

## 2005-06

**Volleyball-** Coach Helen Jahr 8-21 Riverland Community College returned four sophomores, led by Amy Eiken who had the title of “go to girl” from Coach Jahr. Other second year letter-winners were Nickole Stier, Laura Jackson, and Mellisa Cummins. Nine freshmen joined Coach Jahr’s squad to give her the depth need to compete in the MCCC and region. The Lady Blue Devils opened the season with a 2-2 record in the MCTC-Fergus Falls tournament. After losing to Bismarck, ND (33-31, 30-27) in the opener, RVLD beat Rochester C & TC by the scores of 30-22, 31-29 and Mesabi College 30-23, 30-21 and then falling in the final match to Itasca 30-20 and 30-26. Highlights included Rachael Jahr with 5 service aces and 77 set assists, Mellisa Cummins with 28 attack hits, 9 blocks and 50 digs. Amy Eiken added 30 attack kills and Nicky Stier with 25 attack kills. Riverland dropped its next two matches in the Ridgewater invitational to fall to 2-4 on the season. In its conference opener, the Lady Blue Devils lost to Ridgewater but bounced back to defeat Fergus Falls to record their first division win (1-1) and improve to 3-6 on the season. RVLD won the match 31-29, 23-30, 30-28, and 30-19. Spurred by a couple close wins, Riverland won in convincing style in game four. Cummins led with 27 digs, 16 kills, 3 service aces and 3 blocks. Riverland competed in the Rochester C & TC invitational and dropped all four matches, beginning with a lost to Fergus Falls 30-26, 30-25. In the second match of pool play, WWTI defeated RVLD 30-18, 30-22. Iowa Central handed the Blue Devils their third loss with a convincing 30-15, 30-21 win and in the final match of the day Hibbing defeated Riverland Community College 30-24 and 30-26. Nicky Stier led with 22 kills, 41 digs and 6 blocks in the tournament. Riverland drops to 3-10 overall. The Blue Devils dropped all three games against Minnesota West and fell to 1-2 in the division. The Lady Blue Devils led in games one and three but could not finish then and lost 28-30, 23-30, and 28-30. “We mad a lot of attack errors” said Coach Helen Jahr. It went down to the wire but Riverland won a non-conference match with Waldorf but it took five games as the Blue Devils prevailed 18-30, 30-26, 30-28, 16-30, and 15-13. Amy Eiken hit an ace with the scored tied 13-13 in the final game to close out the road win. Eiken added 10 kills, 31 digs, and three service aces and helped RVLD improve to 4-11 on the season. Rochester won its first division win by upending Riverland in five games, 23-30, 30-21, 20-30, 30-20, 15-13. “We came out with a lot of emotion but could not sustain it” said a disappointed Coach Jahr. “We had a chance to eliminate them (Rochester) a head 2-1 but the Blue Devils defense in the back let them down. The Blue Devils now are 1-3 in division play and 4-12 overall. WWTI swept Riverland in three 23-30, 26-30, and 23-30. Nicky Stier paced the Blue Devils with 9 kills and 11 digs on the defensive end. Riverland Community College would go down the wire again and defeat Anoka-Ramsey in five, winning 30-26, 30-16, 23-30, 28-30, and 15-8. This was the third match this season to go five games. RVLD was led by Rachael Jahr with 35 set assists, Eiken with 16 kills and 30 digs, and Cummins with 9 kills and 7 blocks. The Blue Devils improve to 2-3 in division play and 5-13 overall. Riverland fell to division II foe NIACC 25-30, 18-30, 30-19, and 15-30. Riverland hosted unbeaten Ridgewater in division play and lost 28-30, 30-32, 30-24, and 17-30.

