

2002-03

VOLLEYBALL Coach Helen Jahr 14-16 Riverland opened the season with a 0-4 run at the Ridgewater invitational on Friday and Saturday at Willmar. The Blue Devils lost to Hibbing and Ellsworth (Iowa) on Friday and NDSCS (Wahpeton) and Bismarck College (ND) on Saturday. RVLD lost to Bethany in its conference opener to remain winless at 0-5. The Riverland squad won its first and last match and went 2-2 in the Rochester invitational to take consolation honors. The Blue Devils opened with a 30-28, 30-20 win over Hibbing, then fell back to back to Ridgewater (30-17, 30-24) and Iowa Lakes (30-16, 30-20). In the match for fifth, RVLD ousted Madison Area Technical College 30-13, 31-29. Audrey Page led the Blue Devils with 15 kills and 12 blocks. Setter Ellie Ramseth dished out 48 assists and led with seven service aces. Riverland is now 2-7 overall and 0-1 in conference. The Blue Devils played their first home match of the year and won in fine fashion defeating WWTI 30-16, 30-22, 30-20. 'It was a great home opener' said Coach Helen Jahr. Kari Wobschall had an all round strong night, leading with six blocks and five service aces. She also added six kills to the cause. Ramseth racked up 24 assists while successfully setting 70 of 72 attempts. Riverland lost to Rochester 3-1 in a conference match up but got revenge the following day and defeated the Yellowjackets to win the Anoka-Ramsey invitational. The Blue Devils drop to 0-2 in the conference with the loss on Friday but rebounded with an impressive 4-0 record to win the title on Saturday. RVLD defeated Rochester 30-21, 21-30, 15-7 to earn the first place award. Prior to the win over Rochester, the Blue Devils defeated Marshalltown (Iowa), Bethel, and Anoka-Ramsey to go 3-0 into the rematch with Rochester. Audrey Page led Blue Devils with 32 kills and 15 blocks in the tournament. Kari Wobschall added 26 kills and five blocks while Becky Hermann tallied 26 kills, seven aces, and 28 digs. RVLD is now 7-8 overall. Riverland defeated Anoka-Ramsey for its second home victory and then fell to Ridgewater 3-0 (30-23, 30-25, 30-15) to drop to 1-3 in the conference and 8-9 overall. Riverland coach Helen Jahr felt like the team could have done better against the visiting Warriors, stating "we played very well in the first two games but really came out flat in the third game". Riverland Community College won a must-needed match as they beat Minnesota West 30-25, 18-30, 30-23, 28-30, 15-2. "This was a must win for us to make it to the state tournament" said a relieved Jahr. Page again led with 24 kills and six blocks. RVLD improved to 9-9 overall. Riverland failed to take advantage of ball possession and missed opportunities and lost to Bethany 30-16, 30-12, 30-11. The Blue Devils fell to 2-4 in the conference. Riverland bounced back to win the Blue Devil tournament after dropping a conference match to Rochester (30-24, 30-25, 30-23) the night before. RVLD swept consecutive games from Anoka-Ramsey and Minnesota West to take first place in the Riverland invitational. RVLD is now 2-5 in league and 11-10 overall. Riverland swept Anoka 32-30, 30-20 and Minnesota West 30-12, 30-20 on Saturday. Audrey Page posted 19 kills while Becky Hermann added 11 kills. Riverland swept Anoka-Ramsey 30-24, 30-26, 33-31 to move one step closer to a possible entrant in the state tournament. Page led with 16 kills, while Kari Wobschall chipped in with 13 kills and some key serves down the stretch. The Blue Devils are now 3-5 in the conference. Riverland lost to Ridgewater and ended a brief three game win streak by the Blue Devils 30-23, 30-18, 30-26.

In the final match, Riverland Community College posted a victory over Minnesota West for the fourth time this season and clinched a berth in the MCCC state tournament. The victory assured RVLD of its seventh straight trip to the MCCC state tournament. The top four teams from each division advance and RVLD are seeded in the fourth spot. Riverland finished 13-12 on the season and 4-6 in the conference. The Blue Devils went 0-3 in pool play on the first day of competition in the MCCC state tournament. Riverland went winless against rival Rochester (31-29, 30-20, 32-30), Rainy River 30-20, 30-19, 30-28) and Central Lakes (30-25, 30-16, 30-28). The Blue Devils picked up their first win with a five game triumph over Northland. Fergus Falls swept Riverland 3-0 in the consolation finals. Audree Page posted 35 kills and 27 blocks to lead Riverland in both categories. Marisa Kelsey added 33 kills and 20 service aces. The Blue Devils finished 14-16 overall. Audree Page, Becky Herrmann and Ellie Ramseth all earned second team MCCC All-Division honors.

