bemis earned All-Conference, All State and All-Region honors. She was named to the NJCAA All-American team, only one of 12 players to receive such an honor.

Roster Included:

Heather Irvin	Tammy Lewis	Melissa Avery
Tanya Jensen	Sara Nagele	Melissa Bemis
Stephanie Vollbrecht	Katie Foster	Marissa Kelsey
Kassie Baldner	Amanda Seabright	

Hall of Fame- The 2001 Hall of Fame class includes: Cory Hanson (Baseball, 1989-91), Christy Arnold Harris (Tennis, 1989-91), Laurie Vigum Hendrickson (Volleyball, Basketball, Softball, 1983-85), Earl Perkins (Football & Baseball Coach, 1969-85), Denise Stalker Peterson (Volleyball, 1981-83), and John Van Beek (Basketball, 1993-95). The Hall of Fame class of 2001 is the third class to be inducted.

BASKETBALL Coach David Lillemon 8-15 Riverland opened the season on the road losing 74-68 led by Marzell Little's nine points and 10 rebounds. "Little is one of the best guards in the state" said Coach Lillemon. "He can do a lot of things for us". Andy Stouvenel led the Blue Devils with 15 points, before injuring his back. Waldorf defeated RVL D 86-60 in non-conference action. Ryan Hansen led with 21 followed by Little with 14. The Blue Devils recorded their first win by defeating WWTI 80-69. Andy Stouvenel hit four three pointers and scored 19 to lead Riverland Community College. "Kelly Connaughty was kind of the unsung hero for us" said Lillemon. Connaughty hit six of six free throws down the stretch and a season high 12 points. Riverland evened its record at 2-2 with an 84-66 win over UW Richland Center. Center Jake Bettis led a balanced attack with 14, followed by Marzell Little with a dozen. The Blue Devils defeated a tough Mid-State squad 89-79 as the over came a first half nine point deficit. Marzell Little led five RVL D players with 20, followed by Bettis with 14. Jared Moore, Ryan Hansen, and Andy Stouvenel all chipped in with 10 points. Riverland rocked UW Richland 89-45 to improve to 4-2 on the season. The Blue Devils were led by Jake Bettis with 16 rebounds and 15 points. Stouvenel had a team high 17 with 3 for 4 from behind the arc. Riverland has won four in a row after dropping its first two contests. Riverland Community College went north and lost two games to the second and third rated teams. Mesabi, rated #4, defeated the Blue Devils 111-88 the first night. Marzell Little led with 22, followed by Stouvenel with 16 and Curt Peterson (14). Vermilion, rated #2, upended Riverland 80-66 the second day. Stouvenel had game high with 21, while Ryan Hansen and Jake Bettis added 10 apiece. Riverland fell victim to Hibbing 88-70 but rebounded with an 83-64 win over Rainy River in non-league action. RVL D ended their three game losing streak spurred by 19 points from Jake Bettis and 17 from Marzell Little. Little grabbed 15 rebounds to lead his team. "If you would of told me we'd be 5-5 at Christmas with eight freshmen, I'd take that" said Lillemon. Madison defeated Riverland 75-62 in their last non-conference game. Center Jake Bettis was out with an injury that occurred in practice and his future is in doubt. Little led the Blue Devils with 16 followed by Andy Souvenel and Ryan Hansen with 12 apiece.

