

## 2007-08

**Volleyball-** Coach Helen Jahr 12-15 After a two year drought of not qualifying for the state tournament, Coach Helen Jahr has reloaded her team with a load of area talent for the upcoming season. Prior to the last two seasons, Coach Jahr had taken her team to the state for nine straight seasons. Sophomores Marie Boe, Amanda Stoltz, Willow Langerfeld, and Amy Mortenson are expected to lead a talented group of seven freshmen, led by power hitting Brooke Monson from Austin. The Lady Blue Devils opened the season in high fashion by winning the MSCTC Fergus Falls tournament. Taking two out of three in pool play the Lady Blue Devils got the top seed into the final round and defeated Hibbing in three games to win the title. "It was a great way to start the season" said an elated Coach Helen Jahr. RVLD started the day with a win over Rochester by scores of 30-25 and 30-26. The only setback of the tournament was in their next match versus MN West, losing 31-33 and 27-30. With a two game win over Itasca Community College (30-20, 30-18), this game the Lady Blue Devils momentum for the final match of the day. The championship match against Hibbing saw RVLD start out with a 30-20 win, but then lost 28-30 to set up the final game and Riverland responded with a 15-11 to win the championship. Over a span of four matches, middle hitter Brooke Monson amassed 29 kills, nine ace blocks and 3 aces. Elisa Preuss added 35 kills, 46 digs; Tiffany Preuss had 69 set assists; Jackie Venero 46 set assists, and Marie Boe had 36 digs and 58 service receives. "Overall, it was a great day and we did some nice things on the court" concluded Coach Jahr. Riverland Community College competed in the Ridgewater tournament and won three out of five matches, improving their overall record to 6-3. In the opener, RVLD lost at tough match to Anoka Ramsey 20-30, 30-17, 10-16. The second match they also lost, dropping to Des Moines Area CC 18-30, 17-20. The Lady Blue Devils bounced back to win their final three matches. In the first contest, they defeated MN West 23-30, 30-27, 15-12, then going on the following day to sweep Hibbing CC 30-28, 30-27 and Bismarck College 30-23, 30-26. Elisa Preuss was named the MCCC Southern Division Player of the Week for her performance in the season opening Fergus Falls Tournament. Riverland Community College opened the conference against Ridgewater College (defending NJCAA national champions) and lost in four, 19-30, 17-30, 30-28, and 20-30. For the first time in six years, Coach Jahr's team won a game against Ridgewater College.

In the end, the thrill of victory in game three did not last long as Ridgewater built a quick 9-3 lead in game four and went on to win 30-20. RVLD drops to 6-4 overall and 0-1 in the MCCC southern division. The Lady Blue Devils lost their second straight conference match as MSCTC-Fergus Falls won in four games, 27-30, 26-30, 30-25, and 25-30. “We were banging away and our girls were more lively and competitive than earlier in the week” said Coach Helen Jahr. The search for that elusive first divisional win continues as Riverland Community College lost a three game match to MN West on the road. Riverland lost 22-30, 24-30, and 29-31. Statistics for the Lady Blue Devils had Monson leading the way with 12 kills and 4 blocks; Elisa Preuss 10 kills and 17 digs; and Marie Boe with 21 digs and one ace. Riverland drops to 7-8 overall and 0-3 in the conference. Getting the first conference win of the season was no easy task but Riverland Community College defeated Rochester with an exhausting win by scores of 30-17, 24-30, 31-29, 27-30, and 15-11. “We really needed this win for our mental well being” said Coach Jahr. “We also had a great digging night and that was the difference”. Elissa Preuss led with 24 kills and 25 digs; Brooke Monson had 20 kills and 5 blocks, while Ashley Lau had 31 digs and 4 blocks. Anoka-Ramsey defeated the Lady Blue Devils 3-1 at home to drop RVLD to 8-9 overall and 1-4 in the southern division. Riverland won game two 30-25 otherwise it was all Golden Rams. Ridgewater College handled Riverland with ease in round two of the division as they swept the Blue Devils 30-23, 30-17, 30-20. Riverland Community College lost its third consecutive match as Waldorf JV’s won a non-conference tilt 30-23, 28-30, 30-23, and 30-18. “We had them down 22-18 in the first game and they scored 11 consecutive points. I felt that was the difference in the final outcome” said Helen Jahr. The Lady Blue Devils dropped to 8-11 overall. Powerful play at the net in the fifth and final game propelled the Blue Devils to win over MN West and kept their state tournament hopes alive. RVLD prevailed by scores of 30-28, 24-30, 31-29, 27-30, 15-11. “Our hitters came through at the net when we needed them most” said Jahr. The final assault at the net for the Lady Devils was made possible by nice sets from Tiffany Preuss who ended the evening with 39 sets. Elissa Preuss had 19 kills and 34 digs to lead the attack and RVLD is now 2-5 in the MCCC south. Riverland Community College dominated WWTC and won easily in three games 30-11, 30-9, and 30-12 to improve to 10-11 overall. This non-conference tilt was never in doubt from the beginning as the front line from Riverland totally dominated. “We don’t have many matches like this where we walk on the floor and dominate so it was kind of fun in the home finale” said an elated Coach Helen Jahr.

Riverland lost to Rochester in four games to split the season series as the Yellow Jackets won by scores of 30-26, 27-30, 30-28, and 30-18. The Riverland women have lost all four road matches they've played so far in the division. The loss also dimmed the Lady Blue Devils hope of a state tournament appearance, dropping to 2-6 in the conference (A win would of improved RVLD to 3-5 and Rochester to 3-6) in a pivotal game in the conference. A loss in all three games to MSCTC-Fergus Falls (30-26, 30-15, and 30-15) eliminated Riverland Community College from the state tournament. With the loss, the Lady Blue Devils dropped to 2-7 in the south and 10-13 overall. Riverland lost its final conference match to Anoka Ramsey but rebounded the next day in the crossover tournament to finish consolation champion and end the season on a winning note. They would end the season 2-8 in the southern division and 12-15 overall. Final season honors went to Brooke Monson and Elissa Preuss, both earning All-MCCC Southern Division honors. Preuss would later be named to the All-Region XIII team. She finished number two in the division in kills with 280 and fourth in the dig list with 358. Elissa was also chosen the MCCC "player of the week" twice during the regular season.

Roster included:

Marie Boe	Amanda Stoltz	Willow Langerfeld
Amy Mortenson	Brooke Monson	Jackie Venero
Tiffany Preuss	Elisa Preuss	Lindsay Semmann
Ashley Lau	Carmen Smith	

**Golf (M)-** Coach David Lillemon It will be rebuilding season for the Blue Devils with only one sophomore and seven freshmen on this year's squad. Matt Schilling is the lone returning veteran. Darrick Braaten from Owatonna will likely be the number player as the season progresses as he recovers from a summer elbow injury. Riverland opened its season as they hosted an invitational in Albert Lea in a four team tournament. Rochester won the event with a 308 score while the Blue Devils had only one participant (school and work commitments). Pete Thome recorded a 91 in her first varsity contest. The Blue Devils traveled to Oakdale, MN and participated in a six team invitational. Braaten led the team with an 84 in a sixth place finish. The following week RVLD traveled to Rochester and MN West respectively. Thome fired a 111 in a cold, blustery day but rebounded with a 91 the following day in Worthington. Illnesses, work, injuries, and school continue to hamper efforts to get any other players to participate in the meets. Riverland Community College hosted a four team tournament at the country club and finished in fourth with a 413 total. Rochester won the event with a 314 score, followed by Century (329) and MN West (377). Leading the way for RVLD was Darrick Bratten with an 86. "The course played very long and real tough due to the wet conditions" said coach Lillemon. Riverland traveled to Lake City to play in a tournament hosted by Rochester and again Thome was the only member able to make the trip. Pete fired a 103 to finish the regular season. Three men competed in the MCCC state and Region XIII tournament hosted by Central Lakes in Brainerd, who won both tournaments that run in conjunction with each other. Braaten was the low man for the Blue Devils, firing rounds of 97-87= 185. Pete Thome had consecutive 107-107=214 while Isaac Van Proosdy shot a 130 his first day and did not play the second day due to school commitments. "On the second day I was real proud of our kids who battled tough conditions. Darrick had a nice improvement for his second round. The kids improved over the course of the season and that always makes it fun for a coach" said Lillemon. Members include: Darrick Braaten, Matt Schilling, Lane Voight, Kevin Schroeder, Eric Bontrock, Travis Fiekelborn, Peter Thome, and Isaac Van Proosdy.

