1999-2000

VOLLEYBALL  Coach Helen Jahr  13-20-1  The Blue Devils won their opener on the road upending Pillsbury College 15-9, 16-14, 13-15, 15-10. Riverland was led by Jamie Rosheim and Krissa Anderly. Working out the early season kinks, RVLD lost all six matches at the Ridgewater tournament in two days. Rosheim led with 25 kills over the tournament, while Shanna Dagestad had 21. Breanna Seira had 60 assists and averaged 5.4 per contest. The Blue Devils drop to 1-6 overall.

Bethany defeated Riverland 15-7, 15-8, 15-4 in conference play. “We had some bright spots as we improved our serving” said Coach Helen Jahr. After falling to Iowa Lakes 15-5, 15-10, and UW LaCrosse 15-2, 15-10, the Blue Devils ended an eight match skid by upending Rochester 15-6, 15-6. Round robin pairings later put the teams back together for the match to decide 5th place and once again it was Riverland in a route winning 15-0 in a whitewash. “We were pumped and did awesome in a two game sweep over Rochester” said Coach Jahr. Jamie Rosheim had 14 kills, six blocks and six ace services to lead her team in the tournament. The Blue Devils evened their conference mark at 1-1 as they defeated Rochester in five, 15-7, 11-15, 12-15, 15-13, 15-13. Breanna Seira had 31 set assists for the Riverland CC. The Blue Devils followed up the win over Rochester by placing third in the Anoka-Ramsey invitational. RVLD split with Waldorf 17-15, 7-15, beat Rochester 15-10, 15-0 and Anoka-Ramsey 15-13, 15-11. Riverland’s only loss was to Iowa Central 15-4, 15-8. The Blue Devils followed the loss by defeating Waldorf 15-2, 15-10 for third place. The Blue Devils played their first home match and lost 3-1 to Ridgewater. Riverland notched their second conference win upending Anoka-Ramsey 15-9, 15-5, 15-11. The Blue Devils (2-2 in conference and 7-11-1 overall) fell behind 7-0 in the first game but rallied to win game one. The win propelled them to strong second and third game victories. The Blue Devils outlasted Waldorf in five 0-15, 15-12, 15-9, 9-15, 15-11. Melissa Bemis led with 15 kills while Seira had 354 assists and four ace services. The win improved RVLD to 8-11-1. Riverland upped their conference mark to 3-2 with 3-0 win over Minnesota West. The Blue Devils swept the match 15-2, 15-3, 15-1. Twenty two of the 45 points came on ace services, led by Breanna Seira. Riverland split a pair over the weekend, losing to Bethany 15-7, 15-1, 15-6 and defeating Pillsbury 15-4, 15-5, 15-5. RVLD evened its conference record at 3-3 and stands 10-13-1 overall. Riverland upended Rochester 16-14, 15-8, 15-5 in conference play to improve to 4-3. Melissa Bemis had seven kills and five service aces for Riverland Community College. The following day they lost 2 out of 3 in the RVLD invitational. The Blue Devils lost to UW La Crosse 3-0 and Waldorf College 2-1 before downing Rochester 3-0 (15-10, 15-3, 15-8). Melissa Bemis led with 18 kills and five ace services. Riverland is now 12-15-1 overall.
The Blue Devils knocked off Anoka-Ramsey 15-8, 15-8, and 15-7 to secure a third place finish in the conference (5-3). In downing the Rams, the Blue Devils clinched a trip to the state tournament (no division playoffs this year). Melissa slammed a kill and then served out two points in the opening game breaking a 12-12 tie. RVLD never looked back after that and totally dominated the match. Riverland ended the regular season as Ridgewater won easily 15-2, 15-12, 12-15, 15-0. The loss ended the Blue Devil’s season at 5-4 in the conference and 13-16-1. Riverland Community College competed in its fourth straight state tournament but was sent home without a win in four matches. The Blue Devils lost 3-0 to Fergus Falls in the opening round session, then were upended by Vermilion (3-1) and Bethany (3-1). The three losses dropped RVLD into the consolation bracket. The Blue Devils fell to Ridgewater 17-15, 16-14, 9-15, 6-15, 12-15 ending their state weekend. Jahr called the final match “tough, exciting volleyball”. “But errors throughout the match caught up with us”. Jamie Rosheim registered 20 kills and five blocks while Breanna Seira served three aces to go with 31 assists. Riverland completes its season at 13-20-1. Melissa Bemis earned All-Conference, All-State and All Region honors.