“It was tight the whole way and had we won the second game that would have changed the outcome to the entire match” said Coach Jahr. RVLD drops to 2-4 in division play and 5-15 overall. Riverland participated in the WWTI triangular and started out with a win in two games over UW-Barron 30-12, 30-18. Riverland then lost to host WWTI 18-30, 19-30. In both games Rachael Jahr had a total of 18 assists, Chelsey Symes added 13 digs and Amy Eiken had 18 digs and six kills. RVLD now stands 6-16 on the season. In what turned out to be a marathon match in the Blue Devil’s final home match, Riverland fell short to Minnesota West, 3-2 (30-26, 21-30, 32-30, 27-30, 13-15). An eight point comeback by MN West in game three was the difference in the match according to Coach Helen Jahr. The Blue Devils bounced back and defeated Rochester 3-2 to win its third division match of the season (3-5) and improve to 7-17 overall. In competing in its fifth match of the season that has gone five games, Riverland Community College pulled it out after trailing 14-13 in the deciding fifth game. Amy Eiken tied it with a kill and after trading points, Eiken closed it out with another kill from the left side. RVLD won 27-30, 22-30, 30-21, 31-29, 17-15. “We just played super the last three games” said an elated Coach Jahr. Eiken led with 11 kills and 27 digs while Mellisa Cummins had 9 kills, 7 blocks and 21 digs. Riverland traveled north and defeated Anoka-Ramsey in their final division action, finishing 4-6. Rachael Jahr was named MCCC south division player of the week in the coach’s final poll of the season. The Blue Devils concluded their season in the crossover tournament hosted by Central Lakes. In the opening match, RVLD lost to Mesabi in three games, then lost to host Central Lakes 30-18, 30-26, and in the final match lost to north rival Hibbing 21-30, 20-30. Riverland Community College finished the season 8-21 overall and 4-6 in the division and tied for third with Fergus Falls and Rochester. Based on tie breaking criteria, Riverland would finish 5<sup>th</sup> in the division and lose out on its tenth consecutive trip to the MCCC state tournament. Amy Eiken (1<sup>st</sup> team), Mellisa Cummins (2<sup>nd</sup>), and Nicky Stier (2<sup>nd</sup>) were chosen to the All-Division team. Eiken was named to the Region XIII All-Region team.

Roster Included:

Rachael Jahr	Chelsey Symes	Nina Hollerud
Amy Eiken	Nicky Stier	Mellisa Cummins
Laura Jackson	Abigayle Verthein	Danielle Hewitt
Stacy Schlobohm	Laura Amundson	Stacie Thisius
Stephanie Duffy		

**BASKETBALL** Coach Darin Johnson 7-17 With three sophomores and ten freshmen, Coach Johnson had to rely on speed and shooting for his team to be effective this season. “We have a very small team and need to avoid injuries” said Coach Johnson. Leading the way are second year players Andre Morgan, Arthur Gomez, and Abram Albee. Riverland Community College opened its season with a 69-63 win over WWTI in non-conference action. D’Starr Turner scored 21 and added nine rebounds in the season opener. Mid-State Technical College defeated the Blue Devils 86-74 in game two of the season as Abram Albee led in scoring with 16 points. RVLD was powerless against a much bigger Mid-State squad. The Blue Devils remained at .500 after competing in the Rochester tournament.