**Golf (W)-**Coach David Lillemon There were four women that expressed interest in golf and were on the eligibility roster. Due to school and work commitments none of them participated in any matches for the season. Members included: Katie Murphy, Elizabeth Johnson, Kim Bestul, and Amanda Follmuth.

**Hall of Fame- Riverland Community College had the induction of six former athletes on November 3, 2007. This was the seventh class of inductees that joined 34 former coaches and athletes previously inducted into the Hall of Fame beginning in 1997. The inductees are:**

**Ed Bakke** (Wrestling in 1964-65, 1965-66) is the first wrestler to be inducted. He was a two time NJCAA national wrestler, finishing runner-up his freshman year and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the country as a sophomore.

**Curt Barnett** (Football in 1977-78, 1978-79) was a standout linebacker and punter for Austin Community College and led his team in the fall of 1977 to the record books by allowing the fewest points in history with 105. He holds 12 individual records as a linebacker and as a punter.

**Larry Chesin** (Golf in 1962-63, 1963-64) was a standout golfer for Austin State Junior College and qualified for the NJCAA national tournament in both his freshman and sophomore year of golf (he finished 18<sup>th</sup> in the country both years at the national tourney). He led his team to a SMJCAA championship his second year

**Nancy Fossey** (Volleyball in 1978-79, 1979-80) was named All-Conference, All-State, and All Region XIII in her two seasons as she led Austin Community College to 41 wins in two seasons (23-9, 18-7) and two state appearances. As a sophomore, Nancy led her team to a division title and a third place finish in the state tournament.

**Brian Ojanpa** (Baseball in 1967-68, 1968-69), a standout pitcher for Austin State Junior College, set five records as a freshman. He was undefeated on the mound at 8-0 with a 1.64 ERA. Brian struck out 93 batters in a 76 and 2/3 innings and led his team to a conference championship and Region XIII runner-up. As a sophomore, Ojanpa went 5-3 on the mound.

**Therese Parlin-Mangold** (Track in 1974-75, 1975-76) participated in track alone in her two seasons. While the lone participant, Parling won two state championships in back to back seasons in the 100 and 200 meter low hurdles and earned All-State honors. She set two records as a freshman in the state tournament, only to return her second season and break her old records (:15.8 in the low 100 meters and :31.8 in the 200 meter hurdles).

**Basketball (M)- Dan Swift 4-21** After narrowly missing the state tournament last season, coach Swift has added more offensive firepower to his team's arsenal for the upcoming campaign. With five returning sophomores led by Ryan Bartels and Eddie Jensen there is plenty of reason for optimism. Nineteen total players are vying for spots on this year's roster. Riverland lost its season opener 79-73 to NIACC as turnovers led to the Blue Devils downfall and a 16 point halftime deficit. "The guys were kind of nervous the first half and pressure rattled us. In the second half we played more under control and I can't ask anymore from the guys with their great defensive effort" said Swift. Ryan Bartels led RVL D with 27 points and was the only one in double figures. The Blue Devils traveled to Worthington to play in a four team tournament and lost 96-58 to Dordt, Iowa in the opener but rebounded with a convincing win over Hibbing 84-67 the following day. Bartels again was the main man as he scored 21 and 25 respectively. In the win over the Cardinals from Hibbing, Juan Wilborn added 23 points, Eddy Jensen tossed in 14 while Byron Brown chipped in with 11 tallies. After securing its first win of the season, RVL D improves to 1-2 on the season. Turnovers (25) and missed free throws (12 of 28) were the downfall of the Riverland men's team in a 25 point loss to Madison Area Technical College, losing 71-48. The Blue Devils would only get as close as 12 points (56-44) in the blowout loss. Jensen was lone scorer in double figures with 13 points. Central Lakes came out firing and jumped to a 17-2 lead as Riverland Community College lost its fourth game in five tries, losing 81-65 and remain winless at home in three attempts dropping to 1-4 on the season. Matt Kraft had his best game of the season with a team high 21 points and 10 rebounds. Juan Wilborn finished with 18 and Ryan Bartels added a dozen. The Blue Devils snapped their two game losing skid with a 105-76 win over Western Technical College. RVL D exploded for 67 points in the first half and never looked back. "We got off to great start and put pressure on them right away" said Coach Dan Swift. "This is the best our starters have played so far this season". Byron Brown led Riverland with 25 points and canned four treys. Ryan Bartels added 22 points, followed by Juan Wilborn with 15 and Eddie Jensen who had 13 points. Turnovers continue to plague the Blue Devils as they lost to Vermilion 83-79 to remain winless at home (0-4). Matt Kraft had a career high 34 points but 27 turnovers on the night cost Riverland Community College a chance for victory. Juan Wilborn had a triple-double with 17 points, 11 rebounds, and a dozen assists. RVL D drops to 2-5 on the season. Riverland lost its fifth straight home game 88-79 to Mesabi College as injuries played a key role in the defeat.

Ryan Bartels, the leading scorer and captain for the Blue Devils was undercut and left the game with a nasty cut on the head. D' Endre Byrant also was injured two minutes into the game and according to Coach Dan Swift, "two of our top five guys played only 5 and ½ minutes and we didn't have enough offense to stay with Mesabi in the second half". Eddie Jensen and Wilborn led the team with 17 points each, followed by Byron Brown with 16 and Matt Kraft added a dozen points. Riverland traveled to Brainerd and lost 89-75. The Blue Devils trailed by as many as 17 but rallied to cut the deficit to 3 points midway in the second half before losing the final outcome. Byron Brown led with 26, followed by Juan Wilborn with 23 points. Returning home RVLD hosted the Gustavus Adolphus JV team and were looking for their first victory at home. But it wasn't meant to be as the Blue Devils lost 84-83 after leading by 17 points midway in the first half. Juan Wilborn poured in a career high 38 points but his three point shot at the buzzer fell off the rim and Riverland fell short again in the win column. Mike Kraft and Mike Polis each had 13 in the defeat. The loss dropped the Blue Devils to 2-8 on the season. Riverland Community College snapped a four game losing streak and won for the first time at home as they defeated WWTC 69-53 to sweep the season series. The Blue Devils were led by Wilborn again with 29 points followed by Byron Brown with 17 tallies. "It was nice to get the scoring from the backcourt but our big guys need to do a better job of attacking the basket" Coach Swift said. RVLD improves to 3-8 on the season and travel to Ellsworth, IA to end the pre-season schedule. In a rematch with Gustavus, Riverland avenged an earlier one point loss and upended Gustavus JVs 89-64 in a game totally dominated by the Blue Devils. RVLD was led by Juan Wilborn with 28, Ryan Bartels had 19, Matt Kraft with 16 and Mike Polis chipped in with 11 points. Wilborn was named MCCC Southern Division 'Player of the Week' in the men's division as he averaged 29.7 points, 9 rebounds, 5.3 assists and 2.3 steals in three games last week. A shot at the buzzer gave Ridgewater College a 71-69 win over Riverland Community College in the southern division opener for both colleges. Juan Wilborn made the front end of a bonus free throw to give the Blue Devils a 69-68 lead with seven seconds to go but the Warriors raced down the court and 3-pointer at the buzzer dashed any hopes of a Blue Devil victory. Bartels led with 20 points followed by Wilborn with 17, Kraft added a dozen and Eddie Jensen had 10 points. The loss dropped RVLD to 4-9 overall. Playing without the services of the Blue Devils leading scorer, Riverland dropped its second conference game to MSCTC-Fergus Falls by the score of 79-67.