Roster Included:
Jamie Mauseth  Melissa Majerus  Cassie Kobow
Melissa Bemis  Krissa Anderly  Breanna Seira
Jamie Rosheim  Shanna Dagestad

SOCCER- Coach Roberto Romo  Club soccer was in existence for the second straight season under the guidance of Robert Romo. The contests were played on the campus of Riverland Community College. There was no post season play and the team was not eligible for any tournament action. A schedule of eight contests was attempted and often Coach Romo did not have enough players to field a team.

Hall of Fame-The 1999 Hall of Fame class included: Jim Riles (basketball and baseball, 1972-74), Jon Stephenson (golf, 1968-69), Wendy-Dickinson-Eickhoff (tennis 1985-87), Sue Johnson (volleyball, basketball, softball, 1983-85) and Jane Synogrond (softball, 1982-84). The Hall of Fame class was the second in school’s history, following the inaugural class of ten inductees in the fall of 1999.
BASKETBALL  Coach David Lillemon  12-12  Riverland returns three veterans, led by All-Conference selection Jesse Heiny. Beau Hartman and Garrett Ulrich are the other two letter-winners. The Blue Devils lost their opener 71-59 to UW Richland Center. Freshman Brandon Kettner scored 16 points and grabbed 15 rebounds while Ulrich chipped in with 14 points. Jesse Heiny poured in 20 points to lead RVLD over Milwaukee Area Technical College 72-68. Garrett Ulrich added 13 in a contest where RVLD dominated on the boards 38-29. “That was the difference along with our defense” said Coach Lillemom. Riverland won easily over WWTI 99-77 to improve to 2-1 overall. Ulrich had a game high 21, followed by Kettner with 17, Nick Peters (11), Brett Rogers and Heiny each with 10 points. Riverland pulled out a thrilling 105-94 win in overtime to defeat Des Moines Area CC in non-conference action. With 10 seconds to go, Des Moines knotted the score at 84-84 but RVLD took over from there and outsored their opponents 21-10 in the extra period. The Blue Devils had three men score 20 or more, led by Tom Host and Beau Hartman with 21 and Garrett Ulrich with 20 points. Yost scored 8 in the overtime. “He had an unreal game” said Lillemon referring to forward Tom Yost. Defending state champs Vermilion handed Riverland a 86-73 loss but the Blue Devils rebounded with a 63-57 win over Mesabi the following day. Ulrich and Heiny matched each other with 16 in the loss, and both scored 17 points in the victory over Mesabi, to improve their record to 4-2 overall. The Blue Devils won their next three games, including a 96-94 win over WWTI to claim their fourth straight win. Five Blue Devils finished in double figures led by Jesse Heiny’s 23. Brett Rogers had 20 followed by Ulrich with 15, Kettner 14, and Yost added 10. Riverland is now 7-2 and 4-1 on the road. RVLD won its fifth straight as Brett Rogers hit a game winning hook shot (along with a free throw) with 3 seconds to go to lift the Blue Devils to an 83-80 overtime win over Mid-State Technical College. Garrett Ulrich had 25 to lead all scorers, while Rogers finished with 15 points. Cory Pluta scored 12 points in a starting role for the first time, followed by Heiny with 11 and Brandon Kettner’s 10 points. Riverland defeated Des Moines 88-67 in the last non-conference game of the season. Ulrich poured in 22 and Nick Peters 21 to lead all scorers. The Blue Devils are now 9-2 overall and off to its best start since the 1962-63 team that went 19-3 on the season. The Blue Devils defeated Bethany 85-76 in the conference opener for both teams. RVLS shot 19 of 31 and led 45-29 at halftime. Garret Ulrich had 20, Brett Rogers 16, Jesse Heiny 14 points for Riverland. “I don’t remember in all my years playing a first half like we did tonight” said an elated Lillemom. It was the Blue Devil’s seventh straight win and improved them to 10-2 and 1-0 in the league. The Blue Devils lost on the road to Rochester 88-79 as RVLD trailed by 17 at halftime. Peters, Ulrich, and Brandon Kettner all had 14 in the defeat. Minneapolis handed Riverland a 75-60 win to drop RVLD to 1-2 in the conference. Garrett Ulrich poured in 25 and Jesse Heiny added a dozen.
Riverland Community College lost its third straight game falling to Minnesota West 78-75. RVLD missed a shot with 20 seconds to go that would of tied the contest. Heiny led four players in double figures with 13 points. Riverland is now 1-3 in conference and 10-5 overall. (It was announced by school officials that the RVLD’s team posted a 3.14 team GPA the first semester). Anoka-Ramsey handed the Blue Devils their fourth straight loss with an 82-68 victory. Riverland shot 29% against the 10-1 Rams and still led 53-52 with nine minutes to go. Ulrich led with 17, followed by Heiny’s 13. Riverland broke its losing streak at four games with an 87-73 win over Ridgewater. Brandon Kettner led with 19 points and 17 rebounds. Brett Rogers chipped in with 13 followed by Tom Yost with 10. Riverland is now 11-6 overall. The Blue Devils stepped out of conference play and defeated Mid-State Tech 99-93 as Nick Peters put the game in overtime when he connected on a 3- pointer with 0.8 seconds remaining in regulation. Peters led the team with 24 points (five three pointers), followed by Brett Rogers (18), Kettner (15), Ulrich (13) and Heiny (12). Riverland improves to 12-6 overall. Bethany defeated the Blue Devils 82-72 in league play in a game closer than the score. RVLD trailed by two with three minutes to go. Jesse Heiny was the top scorer with 20, followed by Kettner and Rogers who each had a dozen. RVLD drops to 2-5 in the conference. Rochester shot 75% in the second half and 63% for the game and defeated Riverland 84-75. Tied at 71-71, the Yellowjackets scored the next 11 points and put the game away. Minneapolis defeated Riverland 80-66 in league play and dropped the Blue Devils to 2-7 in the conference and 12-9 overall. Ulrich had 15 and Kettner 10 (along with nine rebounds) in the defeat. Minnesota West handed the Blue Devils an 87-68 league loss and their fourth straight defeat. Two Minnesota West players combined for 55 points. Brandon Kettner had 15, Tom Yost 12, and Jesse Heiny 11 points. Anoka-Ramsey defeated Riverland Community College 94-75. The Rams scored 60 points in the second half to easily win on the road. Garrett Ulrich had 15 and Jesse Heiny 12 in their final home game. Ridgewater defeated Riverland 95-74 to end the Blue Devil’s season on a six game losing streak. RVLD had 16 first half turnovers that led to their downfall. Jesse Heiny had 12, Garrett Ulrich and Brandon Kettner 10 along with 13 rebounds. The Blue Devils finished the year 2-10 in the conference and 12-12 overall. Brandon Kettner was selected to the All-Conference team. Kettner led the conference in rebounding.