In the opening round, RVLD lost to the St. Thomas JV's 63-54 but rebounded with a 59-56 win over the St. Mary's JV's to even their record at 2-2 on the season. Arthur Gomer had 11 tallies in game one and Demetrius Doherty had 12 points to lead his team to victory in the third place game. Riverland Community College collected a huge victory as they upset NIACC 72-71 in non-conference action to improve to 3-2 on the season. In the waning moments, Riverland tied the game at 71-71 and Nick McKissack made one of two free throws late in the contest for the final outcome. Gomer led a balanced attack with 13 points as four players scored in double figures and Doherty added 8 rebounds and a dozen points in the win. Riverland Community College continued its non-conference schedule as Des Moines Area Community College defeated the Blue Devils 67-55 to drop them to 3-3 overall. In the words of Coach Johnson, "we played well against a very strong team with a lot of weapons". Albee led all scorers with 14 points. RVLD lost a heart breaker to northern foe Central Lakes 54-53. Shooting was the major problem in their loss as the Blue Devils lost in the final seconds after being tied at 53-53 with 13 seconds to go in the contest. Albee again led his team with 12 points in the defeat. Mesabi Range pounded the Blue Devils 94-66 as Coach Darin Johnson's team was totally outmanned. The Norse shot an incredible 16 of 26 from 3-point range. D'Starr Turner led with 16 points, Arthur Gomer added 14 and Nick McKissack had 12 to drop RVLD to 3-5 on the season. Nick McKissack had his season high as he tallied 18 points but it wasn't enough to lead his team over Vermilion who defeated Riverland 73-64 in non-league action. RVLD led 37-31 at the half but could not keep their lead and fell behind in the second for the defeat. D'Starr also reached double figures with 15 tallies. The Blue Devils snapped their four game losing streak as they defeated WWTI 77-62 to improve their record to 4-6 overall. Derek Roeder led his team with 16 points. Iowa Lakes handed Riverland their seventh loss of the season with a convincing 78-57 win over the Blue Devils. DiJon Reese was the top scorer with 17 points while McKissack hauled down 9 rebounds in the defeat. Riverland Community College ended its non-conference schedule as they defeated Madison Area Community College 56-55 with a score at the buzzer to win a thriller. Riverland Community College got 13 points from DiJon Reese, the last a spectacular over/under lay-up that eventually won the game for the Devils. Ferocious defense, offensive rebounding, and best of all, a twin pack of effort and execution helped the Blue Devils improved to 5-7 and open the conference schedule against top ranked Minneapolis C & TC after the break. Derek Roeder poured in 16 points but the Marauders from Minneapolis were too much for the Blue Devils in a 67-50 loss in the conference opener. Outmanned and outsized, RVLD was everything but out hustled in the first game after the holidays. Coach Darin Johnson's squad was down to seven players after the post-fall semester because of eligibility failures and after the night down to six due to an injury to DiJon Reese. The Blue Devils shocked Rochester 51-42 at home in a brilliant game plan by Coach Johnson to slow the ball down. Roeder again led RVLD with 11 tallies and Arthur Gomer hauled down 11 rebounds to help Riverland improve to 1-1 in the conference and 6-8 overall. Riverland Community College would go on to lose nine of its final ten conference games. Ridgewater College handed the Blue Devils a 63-52 loss as Derek Roeder had a season high 22 points in the loss. D'Starr Turner turned in an outstanding performance with 18 points and 7 rebounds in a heart wrenching loss to MSCTC Fergus Falls. The Blue Devils led at halftime 38-36 but could not hold on for the victory.

“Overall we played very well” said Coach Johnson. Abram Albee added 17 points and DiJon Reese chipped in with 11. The loss dropped RVLD to 1-3 and 6-10 overall. Minnesota West edged Riverland 72-68 in a game that saw the Blue Devils throw away a chance for victory. Again Riverland led at halftime (37-32) but could not finish and as a result dropped its third conference game in four tries. Roeder again led with 17 points as four players reached double figures. Anoka-Ramsey defeated Riverland 67-54 as Andre Morgan tossed in 13 and Arthur Gomer hauled down 10 rebounds. Both teams combined for 20 three point shots made meaning almost half the points came from behind the arc. The loss was the Blue Devils fourth in a row and dropped them to 6-12 overall and 1-5 in the league. Derek Roeder had 24 including five 3-pointers in a tough loss to # 1 ranked Minneapolis 83-59. Riverland trailed by six at halftime but the Marauders ran away with it in the second half points. The Blue Devils lost two consecutive games on a road trip to MSCTC Fergus Falls, losing 66-51 to MSCTC and 64-46 to Ridgewater. Dijon Reese tossed in 17 points, grabbed 5 rebounds, and handed out 4 assists in the Fergus Falls contest while Andre Morgan had 14, Derek Roeder 13, and DiJon Reese 10 to lead their team in defeat against the Warriors from Willmar. Rochester C & TC handed the Blue Devils their eighth straight loss with a 74-48 win over Riverland Community College. Roeder was the only scorer in double figures with 19 points. The Blue Devils defeated MM West 76-62 to end their losing streak as Roeder poured in a career high 29 points, including 10 of 11 from the foul line. Riverland found a way to win and send out sophomores Andre Morgan, Abram Albee, and Art Gomer victors in their final home appearance. In its final season contest, Riverland lost to Anoka-Ramsey 87-63 as Andre Morgan led his team with 18 points. “It’s pretty much the same old story” said Coach Johnson. “We couldn’t compete in the second half with six guys”. The Blue Devils finished the season 2-10 in the conference and 7-17 overall. Coach Darin Johnson announced he would be leaving at the end of the year to pursue another career. “I have chosen to resign as basketball coach and accept a professional opportunity that is better for me both personally and professionally”, Johnson said in a statement released by the college. In his three years at Riverland Community College, Johnson compiled a 22-50 win-loss record.