Juan Wilborn scored 14 points in the first half (RVLD trailed 42-40) but fell ill at halftime and his absence was immediately felt as RVLD turned the ball over their first four possessions of the second half. Eddy Jensen led the Blue Devils with 20, followed by Matt Kraft with 18 and Wilborn's 14 points. The loss dropped Riverland to 0-2 in the conference and 4-11 on the season. Turnovers put the Riverland men in the deep hole versus Minnesota West and as a result the Blue Devils dropped their third game in a row 86-74. Playing without point guard Juan Wilborn, RVLD had all kinds of problems with the press of the West Blue Jays. Ryan Bartels led Riverland with 25 points followed by Mike Polis who had 19 points. Riverland Community College shot 1 for 17 from beyond the arc and 33% for the game as Anoka-Ramsey pounded the Blue Devils 73-54 in conference action. Tied 27-27 at the half, coach Dan Swift's team could not get untracked the second half. Manasseh Kambaki was the only one to reach double figures with 13 points. The loss was their fourth in a row and all have occurred in conference action. Riverland Community College remained winless in the conference as Minneapolis C & TC defeated the Blue Devils 84-48. The first six minutes RVLD trailed only 16-15 but a 14-4 run by the Mavericks put the game away early. Eddie Jensen led with 19 points followed by Mike Kraft who had 17 points. Riverland drops to 4-14 overall and 0-5 in the division. Riverland turned the ball over 39 times as Rochester handed the Blue Devils a 97-65 setback in conference action. "We're playing with 8-9 forwards and we have to find a way to break pressure" said Coach Dan Swift. Jensen had a monster game with 18 points and 15 rebounds. Matt Kraft added 11 points and 10 boards. Ridgewater College was in complete control from the beginning and pounded the Blue Devils 97-63 in the beginning of second round of the conference play. Riverland Community College lost its eighth straight game as Fergus Falls upended the Blue Devils 93-71. Eddie Jensen led the balance scoring with 25 points, followed by Ryan Bartels with 14, Matt Kraft had 13, and Mike Polis chipped in with 10 points. RVLD drops to 4-17 overall and has a bye this weekend before traveling to MN West next week. Minnesota West handed the Blue Devils their ninth consecutive loss with a 113-78 setback to Riverland Community College. Eddie Jensen had another solid effort in the paint with 22 points and 10 rebounds. Three others scored in double figures led by Sponsor Monson's season high 19 points. Ryan Bartels added 14 and Matt Kraft 11 tallies. Riverland Community College lost to Anoka-Ramsey 81-61 as they suffered their tenth loss in a row in conference play.

Spenser Monson scored 10 of his game high 16 points in the second half and tried to keep the Blue Devils in the game after trailing 42-27 at halftime. Eddie Jensen had 14 points and 14 rebounds and Bartels chipped in with 11 points. Riverland drops to 4-19 on the season. Riverland Community College held the high powered Minneapolis Mavericks to 31 points in the first half but lost 87-45 in a game where size was such a big factor. “We played scared against their big guys and did not go hard to the rim” said Coach Swift. “Our guys settled for too many jump shots and fade-aways”. Mike Polis led the Blue Devils with 12 points and Ryan Bartels had 10 points. RVLD is now 0-11 in conference play and concludes the season at Rochester this week. Riverland Community College concluded its season losing 86-63 to Rochester and finished the season with 12 straight losses. RVLD scored only 23 points the first half and were not able to mount a comeback. The Blue Devils finished the season 0-12 in the conference and 4-21 on the season. Eddie Jensen, a 6’4 sophomore earned All-Southern Division honors for the second consecutive season.

Roster Includes:

John Stevens	Byron Brown	Eddie Jensen
Matt Kraft	Nate Steenblock	D’Andre Bryant
Chris Denton	Mike Polis	Ryan Bartels
Danny DeWitz	Juan Wilborn	Spensor Monson
Nick Mack	Daniel Chansa	Manasseh Kambaki
Ass’t Coach: Scott Koenigs		

**Basketball (w)** Suzy Hebrink 22-6 MCCC Tournament-5<sup>th</sup> Place Tracee Crowley is the only returning sophomore from last season but Coach Hebrink has a young team loaded with talent and area flavor. The Lady Blue Devils will feature four girls from Austin High (6’2 post Brooke Monson, 1000 plus scorer Anna Hebrink, forward Lizzie Gunter, defensive specialist Holly Waltz (who didn’t play high school basketball), and Carmen Smith (Lyle-Pacelli HS) who adds some height to the front court. Jenyce Mueller comes from a standout program in Stewartville, Ashley Lau brings a wealth of talent from Glenville-Emmons, and sophomore transfers Becca Swalla and Ali Mackey from Iowa round out the squad. “It is nice to have some depth in the backcourt”. We’re a quick team and looking forward to doing quite a bit on the floor” said Coach Hebrink. “We are more all-round players this season”.

The Lady Blue Devils opened the season with a 66-64 win over division II foe NIACC as the bench provided the energy to spark Riverland to the victory. Holly Waltz scored 9 points and Carmen Smith added six in the low post and the starters took care of the rest. Brooke Monson led with 21 points and Anna Hebrink (12) and Becca Swalla (10) were also in double figures for the Blue Devils. RVLD jumped to an 8-0 lead and led by as many as 12 points only to see it whittled to two points with time running out. Riverland traveled to MN West for a four team tournament and the Lady Blue Devils came away two more wins and improved to 3-0 on the season. In the opener, RVLD came from behind after trailing by ten at halftime and defeated the Sioux Falls JV's 75-66. Anna Hebrink scored 18 points in the second half to lead the comeback. Tracee Crowley also tossed in 18, followed by Brooke Monson with 16 and Lizzie Gunter added 11 in the road win. In the second game of the tournament, Riverland connected on a dozen three pointers and routed Hibbing 89-54. Ali Mackey and Monson each tossed in 20 points in the winning effort. Hebrink added 19 points and 11 assists for a double/double. Riverland Community College improved to 4-0 with an 88-37 lopsided win over Crossroads Bible College in non-conference action. "We played much better defensively in the second half and had better shot selection" said Coach Hebrink as she watched her team outscore Crossroads 46-8. Five players recorded double figures, including Ashley Lau who had 10 points in six minutes. This is the first time in Coach Hebrink's nine years at Riverland that her team has started 4-0 to start the season. Nine players scored for RVLD in the 59-51 win over Madison Area Technical College and the Lady Blue Devils remained undefeated. The Lady Blue Devils took the lead for good (43-42) on Anna Hebrink's three point shot with 7:00 to go in the contest. An 8-2 run down the stretch led by Ali Mackey put the game away. Mackey finished with a game high 17 points, followed by Becca Swalla who chipped in with 16 points. The Lady Blue Devils scored the first seventeen points of the game against Central Lakes and rolled to a lopsided 83-57 win over the Raiders. "We got off to a good start and it was nice to see them run the offense in the first half" said Coach Hebrink. "I'm happy we're undefeated but it's a long season and we still have a lot of work to do". With the pair of impressive victories over the weekend, the Lady Blue Devils improved to 6-0 and off to the best start in Riverland women's basketball in over three decades (The best start ever was recorded back in 1974-75 when the women's team began the season with a 7-0 record). Western Technical College knocked off Riverland 72-60 to stop the Lady Blue Devils winning streak at six games.