Roster Included:

Aubree Page	Heather Anderson	Ellie Ramseth
Tanya Jensen	Marissa Kelsey	Becky Hermann
Steph Vollbrecht	Caitlin Jirele	Kari Wobschall
Stephanie Benson		

BASKETBALL Coach David Lillemon 6-18 Riverland is coming off an 8-15 season and returns five sophomores with only two players on the squad 6'5 or better. "We're going to have to be up-tempo and we'll try out score them" said Coach Dave Lillemon. The Blue Devils return three proven scorers, including Jake Bettis, Andy Stouvenel and Curt Peterson. Riverland lost its opener to MATC 95-73 as the Blue Devils were overmatched. Andy Stouvenel led with 22, followed by Adam Kasper with 16 and Jake Bettis added 10. The Blue Devils picked up win number one on the young season with an 80-66 victory over UW Richland Center. Freshman Adam Kasper led with 19, followed by Joe Dunham (13), Curt Peterson (12), Kelly Connaughty (11), and Jake Brettis netted 10. The Blue Devils rode Jake Bettis (scored a career high 32 points) in an 89-71 win over WWTI to improve to 2-1 on the season. "We knew they were vulnerable inside and we felt we could exploit that by getting Jake the ball" said Lillemon. Peterson scored 18 and Stouvenel chipped in with 14 points. Waldorf dumped RVLD 81-66 to stop their two game winning streak. Bettis poured in 27 in a losing effort. Adam Kasper was the only other in double figures with 10. Riverland dropped a 67-62 contest to WWTI at La Crosse in return match up. The Blue Devils were led by Bettis with 19 and Kasper added 10 points. RVLD drops to 2-3 on the season. Riverland took a roller coaster ride hitting the extremes in the scoring department in cross-conference split. On Friday, the Blue Devils knocked off Itasca 113-103 and then lost to Central Lakes 69-59. In the opener, the game plan was to push it and push it they did by surpassing the century mark for the first time this season. Jake Bettis led with 28, followed by Adam Kasper with 20. Andy Stouvenel chipped in with 11 and Joe Dunham and Mark Skellenger added 10. In a defensive battle, Central Lakes limited the Blue Devils to 33% shooting and overcame a late charge by Riverland to win by 10. "This was by far our best defensive effort of the year" said Coach Lillemon. Peterson led with 13 points and Andy Stouvenel added a dozen. The Blue Devils lost a pair on the road to Fergus Falls (107-85) and Northland (70-61) to drop to 3-6 on the season.

Kelly Connaughty scored a season high 16 to lead the Blue Devils on Friday night. In the loss to Northland, Jake Bettis and John Tillo each had 11 points. Riverland lost its fourth straight, 75-73 to Mid-State in non-conference action. Curt Peterson rattled a three-pointer at the buzzer but it went in and out in a last second effort to pull out the victory. Jake Bettis led with 23, followed by Andy Stouvenel with 14. Riverland believed it was better than 3-7 and proved it after the break with two wins over Madison Area Technical College (89-81) and Iowa Lakes 73-66. The Blue Devils made 13 of 14 free throws late to defeat MATC. Adam Kasper led with 20 followed by Stouvenel's 17 points. Calvin Morris scored a career high 15 leading Riverland past Iowa Lakes. Guard Andy Stouvenel had a double-double with 10 points and 10 rebounds. RVL D is now 5-7 overall. Jake Bettis (team's leading scorer) went down in the first minute of the contest against Minnesota West and the Blue Devils lost 96-81 in the conference opener. Bettis has battled nagging injuries and is likely lost for the season. "We had to change our game plan" said Lillemon with out the services of Bettis inside. Curt Peterson scored a career high 21 followed by Andy Stouvenel with 15. Ridgewater upended Riverland 90-64 as the Blue Devils netted 13 three point baskets compared to 10 inside the arc. Stouvenel had team high of 19 followed by Kelly Connaughty with 13 and Peterson added a dozen. RVL D is now 5-10 overall and 0-3 in the conference. The Blue Devils lost to Bethany 98-90 in overtime as the Vikings made 33-44 from the foul line. Riverland trailed by as many as 11 in the first half and led by as many as nine in the second half, but Bethany tied it with 1-2 free throws with 18 seconds to go. Adam Kasper's three point attempt at the buzzer fell short and Bethany went on to win by nine in overtime. Stouvenel and Peterson each had 16, while Jeff Roemhuldt added 11. It was learned earlier in the day that Jake Bettis is out for the season with his knee injury. Riverland lost to Rochester 70-61 to remain winless in the conference (0-5). Roemhildt led with 16, followed by Stouvenel with 15 and 12 from Calvin Morris. RVL D drops to 5-112 on the season. Minneapolis pounded Riverland 106-79 in conference action. Andy Stouvenel led with 19 while Adam Kasper added 18. The Blue Devils attempted more 3 point attempts (39) than two point attempts (33). RVL D picked up tirs first conference win with an 83-71 win over Minnesota West. Curt Peterson scored a game high 23 followed by Jeff Roemhildt with 16. It was the team's first win since Jan. 5. Peterson hit five long range bombs to lead the barrage of nine total three pointers made. The Blue Devils also played to their strength, shooting 18 of 21 free throws (RVL D is the best free throw shooting club in the division). Anoka-Ramsey dropped Riverland 94-81 in conference action. The Blue Devils (6-14, 1-7) made a run a halftime and cut the lead to six but never got any closer in the second half. Stouvenel led with 24 and Adam Kasper added 19, going 5 for 12 from behind the arc. The Blue Devils lost to Ridgewater 82-67 despite leading 16-7 in the early going of the game. "Today's game really showed what the absence of Jake Bettis means to this team" said Lillemon. "They were able to concentrate on guarding our perimeter which makes it tougher to get shots off". Curt Peterson led with 15, Stouvenel added 14, Connaughty and John Tillo 11 apiece and Adam Kasper added 10. Riverland lost to Bethany 99-75 and the Vikings constantly pounded it inside. Kasper led with 21 followed by Peterson (14) and Andy Stouvenel's 13. In the final home game, Riverland lost to Rochester 92-78 in a conference match up. Andy Stouvenel had a game high 22 followed by Jeff Roemhildt with 16.