Roster Included:

Andre Morgan	Arthur Gomer	Marcus Hunsucker
Abram Albee	Manasseh Kimbaki	Jake Burzinski
Nick McKissack	Lou Traszak	Dijon Reese
D’Starr Turner	Demetrius Doherty	Derek Roeder
Dominic Scott	Ass’t Coaches: Jake Greenman, Blaine Denny	

**Women’s Basketball** Coach Suzy Hebrink 5-19 Riverland opened the season with two sophomores, Amy Eiken-Tweeten and Nicole Steir. Seven freshmen including standout Inge Milius from Plainfield, IA made up the squad. The Lady Blue Devils opened the season with a 63-60 win over WWTI. A second half comeback after trailing by nine (31-22) at halftime was provided by Abigayle Verthein, who poured in 21 points. Nickole Steir added 14 and point guard Tibisa Thor chipped in with 13 points.

The Gustavus JV team used a second half surge to upend RVLD 58-47 in non-conference action. Thor was the only one to reach double figures for Riverland as she connected for 17 points. Competing in the Rochester Invitational, Riverland defeated Crossroads 69-43. Nikki Lehnertz scored a season high 29 points by connecting on 12 of 24 from the field. Anna Hanumaki added 12 points in the victory. NIACC pounded the Blue Devils 66-44 in non-league action as Riverland shot 9% in the first half and 22% for the game. Freshman forward Abigayle Verthein led with 10 points. "We played great defense all night but we are struggling on offense" said Coach Hebrink. DMACC totally dominated Riverland in non-conference play and upended the Lady Blue Devils 59-42 to drop them to 2-4 on the season. Verthein scored 10 with Thor and Anna Havumaki each adding 8 points. After leading by four at halftime, Central Lakes hung on to defeat RVLD 55-48 as the Blue Devils shot 26% for the game and still had a chance for the victory. Havumaki led with 12 points as turnovers (24) continue to plague Riverland Community College. The Riverland Blue Devils got drubbed on the road by the Gustavus JV's 76-45 in a non-conference game. "We did not show up prepared" said a disappointed Coach Hebrink. Inge Milius, Nikki Lehnertz each had 11 and Anna Havumaki tallied 10 points in the loss which dropped RVLD to 2-5 on the season. A trip up north saw Riverland split two contests, losing to Mesabi Range College 68-58 and to bounce back and defeat Vermilion the following day 93-45. In the loss to Mesabi, Havumaki led the attack with 20 points and 13 rebounds while Nickole Stier chipped in with 15 points. Nikki Lehnertz and Stier combined for 48 points (24 apiece) in the win over Vermilion. Havumaki added 18 and Laura Amundson found double figures with 11 points. MATC came to town and in the Blue Devils final game before the holidays the Wolfpack totally dominated in a 78-61 win over Riverland. Center Anna Havumaki was high with 24 points but the Lady Blue Devils were outsized in every front court position. Tibisa Thor scored 15 points and had four steals in the loss which dropped RVLD to 3-6 on the season. The Hamline JV team handled Riverland Community College 58-45 in a final tune up in non-conference action. Nikki Lehnertz led with 14, followed by Thor with 13 and Verthein who added 10 points. The Lady Blue Devils opened up the conference with an 85-56 loss to Minneapolis, dropping them to 3-8 overall. RVLD trailed by 29 at halftime but played even with them in the second half. Abigayle Verthein tallied 21 followed by Stier and Lehnertz with 10 each. Rochester handled Riverland Community College 70-52, who was down to seven healthy players after Inge Milius suffered a season ending knee surgery in December. Verthein led with 13 and Anna Havumaki added 11 points. Madison defeated Riverland 49-28 in non-conference action. Havumaki was the only one in double figures with 10 points. Riverland failed to score in the final 5:09 minutes of the game as Ridgewater upended the Lady Blue Devils 58-42 in league action. The loss was RVLD's sixth in a row and dropped them to 0-3 in the MCCC southern division and 3-11 overall. MSCTC Fergus Falls defeated the Blue Devils 67-53 in conference action. RVLD committed 26 turnovers compared to 15 by the Spartans and that area of the game has continued to plague the Blue Devils. Verthein poured in 24 points and hauled down 9 rebounds in the loss. Stepping out of conference action, defending Wisconsin State champion Waukesha Tech blasted RVLD 75-51 to drop the Lady Devils to 3-13 on the season. Havumaki (15) and Verthein (10) were the only two in double figures. Minnesota West handed Riverland its ninth straight loss with a 73-52 division win over the Lady Blue Devils.