Riverland Community College got off to rough start on the road and trailed 40-20 with six minutes to go in the first half and could never get the deficit under 10 points the entire contest. “We came out and played poorly defensively and that led to the big deficit” said Hebrink. “This is one of those games where we got it handed to us and they completely dominated”. RVLD shot a miserable 23-78 (29%) and were led in scoring by Anna Hebrink with 18, followed by Brooke Monson’s 15 and Becca Swalla who added 11 points. The Lady Blue Devils responded after their loss by upsetting Vermilion 69-43 in non-conference action. Brooke Monson had a huge game with 26 points and 17 rebounds. Swalla added 13 and Hebrink chipped in with 12 points. Riverland Community College remained unbeaten at home with a 67-56 win over Mesabi Range College. Mesabi had lost its only game of the season the night before so it would be no easy stroll to victory for the Lady Blue Devils. Monson had another double-double with 22 points and 16 rebounds. Hebrink would account for 14 points followed by Becca Swalla with 14 tallies. “This was a good win” said coach Hebrink. “It was a physical game and we worked hard and stayed with them”. Riverland improves to 8-1 on the season. Following the two victories over the weekend the Lady Blue Devils were recognized by the NJCAA and the team is ranked #7 in the latest poll. Anna Hebrink poured in 19 points to lead RVLD to a hard fought 71-66 road win over Central Lakes. Living up to their billing as the seventh ranked team in the country, Riverland shot well in the first half and built up a 16 point lead in the first half. Monson added another double-double with 14 points and 14 rebounds. The Lady Blue Devils upended the Gustavus Adolphus JV team 66-57 to improve to 10-1 on the season and 6-0 at home. A trio of players reached double figures led by Brooke Monson with 21 points (and 13 rebounds), Anna Hebrink 21 points (5 treys), and Ali Mackey with a dozen. Riverland Community College avenged their only loss of the season as they remained perfect at home by upsetting WWTC 79-59. The rematch was a much different story as the Riverland defense smothered the Cavaliers and connected on a dozen three-pointers to make it an easy victory. Ali Mackey and Brooke Monson each had 18 followed by Becca Swalla’s 17 points to extend the Lady Blue Devils winning streak to five games. The Riverland women’s basketball team finished their non-conference schedule in impressive fashion with an 80-73 win over the Luther College JV team. RVLD trailed by as many as 20 points in the first half but managed to cut it to seven points at halftime, led by Brooke Monson and Becca Swalla. It was all Lady Blue Devils in the second half outscoring Luther 43-29.

Monson had a game-high 23 points followed by Swalla with 18 points and eight rebounds. “This was a great win to close the first half of the season” said Coach Suzy Hebrink. “There was a lot of determination to come back from the big deficit and get out of there with a win”. Brooke Monson was named MCCC Southern Division “player of the week” as she led the Lady Blue Devils to three victories by averaging 20.7 points, 10.3 rebounds, and 3 blocks. Riverland CC finishes the non-conference schedule with a six game winning streak and record of 12-1, and ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in the latest national poll. Riverland Community College began where it left off with a hard fought 63-57 win over Ridgewater in their conference opener. After trailing by five points at halftime, the Lady Blue Devils rallied behind Brooke Monson who scored 25 points and grabbed 17 rebounds. Anna Hebrink netted 16 followed by Becca Swalla with a dozen. RVLD went 16 for 21 at the foul line and that was critical according to Coach Hebrink. “We got to the line more times over the final minutes and that helped us get the road win”. The victory was the first of 12 conference games and ran the Blue Devils winning streak to seven games and 13-1 overall. Riverland Community College improved to 2-0 in the division with a 63-57 win over MSCTC-Fergus Falls. After a slow start, RVLD picked up the pace and remained unbeaten at home (8-0) and extended their winning streak to eight games. Brooke Monson and Ali Mackey tied with team-high scoring honors with 21 points each while Anna Hebrink added 17 points and dished out a half a dozen assists. The victory improved Riverland’s record to 14-1 overall. Anna Hebrink was named MCCC Southern Division “player of the week” for her outstanding play in the two games last week. Hebrink averaged 16.5 points, 5.5 assists, and 3 steals in the two conference wins last week. In the first NJCAA poll after the holidays, Riverland Community College remains #7 in the national poll. The Lady Blue Devils probably played its finest game of the season as six players scored 8 or more points in an impressive 82-64 win over Minnesota West to extend their winning streak to nine games and remain perfect in the division standings at 3-0. Brooke Monson had 26 points and 11 rebounds to lead the way, followed by Anna Hebrink’s 12 points and 11 assists. Becca Swalla and Ali Mackey also reached double figures with 14 and 12 points respectively. In a much anticipated match-up, Riverland traveled to Anoka-Ramsey to play the defending state and national champions. Anoka entered the game 14-2 (ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the country) while the Lady Blue Devils stood 15-1 (not ranked this week). The Lady Blue Devils won its biggest game of the season to date as they won their tenth game in row defeating the Golden Rams from Anoka 53-49. RVLD trailed by one with 19 seconds to go.

But Becca Swalla, who finished with 16 points and 8 assists, converted a three point play off an inbounds pass and Anna Hebrink (who had 11 points and five assists) iced the game with two made free throws. Brooke Monson finished with 18 points despite sitting on the bench much of the second half in foul trouble. “We certainly don’t ever turn in the towel and keep finding ways to win” said Coach Suzy Hebrink. “It was a defensive battle and there wasn’t much offense”. The game was a physical contest and saw only four Riverland players score as the Blue Devils shot 2-20 on three pointers. RVLD remains undefeated in the conference (5-0) and improves to 16-1 on the season. Brooke Monson was named NJCAA Women’s Basketball Player of the Week (Selections for Jan. 16, 2008). The 6-2 center from Austin, MN led Riverland Community College to an 82-64 win over MN West last week. She had a double-double with 26 points and 11 rebounds, three assists, one steal and one block. For the game Brooke was 12 for 17 from the field. She currently averages a double-double for the season with 19.5 points and 10.4 rebounds. The Lady Blue Devils ran their winning streak to eleven games with a 75-70 win over Minneapolis C & TC but it wasn’t easy. It stayed close until the final seconds as the Lady Blue Devils sealed it with a few free throws. “We didn’t want to make it easy” said Coach Suzy Hebrink. “We just couldn’t seem to shake them”. Riverland led by as many as 18 in the first half and by 10 at halftime. Monson led the way with 21 points, nine rebounds and four blocked shots. Anna Hebrink had a double-double with 17 points and 12 assists and Becca Swalla chipped in with 10 points, 10 rebounds, six assists and three steals. With the victory RVLD remains unbeaten in league play (5-0) and improves to 17-1 overall. Becca Swalla was named MCCC Southern Division “player of the week” for her play in last weeks two victories. Swalla, a guard from Randall, Iowa averaged 14 points, 3.5 assists, 9.5 rebounds and 2.5 steals (she also scored the 6 of the final 8 points in the win over Anoka-Ramsey). Rochester Community & TC, ranked #4 in the country came to Austin (ranked #5 in the latest polls) for first place on the line in the southern division. In a game where Rochester dominated the boards (47-22), they also were in control of the outcome as the Yellow Jackets handed Riverland only their second loss of the year 85-62. “We were simply outplayed tonight. We were out of position all night on defense and they took advantage of that” said Coach Hebrink. Brooke Monson led with 18, followed by Anna Hebrink with 16 and Becca Swalla had 15 points. The Lady Blue Devils are now tied with Rochester in the southern division for first place at 5-1. The loss snapped RVLD’s eleven game winning streak which was the second longest in the school’s history (1984-85, 13 game winning streak).

