**Volleyball**  Coach Helen Jahr   11-14   Leading the way this season in the newly renamed Minnesota Collegiate Athletic Conference (MCAC) are returning sophomores Tiffany Preuss, Ashley Lau, and power hitting Brooke Monson (all-conference last year). As Coach Jahr prepares for her 16th season, she is excited for the upcoming season and really likes her incoming freshmen. The season opened in high fashion with a road victory over Pillsbury College of Owatonna, winning by scores of 25-22, 26-24, and 25-10. Ashley Lau had a productive night with six kills and helped power her team to a convincing third game after two close games. “We attacked hard and did a good job at the net” said Coach Helen Jahr. Riverland Community College won its second straight match with a sweep of Gogebic College as they rolled to wins of 25-13, 25-8, and 25-21. This was the season opener of Gogebic and the long bus ride showed it. “They were a much tougher opponent in the third game” said Jahr. Brooke Monson led with 5 kills and 3 blocks on the night. Lau led with a team high nine kills. RVLD hosted Western Technical College and Gogebic over the weekend and with some strong serving they improved to 4-0 as they defeated both opponents in 3 games. In the match against WTC, the Lady Blue Devils prevailed 25-13, 25-21, and 25-22 as Krissy Schemmel had 31 assists and five aces to lead the way. In the second match, RVLD defeated Gogebic for the second time in two days with scores of 25-11, 25-18, and 25-23. Monson had 11 kills, 3 blocks and five aces for the day and Ashleigh Smith served nine straight in the last game for the win. Ridgewater College came to town and handed Riverland its first lost with wins of 25-19, 25-17, 25-16, 25-21. “Even though they beat us, I noticed a definite change in the atmosphere of our team” said Coach Helen Jahr. “We weren’t intimidated by them (# 2 team in the latest NJCAA polls) and it was mainly our errors that cost us the match”. Schemmel had 11 set assists and 15 digs to lead the Lady Blue Devils. Riverland defeated MSCTC-Fergus Falls to record its first MCAC conference victory. RVLD won by scores of 25-20, 18-25, 25-17, and 25-19. “It was a fantastic effort by our girls and I can’t remember the last time we beat Fergus Falls in a conference match” said Jahr. Brooke Monson led with 18 kills and 4 blocks while Lau had 8 kills, 2 blocks, and 19 digs. Riverland improved to 5-1 overall and 1-1 in the division.
Riverland CC dropped three matches and managed to win one in the Rochester C & TC Invitational. In the first match, Rochester defeated Riverland 25-10, 25-19. Riverland Community College then defeated Gogebic 25-15, 25-17 before losing to Madison Area Technical College 25-22, 28-26. It its final match of the day, the Lady Blue Devils lost in the consolation match to Hibbing 19-25, 23-25. “We went up against some tough teams in pool play and should of won the match against MATC” said Jahr. “We played competitively against Hibbing but could not pull it out. It was a long day on the court”. Riverland loses 6-4 overall. Riverland lost a tough division battle on the road, losing to MN West 19-25, 25-23, 21-25, and 23-25. All four games could have gone either way. “We had too many costly mistakes in the last two games “said Coach Jahr. Tiffany Preuss led with 21 set assists while Krissy Schemmel had 31 digs. RVLD drops to 1-2 in the MCAC southern division and 6-5 overall. Riverland split a pair of matches in the MATC invitational, defeating WTC 25-22, 18-25, and 15-8 before losing to MATC 16-25, and 13-15. Playing without power hitter Brooke Monson, RVLD was hampered at the net and it showed. “We switched some players around to cover for Brooke’s absence” said Coach Jahr. Kate Krough led with 11 kills and 19 digs. Riverland is now 7-6 overall. For the second time this season, Riverland beat Pillsbury in three games, this time winning at home 25-15, 25-14, and 25-12. “It was a good night for us at the net” said Coach Jahr. “Things were clicking for us in this win. You can tell the girls like to play at home”. RVLD returns to the MCAC and hosts Rochester C & TC, currently 18-1 and ranked 2nd in the nation. Riverland Community College was unable to contend with the quick hitting of Rochester and lost in three by scores of 18-25, 22-25, and 14-25. The Yellow Jackets stung Riverland with 10 ace services on the night. RVLD drops to 1-3 in the division and 8-7 overall. The Lady Blue Devils hosted Western Technical College and defeated them for the third time this season with games of 25-21, 25-23, and 25-20. “We came out flat and a bit overconfident” said Coach Helen Jahr. “Ashley Lau kept us in the game with her hitting until the rest of the team woke up”. Lau had a big night with 14 kills and 13 digs. The road to the state tournament got more difficult as Anoka-Ramsey came to town and defeated Riverland Community College 25-23, 21-25, 18-25, 20-25 and dropped RVLD to 1-4 in the southern division. The Lady Blue Devils won game one but would lose the next three games. “They seem to make all the big plays at the end of the games said Jahr. “We had seven service errors on the night and that is too many in a tightly contested match” said a dejected Coach Jahr.
The division race is not over but now RVLD starts the second half of the division schedule on the road at Ridgewater College. Riverland was never in any of the games as Ridgewater pounded the Lady Blue Devils 25-16, 25-14, and 25-22. RVLD drops to 9-9 overall and 1-5 in the division.

Riverland Community College remained at .500 as they split a pair of matches at the WTC invitational, losing to Madison in two games and defeating WTC 2-0 to make it four straight this season over the La Crosse team. Riverland won it last home match of the season, defeating MN West 31-29, 25-14, and 25-17 in a very exciting match. Falling behind 6-0 in the first match, RVLD rallied to get it back to 25 all. Krissy Schemmel led with 28 assists and a4 digs while Ashley Lau served in 17 points. Riverland improves to 11-10 overall and 2-5 in the league. Riverland could not beat WTC for the fifth time this year as Western defeated the Lady Blue Devils 23-25, 21-25, 25-13, and 15-25. Playing without the services of Brooke Monson, RVLD could not control the net and it proved to be costly. RVLD drops to 11-11 overall. Rochester beat Riverland for the third time, taking the MCAC southern division match 15-25, 15-25, and 13-25. “It didn’t matter who was on the other side of the net, we did not play well” said Coach Jahr. With only two more matches remaining in the division, RVLD’s quest for state tournament berth does not look promising. The Lady Blue Devils drop to 2-6 in league play.

Riverland Community College missed a chance to stay in a tie for the fourth and final spot in the upcoming state tournament as they lost to MSCTC-Fergus Falls 25-22, 16-25, 16-25, and 14-25. Mathematically Riverland is not done yet. If the Lady Blue Devils can win its final road contest against Anoka-Ramsey and the right scenarios take place, RVLD could end up in a four way tie at 3-7. There won’t be any trip to the MCAC state tournament for the Lady Blue Devils as they were up ended by the Golden Rams of Anoka-Ramsey to end their season 2-8 in the division and 11-14 overall. The Rams won by scores of 17-25, 20-25, and 20-25. “It’s too bad that our possible trip to the state tournament came down to one match, because we had many opportunities to get there before this and we didn’t do it” said Coach Helen Jahr. Ashley Lau and Tiffany Preuss were named to the 2nd team All-Southern Division by the coaches.