Havumaki (15) and Verthein (14) led RVLD in scoring. The Gustavus JVs defeated Riverland Community College 67-47, pulling away in the second half. Trailing only by six at halftime, Riverland was out matched and could not keep up with the taller Gustavus squad. Abby Verthien led three in double figures with 14, followed by Tibisa Thor's 11 and Anna Havumaki who chipped in with 10. Riverland drops to 3-15 overall. Minneapolis defeated RVLD 75-60 division play, handing the Blue Devils their 6<sup>th</sup> straight division loss (0-6). Riverland played well the first half and trailed only by two (32-30). Havumaki recorded a double-double scoring 20 points and hauled down 10 rebounds to lead her team in defeat. The Riverland Blue Devils used every bit of energy it could summon to avenge an earlier loss to Fergus Falls and won their first conference game, defeating the Spartans 61-52 to break an eleven game losing streak. Tied at halftime at 24-24, Riverland got off to a 10-0 run to start the second half and never looked back. "Earl (Devil's assistant) and I wanted this one so bad for the girls" said an elated Coach Suzy Hebrink. The Blue Devils made 6 of 6 free throws in the final minutes to seal the victory. Nikki Lehnertz scored a game high 20 points to lead RVLD, followed by Thor with 16 and Havumaki with 11. The Devils improve to 4-15 and 1-6 in the southern division. Ridgewater pounded the Blue Devils 65-38 as Coach Hebrink saw her team turn the ball over 24 times in the loss. Nickole Stier had 14 followed by Lehnertz with 10 points. Rochester defeated Riverland for the second time 69-50. Stier had 16 and Abigayle Verthein chipped in with 14 tallies. In a make up game, Riverland Community College defeated WWTI 87-59 in non-conference action. Leading by 10 points at halftime, RVLD turned it up a notch as Verthein had a big night with 23 points on 11 of 21 shooting, giving the Lady Blue Devils their final win of the season. In Riverland's final game, Tibisa Thor put up one her best efforts of the season, scoring 17 points and hauling down 14 rebounds but it wasn't enough as MN West outscored RVLD 17-7 in the final eleven minutes to take home the victory and end the Blue Devils season at 1-9 in the division and 5-19 overall.

Roster Included:

Tibisa Thor	Nikki Lehnertz	Abigayle Verthein
Inge Milius	Nickole Stier	Amy Eiken-Tweeten
Stephanie Duffy	Laura Amundson	Anna Havumaki

Ass't Coach: Gary Erlandson

**Baseball** Scott Koenigs 13-17 Coach Koenigs entered his fourth year with one of the top hitters in the region in Louis Lang (hit .446 as a freshman). Lang leads a group of eight letter-winners and eight newcomers. In the season opener, NIACC defeated the Blue Devils 7-5 and 8-0 due to a handful of costly miscues. "We played well enough to win the opener" said Blue Devils coach Scott Koenigs. RVLD led 4-2 in the bottom of the fourth but three costly mistakes cost them the victory. The Blue Devils collected only five hits in each of the two losses. Riverland opened the conference spitting a pair with Dakota County by the identical scores of 5-4. In the opener, RVLD tied it in the seventh (4-4) on an error and won it in the eighth on a base hit but Elias Solveling. Riverland starter Jake Blome took a no decision, going seven innings allowing four runs on four hits. Greg Rettereth got the win in relief.