Minneapolis dethroned Riverland 84-64 in the conference opener. It was the fifth loss in the last six games for the Blue Devils, who dropped to 5-7 overall. Marzell Little had 16 and Andy Stouvenel added 10 in the loss. Riverland lost its third game in a row 93-81 to Minnesota West. Gary Landherr had a career high with 20 points but it wasn't enough. "We really miss Bettis inside and it is going to be an up hill battle to adjust without his inside presence" said Coach Lillemon. Stouvenel added 16 and Jared More a dozen in defeat. Anoka-Ramsey upended RVL 77-68 in conference action to drop the Blue Devils to 0-3 and 5-9 overall. "It was a tremendous effort on our part. They started 6-8, 6-8, and 6-7 and we out rebounded them 51-36" said Coach Lillemon. Little and Stouvenel led Riverland Community College with 16 apiece. The Blue Devils picked up their first win since Christmas with a 69-65 win over Ridgewater. Marzell Little hit a three pointer with 15 seconds to go and then sealed it with 2 for 2 from the line with seconds remaining for the Blue Devils first conference win. Little and Curt Peterson each had 14, followed by Ryan Hansen (12) and Matt Nalan's 11 points. Riverland Community College played "absolutely the best defensive game I have coached in 15 years" according to head coach Dave Lillemon in defeating Bethany 67-52 on the road. RVL had four players in double figures led by Hansen with 13, Stouvenel (12), Little and Petersen 11 each. Rochester hung on to defeat Riverland 54-51 in a knock down drag out conference battle. "That's four games in a row we have really stuck our opponent on defense" said Lillemon. Riverland's 51 points was a season low and they dropped to 7-10 overall and 2-4 in league play. Jake Bettis did return after his absence since the break and chipped in with 10 points. Riverland could not counter Minneapolis inside and lost 68-59 in yet another strong defensive showing. Andy Stouvenel led with 16, followed by Curt Peterson with 12. Riverland Community College lost its seventh game in nine outings as Minnesota West upended the Blue Devils 75-66. Stouvenel and Matt Nalan had 13 apiece and Bettis added 11 points in the loss, dropping RVL to 2-6 and 7-12 overall. Anoka-Ramsey defeated Riverland 75-63 as Josh Klem answered for the Rams every time the Blue Devils got close. Stouvenel had a game high 18 followed by Bettis and Little with 10 apiece. Ridgewater edged the Blue Devils 75-71 in conference action to drop its fifth game in a row. RVL shot a dismal 9 of 31 in the first half as the Warriors led by 15 at the half. Ryan Hansen had 15 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Blue Devils. Curt Petersen also had 15, followed by Matt Nalan with 13 and Marzell Little added a dozen. Riverland ended its home season with a 87-79 win over Bethany, running its record to 4-0 over the Vikings the past two seasons. Little led with 16, followed by Hansen (12), Nalan (10) and Bettis with 10. Eaton Miller grabbed 11 rebounds to lead his team to a 54-39 rebounding edge. RVL is now 3-8 in the conference and 8-14 overall. Rochester defeated Riverland 89-79 in the season finale. RVL led for the first 30 minutes as the host team finished on a 17-5 run to secure the victory.

Andy Stouvenel led the way with 15, followed by Matt Nalan with 14, Marzell Little added 12, and 10 from Curt Peterson. The Blue Devils finished 3-9 in the southern division and 8-15 overall. Andy Stouvenel was named to the All-Conference team, averaging 13.3 points per game and shooting 41% from behind the arc.

Roster Included:

Eaton Miller	Curt Peterson	Kelly Connaughty
Gary Landherr	Andy Erichson	Matt Nalan
Jared More	Andy Stouvenel	Marzell Little
Jake Bettis	Mark Skellenger	Ryan Hansen

Assistant Coach: Larry Reynen & Chris Jones

BASKETBALL-Women Coach Suzy Hebrink 11-12 The Blue Devils return five sophomores and hope to improve on last year's 13-11 mark. Riverland opened the season with an 82-68 win over WWTI. Melissa Bemis led all scorers with 19, followed by Sara Nagele who had 18 points and nine rebounds. The Blue Devils topped WWTI for the second time in a week 67-56. "We were pretty lethargic" said third year coach Suzy Hebrink. Samantha Ulrich led a rally as she scored nine of her eleven points in a five minute spam to lead her team to victory. Riverland ran its record to 3-0 as they defeated UW Richland Center 71-53. Bemis led with 17 points, followed by Tammy May with 14 points and seven rebounds. Riverland extended its winning streak to four games as they upended Mid-State Technical College 79-69. Three RVL D players fouled out but the bench provided the punch led by Katie Berg and Stephanie Vollbrecht. Samantha Ulrich and Missy Avery each had 17 to lead their team to the win. The Blue Devils lost two contests on a northern trip, dropping a 90-78 contest to Mesabi and a 76-64 loss to Vermilion. Ulrich scored a career high 31 and led four players in double figures against Mesabi. Melissa Bemis, Tammy May, and Tanya Jensen each had 11 in the loss to Vermilion. Riverland Community College lost its third straight game as Waldorf upended the Blue Devils 69-62. Melissa Bemis led with 14 points and nine rebounds. Riverland split a weekend series with two northern teams, defeating Hibbing 94-50 before losing to Rainy River 72-56. The Blue Devils (5-3) were led by Samantha Ulrich's 20 points in the first game but severely injured her ankle during the second contest. Despite the injury, Ulrich led with 13, followed by Tammy May with a dozen against Rainy River. Missy Avery posted a double-double with 15 points and 10 rebounds as Riverland defeated the Augsburg JVs 63-53 in non-conference action. The Blue Devils handed Madison a 68-62 setback in what Coach Hebrink described as "the best game we have played this year". Ulrich had a game high 24 points and Tanya Jensen chipped in with 18 points. Riverland improved to 8-4 with a 71-63 decision over Minneapolis.