**Roster Included:**

- Tiffany Preuss
- Jenny Ingvalson  
- Kate Krough
- Ashley Lau
- Krissy Schemmel  
- Tiffany Carlson
- Ashleigh Smith
- Dena Monson  
- Brooke Monson
- Kelly Hendricks
Golf-(M)  David Lillemo     Riverland Community College will have nine golfers on hand when the season opens with sophomores Darrick Braaten, Isaac Van Proosdy and Trevor King leading the way. Braaten was the team’s MVP last year and will be heavily counted on for the Blue Devils to have a successful season. In the season opener at the Oaks in Hayfield, Minnesota, Riverland hosted a five team invitational and wound up 5th overall. Jason O’Donnell led the men with an 86. Riverland Community College hosted its second meet as in as many weeks in Albert Lea and finished 3rd to Rochester and MN West. The Blue Devils shot a 360 and were led by O’ Donnell again with an 87. Adam Ruhter shot a 90 as did David White. Ryan Wiechmann rounded out the scoring with a 93 for the day. RVLD traveled to Century College and shot a season high 398. David White led his team with an 80 while Ruhter shot an 88 with a 39 on the back nine. Riverland Community College traveled to Worthington and played in a 6-team invitational hosted by MN West and shot a 365. Ryan Wiechmann was low with his best of the season at 82. Ruhter turned in an 85, followed by David White also with an 85 and Tim Bissen with a 113. The Blue Devils hosted a six team invitational at the Austin Country Club and shot a 377 and finished in 6th place. David White shot a 89 to lead RVLD, followed by Darrick Braaten with a 92, Jason O’ Donnell’s 93 and Ryan Wiechmann with a 103. The Blue Devils traveled to Rochester and shot a 368 to place 3rd in a triangular hosted by Rochester C & TC. Ruther shot an 89 to lead with White at 90, O’Donnell with a 92 and Wiechmann with a 97. Riverland Community College would host its 4th tournament of the season at the Owatonna Country Club in a triangular with Rochester and Century College. RVLD shot a 389 and finished 3rd amongst the three teams. Adam Ruhter led with an 87. Riverland Community College saved its best for last as it shot its best season scores in the final meet, the MCAC State and Region 13 meet hosted by Central Lakes in Brainerd, Minnesota. In the first round of action, RVLD shot a 358 and was in 5th place out of 10 teams represented in the state classic. Darrick Braaten led with an 85(45-40), followed by Jason O’ Donnell (45-42), Adam Ruhter (47-42), and Ryan Wiechmann (49-48). “It was a pretty good day on the course for our golfers considering the breezy and wet conditions from the rain they had on Sunday” said Coach David Lille on. The Blue Devils dropped 16 strokes from its total on the final day and finished 5th in the MCAC State Golf Meet. After shooting a 358, RVLD came back with a 342 on Tuesday to finish with a 700 total for the tournament. They finished 6th out of 12 teams in the Region 13 tournament, which ran concurrently with the state meet. “That was a terrific performance on the second day by my kids” said Coach.
“In all the meets this year we finished last and then to come up and beat half the field is a great way to end the season. I’m really excited for our team and they battled some tough conditions the second day to play their finest golf of the season”, said Lillemon. Darrick Braaten had the overall lowest total as he finished with rounds of 85-85=170. Jason O’Donnell also shot 85 the second day to give him a two day total of 172. Adam Ruhter shot an 88 along with his first day total of 89 for a 177. Ryan Wiechmann improved 13 strokes as he shot 84 the second day for a two day total of 181. Five players earned MCAC All-Academic first team, led by: **Tim Bissen (GPA of 3.93)**. Others include Darrick Bratten, Isaac Van Proosdy, Aric Bauman, and David White. Bauman and White are freshmen.

Roster Included:

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<tr>
<th>Isaac Van Proosdy</th>
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<td>Adam Ruhter</td>
<td>Aric Bauman</td>
<td>Ryan Wiechmann</td>
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<td>Jason O’Donnell</td>
<td>Trevor King</td>
<td>Tim Bissen</td>
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**Golf (w)**  David Lillemon  

The women’s golf team had three freshmen represent the Lady Blue Devils, led by Laura Meyer from Washburn High School in Minneapolis. Meyer also is a standout softball player and will compete in the spring for Coach Lillemon on the diamond. The other two golfers representing RVLD were Kari Anderson from Southland High School and Julie Schroeder, a Leroy, MN native. Throughout the season the Lady Blue Devils could not field a team (3 players constitute a team in women’s play) but managed to be represented in all the meets. Laura Meyer led the team all season and shot a regular season low 106 in the Albert Lea meet. But in the MCAC state and Region 13 meet, the Lady Blue Devils shot some of their finest golf of the season and finished in 5th place in the state. Again it was Meyer leading the way, shooting a career low 104 in the first round of the tournament. She had rounds of 52-52 and was in 10th place in the individual competition after day one. Kari Anderson shot a 116 and Julie Schroeder had a 183, good for a team score of 403. On the second day of competition, the Lady Blue Devils shaved off 33 strokes with a final day score of 370. Kari Anderson shot a career low of 112, followed by Meyer with 113 and Schroeder, who saved her best for last with a 144. “It was a great tournament for our men’s and women’s team”, said Coach Lillemon.

Roster:

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<th>Laura Meyer</th>
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<th>Julie Schroeder</th>
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Basketball (w)  Suzy Hebrink  23-7  Three sophomores return for the Lady Blue Devils and they’ll be trying to build on the success of last season. Anna Hebrink, Brooke Monson, and Lizzie Gunter are back and they are joined by sophomore transfer Justine Sanvick of Hayfield. Monson averaged 20 points and 10 rebounds last season while Hebrink averaged over 16 points and 6 assists per game. “Brooke and Anna give us two consistent offensive weapons and we are looking for Lizzie to add more points” said Coach Suzy Hebrink. Five incoming freshmen will bolster the roster, and there is plenty of depth at the guard position. Riverland opened the season in Worthington, getting the tournament rolling with a 91-74 win over Hibbing. A balanced attack led by Justin Sanvick with 19 points proved to be too much for the Cardinals. Brooke Monson tossed in 18 followed by 16 from Anna Hebrink. “Everybody on the team scored and I thought we played pretty well for the opener” said Coach Hebrink. The Lady Blue Devils lost to Madison Area Technical College the second day 69-63. Facing the defending regional champions, RVLD 63-61 with just over a minute to play but could not hang on for the win. “I felt it was a descent start to the season. Early in the year it is hard to play back to back games, but it is nice to get the season started” said Coach Hebrink. Sandvic again led with 17 points, followed by Hebrink and Monson, both with 14 tallies. The Lady Blue Devils are 1-1 and travel to NIACC on Tuesday for a non-conference contest. A second half comeback sparked the Lady Blue Devils to a 62-56 win over NIACC. Trailing by five at halftime Anna Hebrink came to life and scored 21 points of her game high 30 to lead her team to victory. Brooke Monson added 21 in sloppy game that saw RVLD turn the ball over 37 times to 27 for NIACC. “We have to take care of the problem with all those turnovers but still it was a nice win on the road” said Coach Hebrink. Riverland Community College had an 11 point lead in the closing minutes but lost in overtime to Luther JV 60-53 to lose their second game of the year. Monson was the only player to reach double figures with a dozen. RVLD drops to 2-2 on the season. The Lady Blue Devils won its season home opener with an 80-71 win over Gustavus JV. The duo of Monson and Hebrink each had 25 points to lead the way. Krissy Schemmel had 10 rebounds and 4 assists to help the cause in a game in which Riverland shot 8 for 15 from behind the arc. “That’s a nice stat shooting over 50% from three point land. Everyone stepped up and there was some nice balance” said Coach Suzy Hebrink. RVLD won decisively over Crossroads College 75-49 in a non-conference home contest. Riverland led by 20 points at halftime and never looked back and the Lady Blue Devils were led by Monson with 19 points and seven rebounds.
Justine Sanvick added 14 and AunDreah Aune had a dozen in the convincing win. Riverland is now 4-2 on the season and travels to WTC before the holiday break. Brooke Monson was named MCAC “Player of the Week” for her efforts in last week’s play. She averaged 22 points and 7 rebounds in the two wins. Balanced scoring gave the Riverland women’s basketball team its third straight win as the Lady Blue Devils won convincingly 74-56 over Western Technical College (La Crosse). Justine Sanvick led the way with a game high 20 points. She was followed by Brooke Monson with 18 points and 11 rebounds, Anna Hebrink added 13 and Mandy May chipped in with 11 points. The victory was the third in a row for RVLD and their overall record is now 5-2. Riverland Community College improved to 6-2 with a one-point win over the Luther JV team. Brooke Monson scored on a put back with two seconds remaining for the 51-50 victory. Monson rolled her ankle just seconds into the game and was limited to duty but still managed to score 10 points and the game winner. Already playing without Anna Hebrink (sprained ankle in the last contest), the Lady Blue Devils offense really struggled at times without the services of their top two scorers. Krissy Schemmel came through with 12 points and Mandy May added 10 in the win. Riverland has now won four games in a row and travel north for a pair of games this weekend. Led by Anna Hebrink Riverland Community College swept a pair of inter-divisional contests, defeating Northland 67-61 and Itasca 72-71 to increase their overall record to 8-2. After sitting out the last game with a sprained ankle, Hebrink returned to the floor and scored 16 in the win over Northland and poured in a game high 27 to lead her team to their sixth straight victory. In the Friday night’s contest, Justin Sanvick led the way with 19 points and 12 rebounds. The late game of the weekend was close all the way and Itasca got off a wide open trey to win the game but it rimmed out and RVLD escaped with the win. “They were couple of nice road wins” said Coach Hebrink. “We were lucky to get out of there with a win over Itasca. We had a big lead to open the game and then went a little flat”. Brooke Monson had 12 points and 9 rebounds versus Itasca and came back with 10 points and 8 rebounds in the second road contest. A pair of lopsided wins allowed Riverland to extend its winning streak to eight games. The Lady Blue Devils rolled over Hibbing 91-65 and followed that up the following day with a 66-37 win over Rainy River. Leading the way was Anna Hebrink with a game high 24 points, including a perfect 6 for 6 from three point land. AunDreah Aune had 15 and Brooke Monson added 12 points and 9 rebounds against Hibbing. Hebrink once again led the scoring against Rainy River as she poured in 20 points. Monson added 19 points and 10 rebounds.
“We’re playing well right now and we need to stay focused for our final game before the break” said Coach Hebrink. Anna Hebrink was named MCAC “Player of the Week” for her play last week. Hebrink led her team to two wins while shooting 73% from the field (including 6 for 6 behind the arc against Hibbing), averaging 22 ppg, 5 rebounds, 8 assists, and two steals. The Lady Blue Devils received national recognition as they were ranked 8th in the latest NJCAA national poll. The Riverland women’s squad won their 9th straight win as they defeated Western Technical College 67-52. Although they played well enough to win and keep their winning streak intact, RVLD trailed early in the game 19-8 and 30-27 at halftime. But stingy defense erased the halftime deficit and the offense was led by Anna Hebrink with a game high 21 points. Brooke Monson added 14 and Justine Sanvick chipped in with a dozen. Riverland is now 11-2 overall and return to the floor on January 7th to open the MCAC southern division. Divisional play got off to rough start as Ridgewater College ended the Blue Devils nine game winning streak as they defeated RVLD 60-54. “We won’t beat any team in our conference only scoring 18 points in a half,” Riverland coach Suzy Hebrink said. “We looked like a team who hadn’t played in three weeks”. Anna Hebrink led the way with 16 points while Brooke Monson collected 12 rebounds and scored nine points. Riverland bounced back and got its first divisional win as they defeated Fergus Falls 73-66 on the road. Justine Sanvick tallied 18 points while Hebrink chipped in with 15 points. Mandy May added 14 and Monson had 13 points for a balanced scoring attack. Riverland is now 12-3 on the season and 1-1 in league play. Defense was the key ingredient as Riverland defeated MN West 64-43 for their second divisional win in a row. MN West managed only 17 points in the first half. Monson (14) and Hebrink (12) were the only two in double figures but six other players scored 4 or more for good balance. RVLD is ranked #7 in the latest NJCAA poll. Anoka Ramsey came into town ranked #9 and left town with a loss at the Lady Blue Devils won 78-65 in a key divisional matchup. Anna Hebrink scored a game high 28 points, including six three pointers, while Brooke Monson tossed in 27 points and added nine rebounds and five blocked shots. Krissy Schemmel added a dozen while the rest of the team chipped in with tough defensive play. Riverland is now 14-3 overall and 3-1 in the southern division. RVLD rolled to a lop-sided 89-44 win over Minneapolis to improve to 4-1 in the division. AunDreah Aune scored a career high 20 points to lead the Lady Blue Devils. Schemmel added 18, Monson 17, and Lizzie Gunter chipped in with 13 points. Anna Hebrink did not play due to a sprained ankle.
Krissy Schemmel was named MCAC “Southern Division Athlete of the Week” for her stellar play last week. She averaged 18 points, 7 rebounds, 3.5 assists and shot 13 of 15 leading the Blue Devils to two wins. At 15-3 and ranked #7 in the country, Riverland Community College traveled to Rochester to play the #1 ranked Yellow Jackets. When the dust had settled RVLD lost 78-72 but went down fighting. Riverland trailed by 23 points at halftime but came storming back and trailed by two points 72-70 with 30 seconds to go and had the ball. But a costly turnover and free throws by Rochester sealed the win and dropped Riverland to 4-2 in the conference.