Roster Included:
Zak Ulwelling  Steve Shinhault  Jake Greenman
Beau Hartman  Nick Peters  Garret Ulrich
Shane Fett  Brandon Kettner  Jesse Heiny
Tom Yost  Cory Pluta  Kris Bose
Brett Rogers
Assistant Coaches: Larry Reynen & Matt Webber
**BASKETBALL-Women**  Coach Suzy Hebrink  12-12  Suzy Hebrink takes over for Tim Kjar and has no player over 5 feet, nine inches. “We are going to have to use our quickness and pressing” said first year Coach Hebrink. UW Richland Center defeated the Blue Devils in their opener 59-43. Rachel Burzinski led with 17 followed by Anna Keefe with 10. Riverland won its home opener 53-47 over WWTI to give Coach Hebrink her first college victory as a coach. The Blue Devils trailed by 10 in the first half but Burzinski brought her team back and scored 21 to lead all scorers and added seven steals. Riverland raced to a 46-22 halftime lead and defeated Des Moines CC 72-65. Rachel Burzinski led with 18, followed by Melissa Rosel with 16 and Anna Keefe with 10 points. Rosel also grabbed 13 rebounds and was 10 of 10 from the foul line. Vermilion defeated RVLD 78-56 on a northern road trip only to have the Blue Devils bounce back with a 68-60 win over Mesabi the following afternoon. Renae Bebler had 21 in the opening night loss and led a trio of scorers (Bebler 20, Burzinski 18, Kelly Leif 13) in the win over Mesabi, improving their record to 3-2 overall. The Blue Devils split a pair, defeating Hibbing and then losing 76-50 to Rainy River CC. Burzinski led the Blue Devils with 14 in both games, adding 12 steals in the two contests. Melissa Rosel grabbed 11 rebounds in the two games. RVLD is now 4-3 overall. Riverland defeated WWTI 80-76 in non-conference action. The game required an extra period as Renae Bebler took over and scored 8 in the overtime and finished with 21 points. Rachel Burzinski fouled out but not before scoring a season high 26 points.