Riverland Community College rallied in the first half and went on to defeat Ridgewater 79-65 in conference action. Falling behind by 12 points in the first half, the Lady Blue Devils led 36-32 at halftime and never relinquished the lead after the intermission. Center Brooke Monson had 17 of her game high 25 points in the first half and had another double/double as she grabbed 12 rebounds. Becca Swalla, who was one of four players in double figures, had 18 points, followed by Ali Mackey with 14 and Anna Hebrink with eleven tallies. RVLD improves to 18-2 overall and tied at the top of the division with a 6-1 mark. The Lady Blue Devils remained at #5 in the NJCAA national polls this week despite their one loss last week. Riverland Community College tied the all-time win mark in history with an 81-77 road win over Fergus Falls. After trailing by 13 points at half-time (42-29), the Lady Blue Devils rallied behind Anna Hebrink and Brooke Monson to pull out their team's 19<sup>th</sup> victory of the season, tying the mark set by three other teams in the history of women's basketball at Riverland. "It was a very rough start, but we came back to get a big road win" said Coach Suzy Hebrink. "In the second half we did a good job of getting Brooke the ball inside and played a lot better defense in the second half". Anna Hebrink was six for nine behind the arc and scored 23 of her 30 points in the second half while Monson netted 19 of her 28 points in the second half and added 11 rebounds, 4 assists, and 4 blocked shots. The victory assured RVLD a tie at the top with a 7-1 record in the division and a 19-2 overall record. Riverland Community College maintained its NJCAA ranking at #5 in the country in the latest polls. Riverland traveled to MN West and were defeated 72-55 to drop them into second place in the southern division. RVLD defeated MN West by 18 points earlier in the conference but the Blue Jays reversed the outcome this time around. "They played good and we played poorly" said Coach Hebrink. "Their defense and boxing out was the difference. It was a poor effort on our part, but I give them credit". Brooke Monson led all scorers with 26 points followed by Anna Hebrink who had 10 points. The Lady Blue Devils drop to 19-3 on the season and 7-2 in the division. Riverland Community College dropped their second game in a row as Anoka-Ramsey edged the Lady Blue Devils 65-54 in conference action. "It was a good game and a dogfight to the end" said Coach Hebrink. "We just made some mental errors and too many turnovers". RVLD led by three at halftime (33-30) and extended its lead to 42-33 with 14 minutes left in the game. But an 11-1 run by Anoka put the visitors back in the lead and it was a see-saw affair to the end. Brooke Monson led with 19 points and 14 rebounds, followed by Ali Mackey with 14 points.

Dropping to 7-3 in the division, Riverland needs at least one more victory in its final two games to wrap up second place in the southern division. History was recorded at Minneapolis as the Lady Blue Devils upended the Mavericks 94-38 to record their 20<sup>th</sup> win of the season, setting an all-time high in victories at Riverland Community College. After defeating Minneapolis earlier in the year by only five points, RVLD got out of the gate early and cruised to the lopsided win. “We really shot the ball well (53% for the game) and got off to a good start” said Coach Suzy Hebrink. Anna Hebrink led the way with 24 points and 8 assists. Brooke Monson had another double/double with 20 points and a game-high 15 rebounds. Ali Mackey connected on four 3-pointers and scored 16 points and Ashley Lau scored a season high 14 points. Despite last week’s two losses, the Blue Devils remained in the top ten NJCAA rankings at #6 in the latest poll. The victory snapped a two game losing streak, assured Riverland of a second place finish in the southern division, and improved their record to 20-4. The Blue Devils conclude their regular season at Rochester C & TC before the state tournament next week in Willmar. The Lady Blue Devils lost 75-64 to Rochester to finish the regular season at 8-4 in the conference and 20-5 overall. Riverland was outscored 29-5 by the bench that proved to be the difference. Anna Hebrink had a game-high 26 points followed by Brooke Monson with 16 and Ashley Lau’s 11 points. Riverland finished second in the conference and will open the MCCC state tournament against northern foe and 3<sup>rd</sup> seeded Central Lakes, a team RVLD has beaten twice this season. This is the first time since the 1990-91 that Riverland women’s team has qualified for the state tournament. Season honors were announced and Anna Hebrink and Brooke Monson both earned All Southern-Division first team honors. Monson also was named to the MCCC All-State first team and Hebrink was named to the second team. Central Lakes upended Riverland 73-66 in the opening round of the MCCC state tournament. Ashley Lau led the way with 18 points while Brooke Monson recorded a double/double with 16 points and 12 rebounds. The Lady Blue Devils recovered and defeated northern division champions Itasca 85-63 in the consolation bracket. RVLD led only by two at halftime 41-39 but exploded for 44 points and their initial win in the state classic. Brooke Monson led the way with a season high 32 points (13 for 20 shooting and 6 for 6 from the line). Anna Hebrink went 11 for 17 including 5 for 7 from behind the arc for 26 points. She also had a double/double with 12 assists. Lau again reached double figures with 11 points. “It was not an easy game with Itasca” said Coach Hebrink. “They were 12-0 in their division and a tough opponent. We shot 53% and had a great second half.”

In the consolation championship, Riverland Community College brought home 5<sup>th</sup> place honors with a convincing 94-79 win over Northland. Riverland Community College again had a tough first half, leading by two at the intermission 47-45. The Lady Blue Devils outscored Northland 47-33 to run away with a 16 point win and finish the season with two victories. Anna Hebrink led all scorers with 31 points. She went 12 for 17 from the field (4 for 8 from three point range). Sophomores Ali Mackey exploded for 22 points, Becca Swalla added a dozen, and Tracee Crowley had 6 points, 6 rebounds, 7 assists, 4 steals, and took three charges. “Tracee was all over the court and her final game was typical of the great effort she gave us for two seasons” said Coach Hebrink. “Collectively, it was a fantastic effort to go out with a win after the bad start in the tournament”. Riverland closed its most successful season ever with a 22-6 record. Monson and Hebrink were named to the 10-player All-Tournament team. “It’s exciting to have those two players returning next season” the coach concluded. “We had a great season and it was nice to finish on a high note. Hopefully we can add a few talented players and get back to state next year”. Post season honors were announced with Brooke Monson and Anna Hebrink making the first team All-Division team. Monson also made first team All-State and All-Region. Hebrink earned second team All-State honors. Monson averaged 20 ppg, 10.4 rb/pg, shot 52.6% from the field, and 72.1% from the foul line. Brooke also set an all-time point record at Riverland Community College by scoring 560 points. Anna averaged 16.8 ppg, made 79 three point shots at a 41% clip, dished out 184 assists (6.57), and made 67% of her foul shots. Anna Hebrink was named NJCAA Co-Player of the week for her play in the state tournament. Anna had 14 points, 6 rebounds in the first game, then followed with 28 points, 12 assists, 3 rebounds in the second contest, and finished with 32 points, 8 rebounds, 8 assists, and three steals in the consolation finals. For the tournament, Hebrink was 28 for 50 (.560) from the field, including 13 of 25 (.520) from beyond the arc.

Roster Includes:

Anna Hebrink	Brooke Monson	Tracee Crowley
Becca Swalla	Ali Mackey	Carmen Smith
Lizzie Gunter	Ashley Lau	Holly Waltz
Ass’t Coach: Dan Swift		

\*The NJCAA has sanctioned Riverland Community College for playing an ineligible player of the 2007-08 season.

This sanction does not come as a result of issues related to student grades, dishonesty, misconduct, or any violation of team or college rules. This is the result of a student participating at Riverland while under a Letter of Intent with another college, signed the year prior to participating at Riverland Community College. "Riverland is committed to the integrity of our academic and athletic programs, and take great pride in the tradition athletics has played throughout our history", said Gary Schindler, Riverland Community College dean of students. "We respect the NJCAA and will abide by its decisions".

**Baseball-** Scott Koenigs 19-11 Riverland Community College enters the season with 24 roster players including ten sophomores and five returning starters. Catcher Pat Wolard, who has been named to the pre-season NJCAA All-American team, leads the way after batting .462 last year. Another key returning player is third baseman Andy Van Remortel, who hit .420 last year with 13 doubles and 21 RBI. "This year's team will be very skilled and we will have depth at every position" said sixth year coach Scott Koenigs. "Our goal is to win 20 games and a trip to the MCCC state tournament." RVLD opens the season down south in Florida over spring break. The Blue Devils had a very successful trip as they had a 4-3 record with one victory coming over Massasoit College, the 7<sup>th</sup> ranked team in the country. Riverland opened the trip with an 8-6 win over Cumberland College of New Jersey. RVLD scored early with four runs in the 2<sup>nd</sup> inning and held on for their first victory of the season. Pat Wolard went 3 for 4 and Kyle Starkey collected two hits and scored two runs. Brandon Hugh got the win on the mound, getting relief in the sixth from Nate Steenblock. Leading 6-4 after six innings, the Blue Devils exploded for five runs in the 7<sup>th</sup> inning to defeat Massasoit 11-4 to win their second in a row on the spring trip. Andy Van Remortel and Chris Lindemann each scored three times and Huhn pounded out three hits to lead Riverland Community College. RVLD made it three in a row with an impressive 11-2 win over Illinois Valley. Shane Lange was the starting pitcher for the Blue Devils and went 6 innings to get the win. All nine guys in the lineup got at least one hit, led by Danny DeWitz with a home run and four RBIs. Riverland lost its first game of the trip as Alfred State upended RVLD 13-3. The Blue Devils managed only four hits and committed three errors. Riverland Community College lost to Miami-Hamilton 10-4 before rebounding and defeating Miami Middleton 8-3. In the win over Miami, Pat Wolard, Kyle Starkey, and Corey Feickert all had two hits while Wolard knocked in four runs.