“It was a tough way to end with a turnover after we fought back to get within two points” said coach Hebrink. “We held them down in the second half but the boards just killed us. They had 22 offensive rebounds and we gave them too many second chances”. Riverland (15-4) travels to Ridgewater College on Saturday to begin the second go around in the division schedule. The Lady Blue Devils got off to a slow start but rallied to defeat Ridgewater 54-48 to maintain their second place standings (5-2) in the southern division. Down 24-6, Riverland tightened their defense and outscored Ridgewater 18-2 and trailed at halftime by two points, 26-24. Brooke Monson continued her solid play in the second half and RVLD would take a 54-48 victory away in a key division matchup. Monson had 20 points and 8 rebounds to lead all scorers. Riverland Community College improves to 16-4 overall. Riddled with inconsistent play the Lady Blue Devils rallied from an 11 point deficit to defeat Fergus Falls 59-52. Trailing by two at half and 11 points with eight minutes to go, RVLD outscored Fergus Falls 19-1 for the victory. Brooke Monson led the way with a game high 25 points. Anna Hebrink tossed in 19 and made the only three-pointers of the night as RVLD shot 2-19 from behind the arc. With the home win, Riverland improves to 6-2 in the division and 17-4 overall. The Lady Blue Devils stepped out of division play and traveled to Crossroads College and defeated them easily 75-39. Brooke Monson led four players in double digits with 14 points, followed by Anna Hebrink with 13, Krissy Schemmel and Justine Sanvick added 11 apiece. “All the girls scored so that was nice to see that balance” said Coach Suzy Hebrink. “We’re looking forward to this week with a couple tough road games, and trying to stay focused for the final two weeks of the regular season”. Riverland improves to 18-4 overall. The Lady Blue Devils overcame a six point halftime deficit and defeated Minnesota West 74-69 in conference action. Justine Sanvick had a hot hand and led RVLD with 21 points. Anna Hebrink added 20 and Brooke Monson chipped in with 13 points in the paint. “We were able to get out on the break and run the ball in the second half” said Coach Suzy Hebrink.
The Lady Blue Devils improved to 7-2 in division play. Riverland Community College posted its fifth straight win as they defeated Anoka Ramsey 71-68 to conclude their road schedule. Trailing 68-67 in the final minute, the Lady Blue Devils scored the final four points to record their 20th win of the season. “It was a great game and that is two huge road wins in a row” said an elated Coach Hebrink. Gretchen Hebrink scored 10 points in the first half to help RVLD establish a first half lead. Sanvick had a game high 21 points to lead all scorers, followed by Anna Hebrink with 14, Monson had 11 and Gretchen had 10 points. The win solidified second place in the southern division (8-2) and improved their overall record to 20-4. Riverland had a lopsided win over Minneapolis 75-50 for their sixth straight win as balance was a key for the victory. Brooke Monson had 26, Anna Hebrink 14, Krissy Schemmel 9, Mandy May 8, Trisha Boese and AunDreah Aune each with 6 points. Riverland finishes the regular season with unbeaten Rochester, trying to avenge a 78-72 loss earlier in the year. The nation’s top ranked team came to town and handled the Lady Blue Devils a 64-52 loss. “They’re a solid and you can’t let up against them” said Coach Hebrink. With a jam packed crowd, the Lady Blue Devils battled the entire way and trailed by six (58-52) with 1:40 to go but could not get any closer. Krissy Schemmel led with 17 and Anna Hebrink had a dozen for the only two in double figures. The Riverland women finished the regular season with a 21-5 record overall and 9-3 in the MCAC southern division. In the latest NJCAA poll, the Lady Blue Devils are ranked #10. Anna Hebrink and Brooke Monson were named to the All-Southern Division and All-State team. In the MCAC state tournament held in Willmar, Riverland was the #2 seed out of the south and their first opponent is Northland C & TC. Poised in the final five minutes, Riverland Community College withstood a late rally and defeated Northland 83-71 to advance to the semi-final round. Brooke Monson led the way with 26, followed by Anna Hebrink with 22 and Krissy Schemmel added 13. “It was good offense on both sides the first half and within five minutes of the contest Northland closed it to within one point, but the Lady Blue Devils hit some big shots and closed it out” said an elated Coach Suzy Hebrink. Brooke Monson went over the 1,000 points for her junior college career in the win over Northland. Riverland rolled past Hibbing 80-56 to advance to the state championship game. Five players scored in double figures, led by Anna Hebrink with 23 points and 7 assists. Justine Sanvick, Mandy May, and Lizzie Gunter all had 12 and Monson added 10 points. In the title game, Rochester C & TC defeated Riverland Community College 76-56. The Yellow Jackets led at halftime 33-17 and Riverland never got much closer.
“They played good defense and we were impatient on offense” said Coach Hebrink. The Lady Blue Devils are now 23-6 overall and have set a record for the most wins in the history of women’s basketball at the college. Riverland shot 32 percent from the field, including 5 for 29 from behind the arc. “We get one more shot at them, but we’ve got some regrouping to do before Friday night”. Anna Hebrink and Brooke Monson were named to the All-Tournament team. Riverland Community College will meet Rochester for the fourth time this year in the Region 13A championship game to decide who represents the region in the NJCAA national tournament. The fourth time proved not to be a charm as Rochester defeated Riverland 81-68 to earn a national berth and ended the Lady Blue Devils season at 23-7. “Rochester is an incredible team and they deserve a lot of credit” said Coach Suzy Hebrink. Riverland’s Brooke Monson scored 12 of her 14 points in the first half as the Blue Devils trailed only by four at 39-35. Then RVLD opened the second half with a 11-6 run and took the lead 46-45 with 15:49 to play as Anna Hebrink scored seven of her 10 points in that early run. But RCTC took control from there and once they got the lead they never led up. “They kept making a lot of big shots in the second half” said Coach Hebrink. The Blue Devils had 28 turnovers and never got closer than seven points in the final 10 minutes of play. Mandy May led RVLD with 16 points, followed by Monson with 14, Krissy Schemmel with 11, and Anna Hebrink added 10 points. Anna Hebrink was selected to the All-Region team (10 members). She averaged 16.6 points per game, knocked down 47% of her shots, averaged 2.5 steals and 5.5 assists. She had a season total of 75 three pointers with a career 40 % shooting percentage behind the arc.