After losing to Minneapolis, the Blue Devils ended the season 6-18 overall and 1-11 in the conference. Andy Stouvenel was selected to the first team All-Conference.

Roster Included:

Jake Bettis	Mark Skellenger	Curt Peterson
Andy Stouvenel	Kelly Connaughty	Calvin Morris Jr.
Jeff Roemhildt	John Tillo	Traise Wilson
Adam Kasper	Joe Dunham	
Assistant Coach: Larry Reynen & Matt Webber		

*David Lillemon has resigned as Riverland Community College men's basketball coach. Lillemon will continue as men's and women's athletic director and golf coach. Lillemon will take on additional teaching responsibilities expanding his role as a P.E. and health instructor. "I will miss the competition, but I won't miss the time on the road recruiting" said Lillemon. Lillemon had a long and successful career at Riverland including 16 years at the helm of the men's basketball program. He started in the fall of 1987 as head football, basketball, and baseball coach. In 1990, he became the men's athletic director and continued coaching basketball and baseball for six more years. For the past seven years, Lillemon has served as men's AD, men's basketball and golf coach. His overall basketball coaching record is 115-244. The best season was in 1997-98, finishing 14-8. Two games were lost in the state tournament, one in overtime to Central Lakes in the opening round. Lillemon coached his 100th win in 2000-01 with a 73-70 thriller against Anoka-Ramsey (first win at Anoka for Lillemon). He coached All-American John Van Beek of Glenville in 1993-95 and nine All-State players including five Academic All-State players. Twice his teams were the grade point average leaders in the state. This past fall his team had a cumulative grade point average of 3.21. This year concludes the 25-year legacy of coaching basketball Lillemon began in the 1977-78 season. "Dave has been a tireless advocate for students, high academic achievement, and good sportsmanship" said Gary Schindler, RVL D's vice-president of student affairs. "It will be a challenge to find a coach with as much dedication to students and the College".

BASKETBALL-Women Coach Suzy Hebrink 3-20 Three returning sophomores are back from last year's 11-12 team. Tanya Jensen, Katie Berg, and Stephanie Vollbrecht are the veterans and transfer Jenny Schnauer comes from St. Mary's College for an added experienced shooter. RVL D lost its opener to NIACC 69-54. Hannah Tvedt led Riverland with 15 points. Tvedt poured in 21 points including 15 in the second half in an eventual 74-62 loss to UW Richland Center. Jenny Schnauer led with seven rebounds and chipped in with 10 points. Waldorf handed the Blue Devils a 102-50 thumping outscoring Riverland 60-16 in the final 20 minutes. Schnauer led with 13 points and Bridget Burzinski added 10. After dropping its fourth game in a row to Iowa Lakes, the Blue Devils recorded back to back wins defeating Itasca 92-62 and Central Lakes 93-70. "We played some tough teams to start the season" said Coach Suzy Hebrink. "This gives us an idea for our upcoming competition". Jenny Schnauer scored 40 points in the two game span and her 21 points led five players in double figures in the win over Central Lakes.