Samantha Ulrich again led the Blue Devils, who have won three straight without enter Melissa Bemis, who fulfilled her RVL D requirements and transferred at the break. Minnesota West shocked the Blue Devils, picking up only their second win of the season as they upset Riverland 77-64 in conference action. Missy Avery led with 23 points, including three 3-pointers. The Blue Devils rode the shooting of Tammy May (13 of 17) and upset Anoka-Ramsey 84-72 on the road. "That was probably the best game of May's life" said Coach Hebrink. "I can't tell you the last time Riverland has won at Anoka (12-4) but it has been a long time". May finished with 29 points, Ulrich had 17 and Avery chipped in with 14 points. Riverland collected its third conference win in four tries with an 80-74 win over Ridgewater. The Blue Devils (10-5, 3-1) led by as many as 16 before the Warriors tied it with four minutes to play. Sara Nagele led with 17 while Avery and Ulrich each had 15 points. The Blue Devils had a season low 7 turnovers in the contest. Bethany upended RVL D 85-65 in conference action. Nagele led with 14 followed by Samantha Ulrich and Missy Avery with 10 apiece. The Blue Devils lost 69-60 to Rochester and also lost sophomore Missy Avery to an ankle injury early in the second half. Ulrich led with 15 while Tanya Jensen had 12 and Tammy may 11. Playing without Avery, Riverland struggled and lost their third conference game in a row as Minneapolis upended the Blue Devils 84-66. Ulrich had 15 and Nagele added a dozen in the loss. After losing their fourth straight to Minnesota West, Riverland Community College ended a four game losing streak thanks in part to a career high 27 points from Stephanie Vollbrecht as the Blue Devils defeated Anoka-Ramsey 76-67. Post Tammy May chipped in with 22 points and 13 rebounds. Ridgewater defeated RVL D 81-61 to drop the Blue Devils to 4-6 in conference and 11-10 overall. Samantha Ulrich led with 27 points and Sara Nagele had 17 points. Bethany defeated the Blue Devils 78-63 in the next to last conference game and it will come down to the final contest versus Rochester to see if the Blue Devils can earn a berth in the state tournament. Riverland fell to Rochester 73-61 in the season finale and ended the season losing seven of its final eight games. Samantha Ulrich led the Blue Devils with 17, followed by Missy Avery and Tanya Jensen with 11 apiece. Riverland ended the season 4-8 in the conference and 11-12 overall.

Roster Included:

Mellissa Avery	Melissa Bemis
Katie Berg	Jenna Cummins
Tanya Jensen	Tammy May
Sara Nagele	Samantha Ulrich
Stephanie Vollbrecht	
Ass't Coach: Lisa Quednow-Bickler	