Roster Included:

Anna Hebrink  Justin Sanvick  Brooke Monson
Lizzie Gunter  Krissy Schemmel  Gretchen Hebrink
Trisha Boese  AunDreah Aune  Mandy May
Ass’t Coach: Dan Swift
Basketball (m)  Dan Swift  7-19  Coming off a season to forget with no conference wins, the men’s team look to regain its competitive edge in the MCAC southern division. Danny DeWitz and Spensor Monson are the only two returning sophomores from last year. Jason Simmons and Nickels Mack are sophomore transfer students to give the Blue Devils some more experience at the college level. “We want to get the excitement back into our gym” said Coach Dan Swift. “We have a lot of guys who can shoot from the outside and with a deep bench, we’re going to run a fast paced attack”. Riverland opened its season in the Sanford Regional Hospital Classic in Worthington. In day one of competition, Northwestern College JV’s engaged in a high scoring affair and defeated the Blue Devils by the score of 100-89. AJ Kortz scored a game high 28 with a trio of three-pointers. Spensor Monson added 12 points, followed by Danny DeWitz and Jason Simmons each with 11 tallies. Madison Area Technical College pounded Riverland in day two of the classic with an impressive 82-45 win over the Blue Devils. RVLD trailed 41-21 at halftime and never were in the game. Kortz was the lone scorer in double figures with 10 points. Riverland is now 0-2 in the season and will travel to Mason City and tussle with NIACC on Tuesday. Riverland Community College lost in overtime to the Iowans 99-88 after being tied at 80-80 in regulation. RVLD had the ball to win but could not get a shot off and NIACC dominated the overtime with a 19-8 advantage. “Although we lost it a good learning experience for our guys” said Coach Dan Swift. “Finishing anywhere close to NIACC is a good effort, especially on the road. There are a lot of positives to take out of this loss”. AJ Kortz and Jason Simmons each had 24 points to lead the Blue Devils. Riverland shot 14 for 20 behind the arc to keep them in the game. The Blue Devils dropped their fourth game in as many contests as the Luther JV team defeated RVLD 77-39 in non-conference action. Again it was Kortz and Simmons leading the way with 14 and 11 points respectively. The Blue Devils managed only 21 points first half and 18 in the second half. Coach Dan Swift is optimistic that home court will get his team a victory as the first four contests were played on the road. Riverland will play three out of its next four games at home, beginning with the Gustavus JVs next on the schedule. Riverland Community College remained winless as Gustavus defeated the Blue Devils 63-56. After holding an eight point lead at halftime, RVLD went cold and it was a tough way to open in front of the home fans for the first time this year. Chris Moragne led the way with 15 points while Danny DeWitz and Spensor Monson each had 10 points. RVLD is now 0-5 on the year. Outside shooting led Riverland to its first win of the year with an 87-66 triumph over Crossroads College.
The Blue Devils trailed by nine at halftime but made ten 3-pointers and scored 52 points to mount the comeback. With ten minutes to go the game was tied but Jason Simmons had his best game of the young season and scored 24 (including 6 of 10 from behind the arc) of his game high 29 points to lead the comeback. “Jason is one of our bigger guys but he can also go outside,” said Coach Swift. AJ Kortz poured in 18 points, followed by Chris Moragne with 15 and Jesse Hogin who had 11 to erase the goose egg from the home team’s overall record (1-5). The Riverland men’s team has its first official winning streak after a 92-73 rout of Western Technical College. RVLD led at halftime by 10 points and never looked back as Jason Simmons had a tremendous night with 26 points, 24 rebounds, and 6 assists. “He had a monster night and the rest of the team played well around him. We’re starting to come together and the guys are weeding themselves into their roles” said Coach Dan Swift. Chris Moragne added 23, followed by AJ Kortz with 13, while Spensor Monson and Derek Hahn added 10 points a piece in the win. Riverland Community College won its third game in row with a convincing 93-78 win over Pillsbury College. Long range shooting produced a big first half (61-35 halftime lead) as the Blue Devils made 10 three pointers. The lead stayed comfortable but Coach Swift was not happy with the second half play of his team. “We need to develop a killer instinct and not let the opposing team have any life”. “We got a little stagnant on offense in the second half”. Five players scored in double figures, led by Cody Andrews and AJ Kortz with 17, followed by Jason Simmons who had 14, Danny DeWitz with 13, and Derek Hahn who chipped in with 10 points. RVLD is now 3-5 and heads up north for a double header this weekend. Jason Simmons was named MCAC “Player of the Week” for his play last week. In the Blue Devils lone game, Simmons averaged 26 points and 24 rebounds. Riverland dropped a pair of games over the weekend to Northland and Itasca Community College. In the first game of the northern swing, a bad stretch led to the 81-61 loss to Northland. “We got within five points with ten minutes to go and wheels fell off” said Coach Swift. AJ Kortz led with 15 points in the loss. In game two of the weekend, the Blue Devils lost 79-77 after turning the ball over three times in the last minute. “We tried to set up a play and lost the ball out of bounds. They made the key shots and we had three turnovers in the last minute”, said Coach Swift. Kortz again led the team in scoring with 24 points, while Danny DeWitz added 18 and Jason Simmons netted 14 points. Riverland drops to 3-7 overall and returns home for three games before the break. Close games were the story for the Riverland men with a split against two northern teams in the Minnesota Collegiate Athletic Conference.
RVLD lost to Hibbing 67-65 but rebounded with a 77-74 win over Rainy River. Jason Simmons led the Riverland attack in both games. Simmons had 18 points in game one and had another monster game with 30 points and 19 rebounds in the winning effort. AJ Kortz added 17 points and Spensor Monson grabbed 16 rebounds and chipped in with a dozen points to end a three game losing streak for the Blue Devils. Riverland is now 4-8 overall. Jason Simmons was named MCAC “Player of the Week” for his play week. Simmons averaged 24 points, 16 rebounds, and 5 assists in two games for the Blue Devils. Simmons received this same honor in week # 3 of the season. Hot shooting from behind the arc led the Blue Devils to the century mark in a home win over WWTI 100-53. The Riverland men’s team made 14 treys and five players scored in double figures, led by Derek Hahn with 17 points. Cody Andrews added 14, followed by Chris Moragne with 12, Jason Simmons and Danny De Witz with 11 apiece. “When we shoot 11 for 22 from the arc in the first half, then we’re a tough team to beat” said Coach Dan Swift. Riverland (5-8) opens play in the MCAC southern division on January 7th against Ridgewater College. For a team that lives on the long ball, the Blue Devils suffered from the long holiday layoff (shot 8 for 28) and lost their divisional opener to Ridgewater, losing 77-63. “We didn’t play like we are capable of at the offensive end” said Coach Dan Swift. Jason Simmons netted 20 points to lead RVLD, followed by Derek Hahn with 13 points. The Blue Devils lost to Fergus Falls 85-60 to start the division 0-2. Chris Moragne led with 15 points, while Simmons added 11 and Danny De Witz chipped in with 10. Riverland drops to 5-10 overall. Riverland stepped out of the conference play and lost their third consecutive game to Gustavus JV 79-68. Jason Simmons had 19 points to lead the Blue Devils. AJ Kortz added 13 and Cody Andrews and Brian Voigt each had 11. Late heroics were not enough as Riverland Community College stayed winless in the division with an 89-77 loss to MN West in overtime. AJ Kortz hit a three pointer with 08: seconds to go to put the game in overtime and tie it at 75-75. “Our guys fought hard and played with intensity on defense, but we threw the ball away too much” said Coach Dan Swift. Danny DeWitz led the way with 17 points, followed by Simmons with 14 and Kortz with 11. Riverland drops to 0-3 in the league and 5-12 overall. Anoka Ramsey dealt the Blue Devils another tough loss with a 71-69 victory over RVLD. Riverland started the game with a 10-2 run and led by four at halftime in a tightly contested game the entire way. Anoka Ramsey led by nine with five minutes to go and RVLD rallied within 2 points but could not come away with their first divisional win. AJ Kortz led with 20 points, followed by Jason Simmons with 16 and Derek Hahn with 15 tallies.
The nations topped ranked NJCAA team in Minneapolis handed Riverland a 99-79 loss after leading by only two points at halftime. Simmons had a game high 26 points, followed by three others in double figures; Hahn with a dozen, Brian Voight 11 and Chris Moragne 11 points. Riverland is now 5-14 overall. The Blue Devils remained winless in the division and lost its 7th game in a row as Rochester blew away the Blue Devils 96-64. RVLD had 26 turnovers and were never in the game. Simmons had 16 points and 12 rebounds to lead Riverland Community College. The Blue Devils (0-6 in the league) start the second half of its divisional schedule on the road at Ridgewater. Riverland trailed by a dozen at halftime and lost 88-63 to drop to 0-7 in the division. Jason Simmons led the Blue Devils with 22 points followed by AJ Kortz with 14 and Dekek Hahn who had 12 points. RVLD drops to 5-16 overall and has lost 8 consecutive games to start the 2009 campaign. Fergus Falls was too much for Riverland as the Spartans defeated the Blue Devils 98-82. “We gave up too many offensive rebounds and Fergus Falls got a lot of second-chance baskets” said Coach Swift. RVLD trailed by 12 at halftime and hung around for most of the game but could never get it under 10 points. Jason Simmons finished with a team high 18 points, AJ Kortz added 15, Derek Hahn 13, while Danny DeWitz and Spensor Monson each collected 10 apiece. With the home loss, the Blue Devils fell to 0-8 in the MCAC South division and 5-17 overall. Two years of losing division games finally came to a hault as the Blue Devils routed Minnesota West 95-65 in conference action. After losing all twelve of their conference games last season and their first eight this year, Riverland finally made it into the win column. “We had guys really go after it on the glass” said a relieved Coach Dan Swift. “We finally played the way we should of all season”. Danny DeWitz led the way with 24 points. Chris Moragne added 15, and AJ Kortz and Brian Voigt each had 14 points. Derek Hahn was the fifth scorer in double figures with 11 points. Riverland rallied from a 15-point deficit and defeated Anoka Ramsey 78-72 to win their second game in a row. The visiting Blue Devils made twelve 3-pointers, led by Hahn with five. Jason Simmons had 31 points and 12 rebounds to lead RVLD to the victory. Hahn finished with 15 and Voigt added 14. Riverland is now 7-17 overall and 2-8 in the division. Minneapolis blew out the Blue Devils 119-76 after leading by 34 points after halftime. Simmons had 22 and Brian Voigt had another strong game with 20 points. Four sophomores played their final game but it wasn’t enough as Rochester cranked up their offense and upended the Blue Devils 111-91 to conclude the regular season. Spensor Monson, Jason Simmons, Danny DeWitz, and Nickels Mack all saw the floor for the last time as a Blue Devil.
AJ Kortz led with 23, Monson had 16, Hahn had 14, Chris Moragne added 11 and DeWitz had 10 points. Riverland finished the season 7-19 overall and 2-10 in the MCAC southern division. Jason Simmons was named to the MCAC All Southern Division team. Jason averaged 16.2 points per game and 8.7 rebounds per contest.