RVLD concluded the trip with a 2-1 loss against the Academy Baseball Canada team, an all star team based out of Montreal that included players 18-22 years old. "It was an awesome game" said Coach Koenigs. "It was fun to coach, fun to play, and fun to watch". Riverland played errorless ball and got a standout pitching from Adam Suckow. He allowed only 2 runs, four hits and struck out five. Riverland will come home with an impressive 4-3 southern road trip and open with Fergus Falls at the Metrodome on March 28<sup>th</sup>. Pat Wolard was named NJCAA Division III player of the week as he 10 for 21, scored six runs, and had 10 RBI's in the seven games. Riverland swept Fergus Falls, winning 7-1 and 3-1 in the nightcap (literally as the games were played at 10:00 PM and midnight). Brady Banse went the distance in game one, allowing six hits, striking out three and walking only one batter. Shane Lange had an inside the park homerun. Brandon Huhn pitched a one hitter and Pat Wolard had a massive home run as RVLD could muster up only three hits but it was enough. The Blue Devils improved to 6-3 on the season. Riverland swept WWTI 5-3 and 2-0 as pitching again proved to be the difference. Brady Banse remained unbeaten (4-0) as went 6 and 1/3 innings, scattering five hits. Pat Wolard came on in relief and got the last two outs for the save. Andy Van ReMortel and Wolard each had two hits. In the nightcap, Brandon Huhn pitched a two-hitter and improved to 3-0 on season. He struck out seven and walked only one batter as he was in complete control. "Brandon dominated after the early innings", said Coach Koenigs. We're off to our best start in years and the pitchers are leading the way. The guys are building confidence and they'll be ready for the conference opener next week". The Blue Devils are now 8-3 and have won four in a row. A walk off home run by Brandon Huhn led Riverland Community College to a 10-8 win over Vermilion and propelled his team to a sweep as RVLD won game two 20-6 to complete the two game sweep. The first game was back and fourth as Huhn, Kyle Starkey and Van ReMortel each had multiple hit games. The visitors tied in the seventh, but Hugh hit his second homer of the game to set the stage for a sweep in the twin bill. Riverland pounded out 17 hits as Wolard had three hits and five RBI, Huhn another home run and five RBI, and Van ReMortel collected two RBI and scored two runs. Riverland Community College defeated Anoka Ramsey 12-2 in a game cut short by the ten run rule to extend their winning streak to seven games. Game two was cancelled due to rain. Again it was the Brandon Huhn show as he had three hits (including a HR), scored three runs and had three RBI. Kyle Starkey had two hits and four RBI. The wins improve Riverland to 11-3 overall. The Blue Devils swept MN West to open the conference season and extended their winning streak to nine games.

In the opener, Brandon Huhn threw a NO-HITTER and the Blue Devils' offense scored four in the first inning to supply all the runs Huhn needed. Brandon struck out eleven and did not walk a batter. One error prevented Huh from recording the first ever perfect game at Riverland Community College. Pat Wolard led the attack with a two run home run and added another one in game two for the sweep. Nate Steenback got the win in the nightcap with a five-hitter. Riverland is now 2-0 in the conference and 13-3 overall. RVLD won a wild won 9-8 over Ridgewater before losing 7-5 in the second contest in division play. A trio of walks in the eighth inning gave the Blue Devils the win in game one. "Taking the opener to extend our winning streak to 10 games was fun, but we couldn't keep it going as four errors in the outfield cost us the sweep" said Coach Koenigs. Andy Van ReMortel went 3 for 5 in game one with three RBI. Brady Banse got the win in relief. In the second contest, RVLD led 5-4 going into the seventh inning but with two outs a routine fly ball was misplaced and Ridgewater took advantage and scored three runs to win game two. Van ReMortel, Pat Wolard, and Kyle Starkey each had two hits in the loss. Riverland Community College dropped a pair of conference games to Dakota County, losing 10-7 and 12-1. "We started poorly and never rebounded from losing the opener" said a dejected Scott Koenigs. Shane Lange took the loss in game one, surrendering 7 runs in the first three innings. Starkey had three hits and Wolard 2 for 4 in the opener. RVLD had only three hits in the nightcap. Riverland is now 14-6 and 3-3 in the conference. Rochester C &TC put a big damper on Riverland's hopes of making the state tournament as the Yellow Jackets swept the Blue Devils 8-5 and 7-0, extending Riverland's losing streak to five games. Three errors in game one cost Riverland Community College of any chance of winning and in game two the bats went silent. Chris Lindemann, Andy Van ReMortel, and Kyle Starkey each had two hits in game one. Brady Banse took the loss. In game two, Brandon Huhn was the losing pitcher and saw his personal four game winning streak come to an end. The game was tied after four innings but RCTC broke it open with a pair of home runs in the fifth inning. Riverland is now 3-5 in division play and 14-8 overall. Riverland upended Dakota County 8-2 to end its southern division losing streak at five games. Dakota County came back to win game two 10-3 for a split. Brady Banse went all seven innings to record his sixth win in seven outings, scattering eight hits and striking out five batters. Pat Wolard hit a pair of home runs to lead the offense. Alex Buckentine started the second game and did not make it out of the second inning. He was hit hard and gave up seven runs.

Riverland is now 15-9 overall and are in a must win situation now to stay alive in their state tournament hopes. The Blue Devils were swept by Rochester 7-5 and 11-8 to continue the drought of RVLD no making the state tournament. RCTC rallied for three runs in the top of the 7<sup>th</sup> inning to take game one. “None of the balls were hit hard in their rally but that is the way our season has kind of gone” said a dejected Coach Scottt Koenigs. Chrils Lindemann went 3 for 4 in game one and ace Brandon Huhn took the loss on the mound. Nate Steenblock took the loss in nightcap. Lindemann, Van ReMortel, and Shane Lange all collected two hits apiece. RVLD drops to 4-8 in the league and 15-11 overall. Riverland Community College hit a total of six homeruns and swept Minnesota West, winning game one 13-1 and game two 15-0. Both games were shortened by the 10-run rule. Brady Banse got the mound win in game one, giving up only three hits, striking out eight and allowing only one run. Brandon Huhn, Pat Wolard, and Andy Behnke all hit home runs in the opener. In the nightcap, Pat Wolard got the victory on the mound, going five innings and giving up only two hits. Brandon Huhn had a grand slam along with home runs by Wolard and Jim McKay. “I’ve been waiting for that kind of explosion all season, and the guys really pounded the ball” said Coach Koenigs. Riverland Community College ended its season on a four game winning streak by defeating St. Mary’s University JV’s 11-2 and 2-0. In their final appearance at home, RVLD got two outstanding pitching performances from Bradon Huhn (five-hitter in game one) and Nate Steenblock in the night cap (four hitter and shutout). Huhn had another homerun go along with his ten strikeouts on the mound. Kyle Starkey, Andy Van ReMortel, Shane Lange, and Bryan Olson all had multiple hit games in the opener. Pat Wolard and Danny DeWitz each had two hits in game two. “Going out on a four game winning streak was a great way to end the season” said Coach Koenigs. “We finished with one of the best overall records in school history so it’s very frustrating that we did not make it to the state tournament” said Koenigs. The two wins concludes the season for the Blue Devils, who finished 19-11 overall and 6-8 in the division. Their final doubleheader with Ridgewater will not be made up. Pat Wolard batted .453(11 doubles and 7 home runs) and batted in 43 runs to earn All-Division, All-State and All-Region honors.