Burzinski and Tanya Jensen each had 18, followed by Steph Vollbrecht with 15 and Shelly Sorenson 10. In the Blue Devils first win of the season, Hannah Tvedt scored 24 points and Schnaufer chipped in with 19 as the guard play dictated the pace of the game. RVLD is now 2-4 overall. Riverland lost two road games on northern trip, losing to Fergus Falls 62-57 and Northland 60-50. The Blue Devils led by as much as 10 in the loss to Fergus Falls. Hannah Tvedt had 19 while Sorenson added 11. Against Northland, Jenny Schnaufer scored 18 and Bridget Burzinski picked up 10. The Blue Devils dropped to 2-7 on the season with an 80-63 defeat at Mid-State Technical College in Wisconsin Rapids. Tanya Jensen led with 18 and Steph Vollbrecht chipped in with 16. "We're looking forward to our home games" said Coach Hebrink. Riverland lost a pair to Madison Area Technical College and Iowa Lakes in the RVLD invitational to drop to 2-9 on the season. In the season conference opener, the Blue Devils lost 62-48 to Minnesota West. Riverland (2-10, 0-1) trailed 42-17 at halftime. RVLD shot 28% from the field and 40% from the line for the 48 points scored (season low offensive output). The Blue Devils played much better but Anoka-Ramsey (10-1) upended Riverland 86-66 in conference action. RVLD got a team high 20 points from Tanya Jensen in the loss. Hannah Tvedt added 11 and Jenny Schnaufer chipped in with 10 points. Ridgewater handed Riverland its eighth straight loss with a 74-55 win over the visitors. RVLD led 28-27 at the half but could not maintain its consistent play. Jensen led Riverland with 13 and Schnaufer had 11. RVLD drops to 0-3 in the division and 2-12 overall. Riverland led by as many as 11 points in the first half but Bethany rallied and defeated the Blue Devils 68-52 in league action. Jenny Schnaufer led with 15 followed by Becky Hermann with 10. A trip to Rochester ended Riverland's nine game losing streak as the Blue Devils took a 76-72 southern division victory from the Yellowjackets. "This was a good win for the girls. We had a lot of leads in games this year, we just haven't been able to keep them" said an elated Hebrink. Hannah Tvedt led with 20 points, followed by three others in double figures. Becky Hermann had a career high 14, Steph Vollbrecht and Bridget Burzinski each added 10 points. RVLD improved to 1-4 in the division and 3-13 overall. Minneapolis ran past Riverland 78-70 in conference play as the #2 rated team in the country proved to be too much down the stretch. RVLS was out rebounded 40-17 as five Blue Devil players scored in double figures led by Bridget Burzinski with 16 points. Riverland dropped to 1-6 in conference as Minnesota West upended the Blue Devils 57-50. Burzinski led RVLD with 13 points. Anoka-Ramsey pounded Riverland 101-56 after beating the Blue Devils by 20 points earlier in the year. The Blue Devils dropped their fourth straight as Ridgewater won 74-58 in league action. Burzinski finished with 23 points and Jenny Schnaufer added 19. Riverland drops to 1-8 in the conference and 3-17 overall. Riverland led by 13 points at halftime but fell to Rochester 77-72 in conference play on "Parent's Night". RVLD jumped to a 14-2 lead and their first half was dominated by the Blue Devils. Jenny Schnaufer finished with 24 points and Katie Berg chipped in with 14 points, including 3 for 4 beyond the arc. The Blue Devils lost their final game to Minneapolis to finish the season 1-11 in conference and 3-20 overall.

Roster Included:

Katie Berg	Bridget Burzinski
Elizabeth Harsma	Rebekah Herrmann
Tanya Jensen	Jennifer Schnauffer
Michelle Sorenson	Hannah Tvedt
Stephanie Vollbrecht	
Ass't Coach: Lisa Quednow-Bickler	

BASEBALL Coach Scott Koenigs 15-17 Scott Koenigs replaces Dave Meyer after one year at the helm as the Blue Devil's baseball coach. Meyer led his team to a 21-14 record last season and a fourth place finish in the state. Koenigs is a 1985 Southland High School graduate who received his B.S. degree from Winona State University. Five returning sophomores make up a team of eleven with plenty of talent (nine of the eleven are sophomores). The Blue Devils dropped their opening twin bill to NIACC 11-10 and 14-2. Trailing 11-3, Riverland scored seven unanswered runs to fall short of the comeback. Mike Haugen hit a three run homerun in that comeback. Jeff Geisler also had a home run in the opener. The Blue Devils collected only two hits in the nightcap. Waldorf upended Riverland 1-0 and 9-4 in non-conference action. Geisler threw a gem going 8 and 1/3 allowing three hits in game one. Nate Vollbrecht went 3 for 4 in the loss. In the nightcap, Matt Dixon had a rocky start and took the loss. RVLD out hit Waldorf 10-4 but nine walks and four hit batsmen made it easier for the Warriors to score. Riverland was defeated twice by Rochester 7-5 and 10-0 to see their losing streak reach six games and remain winless on the season. In the opener, RVLD led 4-2 after five but a five run rally by the Yellowjackets led them to the first game victory. Rochester's Dan Huber threw a no-hitter against Riverland in the second game. RVLD is now 0-2 in the conference and 0-6 overall. Riverland Community College won its first game with a 5-2 win over Ridgewater before dropping the second game 10-6. Jamie Morrison drove in the game winner with a two run double in the fifth inning. Clint Ripley went the distance for the win. Jeff Heisler walked five and allowed seven hits and took the loss in the nightcap. RVLD led 5-0 after two innings and the Warriors responded with seven runs in its next two at bats. The Blue Devils bounced back with winning four straight conference games over the weekend, defeating Anoka-Ramsey 11-3 and 7-5 on Friday and upending North Hennepin 7-6 twice on Saturday. "I have a lot of confidence in these guys" said Coach Scott Koenigs. RVLD rallied twice against Anoka, powered by homeruns from Jamie Morrison and Nate Vollbrecht. Morrison's grand slam highlighted a nine run third inning in game one, while two run shots by Vollbrecht and Morrison capped a seven run seventh in game two. The Blue Devils overcame five errors two defeat North Hennepin the opener as Morrison, Geisler, and Todd Walerak each had two hits. Matt Dixon went the distance to win the nightcap and had offensive support from Geisler and Derek Bonsor who both went 3 for 4. Riverland is now 5-3 in the conference and 5-7 overall. After dropping a pair from Bethany 9-7 and 9-8, Riverland Community College rebounded with two victories over Minnesota West 4-1 and 10-0. Mike Haugen and Clint Ripley threw complete game three-hitters for the wins. The Blue Devils racked up double digit hits in both games as Walerak, Geilser, and Dixon all had two hits in the opener. In the nightcap, Morrison was 2 for 2 with two RBIs and three runs scored while 7-5 Geisler and Walerak had two hits again.