BASEBALL Coach David Meyer 21-14 Dave Meyer was hired one month prior to the season as head coach-to-be Chris Jones up and left the program. Meyer, a minor league pitcher for the Los Angeles Dodgers organization, also played for the Blue Devils in the 90's. Waldorf handed Riverland an opening doubleheader loss, upending the Blue Devils 14-3 and 4-0. Jake Lund finished 3 for 4 including a home run in the opener while Clint Ripley took the loss. In the nightcap, Sean Breslin suffered the loss while RVL D collected only four hits, two of them by Josh Kunze. The Blue Devils lost another pair, this time to Ridgewater 7-2 in nine innings and 9-3 in the nightcap. Breslin went 8 innings in the opener and left tied 2-2. He struck out seven and gave up six hits in the no decision. Luke Larson gave up five runs in the ninth to suffer the loss. In the second game, John Roesler took the loss and RVL D drops to 0-4 on the season. Josh Kunze went 3 for 7 in the twin bill to lead the Blue Devils at the plate. Riverland lost to Bethany 5-3 in the opener and earned their first victory of the season with an 11-1 rout in the nightcap. Bethany scored three unearned runs in the seventh to win game one of Clint Ripley who suffered the loss. "We are starting to come around" said first year coach Dave Meyer. The Blue Devils recorded a season high 12 hits in the second contest, led by Josh Kunze who went 5 for 7 in the two games, raising his average to .632. Jeff Geisler went the distance in the nightcap, allowing only three hits in six innings. Riverland racked up 17 hits to gain a split with Rochester, winning game one 10-4 and losing 8-6 in the nightcap. Luke Larson erupted from an early season slump going 4 for 4 including a home run in the opener. Sean Breslin was 3 for 4 and Michael Nastav had three hits with five RBIs. Breslin was the hard luck loser in game two, as RVL D committed three costly errors in the sixth inning that saw Rochester rally with three runs to take the lead. The Blue Devils are now 2-4 in the conference and 2-6 overall. Riverland swept North Hennepin 11-4 and 12-6 to extend its winning streak to three games. Derek Bonser and Sean Breslin combined for the victory in game one, with help from home runs by Josh Kunze and Luke Larson. John Roesler ran his record to 2-1 as he pitched a four-hitter in the nightcap. Jamie Morrison and Breslin each went 3 for 4 with two RBI and two runs scored. Riverland Community College won another pair from Anoka-Ramsey before pounding Minnesota West 22-4 and 13-3 to extend its winning streak to seven games. Riverland amassed 34 hits including four home runs in the twin bill. John Roesler got the win in game one and Sean Breslin in the second contest. Luke Larson went 4 for 4 with four RBI while Michael Nastav and Jeff Kvam each had 3 hits in the opener. Nate Vollbrecht and Jamie Morrison each had three hits in the nightcap. The Blue Devils returned the trip and swept Minnesota West again 8-1 and 13-2 to improve to 10-4 in the conference and 10-6 overall. "I have ball players that play with heart, they are very disciplined" said Coach Dave Meyer.

“Now they know what they can do and we’re having fun”. Roesler went the distance in game one scattering four hits and striking out four. Clint Ripley surrendered five hits and one earned run in the nightcap. The Blue Devils bats were led by Luke Larson and Matt Nalan each with three hits in the opener. Jeff Kvam and Josh Kunze each had two hits in the second game. NIACC stopped RVL D’s winning streak at nine games with a 15-1 victory in game one but the Blue Devils rebounded and started another with a 5-2 win. RVL D collected only three hits as Brian Hill took the loss but Sean Breslin scattered four hits in the nightcap for the win. The split left the Blue Devils with an 11-7 overall record and 10-4 in the conference. Riverland lost a twin bill to Rochester before dropping another twin bill to Ridgewater by the scores of 2-0 and 4-3. In losing their fourth and fifth games in a row, Coach Meyer described the day as “a sad day to watch, they didn’t show up to play”. Riverland collected only five hits in the opener and wasted a five hit performance by Sean Bresling. In the nightcap, Clint Ripley allowed 8 hits and one earned run as RVL D’s defense had four errors and loomed large in the outcome. The Blue Devils have dropped three conference games in a row (11-7). Riverland Community College busted loose for five home runs and swept Bethany Lutheran 19-11 and 11-6 in conference action. Michael Nastav accounted for two home runs and Luke Larson bombed two more. Nastav finished 3 for 5 and four RBIs in game one. Nate Vollbrecht went 4 for 6 while Josh Kunze went 3 for 5 with two doubles. In game two, Matt Nalan knocked out his second home run of the season and six players had two hits or more. Nastav led the way with 3 for 5 helping Jeff Geisler to the pitching victory. The Blue Devils (14-10, 13-7 in conference) will be vying for a regional berth this weekend in a pair of conference doubleheaders. Riverland qualified for the Region XIII tournament with a twin bill sweep of North Hennepin (6-3, 5-2) on Friday and a two game sweep of Anoka-Ramsey (11-1, 10-0). “I am so proud of the guys. They come out and play hard every day” said an elated Coach Dave Meyer. Clint Ripley threw a complete game 6-3 victory in game one versus North Hennepin. Derek Bonser got his first collegiate victory with a three-hitter in the nightcap. Riverland ignited with a seven run second inning in the opener against Anoka-Ramsey while Sean Bresling went the distance allowing four hits. Nastav went 4 for 4 while Kunze and Vollbrecht each had two hits. In the nightcap, Vollbrecht and Matt Nalan each had two hits in the 10-0 rout. John Roesler threw a two hit shut out as Riverland improved to 18-10 overall and 17-7 in the conference. The last Region XIII appearance by the Blue Devils was in 1998 when they were crowned champions. The Blue Devils defeated Waukesha Tech 7-4 in the opening round of the Region XIII tournament. Clint Ripley threw a six-hitter as the Blue Devils jumped to a 7-0 lead and hung on for the victory. Michael Nastav collected three hits and 3 RBIs while Jamie Morrison, Josh Kunze, and Sean Breslin each had two hits.