Riverland Community College improved to 6-3 with an impressive 71-45 win over Mid-State Technical College. Burzinski led with 22, Bebler 18 and Rosel added 11 points and 11 rebounds. Riverland won a pair of games in the holiday tournament, improving their record to 8-3 overall. The Blue Devils avenged an earlier loss and defeated UW Richland 70-64 and then downed Augsburg’s JV’s 75-60. Rachel Burzinski went off and poured in 37 points in the opener (this was the fourth all time single game performance in history). The following day Coach Hebrink described the win over Augsburg “the best game of the season” as four players scored in double figures led by Renae Bebler with 17 points. Anna Keefe hauled down 18 rebounds to go with 13 points and her single rebound total was the second in women’s history (Patti Foss had 21 rebounds in 1979). Riverland sent a strong message as they lost to a tough Bethany program 79-74. After seasons of humiliating losses to the Vikings, Riverland had a chance to upset the top ranked team in the state. Burzinski and Bebler combined for 43 points in the defeat. Riverland dropped its second conference game in a row with an 87-47 loss to Rochester. “We couldn’t buy a bucket” said speechless Coach Hebrink. Riverland is now 0-2 in league and 8-4 overall. Renae Bebler scored a season high 23 points and led the Blue Devils to a 84-48 win over Minneapolis in conference action. Burzinski added 15 and Anna Keefe 10. Minnesota West forfeited to Riverland in its next conference game due to having only four players.
RVLD improves to 10-5 and 2-2 in the conference. After losing to Anoka-Ramsey, Ridgewater handed the Blue Devils a 76-68 setback and dropped RVLD to 10-7 overall and 2-4 in conference action. Rachel Burzinski had 24 and Renae Bebler 20 to lead the Blue Devils. Riverland upset Mid-State 64-34 in non-conference action to record their 11<sup>th</sup> win of the season. Riverland lost Kelly Leif and Anna Keefe to injuries. Burzinski led with 24 points and Keefe had 12 points and 8 rebounds before she left the game. Renae Bebler added 19 points, five rebounds, and three steals in the victory. Riverland lost 111-60 to Bethany as they had to play short handed due to the injuries. Rachel Burzinski had 21 and Bebler added 20 points in the loss, dropping RVLD to 11-8. Rochester defeated Riverland 69-64 and dashed any hopes of a state tournament berth for the Blue Devils. The one-two punch of Bebler and Burzinski came through again with 27 and 21 respectively. Minneapolis defeated Riverland 85-66 to drop the Blue Devils to 11-10 overall and 2-7 in the league. Burzinski had 21 and Renae Bebler added 20. Riverland lost to a tough Anoka-Ramsey club 67-57 in conference action and the last home game of the season. Riverland went on 14-3 run and closed the game to within four points at 3:00 to go but could get no closer. Renae Bebler had 17 followed by Rachel Burzinski and Alissa Goetzinger with 14. The Blue Devils fell to 11-11 overall and 2-8 in the league. Riverland Community College split their final pair of games to finish the season 3-9 in conference and 12-12 overall. Renae Bebler and Rachael Burzinski earned All-Conference honors.