The Blue Devils are now 7-5 in the conference and 7-9 overall. Riverland stomped Minnesota West again, sweeping two by the scores of 24-5 and 12-0. Six players accounted for seven home runs, including Nate Vollbrecht who hit his fourth and fifth of the season. Jeff Geisler earned the pitching victory in the first game and upped his batting average to .490. Derek Bonser had a grand slam in the opener in the 14 run sixth inning. Curt Peterson pitched seven strong innings with the complete game shut out in the nightcap. Matt Dixon, Mamie Morrison and Vollbrecht each cleared the fence in game two. The two wins improved the Blue Devils record to 9-5 in the conference and 9-9 overall. Rochester pieced together 29 hits and overcame 11 errors and swept the Blue Devils 14-6 and 8-7. Todd Walerak went 4 for 7 in the twin bill. "This one hurts" said Scoot Koenigs". "Now we are going to need some help if we are two qualify for the regional tournament. The Blue Devils lost a pair to Ridgewater 10-1 and 13-1 to drop to 9-9 in the conference and 9-13 overall. Bethany upended Riverland 9-7 and 7-5 leaving the Blue Devils with their fifth and sixth straight losses. Trailing 9-0 after five innings, RVL, Mike Haugen collected his fourth hit to lead a furious rally that fell short with six runs in the seventh inning. Bethany scored seven runs in the last three innings to overcome a 2-0 deficit and sweep the series. The losses leave Riverland at 9-11 in the conference and 9-15 overall. The Blue Devils swept North Hennepin 7-3 and 9-1 to keep its state playoff hopes alive. Mike Haugen and Clint Ripley each had dominating pitching performances while Matt Dixon went 3 for 4 in the opener scoring three runs. Derek Bonser and Adam Highum had two hits apiece in the nightcap. Riverland completed the weekend with a sweep over Anoka-Ramsey 10-2 and 18-4. Riverland had 27 hits in the sweep to end the regular season, led by Dixon with four hits including two doubles in the twin bill. Jeff Geisler got the win in game one, striking out seven and allowing seven hits. Geisler also collected two hits to help out his cause at the plate. In game two, Bonser got his first win of the season allowing three runs on six hits in four innings. RVL is now 13-11 in the conference and 13-15 overall and the Blue Devils finished fourth in the conference. With Ridgewater winning the Region tournament, the Blue Devils moved up to represent the second spot in the standings and earned a spot in the MCCC state tournament, hosted by Austin. Riverland scored only one run in two games and exited with a pair of losses to the eventual champion's finalists to end the season. Fergus Falls escaped with a 3-1 victory over RVL in the opening round as Clint Ripley lost despite surrendering only four hits. Ripley also collected two hits and the only RBI of the weekend. "We didn't come ready to play" said Coach Koenings. Itasca shut out Riverland 9-0 in the loser's bracket to eliminate the Blue Devils from the state tournament and finish the year 13-17 overall. Clint Ripley was named to the All-tournament team. Nate Vollbrecht earned All-Conference, All-State, and All-Region XIII honors. Todd Walerak also was named to the All-Conference team.