#### Roster Includes:

Pat Wolard	Andy Van ReMortel	Jacob Kuehl
Jim McKay	Matt Suarez	Adam Suckow
Ryan Bartels	Nick Huebner	Brian Stanton

### Roster (Cont)

Shane Lange	Dave Cunningham	Brady Banse
Bryan Olson	Alex Buckentine	Andy Behnke
Mike Tweedy	Chris Lindemann	Kyle Starkey
Bandon Huhn	Nate Steenblock	Danny DeWitz
Nate Oxley	Corey Fieckert	Josh Dunfee
Assistant Coach: Dan Swift		

**Softball**-David Lillemon 13-17 The Lady Blue Devils enter the season with a lot of optimism returning four sophomores and a talented group of ten freshmen. Leading the way are veterans Amanda McGuire (SS), Tracee Crowley (LF), and first baseman Amanda Follmuth. “We are very much improved over last season despite our youthful team. There is great leadership on this team and I like our team” said second year coach David Lillemon. “Pitching (three freshmen pitchers) could be a real strength of this team, led by Kelly Schelin, Nicole Svoboda, and Kaylee Newman. Defense will be our strength early in the season and if we can stay healthy we have a chance to be in the top half of our division. Our team goal is to go .500 or better in the conference and qualify for the MCCC state tournament and double our wins from last year”. Riverland opened its season in the 10-team Minnesota Classic indoor tournament at the Irish Dome in Burnsville. In its season opener, the Lady Blue Devils defeated Hibbing 4-2 as Kelly Schelin threw a complete game, striking out seven, walking none and scattering seven hits. Nicki Svoboda went 3 for 3 with a double while Carmen Smith added two singles and an RBI. Riverland had nine hits for the game. In the second contest, RVL D lost to Fond Du Lac 13-3 in a contest that lasted only five innings. Svoboda started on the mound but lasted only 1 1/3 innings (line drive injury to her ankle). Newman replaced her on the mound but could not hold down the potent bats of the opponent. The Lady Blue Devils collected only four hits while Smith, Schelin, and Sara Miller each knocking in one run. “We played real well considering we had not been outside once this spring” said Coach Lillemon. “I’m very satisfied with a split our opening day and look forward to tomorrow’s action”. The following day Riverland traveled to the Irish Dome again and competed against Itasca, losing 11-4 and then dropped their second game 8-5 to defending state champions Rainy River.

In the first contest, RVLD trailed 2-0 after four innings but rallied for three runs behind Jill Radke, who went 3 for 4 with a double. But one bad inning (all unearned runs) in the sixth cost Riverland an opportunity to win. Nicole Harmer and Amy Snyder each had two hits in game one. Schelin pitched another complete game (took the loss) and deserved better as she gave up only two earned runs. In the nightcap, Riverland led 5-1 after the top of the fifth but could not hang on for the win. Kaylee Newman went the first four plus innings but could not hang on for the win. Schelin relieved her in the fifth but a six run rally by Rainy River proved to be the difference. Radke went 3 for 4 again with a double while Holly Waltz collected two hits in the loss. "We had 24 hits today but we did not have the pitching depth today (Svoboda out with an ankle injury) so we had to rely on two pitchers." Lillemon saw some bright spots over the past two days from his new players and was very excited about their play. After going 1-3 to open the season, RVLD will play its season opener on 3/31/08. Weather has played havoc this week as the Blue Devils postponed doubleheaders with Dakota County at home and at Rochester (to be made up later in the spring). A late rally led Riverland to a split with Fergus Falls after a week of rain delays. The Lady Blue Devils scored three runs in the bottom of the eighth inning to secure an 8-7 win over the Spartans in the opener and then dropped the nightcap 10-6. Kelly Schelin pitched all eight innings to get the win as she scattered nine hits, struck out five and walked only one batter. Carmen Smith had two hits and two RBI and Amy Snyder had the game winning hit with a walk off single for the victory. In the second contest, Riverland lost 10-6 as Kaylee Newman took the loss. One bright spot was Nicki Svoboda returning from a foot injury. She struck out seven batters in four innings of relief but the Blue Devils could not recover from an early 5-1 deficit. Kelly Schelin had five RBI including a grand slam home run in the seventh inning. RVLD is now 1-1 in the conference and 2-4 overall. Top seeded Ridgewater came to town and swept Riverland 9-1 and 6-5 in conference play. Svoboda took the mound loss in game one giving up nine hits, walking none and striking out two hitters. RVLD had only three hits in the opener. In game two, Kelly Schelin scattered 8 hits, walked one and struck out six but it wasn't enough as the Blue Devils had the tying run on in the seventh only to fall short of victory. After trailing 5-0 in the third, the Lady Blue Devils chipped away and got within one of the 8<sup>th</sup> ranked team in the country (Ridgewater). Jill Radke went 3 for 4 and Carmen Smith extended her hitting streak to eight games with a single and an RBI. Riverland Community College played its best ball of the young season as it took two games from St. Cloud Technical College 4-2 and 7-1.

“We talked about throwing strikes and playing good solid defense and that certainly was the formula to winning today” said Coach Lillemon. Riverland played errorless ball in both games which were very closely contested. In the opener, Schelin scattered 10 hits, struck out 10 and walked only one batter as her defense played stellar for the 4-2 win. Smith went 3 for 4 with three RBIs. In the second game, RVLD led 2-1 after six innings but busted it open with a five run seventh inning, highlighted by a two run double by Sara Miller and a run scoring triple by Kaylee Newman. Nicki Svoboda pitched 6 and 1/3 for the win, striking out nine while pitching a two hitter. Newman got the save in the 7<sup>th</sup> as she came in with the bases loaded and one out and did not give up a run. Carmen Smith extended her hitting streak to 10 games and Tracee Crowley joined the team after missing the first eight games due to her Air Force Reserves. Crowley hit .321 last year and was honored as Riverland’s Female Athlete of the Year in 2006-07. “We have really missed her presence and leadership and are thrilled to have her back”, said Coach Lillemon. Crowley went 3 for 8 in her first action back in the outfield. Riverland evened its conference record to 3-3 and upped its overall record to 4-6. Nicki Svoboda fired a three-hit shutout and helped Riverland to gain a split with Rochester C & TC in conference action. The Lady Blue Devils lost 6-2 in the opener and came back behind Svoboda with a 5-0 victory. Holly Waltz, Jill Radke and Carmen Smith each had two hits in the opener. Riverland committed four errors in the loss and gave losing pitcher Kelly Schelin very little support. In the nightcap, Svoboda had a great performance with six strikeouts in the shutout. “Nicki was in complete control and it was nice to get some early run support for her” said Coach Lillemon. “This was a good split with one of the elite teams in the state and region (currently Rochester is ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the country). Holly Waltz went 3 for 4 with three stolen bases and scored two runs to lead the way. Smith extended her hitting streak to 12 games with a hit in each contest. Riverland is now 4-4 in the conference and 5-7 overall. Riverland Community College traveled to MN West in a make up doubleheader and came away with a sweep, winning 13-11 and 24-4. Kelly Schelin was the winning pitcher in both contests, upping her record to 5-4 on the season. Schelin pitched a complete game in the opener, giving up 9 hits, 11 runs (8 of them earned), and striking out five batters. RVLD led 11-3 after 5 and 1/2 innings but a six run sixth inning got the Blue Jays within one run. A two run seventh by the Blue Devils sealed the win. Tracee Crowley went 2 for 4 with 2 RBI and Nicole Harmer had two hits and scored two runs. In the second contest, Riverland hitters walked a whopping 27 times in the lopsided win.