**Roster Included:**

- Renae Bebler
- Kristal Cushman
- Alissa Goetzinger
- Anna Keefe
- Kelly Leif
- Melissa Rosel
- Breanna Seira
- Abbie Baumann
- Rachael Burzinski
- Brook Holets
- Ass’t: Lisa Quednow-Bickler

**BASEBALL** Coach Lee Brand 8-18

Lee Brand takes over the reigns for Herb Hofer after one year at the helm. Brand comes from Salt Lake Community College in Utah. He is a native Minnesotan and was a three year starter in college at the University of New Mexico. Riverland Community College won its opener on a dramatic three run home run by Lon Sorenson and the Blue Devils game Coach Lee Brand his first college victory 10-9 over NIACC. Ryan Long went the distance to get the win in the opener. Riverland trailed 5-2 after four innings and 9-7 after six before Sorenson’s late inning heroics. North Iowa won the second game 8-6. “We scored some runs today (16), and that was a good sign of us” said Coach Lee Brand. Riverland downed WWTI 12-11 and 22-7 to improve to 3-1 on the season.
Josh Diemer had a game winning RBI single in the seventh inning of game one and had six hits on the day. Riverland defeated Anoka-Ramsey 9-8 on Buck Nelson’s game winning RBI double in the bottom of the seventh inning but lost the nightcap 9-2 as the Blue Devils committed six errors. Lon Sorenson had three hits in game one and Ryan Long got the win. Josh Diemer had three hits in the nightcap. Riverland lost 12 of its final 16 games and finished the season 3-17 in the conference and 8-18 overall. Josh Diemer hit .400 (28-70) with 16 runs and 17 RBI. He was selected to the All-Conference and All-State team (1st base).

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SOFTBALL  Coach Lisa-Quendnow Bickler  17-17  First year coach Lisa Quendnow-Bickler takes over for Paula Carlsen, who guided the team for three seasons and last years 5th place finisher in the state tournament. Quednow-Bickler is an Austin native who graduated from Pacelli High School. She played for two years at Austin Community College in the mid-90’s and earned her masters from St. Cloud University in athletic administration. Along with coaching softball, Quednow-Bickler will assume the post of women’s athletic director and will assist in women’s basketball. Quednow-Bickler has only three returning veterans on her squad. The Blue Devils opened the season with a pair of wins, 11-3 and 11-9 over North Hennepin. Jamie Rosheim had a home run in each game and added a triple in the nightcap. Kelly Baumann went 3 for 4 in the second game. “We had a lot of offense” said Coach Lisa Quednow-Bickler. RVLD swept Pillsbury to improve to 4-0 in non-conference action. Riverland lost their first game of the year 9-1 before fighting back to win the nightcap 12-8. Sarah Nagle led the hit parade in game two with three hits. Tamara Schwemmmler pitched both games and earned the win in the second contest. The Blue Devils lost their next four contests, dropping to 5-5 on the season. Pitcher Jaden Reeder got both wins as Riverland Community College defeated Minnesota West 10-0 and 15-7 in league action. The Blue Devils split with Central Lakes, winning 10-9 in game one and losing 9-2 in the nightcap. Riverland took second place in the Rochester tournament, downing Southwest State JVs 11-1 and 10-0 before losing 6-5 to Rochester in the championship game. Billie Anderson had a two run double in game one and added a bases clearing triple in game two. Kelly Jo Leif also had three RBI with a triple.
Riverland gained a split with Rochester in conference play, losing 12-4 before winning the nightcap 4-3. The Blue Devils finished the season 17-17 and 5th in the state tournament.

Roster Included:

- Billie Anderson
- Shanna Dagestad
- Kristen Haugen
- Sara Nagele
- Jaden Reeder
- Tamara Schwemmler
- Abby Torgerson
- Jaden Reeder

- Kelly Ballman
- Alissa Goetzinger
- Kelly Leif
- Jillene Pratt
- Jamie Rosheim
- Breanna Seira
- Heather Rayman