The Blue Devils lost to Ridgewater for the fifth time this season as the Warriors upended RVLD 9-4 and sent them to the loser's bracket. Breslin took the loss as the Riverland had only four hits. Itasca CC shutout RVLD 10-0 in five innings and eliminated the Blue Devils from the regional tournament. Riverland (19-12) collected only two hits. Riverland entered the state tournament as the No. one seed from the Southern Division and throttled Northfield 9-1 in the opening round. Luke Larson homered twice and Matt Nalan hit a three run bomb to support the three-hitter by winning pitcher Sean Breslin. In the semifinal round, Fergus Falls romped over RVLD 10-1 to send the Blue Devils into the loser's bracket. John Roesler surrendered only one earned run (five RVLD errors) scattering nine hits. The Blue Devils collected only three hits. Riverland won its first game on Saturday in the loser's bracket and then were eliminated by Itasca 2-0 ending up fourth in the state tournament. Sophomore Josh Kunze and freshman Michael Nastav were honored as All-Conference, All-State, and All-Region players.

Roster Included:

Derek Bonsor	Sean Breslin	Josh Ramaker
Jacob Frey	Jeff Geisler	John Roesler
Griffin Hebel	Brian Hill	Nate Vollbrecht
Josh Kunze	Jeff Kvam	Clint Ripley
Luke Larson	Jamie Morrison	Tukua Brandon
Matt Nalan	Mike Nastav	

SOFTBALL Lisa-Quednow Bickler 19-11 **Division Champions** 3rd-MCCC State, 3rd-Region XIII. Third year Coach Lisa Quednow-Bickler returns three All-Conference players and has high expectations to better last year's 19-9 mark and co-division champions. Riverland began their campaign in Florida with four sets of doubleheaders. Coach Quednow-Bickler was excited about the team's progress and getting the nine new freshmen some playing time. The Blue Devils opened the season dropping a pair to NIACC 9-2 and 4-2. Marisa Kelsey suffered the loss in game one surrendering six hits. RVLD collected only two hits in the opener. In game two, Sherry Hanson surrendered 10 hits and gave up four earned runs in the defeat. Missy Avery hit a home run in the third inning tying the game at 1-1. Riverland won back to back doubleheaders and dove head first back into the MCCC conference season. The Blue Devils are back to defend their division championship (they shared it with Bethany last year) and started in grand style, defeating Central Lakes 13-4 and 12-4. Riverland racked up 17 hits in game one, all singles. Every player but one had two hits. Missy Avery went 5 for 5 in the nightcap and RVLD pounded out 19 hits. Sherry Hanson and Marisa Kelsey each got a win. On Saturday, Riverland dunked Ridgewater 9-3 and 10-2 totalling 16 hits in the twin bill. Hanson struck out six in the first game and recorded the win.