Holly Waltz walked five times, scored four runs with three RBI, Jill Radke had three RBI, and Kelly Schelin had five RBI with a double and four walks. Schelin came on in relief of Kaylee Newman who started the second game and went only two innings. Schelin pitched shutout ball for three innings, surrendering only two hits. Catcher Carmen Smith had her hitting streak stopped at twelve games. Riverland has now won five of its last six games, all coming on the road and evened their record at 7-7 overall and upped their conference record to 6-4. Riverland Community College would make up a double header with MN West and defeat them again twice, winning 9-4 and 11-2. This was back to back sweeps and put RVLD in second place in the current southern division standings. Nicki Svoboda got the mound win in game one and Kaylee Newman got the save. Newman then blew through five innings in the nightcap as her team won via the 8-run rule. "Defense and pitching wins ball games and we did both of those things well today (no errors in either game)" said Coach Lillemon. Jill Radke went 3 for 4 with 3 runs in game one and 3 for 3 and five RBI in the nightcap. Nicole Harmer also collected three hits in game two. The Luther College JV team upended Riverland twice, winning 12-3 and 9-3 in non-conference action. "Even though we lost two, it was still a solid effort by our team" said Lillemon. "Last year we got no-hit twice by the Luther JV team so our girls were much more competitive this year". Holly Waltz and Kelly Schelin each had two hits in game one. In the nightcap, Sara Miller was the only one to collect two hits. Riverland Community College is now 9-9 overall. The Lady Blue Devils split with St. Cloud Technical College, winning the first game 7-6 but dropping game two 8-3 in southern division action. In game one, a two run single by Tracee Crowley in the sixth inning was the difference and Kaylee Newman got the win in relief (2 and 2/3 innings, 1 run, 1 hit). In the nightcap two costly errors gave the visitors five unearned runs and that proved to be the difference. Riverland learned that pitcher Kelly Schelin would be out indefinitely with an injury. Jill Radke and Holly Waltz each had two hits in the nightcap. Riverland is now 9-5 in the division. The Blue Devils have mathematically earned the right to play in the MCCC state tournament and can finish no worse than fourth place. Rain and snow (17 inches in Fergus Falls) would delay an overnight trip up north. Riverland traveled to Ridgewater and dropped two games to the league leaders, losing 9-1 and 5-2 in division play. Kaylee Newman had to pitch both games as Nicki Svoboda and Schelin were both out due to injuries. In the opener, Holly Waltz collected three hits and stole two bases and Carmen Smith had two hits. In game two, RVLD banged out 12 hits but could only produce two runs.

Waltz again had three hits, while Kelly Schelin, Amanda McGuire and Amanda Follmuth each had two hits. Riverland drops to 9-7 in the division and 9-11 overall. In back to back days, Riverland would lose another pair, this time to Rochester. Again all arms relied on Kaylee Newman and she pitched very good in game one but Riverland came up short, losing 6-4. With a four run fifth, RVLD took the lead 4-3 but could not hang on for the victory. Schelin had two hits and one RBI to lead the attack. In the nightcap, Riverland lost 19-5 as shortstop Amanda McGuire would be called on to pitch the final 3 and 2/3 innings. Riverland has now lost five in a row and is 9-9 in the division. In a make up contest, Riverland would host Fergus Falls two days prior to the state tournament with third place on the line. RVLD trailed Fergus Falls by one game in the loss column. In the opener, Kaylee Newman went 6 and 1/3 to record the win, getting much needed mound relief from Nicki Svoboda. The Blue Devils would end the contest with a 9-3-2 scoring play to throw out a Fergus Falls runner at the plate to end the game in thrilling fashion. Holly Waltz, Jill Radke, Tracee Crowley, and Sara Miller each had two hits. In the nightcap, Newman would start but only last one inning. Svoboda came in relief and pitched brilliantly, scattering six hits and giving up only one run. In the meantime, the offense got going after trailing 4-0 in the second inning and scored six runs in the bottom of the second, led by Jill Radke's three run double. The win assured Riverland Community College of a third place finish in the division, while Fergus Falls dropped to fourth. RVLD ended the regular season 12-14 overall and 13-11 in the division. The Lady Blue Devils now advance to the MCCC state tournament to be held in St. Cloud. "Our goal is to finish ahead of Rochester and Fergus Falls, then we would advance to the regional" said Coach Lillemon. "We've had great games with both those teams this year so the girls are headed into the state with some momentum (two wins over Fergus Falls) and confidence". In game one of the state tournament, Riverland Community College dropped a heart breaker, losing 2-1 to Rainy River. Leading 1-0 after going into the bottom of the seventh, Nicki Svoboda (allowed five hits and struck out nine) was on her way to shutout. But with two outs and nobody on base, Rainy River rallied and defeated the Lady Blue Devils 2-1. RVLD had only one hit and struck out 15 times in the loss. But Riverland would bounce back and defeat Itasca 14-6 as 13 hits were banged out by the Blue Devils. Svoboda got the win in relief, pitching three innings. Offensively Holly Waltz, Jill Radke, and Amanda McGuire each had three hits while Tracee Crowley had two hits and two RBI. In its final contest of the day, Riverland defeated North-land 9-6 with a big five run seventh inning.

Everyone in the starting lineup had at least one hit except one batter and Waltz and Radke collected two apiece. Kelly Schelin came on in relief (first pitching appearance in over two weeks) and pitched the final three innings for the victory. Riverland Community College now faced Fergus Falls to continue advancing in the state tournament but more importantly assure the Blue Devils of a date in the regional tournament next weekend (Rochester had already been eliminated). Fergus scored five runs in the first inning and two in the seventh inning to defeat Riverland 9-6 to end their season. After trailing 6-1 in the second inning, the Lady Blue Devils did not go down without a fight as they tallied five runs to tie the score 6-6 after two innings. Amanda McGuire and Holly Waltz each had two hits. RVL D could muster up only two hits after the 2<sup>nd</sup> inning and never threatened after that to score. The Blue Devils earned 4<sup>th</sup> place in the MCCC state tournament and ended the season 14-16 overall. ‘I’m really proud of the girls. They had an excellent season and we will build on it’ said Coach Lillemon. It was an exciting way to end a season that saw the Blue Devils double last year’s win total, win 13 conference games this season compared to four last season, and a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish in the state tournament. Holly Waltz, Jill Radke, and Kelly Schelin all earned All-Division honors. Waltz ended the season batting .457 and was third in the NJCAA stealing bases (33 of 33). Radke led the team in hitting with a .457 average while Schelin was the pitching leader with a 6-4 mark and an ERA of 3.97 and batted .320 of the season. Waltz was selected to the first team MCCC All-State team and Radke earned honorable mention. Holly was named to the twelve member All-Region 13 team, which consists of Minnesota and Wisconsin. Riverland Community College learned of a NJCAA violation (May 15, 2008) and had to forfeit one contest versus Hibbing so their final record was 13-17 overall.

Roster Includes:

Amanda McGuire	Tracee Crowley	Amanda Follmuth
Naomi Knopps	Carmen Smith	Jill Radke
Holly Waltz	Sara Romeo	Nicole Harmer
Kaylee Newman	Kelly Schelin	Sara Miller
Amy Snyder	Nicole Svoboda	

Assistant Coach: Jason Heller

## **ATHLETES OF THE YEAR 2007-08**

Ryan Bartels and Brooke Monson have been named Male and Female Athletes of the Year. **Bartels**, a sophomore from Eau Clair, WI was a member of both the basketball and baseball teams for two years. As a freshman, Ryan played a key role on the basketball team and was the starting shortstop for the baseball team. In this second year, Bartels was a starter and captain for basketball, averaging 12 points per contest. In baseball, his role changed and he became a relief pitcher. Ryan achieved a 3.22 GPA while also serving as a Riverland Community College student ambassador and resident housing assistant in student housing. Bartels will graduate and transfer to University of Minnesota Morris.

**Monson**, a freshman from Austin, was a key member of the women's volleyball and basketball teams. In volleyball, Monson earned 2<sup>nd</sup> team honors on the All-Division team in her first season for the Lady Blue Devils. She finished the season in the top seven in the Southern Division for attacks and top six for kills with 251. Brook also ranked in the top ten for blocks per game with a total of 66 blocks. In basketball, the 6'0 center set a single season point total for Riverland Community College by scoring 560 points. Brooke averaged 20.2 points per game, 10.4 rebounds per game and recorded 13 double/ doubles for the season. She was named MCCC player of week and NJCAA player of the week. Monson also was named to the first teams for All-Division, All-State, and All-Region.