GOLF  

Coach David Lillemor  
Riverland Community College began its golf season with dual meet victory over Rochester 318-332. Sophomore Mike Willford led the Blue Devils with a 75 and he was the medalist. Wade Kollander followed with a 77. Riverland finished fourth in the nine team meet Rochester. RVLD carded a 336 as Willford fired a 76, good for second place overall. Pat Jilek had an 86, Dustin McCabe an 86, and Chad Wolf an 88. The Blue Devils had their best finish of the season as they took second in a nine team meet at Ridgewater. The Blue Devils posted a 327, nine strokes behind Bethany. Wade Kollander led with a 77, Willford 81, McCabe 84, Chad Wolfe 85, and Nate King 87. At the state and Region XIII tournament, Riverland fired a 338 at the Mankato Country Club on day one and found themselves in second place in the state and fourth place in the region competition. Chad Wolfe had RVLD’s best score with an 82. Wolfe qualified for the NJCAA national golf championships as finished 10th overall in the Region XIII tournament. The team champions and top 10 individuals qualify for the national in Jamestown, NY. Riverland Community College finished third in the state and Region tournament with a two day score of 673. Minneapolis won both tournaments with a 644 total. Mike Willford finished 11th overall with a 79-85-164. Other scores were Wade Kollander 170, Pat Jilek 177, and Dustin McCabe 183. Mike Willford carded a first round of 81 at the Division III NJCAA golf championships in Chatauqua, New York. The winds were brutal and he was in 18th place after day one of competition. Willford shot 82 in round two, 83 in the third round, and fired an 83 on the final round for a 333 score, 58th in the field of 98 golfers. Willford also finished 3rd in the longest drive contest. *Note: Chad Wolfe did not attend college the second semester and was not eligible to participate in the tournament. This was the third consecutive year the Blue Devils had qualified a student-athlete for the NJCAA golf championships. Other members; Dustin McCabe, Pat Jilek, and Wade Kolander, Nathan Cline, Garrett Ulrich, Bo Mortenson.

TENNIS  Coach Suzy Hebrink     9-2  Region XIII Champions.  The men’s team under first year Coach Suzy Hebrink opened the season with an 8-1 win over Ridgewater. The Blue Devils swept the doubles competition and won 5 of 6 singles. Zak Ulwelling won 6-3, 6-1 at #1, Jeremy Peterson lost at #2, Josh Bendickson won 6-1, 6-1 at #3, Jake Greenman won 6-2, 6-1 at #4, Beau Hartman won 6-1, 6-3 at #5, and Shane Fett won 6-1, 6-1 at # 6 singles. The Blue Devils would go 9-2 in the regular season and their only two losses were to Dr. Martin Luther. Zak Ulwelling went undefeated for the season in #1 singles and doubles. Riverland won the Region XIII tennis tournament for the first time since the 1995-96 team did under Ken Larson. At the NJCAA nationals; At #1, Zak Ulwelling won the 5th place match and teamed with Jake Greenman to finish runner-up at #1 doubles (lost 6-4, 6-2). Greenman also brought home 5th place in singles. Shane Fett lost in the finals at #6 singles 3-6, 7-5, 6-4. Beau Hartman and Jeremy Jones posted a 6-1, 6-4 win in the consolation finals. Riverland Community College finished 5th overall out of 12 teams. Earning 2nd team All-Americans were Zak Ulwelling and Jake Greenman (#1 doubles runner-up) and Shane Fett (#6 singles runner-up). Other members: Josh Bendickson, Kent Gordan, David Handeland, Beau Hartman, Jeremy Jones, Jeremy Peterson.

TENNIS-Women  Coach Suzy Hebrink  Region XIII Champions, 5th Place-NJCAA.  The Lady Blue Devils opened the season under first year coach Suzy Hebrink with a 6-3 win over Ridgewater. No other records found on regular season matches. The Blue Devils defended their Region XIII title and qualified for the NJCAA national tournament for the third straight year. Renae Bebler, Anne Hackbart, Rachael Burzinski, and Brook Holets each collected Region single’s championships. Coach Hebrink took part in two national tournaments in the mid-80’s and her along with Renae Bebler have national tournament experience. Bebler lost in a championship match for the second straight year, 5-7, 2-6 (lost in double’s finals last year). In the opening round Bebler was victorious 6-2, 6-1 and in the semis Renae won 6-3, 6-4. Renae finished runner-up in #1 doubles in last year’s tournament. Bebler was the only one that reached the finals and she earned 2nd team All-
American honors. At #2 singles, Jennifer Ankeny lost 2-6, 4-6 in her opening round match. Alison Stier and Anne Hackbart lost in the opening round at #2 doubles, 1-6, 2-6. Stier lost her first match 1-6, 2-6 and Hackbart won in three sets, 5-7, 6-0, 6-4 before being defeated in the semi-final round. At #3 doubles, Rachale Burzinski and Brooke Holets lost 5-7, 3-6. Burzinski and Holets each lost in three sets in the opening ground. All told, Riverland’s players finished 8-13 in the tournament and finished 5th place overall. Members included: Jennifer Ankeny, Rachael Burzinski, Anne Hackbart, Brooke Holets, Tina Knudson. Alison Stier, Renae Bebler.