In the nightcap, Jamie Sturdy took the loss as the Blue Devils had the winning runs on base in the seventh but could not come up with the big hit. The Blue Devils stepped out of conference and split with Iowa Lakes, losing the first game 5-1 but winning the nightcap 4-3. In the victory, Steve Hovland went the entire 9 innings to pick up his first win of the season. In dramatic fashion, Riverland scored the winning run in the ninth inning on what was supposed to be a sacrifice bunt but the NIACC third baseman threw it away and Greg Retterath scored all the way from first base for the winning run. Riverland Community College hosted the crossover tournament with six teams participating and each team was guaranteed four games. The Blue Devils defeated MN West 5-0, lost to Northland 7-2, upended Central Lakes 9-7 and dropped its final game 13-8 to Mesabi Range. The last contest proved to be very costly as RVL D lost its top three pitchers to injuries in the final game of the weekend classic. Five players finished with multiple hits, led by Louis Lang going 4 for 4, Adam Edge 3 for 4, and Rob Barslow, Retterath and Solveling all with two hits. The weekend tournament left Riverland with an overall record of 4-6. The Blue Devils split with MN West in division play, winning the opener 16-6 but dropping the nightcap 11-9. In game one, the Blue Devils blasted out 17 hits, scoring 10 runs in the first two innings. Jason Churchill, Edge, and Solveling all had three hits in the victory. In the nightcap, the Blue Devils again started strong by sending 10 men to the plate in the first inning and scoring seven runs, but the Blue Devils gusto was washed away and saw MN West score 10 runs in the fourth and go on to gain a split in the division doubleheader. "I've never been more disappointed in my life. You win the first contest 16-6, and then blow a seven run lead in the second game. We're not a very good team right now" said Coach Scott Koenigs. Riverland now stands 2-2 in the league and 5-7 overall. Rochester handed RVL D a doubleheader loss with a 10-3 and 19-12 wins over the Blue Devils. RVL D had only one hit in the opener and saw Rochester pile up two nine run innings in the nightcap. "We are so low on arms right now and our health isn't good, said stated Koenigs. Riverland lost both ends of a twin bill to league leading Ridgewater, losing 10-0 and 9-5, dropping them to 2-6 in the league and 5-11 overall. In a non-conference doubleheader, RVL D ended its skid with a sweep over Pillsbury College 10-0 and 13-1. Riverland got back on track using big first innings in both contests to rout Pillsbury. The Devils scored six runs in the first inning of game one, getting a three run double by third baseman Rob Barslow to cap the rally. In game two, the first seven batters reached first base and Riverland scored seven runs to help Jake Blome record the win. Louis Lang had five hits in the twin bill. The Blue Devils split with WWTI, losing the opener 11-8 but rebounding with a 13-12 thriller in the nightcap. Pitching provided many of the headaches for the Blue Devils, getting them into jams that proved too deep to climb out of or losing situations that seemed firmly in Riverland's control. In the nightcap, the Blue Devils trailed 12-9 going into the seventh but a four run inning including a bases loaded hit batsman ended the marathon with the Blue Devils escaping with a one-run game. Jake Blome went 4 for 5 with three RBI and three runs scored in the victory. The split left Riverland with an 8-12 overall record. Stepping back into conference play, league leading Ridgewater defeated Riverland twice 6-1 and 10-8. The Blue Devils would split a pair of one run games in non-conference action with WWTI, losing 3-2 in the first game and winning the second 4-3.

Dakota County swept the Blue Devils 9-8 and 15-8 to drop them to 1-9 in the division and 9-17 overall. Riverland Community College continued its dominance over Pillsbury with a pair of wins, winning 15-1 and 14-4 in two ten-run rule contests. The Blue Devils completed its season with a sweep over MN West 5-1 and 18-7 in league play. First baseman Louis Lang went 4 for 6 in the opener as the Blue Devils racked up 25 runs on the day. In game two, Rob Barslow was the big bat, going 4 for 4 with a double and five RBI. The two conference wins gave them a final 3-9 record in the conference and 13-17 record overall. Louis Lang was named to the All-Conference, All-State, and All-Region XIII teams. Lang finished the season batting .490 (50 for 102), second highest in the history of baseball at Riverland Community College. Lang shattered the all time Blue Devils record with 50 hits in a season and also set season highs in RBI's with 35, recorded 15 doubles, and tied the home run mark with five round trippers.