Roster Included:

Mike Haugen	P/C	Matt Dixon	3B/P
Ryan Weichmann	OF	Todd Walerak	OF/2B
Nate Vollbrecht	SS	Jamie Morrison	OF
Clint Ripley	P/1B	Curt Peterson	3B/2B
Jeff Geisler	OF	Adam Highum	OF
Derek Bonser	1B/P		
Assistant Coach: Sean Breslin			

SOFTBALL Coach Lisa-Quednow Bickler 22-9 **Division Champions**

Riverland returns six sophomores from a two-time defending MCCC Southern Division squad. "It was disappointing not to win the Region last year after being No. 1 seed" said Coach Quednow-Bickler. "Our main priority this year is to win the Region and head to Illinois". The Blue Devils opened the season with a sweep over Mitchell College, R.I. in the first day of the Disney's Wide World tournament in Orlando, Florida. Marisa Kelsey threw a complete game shut out 6-0. Abbey Bergstrom followed it up with a shut out, striking out four and walking two in a 7-0 rout in the nightcap. Bergstrom also delivered at the plate going 5 for 7 in two games while Kelsey went 4 for 4 in the second game. RVL D lost to Mount State University from West Virginia 4-2 before bouncing back and beating Ashland, Wis. 7-4. Kelsey lost the opener on a six-hitter. Melanie Gabrielson went 3 for 3 and Bergstrom had two hits and one RBI. Lori Bergstrom fired four-hitter and overcame wildness in the win over Northland. She also was 4 for 4 in the game as RVL D collected 17 hits. The Blue Devils improved to 4-1 on the Florida trip by defeating Franklin & Marshall College of Pennsylvania 6-0. Susie Rayman pitched six innings of four hit ball and Kelsey came on in the 7th for the final inning. The Blue Devils continued their torrid hitting with 13 hits, including three by Melanie Gabrielson. Riverland lost a pair to Henry Ford College from Michigan and returned home with a 4-3 southern road trip. Waldorf pounded Riverland 8-0 and 10-1 as the Warriors racked up 10 hits in both games. "They're as good as we'll see all year" said Quednow-Bickler. The losses drop RVL D to 4-5 overall. The Blue Devils split with NIACC to improve to 5-6 overall. After losing 4-2 in the opener, RVL D battled to an 11-10 victory in the nightcap. RVL D scored three runs in the 10th inning to win game two. Lori Bergstrom went 5 for 6 and Beth Harsma 4 for 4 with five runs scored. Riverland opened the conference season upending Ridgewater 9-2 and 10-1. The visiting Blue Devils wrapped out 12 hits in game one, led by Sarah Moore with 3 hits and 5 RBIs. Bergstrom scattered eight hits in the win. In the nightcap, Erin Evans, Beth Harsma, and Melanie Gabrielson each went 3 for 4 while Marisa Kelsey tossed a nine-hitter. Riverland Community College improved to 4-0 in the conference with a doubleheader sweep over Minnesota West 14-1 and 11-1. Abbey Bergstrom got the win in game one allowing three hits. Gabrielson and Moore each had 3 hits as the Blue Devils pounded out 18 hits. In game two, Hannah Tvedt led off the game with a home run to continue where the Blue Devils had left off in the opener. Kelsey pitched a one-hitter in the four inning game. Riverland split with Bethany dropping them to 5-1 in the division. After a lopsided win over Central Lakes (14-0) the Blue Devils dropped the nightcap 6-4. Marisa Kelsey threw a three-hitter and RVL D banged out 18 hits in the opener, led by Erin Evans going 4 for 4. Kelsey started again in the second game and took the loss. "We just kind of got complacent" said Coach Quednow-Bickler. Riverland drops to 6-2 in the conference and 11-7 overall. Riverland swept a pair from Minnesota West (14-1, 11-1) and Rochester (3-1, 4-2) to improve to 10-2 in the division. In the contests versus Rochester, RVL D received strong pitching performances from Kelsey and Bergstrom to gain the victories. "We are not hitting the ball very well" said Coach Quednow-Bickler but our base running and bunting was very well executed". Riverland swept Central Lakes to take control of the MCCC Southern Division race. Both teams entered with two conference losses but the Blue Devils now control their own destiny after defeating Central 2-1 and 9-0.