Melanie Gabrielson and Jenna Cummins each had two hits in the opener. RVLD ended the twin bill via the eight run rule. Avery finished 3 for 3 with two RBI and three runs scored. Kelsey pitched a seven hitter and got the victory. RVLD is now 4-0 in conference action and 4-2 on the season. Riverland swept Rochester 9-1 and 15-3 to extend its winning streak to six games. The Blue Devils scored four runs in the first inning in the first game and set the tone while Hanson (3-1) limited the Yellowjackets to five hits. Jenna Cummins went 4 for 4 while Tammy May pounded two triples and had three RBIs. In the nightcap, Marisa Kelsey (3-1) pitched a complete game as Jessica Peck and Cummins each had three hits. Riverland made it eight wins in a row with 4-3 and 15-11 victories over Minnesota West. The Blue Devils trailed 3-0 going into the seventh but scored four runs as Jessica Peck hit a two run triple to tie the game and Melanie Gabrielson followed with the game winning RBI single. In the nightcap, MN West scored four in the fifth and six in the sixth to tie the score at 11-11, but RVLD tallied four runs in the bottom of the sixth to sweep the twin bill. Sherry Hanson earned both pitching victories, upping her record to 5-1. The Blue Devils are now 8-0 in conference and 8-2 overall. The Blue Devils won five of six against Bethany, Central Lakes, and Ridgewater to improve to 13-1 in the division and 13-3 overall. Riverland dropped a pair of non-conference games to Waldorf, 23-0 and 8-0. RVLD swept a pair from Minnesota West 10-2 and 6-5 to improve to 15-5 overall and 15-1 in the southern division. Sherry Hanson and Marisa Kelsey split the pitching victories while different hitters contributed to the twin bill sweep. Avery and Gabrielson each had three hits in game one. In the nightcap, Tammy May led off with a triple in the seventh and scored on Jessica's sacrifice fly and the Blue Devils escaped with a 6-5 win. "It was nice to get two big wins" said Coach Quednow-Bickler. "We are sitting in a nice spot". Riverland Community College secured the top spot as division champions with a doubleheader sweep over Bethany, winning game one 4-1 and the nightcap 11-0. RVLD tallied three runs in the sixth in the opener led by Tammy May and Beth Harsma with three hits apiece. Sherry Hanson struck out six in the complete game six-hitter. In the second contest, Marisa Kelsey pitched a one-hitter while Missy Avery banged out three hits and 3 RBIs. Riverland improves to 17-5 overall and 17-1 in the conference. Riverland finished the regular season on a bad note as Rochester swept the Blue Devils 7-2 and 7-2. Marisa Kelsey took the loss in game one while Katie Berg started on the hill in the nightcap. Missy Avery had a couple hits in the second contest while Tammy May went 2 for 3 and a RBI. RVLD drops to 17-3 in the conference and 17-7 overall. The Blue Devils hosted the Region XIII tournament in hoping to advance to the NJCAA national softball championships. In the opening round, RVLD lost to Rochester 8-4 and then Central Lakes eliminated the Blue Devils from any further regional competition by beating Riverland 4-2. Riverland drops to 17-9 on the season.

The Blue Devils won their first two games of the MCCC state tournament, defeating Northland 9-1 and Itasca CC 7-6 to advance to the championship game. In the opening round, RVLD scored eight runs in the fifth inning tied 1-1 fueled by walks and errors. Missy Avery went 3 for 3 in the win over Itasca while Tammy May had four RBIs and the game winning single in the sixth inning. Sherry Hanson got the wins in first two games. Central Lakes defeated the Blue Devils 8-4 in the winner's bracket as they rallied with eight runs in the last three innings for the victory. Hanson suffered the loss while RVLD collected only three hits. In the loser's out game, Itasca upended Riverland 5-4 and ended their season 19-11 overall. In the late game, RVLD took a 2-0 lead but Itasca scored four in the fourth inning to take the lead for good. Missy Avery went 2 for 3 and Jenna Cummins 2 for 4 and two RBIs. Riverland ended the season as Southern Division champions and third place in the MCCC tournament. Missy Avery and Sherry Hanson earned All-Division, All-State and All-Region XIII honors. Avery received the Softball Service & Achievement Award, All-American award.

Members included:

Melissa Avery	Katie Berg
Jenna Cummins	Nicole Emiliusen
Erin Evans	Melanie Gabrielson
Sherry Hanson	Elizabeth Harsma
Marissa Kelsey	Tammy May
Jessica Peck	Stephanie Volbrecht

GOLF Coach David Lillemon Region- 5th, MCCC State-4th
The Blue Devils opened the season shooting a 347 at the Minneapolis invite and finishing 7th out of eight teams. Jake Bettis was RVLD's low scorer with an 87. Riverland took first place at the Rochester invitational winning in a tam playoff with Central Lakes. Both teams finished 303 and the Blue Devils won it on the first sudden death hole. Nate King led with a 73, followed by Jeff Clark's 76, while Cole Burhow and Jared More each shot a 77. Riverland finished third in a tournament hosted by Green Lea in Albert Lea shooting a 316. Justin Bennett shot a 74 and finished third in the individual competition. King followed with a 79, Clark an 80, and Andy Erickson an 83. Riverland Community College took second place in the 14 team field hosted by Central Lakes shooting a two day total of 635. "This was a great tournament for the Blue Devils" said Coach Lillemon. "Basically it was a mini-state tournament with this big of field". Bennett led the two day scores with a 151, followed by Clark (157), Pat King (159), and Jared More (167). Riverland won a triangular at the Austin Country Club led by Pat King (73) and Justin Bennett (74). RVLD shot a 309 as Clark (79) and Cole Burhow (83) rounded out the scoring.