Roster Includes:

Adam Edge	Jason Churchill	Louis Lang
Elias Solveling	Jake Blome	Rob Barslow
Greg Retterath	Jason Castillo	Jamie Surdy
Matt Richter	Andy Tomsche	Nick Watje
Steve Hovland	Devin Kaasa	Jordan Lukes
Arturo Gonzales	Ass't Coaches: Sean Greslin, Chans Meyer	

**SOFTBALL** Coach Nicole Stofferahn For the second consecutive year, Riverland Community College suspended its entire season for lack of players. First year coach Stofferahn was hired in July of 2005 but was unable to field a team for the spring of 2006.

**GOLF-** Men's Golf Coach David Lillemon Riverland Community College had only one sophomore, Booby Gaulke a transfer student from McCook, Nebraska. Gaulke, a tall, lean lefthander led a talented freshmen class led by Matt Bennett, Jake Blome, Trevor King, and Chad Smith. The Blue Devils opened the season by hosting five-team meet at The Oaks Golf Course in Hayfield, MN. Riverland finished 3<sup>rd</sup> with a 330 team score, led by Bobby Gaulke with a 76. Other scores for RVL D were Matt Richter and Chad Smith with 84's, Vance Helgelend fired an 86, and Jake Blome had an 89. Riverland Community College also hosted its second meet at Albert Lea and finished third again by shooting a 315. Gaulke again led his team with an even par 71 and was runner-up in the low round of the day. Bennett fired a 76 to help the Blue Devils improve 15 strokes from their previous outing. Riverland traveled to Hibbing and shot a 340 and finished 5<sup>th</sup> out of eight teams. Bobby Gaulke had an 80 to lead Riverland. Back on their home course, RVL D shot a 359 to take fourth place out of 6 teams. Gaulke finally broke through with a tournament winning performance as he shot an impressive 76 on a difficult day and conditions at the Austin Country Club. "He beat about a ½ dozen golfers who have consistently beat him this year" said Coach David Lillemon. "Its fair to say the course won today" Lillemon said of the scores posted.

Other scores by RVLD players were 87 from Bennett, 91 from Trevor King and a 105 from Chad Smith. In the MCCC state and Region XIII tournament, Riverland shot a 681 for two days and finished in 6<sup>th</sup> place in the state tournament and 8<sup>th</sup> place overall in the region. Bobby Gaulke was RVLD's highest finisher, shooting rounds of 82-82=164. Other scores were Matt Bennett (166), Trevor King (175), Mike Richter (176), and Jake Blome (178). This ended an eight year run where at least one Riverland Community College golfer had qualified for the NJCAA national tournament. Members of the team were: Bobby Gaulke, Matt Richter, Matt Bennett, Jake Blome, Vance Helgeland, Trevor King, Chad Smith, and Don Herbst.

**GOLF**- Women's Golf                      Coach David Lillemon   Riverland Community College competed in only two tournaments. In the RVLD tournament hosted by the Austin Country Club, Brook Wuerflein fired a 117 to lead her team. Lauren Bremer shot a 118 and Kelsey Walton had a 58 on the front. In the Region and MCCC state hosted by Madison Area Technical College, Lauren Bremer led the way with a 105-109-214 followed by Brook Wuerflein (121-111=232) and Kelsey Walton (121-114=235). The three women combined for a 660 score and good for third place in the state.

\* Athletic Director David Lillemon has been assigned the head softball position at Riverland Community College. Lillemon, who has been with the college since the fall of 1987, has accepted the position with plenty of experience. Not only has he coached baseball for 17 years ( 8 years for the Blue Devils), he played fast pitch softball for 12 seasons, participated in three national tournaments and was named second team All-American in one of them. This will be the biggest challenge of Coach Lillemon's career, taking over a program that has been defunct for two full seasons (2005, 2006) and having to forfeit its final three doubleheaders in the spring of 2004. "It will take a lot of hard work to resurrect the program" said Lillemon but I am excited about the challenge". Riverland has had terrific softball, as late as 2001, 02, 03 when they were division champions. "I was concerned about the program and I have a great love for the game of softball" Lillemon commented. Lillemon will continue his coaching duties with men's and women's golf in the fall.