**Roster Included:**

Danny DeWitz  Spensor Monson  Jason Simmons  
Nick Mack  Brian Voigt  A.J. Kortz  
Derek Hahn  Cody Andrews  William Palmer  
Jesse Hogin  Dustin Fritz  Chris Moragne

Ass’t Coach: Scott Koenigs

**Softball** (w) David Lillemon 18-18 The women’s softball team will look to return to the state tournament for the 3rd consecutive year under Coach Lillemon. The Lady Blue Devils return only three veterans; Jill Radke (who was All-Division as a freshman and batted .457, leading the team in RBI’s and doubles), Carmen Smith, Riverland’s starting catcher who batted .276, and Kaylee Newman, a pitcher who saw 62 innings as a reliever and starter last season. But a tremendous recruiting class will bolster the lineup and give the Blue Devils a chance to better last year’s 4th place in the state tournament. Leading the way is Laura Meyer, a left hand hitting outfielder who will likely play mostly in center field and do some catching. Danielle Lynch is a strong candidate to win the catcher’s duties. Chelsey Swanson (left handed hitter) and Anna Breault will battle for the first base position. Andrea Exline and Christy Van Dyke will share the duties at second, while Mandy May will shore up the short stop position. Liz Triplett can play both 3rd and the outfield, while sophomore transfer Justin Sanvick will also see duty at third base and be available at multiple positions. Thenedra Corey can play both outfield and third base. Anna Breault will be the other starter on the mound. The Lady Blue Devils opened the season with a triple-header against Mesabi Range C & TC in the Irish Dome in Rosemount, Minnesota. RVLD scored 4 runs in the bottom of the sixth inning and hung on to win game one 9-5. Mandy May, Carmen Smith, and Laura Meyer all had three hits and Kaylee Newman pitched seven innings to get the win. Newman allowed five hits, two earned runs, walked three and struck out one. “We turned three double plays in the opener and that got us out of some jams”, said Coach Lillemon.
The next two games were decided by the 10-run rule as Riverland won easily, 24-0 and 18-1. In the second game, Anna Breault fired a no-hitter, striking out two and walking one in her first start. Meyer had three hits, Jill Radke had three hits, Liz Triplett collected three hits including a 3-run home run and Thenedra Corey added an inside the park home run. In the final contest, Newman got the win, throwing a one-hitter and walking only one batter. Laura Meyer again was the big bat as she went 4 for 4 while Corey had three hits and Triplett added 4 RBI’s. The second day in the Irish Dome was not so kind as the Lady Blue Devils dropped all three contests. In game one, Riverland lost to Rainy River 5-2. RVLD took an early lead and led 2-1 after five innings but couldn’t hang on for the win. Kaylee Newman went the distance but suffered the lost. She struck out nine batters and allowed only two earned runs. Chelsy Swanson had two hits of the Blue Devils eight hits in the loss. In game two, the St. Thomas JV’s upended Riverland 8-0. Laura Meyer went 2 for 4 (RVLD had seven hits total) and Liz Triplett took the mound loss, scattering seven hits. In the final contest of the day at the Irish Dome, Riverland lost a tough game to Itasca 3-0. Three unearned runs in the first inning was the difference. The Lady Blue Devils had only two hits by Meyer and Swanson. Kaylee Newman again threw the ball well and allowed only four hits, two walks, four strike-outs and no earned runs in seven innings pitched. Riverland is now 3-3 on the season. Riverland Community College completed its spring break trip by winning all three contests on its final day of competition in the Irish Dome. In the opener, RVLD got things rolling with a 12-2 victory over Hibbing. Newman scattered four hits for the mound win. Chelsy Swanson led the attack with 3 hits and 3 runs scored. Jill Radke also added three hits in the 13 hit-attack. In game two, Riverland required some relief help for the pitching staff. Liz Triplett started but could not get out the second inning. Newman came on in relief and she was tagged for four runs. In came Anna Breault (injured earlier in the week) and she allowed only one run in 5 and 1/3 innings and got the win. Riverland rallied from a 9-5 deficit and defeated St. Cloud Technical College 12-11. “Anna did a super job in relief and we were able to complete the comeback” said Coach Lillemom. In the final contest of the day, Riverland drew defending state champs from Central Lakes out of Brainerd and won 5-4. Mandy May went 2 for 4, Laura Meyer had two hits as did Jill Radke. Meyer extended her hitting streak to nine games to start the season. Riverland (6-3) will open its outdoor season next week with a pair of doubleheaders against Iowa Lakes weather permitting. The Lady Blue Devils received national recognition as they were ranked #8 in the first NJCAA softball poll of the season.
Weather interrupted play as both doubleheaders were cancelled with Iowa Lakes. The following week Riverland cancelled to Luther College JV due to weather also. After 13 days of being off, the Lady Blue Devils traveled to Rochester to open the conference. In the opener, Riverland surrendered six unearned runs and were defeated 7-3. Kaylee Newman pitched the first game and gave up only one earned run. RVLD out hit the Yellow Jackets nine to four but managed only three runs. Laura Meyer and Thenedra Corey each had two hits in the loss. In the nightcap, Rochester won again, this time 5-2 over Riverland as errors again hurt the Lady Blue Devils. Anna Breault pitched well enough to win as she gave up 7 hits, 3 earned runs and no walks in taking the mound loss. Meyer again had two hits and extended her hitting streak to 11 consecutive games. Riverland is 6-5 overall and 0-2 in the conference. Solid pitching led the softball team to its first two wins of the season in the division as they defeated Fergus Falls 10-2 and 9-0. Both games were called after five innings due to the 8-run rule. Kaylee Newman threw a 4-hitter in the opener, walking two and striking out six batters. Nine different hitters had on hit and Chelsy Swanson added a pair of RBI in the victory. In game two, Anna Breault fired a one-hitter and RVLD banged out seven hits in the shutout. Justine Sanvick had two doubles, Christy Van Dyke added two hits and Jill Radke had three RBI’s. With the two wins, the Lady Blue Devils are now 2-2 in the league and 8-5 overall. In the latest NJCAA poll Riverland, the Blue Devils continued to be recognized in the top fifteen as they were ranked #13 after last week’s play. Weather postponed the game with St. Cloud Technical college (moved back one week). Laura Meyer received MCAC “Southern Division Player of the Week” honors for her stellar play in last week’s games. Meyer was 6 for 12, including five stolen bases in as many attempts. For the year, she is hitting .565 with 26 hits in 13 contests and currently is riding a 13-game hitting streak. Field conditions in Worthington forced the double header to be moved to Austin and that suited the Lady Blue Devils just fine as they remained unbeaten at home. RVLD took a pair from MN West 3-1 and 7-4 to make it four straight wins. Kaylee Newman pitched her team to the victory in the opener, allowing only one run and six hits. She improved to 6-3 on the mound. Laura Meyer, Chelsy Swanson, and Justine Sanvick all had two hits. Mandy May belted a two-run double in the sixth and that was the margin of victory in game one. Breault battled through control problems (4 walks) and surrendered 8 hits but fought through adversity to up her mound record to 4-1. Newman came on in the 7th inning to record her first save of the season. RVLD banged out 15 hits, including 3 by Sanvick. Meyer had another two hit game, along with Jill Radke.
“Our defense was solid today” said Lillemom. “I don’t know that we turned five double plays all last year and we turned that many today to get us out of jams”. Riverland is now 10-5 overall and still ranked #13 in the latest NJCAA poll. Runners left on base would tell the story of two losses to Ridgewater in division play. The Lady Blue Devils had 23 hits in the two games and yet managed only six runs (lost 4-2 and 8-4). Kaylee Newman took the loss in the opener, surrendering only 5 hits (two of them wind-blown home runs). Laura Meyer, Justine Sanvick and Chelsy Swanson each had two hits. In the nightcap, Ridgewater took control early with a 5-2 lead and never led up. Anna Breault gave up only 4 earned runs but as Coach Lillemom stated, “they capitalized on our mistakes. You have to play a perfect game defensively to beat them and we were just a play away”.