Riverland Community College shot an opening round 318 and trailed only by three shots in day one of the MCCC state and Region XIII tournament. Justin Bennett led with a 75 and was tied for second after 18 holes. The Blue Devils improved by four strokes (314) but finished in fourth place in the state and 5th overall in the Region competition. Bennett fired a 76 and finished in third place and qualified again for the NJCAA national championships. Bennett finished 22nd in last year's event. Other scores were Jeff Clark (159) who finished 11th but qualified later in the spring), Pat King (169), Jared More (170), and Cole Burhow (171). It was later learned that Jeff Clark qualified for the NJCAA tournament as the 10th qualifier was declared ineligible. Clark finished in 6th place as he shot rounds of 77-75-76-77=305 and earned 2nd team All-American honors while Justin Bennett fired rounds of 79-78-80-77=314 and finished tied for 19th out of 100 competitors at the Chautauqua Golf Club in Jamestown, NY. Other members; Pat King, Cole Burhow, Jared More, Joe Hewitt, Jake Bettis, Andy Erickson, Nate Wayne.

GOLF-Women Coach Dave Lillemon Laura Retterath was the only female golfer for the Blue Devils. Retterath shot a 110 in her opening tournament hosted by Minneapolis. At the Rochester invitational, Laura fired a 95 and placed second overall. At the Central Lakes invitational, Laura Retterath fired rounds of 101-104 for a 205 and finished fifth out of 15 golfers. Retterath shot a 103 in the opening round of the state and Region XIII tournament. Laura came back strong with a 91 to finish and tied for 8th out of 19 women, shooting a 194.

TENNIS Coach Suzy Hebrink **Region XIII Champions**
Riverland Community College defeated Ridgewater 8-1 in their opening match. Paul Jacobsen lost at #1 singles, but Brian Elwer (#2), Ed Mjoen (#3), Andy Stouvenel (#4), Todd Christopherson (#5) all won their matches. No. 6 singles was forfeited by Ridgewater. Jacobsen and Elwer won at #1 doubles while Mjoen and Stouvenel won at #2. Riverland won by forfeit at #3. Bethany defeated Riverland 9-0 to drop to 1-1. No other record found on regular season play. The Blue Devils won the Region XIII title for the third consecutive year in a row. In the opening round matches at the NJCAA national tennis championships at Collin Community College in Plano, TX, the men went 1-4 the first day. In doubles, #1 team of Jacobsen and Elwer lost 6-2, 6-4.

At #2, Stouvenel and Mjoen won 6-1, 6-4. At #3, Curt Peterson and Todd Christopherson lost 6-0, 6-0. In singles on day one of competition, Paul Jacobsen (#1) and Brian Elwer (#2) both lost. On the second day in the first round of singles, Ed Mjoen (#3), Andy Stouvenel (#4), Todd Christopherson (#5), and Peterson (#6) all lost their openers. All singles and doubles teams were eliminated except for Andy Stouvenel at #4 singles. Stouvenel won the consolation championship. Team Members were; Vlado Blagojevic, Todd Christopherson, Brian Elwer, Paul Jacobsen, Ed Mjoen, Andy Stouvenel, and Curt Peterson.

TENNIS-Women Coach Suzy Hebrink **Region XIII Champions**

In the season opener, RVLD lost to Bethany 3-6 before defeating Bethany 5-4. In the victory over the Vikings, Samantha Ulrich, Mel Sheedy, Sara Nagele, and Kelli Helgerson all won at singles. The only doubles duo to win was at #3 due to a forfeit. RVLD defeated Ridgewater 8-1 in MCCC league play in its next contest. No more records were found. For the fifth consecutive year, Riverland Community College has won the Region XIII women's championship. The NJCAA national women's tennis championships took place at the Brazos Valley Sport Foundation in College Station, Texas. Bridgette Bednar (#1), Lisa Snyder (#2), Samantha Ulrich (#3) lost both their matches. At #4 singles, Melanie Sheedy lost her opening round match rebounded and brought home the consolation title. At #5, Sara Nagele lost her first two matches and at #6 Kelli Halgerson went winless. In doubles, the only winner was at #2 where Sheedy and Nagele lost in the consolation finals. Members included: Bridgitte Bednar, Kelli Helgerson, Sara Nagele, Melanie Sheedy, Lisa Snyder, and Samantha Ulrich.