RVLD won the first game in 11 innings and the second in five innings. Marissa Kelsey went the distance in game one, allowing 14 hits and got the game winning RBI single in the 11th for the victory. In the nightcap, Abbey Bergstrom pitched a NO-HITTER in the five innings. Hannah Tvedt went 3 for 3 while Gabrielson, Evans, Moore, and Katie Berg all collected two hits. RVLD is now 12-2 in the conference and 15-6 overall. The Blue Devils extended their winning streak to eight games as they defeated Bethany 9-6 and 8-0. Marisa Kelsey got the win in game one with relief help from Susie Rayman in the sixth. Beth Harsma was 2 for 4 with a three run triple in the opener. Abbey Bergstrom pitched a five-hitter in the nightcap and led a 14 hit attack going 3 for 3 to improve the Blue Devils record to 14-2 in the conference and 17-8 overall. Riverland Community College clinched the MCCC Southern Division with a sweep over Rochester 10-2 and 10-2. The division title is the third straight for the Blue Devils, who pounded out 35 hits in the twin bill. Marisa Kelsey and Abbey Bergstrom both went the distance in respective wins. Beth Harsma went 5 for 6 in the two games highlighted by a three run triple in the opener. Katie Berg went 4 for 4 and two RBIs in game two. RVLD upped its record to 16-2 in the conference and 19-6 overall. The regular season ended splitting a pair with Ridgewater. In the opening round of the Region XIII tournament, RVLD defeated Ridgewater 7-3. The Blue Devils scored seven runs in the fifth inning led by Arin Evans going 3 for 4. Abbey Bergstrom allowed six hits for the victory. In the finals of the winner's bracket, Dawson CC defeated Riverland 6-3. Marisa Kelsey started but left trailing 6-0 after three innings. RVLD battled back with runs in the fifth and sixth but fell short. In the loser's bracket, Ridgewater avenged an earlier tournament loss and upended the Blue Devils 4-3 in eight innings to eliminate Riverland Community College. Trailing 3-2 in the seventh, RVLD scored one run to tie it but lost it in the eighth. Kelsey went the distance and scattered 15 hits. "It's frustrating to not even make it to the title game" said Quednow-Bickler. "We have an amazing amount of talent but we just didn't make the plays in this tournament". Riverland now is 20-8 overall and will enter the MCCC state tournament as the #1 seed from the southern division. The Blue Devils won their first two games in the state (no scores found) but lost in the state championship game to finish runner-up and 22-9 on the season. Abbey Bergstrom was named to the All-Conference, All-State, and All-Region XIII team. Bergstrom finished the season with a .900 ERA.

Members were;

Katie Berg	Erin Evans
Melanie Gabrielson	Marisa Kelsey
Stephanie Vollbrecht	Susan Rayman
Heidi Hovland	Abbey Bergstrom
Sarah Moore	Molly Wosomen
Amber Nash	Beth Harsma
Jenny Schnauffer	Hannah Tvedt

GOLF Coach David Lillemon Jeff Clark returns after finishing sixth in last year's NJCAA national tournament to lead the Blue Devils. Riverland started the season with a third place finish in the Minneapolis invitational. Clark led with a 75 while Andrew Routh had an 81. RVLVD finished fifth in the Rochester invitational shooting a respectable 312. Jeff Clark shot another 75 to lead his team. Brett Wuerflein shot a 76, followed by Routh's 79, Joe Hewitt had an 82, and Jason Hubly fired a 91. RLVD won the Riverland invite hosted by Green Lea Golf Course in Albert Lea, shooting a 311. Wuerflein led all golfers with one over par 73. Jeff Clark finished second with a 74. Joe Hewitt fired a 79, and Routh and Grady Rider each had an 85. "I see us making great strides" said Coach David Lillemon. Riverland Community College finished 3rd in a mini-state tournament at Brainerd. RLVD had a two day total of 647, thirteen strokes behind winner Central Lakes. Jeff Clark was second overall, shooting rounds of 76-76-152. Rider was Riverland's second top scorer with a 76-88-164. The Blue Devils shot its worst score of 328 and finished last in the Bethany invitational. Clark shot a 75 and finished third overall to lead the Blue Devils. Clark won the medalist honors at the Riverland Community College invitational hosted by the Austin Country Club. Clark shot rounds of 34-36 to win by six strokes. The Blue Devils finished second with a team total of 334. Riverland competed in the Region XIII and MCCC state tournament hosted by Mankato Country Club and found them selves in first place after the first day of competition. Riverland fired a 320 in 30 mile per hour winds and temperatures in the mid-80s. Jeff Clark was the tournament leader after 18 holes with a two over par 74. The Blue Devils dropped to fourth place overall in the region tournament represented by 16 teams. They finished 3rd in the state. Sophomores Jeff Clark and Joe Hewitt qualified for the nationals with top 10 finishes. Clark shot another strong round of 76 to finish runner-up in the state and region with a 150. Hewitt qualified ninth with round of 81-83-164. Brett Wuerflein shot a 79-90-169, Andy Routh fired a 176 and Grady Rider's 177 did not count in the team totals. Jeff Clark started slow with an 81 in his opening round of the NJCAA national golf championships at Chautauqua, NY. Joe Hewitt shot an 86 in his first national appearance. Clark would shoot rounds of 78, 78 and 77 in his final three rounds and finish in-27th place (shot 81-78-78-77-314) out of 101 golfers. Hewitt finished in 74th place (86-84-86-78-334) firing his best round on the last day with a 78. Other members: Brett Wuerflein, Andy Routh, Grady Rider, Shane Tieskoetter, Jason Hubly, Joe Hewitt, Curt Peterson, Jake Bettis.