RVLD drops to 10-7 overall and 4-4 in the league. Great pitching led to a road sweep as Riverland defeated St. Cloud Technical College 2-1 and 9-0. Newman went the distance in the opener and pitched a 4-hitter. A two run rally in the sixth inning started with a single by Mandy May. Meyer then had a RBI double to plate May. Carmen Smith stroked a two out single to drive in the winning run and that was enough support for Newman, who stuck out four and walked only one batter. In the second game, Riverland came out swinging the bats (17 hits) and Anna Breault pitched a 2-hitter for the win. Laura Meyer went 3 for 3 as did Justine Sanvick. Smith, Swanson, May and Christy Van Dyke all had two hits. “Coming off two tough losses to Ridgewater, I was very pleased that we could travel this far the next day and get two big division wins” said Coach Lillemom. The Lady Blue Devils suffered a sweep at the hands of MN West, losing two one-run games 8-7 and 7-6. Trailing 7-2 in the opener, RVLD rallied for five runs in the sixth to tie the score only to lose it in the bottom of the seventh inning. Danielle Lynch led the way with 3 hits, including a triple. Meyer continued her hitting streak as she collected two hits (21 straight games) as did Carmen Smith. Newman took the mound loss as she pitched a complete game. In the nightcap, Riverland again rallied from a 6-4 deficit with two runs in the top of the sixth, but surrendered a run in the eighth (extra innings) to lose another tough division loss to MN West. Anna Breault went seven plus to take the loss as Newman came in relief in the 8th but could not put out the rally. “Both games had great rallies to tie it, but they are a good hitting team and we did not catch the ball defensively” coach concluded. Mandy May banged out 3 hits while Liz Triplett and Chelsy Swanson each collected two apiece in the loss. After losing four straight, Riverland got back on the winning trail with wins of 5-0 and 8-0 over St. Cloud Technical College.
Shutout pitching and solid defense laid the foundation for the doubleheader sweep, improving RVLD to 8-6 in the southern division and 14-9 overall. Kaylee Newman pitched a 2-hitter in the opener while left-handed hitter Chesly Swanson had 3 hits to lead the attack. Thenedra Corey led the offensive assault in game two with three hits and Anna Breault also pitched a two-hitter for the win. Laura Meyer was one of eight RVLD players to collect hits in game two and extended her hitting streak to 23 games. Carmen Smith was named “MCAC player of the Week “for her play last week. She went 12 for 19 with 2 doubles and 10 RBI’s and improved her batting average to .367. Riverland traveled to Willmar and lost a pair, dropping game one 6-4 and losing 10-3 in the nightcap. The two teams went toe to toe for five innings and no score. RVLD scored two in the sixth and seventh innings but it was not enough. Kaylee Newman took the loss in game one, surrendering 11 hits. Thenedra Corey, Chelsy Swanson, Christy Van Dyke and Carmen Smith all had two hits in the loss. Laura Meyer’s pinch hit single in the sixth game the Blue Devils a brief two run lead. In game two, Anna Breault pitched better than the result as she allowed only 4 earned runs but RVLD comitted a season high 5 errors in the loss. Andrea Exline and Swanson each had two hits. The two losses drop Riverland to 14-11 overall and 8-8 in the division. A five run rally in the seventh inning was not enough as Fergus Falls scored one in the bottom half to win game one 10-9. The Lady Blue Devils bounced back with an impressive 16-6 win in the night cap. In the opener, RVLD rallied with six hits and five runs, led by Justine Sanvick’s two run single. Thenedra Corey went 4 for 4, scored 3 runs and had 2 RBI’s in the loss. Newman took the loss in the complete game. Anna Breault went five innings to get the win as she improved to 7-4 on the season. Corey again went 4 for 4 (for the day she also had 6 stolen bases) and Sanvick collected three hits. “It was a great effort for us to get one win without Meyer and Jill Radke in the lineup” said Lillemo. The regular season came to halt as Rochester defeated the Lady Blue Devils 9-2 and 12-2, as it was announced prior to the weekend that Coach Lillemo would resign as softball coach at the end of the season. Riverland trailed in both contests after the second inning and never were a threat. Eight errors in the two contests led to Riverland’s two losses. Laura Meyer extended her hitting streak to 26 games with hits in both contests. “We need to play better defense at the state if we are going to be a factor”. RVLD has a chance to advance to regional play with two spots available from southern division teams. The Lady Blue Devils ended the regular season with a 15-14 overall record and 9-11 in the southern division.
By virtue of a coin toss (tied with MN West), Riverland were seeded 3rd in the state tournament held in St. Cloud. For the third time this spring, the Lady Blue Devils had one of their own chosen player-of-the-week. Thenedra Corey was named “MCAC Player of the Week” for her play last week as she went 12 for 19 in six games. She recorded 2 triples, scored 6 runs, and had eight stolen bases during that span of games. RVLD is ranked 6th in the latest NJCAA poll going into the state tournament. “We’re playing to finish in the top two from the South Division and advance to the Region” said Lillemon. “There’s a lot on the line and it will be fun to see how we respond at the state”. In the MCAC state tournament, the Lady Blue Devils dropped their opener, losing 7-4 to Northland, the #2 seed out of the north (21-7). RVLD trailed 5-0 after two innings and could not overcome the deficit. Riverland out hit Northland 14 to 8 but could not get the big hit with girls on base. After the opening round loss and facing elimination, the Lady Blue Devils remained alive in the tournament with two impressive victories. Riverland scored two runs in the top of the first inning and went on to defeat Fond da Lac 5-4. Carmen Smith led the way with 3 RBI’s and along with Laura Meyer, Jill Radke, and Danielle Lynch all collected two hits. Anna Breault got the mound win (scattering nine hits) while Kaylee Newman came on to get the save. The final game was against an old nemesis from the MCAC south. In three years of coaching Riverland softball, Lillemon’s teams were 0-12 against Ridgewater. The streak was now over as Riverland rallied for four runs in the bottom of the sixth to win 5-3. Laura Meyer stroked a RBI single to score the go ahead run and Thenedra Corey capped it off with an RBI single. “We had two big two out hits and that put us in the region” said an elated Coach. “The girls did a great job and we are still alive to win the state tourney”. Justine Sanvick had three hits to lead the win over Ridgewater, Breault got her second mound win and Newman again came on to record her second save of the day. Meyer had at least one hit in all three games and extended her hitting streak to 29 games. The Riverland softball team finished 4th in the state tournament as Rochester beat the Blue Devils 2-1 in nine innings to end the MCAC state tournament run. “It was a great classic state tournament game” said coach Dave Lillemon. Kaylee Newman was the starting pitcher and pitched into the 9th inning (scattering 13 hits and only 2 runs) and was saddled with the loss. “We had a few chances with runners in scoring position but didn’t capitalize” said Lillemon. “We played good softball over the weekend and finished fourth in the state (second year in a row), so that is something to build on as continue our post season run”, Lillemon said in summation.
RVLD collected only seven hits in the elimination game, one by Meyer to extend her streak to 30 games. Two players made the 10-player MCAC all-tourney team. Carmen Smith and Justine Sanvick were chosen from their outstanding play. Riverland (17-16) plays Madison Area Technical College in the first game of the Region 13-A tournament. The winner of the four team field will advance to the NJCAA national tournament. In their first game of the tournament, the Lady Blue Devils recorded a thrilling 2-1 win over MATC in eight innings. Kaylee Newman pitched all 8 innings and got the win, scattering six hits, walking two and striking out four batters. Liz Triplett belted a pinch hit RBI double in the fourth inning to give Riverland a temporary 1-0 lead. After MATC tied it in the seventh to extend the game to extra innings, RVLD mounted its game winning rally in the ninth. With one out, Jill Radke singled and Chelsy Swanson replaced her on base with a fielder’s choice. Danielle Lynch then drove in the winning run with a walk-off run scoring double. It was Lynch’s third hit of the game. “It was a classic regional game with both teams battling into extra innings” said Coach Lillemon. With the victory, Riverland met Rochester in the winner’s bracket and defeated the Lady Blue Devils 9-4. RVLD was outhit 14-7 and Rochester scored four runs in the fifth inning to put the game away. Liz Triplett went 3 for 3 and Laura Meyer collected a hit in both regional games to extend her hitting streak to 32 games. “Those were two very intense games and the level of play you expect at this time of the year” said Lillemon. The Blue Devils would meet Madison Area Technical College again (they eliminated Ridgewater in th loser out game) and again it would be a one run affair. MATC came out on top this time with a run in the bottom of the seventh inning for a 11-10 win over Riverland in the elimination game. “It was a game of such emotion” Riverland coach Dave Lillemon said. “We started out with three runs in the first inning (three run home run by Liz Triplett) but MATC took the lead 7-3 after two innings”. The Blue Devils then rallied for four runs of their own in the third, tying the game at 7-7. The lead would change hands four more times with MATC rallying for the winning run in their last at bat. Triplett went 3 for 4, scored 2 runs and had 4 RBI’s to lead the way. Laura Meyer had 3 hits and finished the season with a 33-game hitting streak. Mandy May, Danielle Lynch, and Justine Sanvick all had two hits apiece. Lynch and Triplett were name to the Region 13-A All-tournament team. The Lady Blue Devils finished the season 18-18 overall. Laura Meyer and Jill Radke were named to the All-Southern Division first team. Meyer hit .544 during the regular season while Radke batted .537 with seven doubles.
Kaylee Newman and Mandy May were named to the 2nd team All-Division. Meyer and Radke earned second team MCAC All-State honors. Thirteen members were selected to the All-Region team. Laura Meyer and Jill Radke were among those selected. Meyer batted .509 for the season and set an all-time hit record with 59 hits in 33 games (33 game hitting streak). Radke scored 20 runs, had 15 RBI’s, led the team with 8 doubles in 23 games played. Meyer is a freshman and Radke completes her career at Riverland.