GOLF-Women's Coach Dave Lillemon Heather Selmecki was the lone golfer for the Blue Devils. Selmecki fired a 130 in her first meet at Green Lea Golf Course. Heather shot a 131-121-252 in the Brainerd invitational, improving ten strokes on the second day. In the Region XIII tournament, Heather Selmecki shot rounds of 126 and 129 for a 255 total.

TENNIS -Men's Coach Suzy Hebrink Riverland competed with only two members after winning the Region championship last season and finishing 12th in the NJCAA national tournament. Andy Stouvenel retired after finishing 5th in the NJCAA tournament at #4 singles last season. Todd Christopherson was the other member of the team. In the Region XIII tournament, Andy Stouvenel and Todd Christopherson dropped their opening round single's matches and lost their doubles match as well. Madison won the team event.

TENNIS-Women's Coach Suzy Hebrink 5-3 Region XIII runner-up NJCAA National Tournament-2nd Place. Coming off a seventh place finish last season in the NJCAA tournament, the Blue Devils look to better itself this season with "the deepest team I've had in my four years" said Coach Suzy Hebrink. RVLD opened the season with a 7-2 victory over Bethany. Riverland swept the doubles and won four of six singles to win its first meet of the year. Ridgewater turned the tide and downed the Blue Devils 7-2 in conference action. "We were just outplayed today" said Hebrink. Melony Sheedy was the only winner in singles while Sheedy and Bridgette Bednar won the only double's match. Riverland edged Dr. Martin Luther 5-4 to improve to 2-1 on the season. The Blue Devils won four of six matches in singles and one doubles match at #3 to pull out the win. Riverland Community College improved to 4-1 with wins over UW-Marshfield (6-3) and Madison Area Technical College (7-2). "It was good to see Madison as we play them in our region" said Hebrink. The Blue Devils defeated Bethany 6-3 to improve to 5-1 overall. Riverland lost its final two matches to Ridgewater and Northwestern College to finish 5-3 on the season. Riverland Community College hosted the Region XIII tournament. Ridgewater captured the Region XIII title with 18 points and Riverland finished second with 14 points. The Blue Devils came up short for their fourth straight Region championship. Gretchen Hansen lost at #1 singles in a tough 3-6, 6-2, 6-3 loss. At #2, Tiffany Ankeny also lost her opener. At #3, Sara Zastoupil was the region champion sweeping both of her matches without dropping a set. Mel Sheedy also won both her matches and Stacy Felt lost at #6 in the opening round. In doubles, Gretchen Hansen and Tiffany Ankeny dropped only four games and won the #1 doubles while the #2 squad of Snyder and Zastoupil split their two matches, while Sheedy and Bridgette Bednar won their only match of the day. "We might have pulled it out if we would have had our normal lineup" said Hebrink. Bednar was forced to pull out of the #5 singles. Despite not winning the Region championship, Riverland qualified for the NJCAA tournament because the top two from the Region were eligible to compete. (another factor of competing was this was Coach Hebrink's best team in four seasons). The Blue Devils proved they belonged in the national tournament as they brought home national runner-up honors, losing only by a ½ point to national champion Mohawk Valley CC from New York. Riverland earned first team All-American honors for all three of their first place performances and second team recognition for its one runner-up finish. Bridgette Bednar captured the #6 singles, winning 6-1 and 6-3 in the finals. In doubles, the second seeded duo of Gretchen Hansen and Tiffany Ankeny whipped their opponent 6-4, 6-3 to claim the national #1 doubles. Mel Sheedy and Bridgette Bednar fought back to win the #3 doubles, 4-6, 6-4, 7-5 to round out the first year players for the Blue Devils.

Melany Sheedy lost in the finals 6-3, 7-5 to earn second team All-American honors for her runner-up honors. At No. 3 Sara Zastoupil and #4 Lisa Snyder came back and won valuable ½ points in the back draw wins. “We certainly can’t be disappointed with our finish, it was a team effort out there” said Coach Hebrink. “Everyone contributed and gave it their all”. Tiffany Ankeny & Gretchen Hanson (#1 Doubles champion), Melony Sheedy and Bridgette Bednar (#3 Double Champions), Sheedy (#5 singles runner-up) All-Americans(1st team). Other members were Stacy Felt.

4/18/2003 *Darin Johnson was officially named the new men’s basketball coach at Riverland Community College, replacing David Lillemon who resigned in March after 16 seasons at the helm. Johnson has spent the last four years as an assistant men’s basketball coach at Dakota State University in Madison, S.D. Johnson brings with him nine years of experience as an assistant at various and this will be his first opportunity at a head coaching experience. “There are two things I really believe in and that our program will stand for” said Coach Johnson. “One is constant improvement in the three areas of your life as a student, as an athlete, and academically”. “And the second one, no matter what we do, we want to try and make sure we do everything that’s going to best serve the program”.