**Roster included:**

| Anna Breault | Laura Meyer | Jill Radke |
| Carmen Smith | Danielle Lynch | Christy Van Dyke |
| Kaylee Newman | Rachel Knopps | Thenedra Corey |
| Liz Triplett | Justine Sanvick | Chelsy Swanson |
| Mandy May | Andrea Exline | Ass’t: Jason Heller |

**LILLEMON** steps down from coaching at Riverland Community College but will continue to serve as athletic director as well as teaching physical education and mathematics. Lillemo completed his third season as the softball coach, a program he resurrected in the spring of 2007. His team competed in three consecutive state tournaments (4th place in the last two) and finished 3rd in this year’s Region tournament. “I want to thank the administration at Riverland for supporting my decision to step aside as a coach” said Lillemo. “After 34 years of coaching, it is time to step aside and start a new chapter in my life. I still love to teach and that will never go away. It has always been academics first, sports second, and I have tried to make that a priority for students here at Riverland”. Lillemo coached the golf team in the fall for his 14th and final season. His teams (men and women) finished 5th and 4th respectively in the MCAC state tournament. Lillemo has 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 1988 he became the men’s athletic director. He would coach football for 3 seasons (the program was discontinued after the fall of 1989). Lillemo coached two baseball teams to the state tournament, in 1990 and 1991, where his team was state runner-up to Normandale. “Dave has been a tireless advocate for students, high academic achievement, and good sportsmanship” said Dr. Ron Langrell, Riverland’s executive vice president. “It is difficult to find a coach who will devote 34 years to athletics and academics at any college today”.
Riverland recently named Dan Swift as the new head coach for the women’s fastpitch team starting next season. Swift also is the head men’s basketball coach for the Blue Devils. “This has been a tremendous ride for me,” stated Lillemor. “I will look back and cherish many great moments that will be with me forever”.

**Baseball** Scott Koenigs 37-10 The 2009 roster has 26 players, including 19 newcomers on the roster. With five returning starters, five starting pitchers, and one designated hitter, Coach Scott Koenigs is very optimistic about the season. “This year’s team will be very skilled and we will have depth at every position” said Koenigs. “I am looking forward to the season, if we avoid injuries this should be an excellent season”. A goal is a 25-win season and a trip to the MCAC State tournament, something that the Blue Devils haven’t been to for six years. Riverland won its first three games of the season on their 13-game road trip to Florida. The season started with a 2-1 win over Massasoit Community College (New Jersey). Brandon Huhn pitched a 3-hitter to win the opener. He struck out 11 and walked only two batters. In game two, Riverland beat Jamestown College (NY) by the score of 7-1. Mitch Jaeger got the win, scattering six hits and allowing one unearned run. Kyle Starkey led the way with three hits and two runs scored. The final game on Sunday, the Blue Devils defeated Allagheny CC (Penn) by the score of 14-4. Brady Banse allowed no runs in 5 and 1/3 innings to get the win. Starkey again let the hitting with 3 hits, followed by Jeff Huth (2 for 4), Zach Vlietstra (2 for 4), and Mitch Kaplan (2 for 4 and home run). RVLD won its fourth game in as many starts as they defeated Alfred State College (NY) 7-6. Shane Lange had a big blast with his first homerun and Zach Vlietstra got the win on the mound. RVLD lost its first game of the road trip, dropping a 7-3 contest to Ontario Blue Jays. In the loss, Riverland left the bases loaded twice and came up empty. Shane Lange took the loss, giving up 14 hits in six innings pitched. Hitting continues to be a strong suit as Riverland rolled to a pair of lopsided wins, beating Ontario Blue Jays 7-1 and the Ontario Prospects 14-1. “Each team had only five hits in game one but the difference was they walked seven guys and we took advantage of the freebees” said Coach Koenigs. Zach Prins came on in relief to record the win. Brando Voigt led the way with two hits. In the nightcap, Ryan Palmer went the distance, allowing only three hits and striking out nine batters. Shawn Pape, Andy Behnke, and Kyle Starkey all had three hits to lead the way. Riverland is now 6-1 on the season. The Blue Devils made it eight wins in nine games as the defeated Massoic CC 18-7 and then shut out Alfred State 4-0.
“We are having a really good road trip and the guys are playing solid baseball in all phases of the game” said Coach Scott Koenigs. In the opener, RVLD broke it open with nine runs in the first inning to cruise to the 18-7 victory. Andy Behnke led the offense with seven RBI’s. Brian Voigt pitched all seven innings to get the win in the second contest of the day. Voigt allowed only three hits in his gem. RVLD lost to Cumberland College (New Jersey) 5-3 before rebounding and defeating University of Western Ontario 9-2 in the late contest. Kyle Starkey and Brian Voigt each had two hits in the opener. Brady Banse took the mound loss. In the second game of the day, Mitch Jaeger went the distance, scattering five hits and walking none for the win. Zach Vlietstra led the offense with three hits, including a home run. Riverland (9-2) will wrap up its spring trip in Florida with two final games at the Cocoa Beach Expo Center. In the first game, the Blue Devils won in dramatic fashion with a Vlietstra walk off home run in the bottom of the seventh inning. Zach hit for the cycle from the lead off position. Ryan Palmer was the winning pitcher over the London Badgers. He went all seven innings and struck out six for the win. It was 3-3 in the bottom of the seventh before Vlietstra hit the decisive home run. Riverland got beat by the 10-run rule in its final game of the road trip. Brandon Huhn took the loss in the second game. Riverland managed only one hit. The Blue Devils completed the trip 10-3 and will start the outdoor season in St. Cloud next week in non-conference action. After being rained out in their scheduled outdoor openers, RVLD got the season started outside as Northland Community College split with the Blue Devils. Not playing for two weeks, Riverland lost 6-1 in the opener and rebounded with a 5-0 win in the nightcap. The Blue Devils were held in check the first game collecting only two hits, one by Andy Behnke and the other by Derek Hahn. Brady Banse fired a 4-hit shutout in game two to gain the split. Behnke had two triples on the day to add to his total of seven on the year (a school record). Riverland hosted the crossover tournament which was scheduled for two days and six teams. But cold weather hampered the event and only four schools took part and one day was completed. The Blue Devils opened with a 4-1 win over Anoka-Ramsey but ended up with a 6-4 loss to Central Lakes in 8 innings. Brandon Huhn looked sharp as he gave up 5 hits and struck out 10 batters. Riverland had only 5 hits themselves but made the all count. In the second contest, more problems with the offense (only 4 hits) accounted for the loss and Central Lakes banged out 10 hits for the win. RVLD is now 12-5 on the season. Riverland swept a doubleheader from the Carleton JV team, winning 14-5 and 14-4 in a wind aided day in Northfield. Shane Lange was the winning pitcher in game one, scattering eight hits.
Chris Lindemann had a two run home run, Zach Vlietstra had two hits, and Kody Retterath had a bases loaded double. In the nightcap, Lindemann added another round tripper as the Blue Devils banged out 13 hits in the win. Alex Buckentine got the win on the mound surrendering 9 hits and 3 earned runs. Two pitchers were selected co-pitchers of the week for the MCAC southern division. Brady Banse and Brandon Huhn shared the honors. The Riverland pitching staff dominated Hibbing as the Blue Devils swept a pair from the Cardinals, winning 4-0 and 6-0. A no-hitter was tossed by Brian Voigt to complete the sweep after Zach Vlietstra shutout Hibbing in the first contest giving up only five hits. “Both our pitchers threw well in getting the sweep” said Coach Koenigs. “There isn’t much difference in our pitchers 1-6 on the staff”. Shane Lange led RVLD in game one with two doubles and a home run. In the second game, Voigt recorded three strikeouts and gave up four walks. Riverland(16-5) will open the conference this weekend with a four game series with Dakota County. After the weekend, RVLD found themselves 2-2 in division play, as they virtually played even with conference foe Dakota County. The Blue Devils lost game one 7-4 but turned to ace Brady Banse to gain a split at home. Banse pitched a four-hitter and Riverland rallied for three runs in the sixth inning to win the night cap. A day later Riverland traveled to Burnsville and split again, losing game one 7-1 but rallying to win 7-4 in the nightcap. Brandon Huhn was the only player to record multiple hits in the loss, going 2 for 3. Left-hander Ryan Palmer took the loss on the mound. In the second game, the Blue Devils scored four runs in the sixth and added two more in the seventh. Andy Behnke led the way with two hits and two RBI’s. Zach Prins got the pitching win with five solid innings while Zach Vlietstra pitched the final two innings to pick up the save. “There ranked No. 1 in the state and #9 in the nation, so it was a good series to split with them” said coach Koenigs. Riverland is now 18-7 overall and 2-2 in the division. Western Wisconsin was not match for the Blue Devils as they swept the Wisconsin outfit 17-0 and 10-0, both in five innings. Nate Steenblock went four innings of scoreless ball and Kyle Maloney finished the final inning. Zach Vlietstra, Brian Voigt, Mitch Kaplan and Brandon Huhn all collected two hits apiece in the opener. Alex Buckentine went all five innings on the hill for the victorious Blue Devils in the night cap, throwing a one-hitter. Shane Lange had a bases loaded double to break the game open in the first inning. Kyle Starkey had three hits to lead the attack. “Our young pitchers showed they have the stuff with the pair of shutouts,” said Coach Koenigs. Riverland would sweep another series as they took down Iowa Lakes in non-division action, winning 10-0 and 3-2.
Derek Emanuel, Shawn Pape, and Andy Behnke all blasted home runs to lead a ten hit attack in the opener. Zach Prins tossed a five hitter for the win. The second contest was much closer. Brian Voigt overcame some wildness and went the distance for the win. A three run rally in the third inning was all Voigt needed. Brandon Huhn had two hits while Andy Behnke had two big RBI’s. Riverland improves to 22-7 overall. Back to back doubleheader sweeps of MN West over the weekend left the Blue Devils on the verge of clinching a spot in the state tournament. In the opening series at home, RVLD won by scores of 11-1 and 13-0. Both games were shortened due to the ten run rule. Brandon Huhn and Brady Banse got the pitching wins as the pair showed why they are the aces of the staff. Huhn allowed one hit while Banse pitched a two-hitter. Huhn also had three hits and five RBI’s in the lopsided win while Zach Vlietstra went 4 for 5 at the plate. In the nightcap, Huhn again had a big game as he banged out 3 hits with four RBI’s. Shawn Pape had three hits also and two RBI’s. The Blue Devils then traveled to Worthington the following day and beat MN West 5-0 and 1-0, to run their winning streak to nine games. The first game was tight 1-0 affair until the seventh when RVLD tallied 4 runs. Kyle Starkey’s two-run single was the big blow in the inning. Mitch Jaeger went the distance to get the mound win, scattering four hits. In the nightcap, Ryan Palmer went 6 and 2/3 innings (four hits allowed) and Vlietstra came in to close it out for the save. Starkey had the only RBI in the fifth inning for the game winning hit. “We got a couple solid starts from Jaeger and Palmer. The offense came through with some clutch hits and we got out of there with another sweep” said Koenigs. Riverland improved to 6-2 in the southern division and 26-7 overall. Kyle Starkey was the MCAC southern division player of the week for the second week in a row. Starkey hit .591 last week and had a total of nine hits. Ryan Palmer and Mitch Jaeger were the top players on the mound for the past week. Riverland swept a pair of non-division games over Carleton JV’s winning 4-0 and 16-5. The Blue Devils continued their winning ways as they defeated Rochester C & TC 6-2 and 7-2 to put Riverland back into the state tournament for the first time in six years. Brandon Huhn threw a 3-hitter and also hit a two run home run to put the Blue Devils ahead in the third inning. Huhn recorded seven strikeouts while walking only one batter. Brady Banse tossed a two-hitter in the night-cap to complete the sweep. Banse recorded seven strikeouts in his 5 and 1/3 innings of work, while Zach Vlietstra finished up the final 1 and 2/3 to record a save. The Blue Devils broke it open with three runs in each of the 5th and 6th innings.
Kyle Starkey went 2 for 3 and 2 RBI’s in game two. “Our pitchers did a good job, they didn’t walk people and let our defense make the plays” said Koenigs. The Blue Devils are currently ranked #10 in the latest NJCAA poll. The regular season ended against Rochester and RVLD 10-run ruled the Yellow Jackets in game one 15-2, only to lose the second contest 13-12 in eight innings. With the split, Riverland tied with Dakota County for first place in the MCAC South Division. In the opener, Kyle Starkey had two hits and 5 RBI’s to pace the 15-hit attack while Brian Voigt tossed a one-hitter. Brady Banse was the losing pitcher in game two as he pitched the last 3 and 2/3 innings. “This is the first time in 28 years that Riverland has one a division title, so I am very proud of the guys for the season they had” said Coach Koenigs. Riverland finished 9-3 in the division and 31-8 for the regular season. The Blue Devils were awarded the #1 seed in the upcoming state tournament in St Cloud. The eight team field is set for the double-elimination tournament and the Blue Devils and drew Ridgewater in the opening round. It took only 6 innings as RVLD handed the Warriors a 13-3 loss. Andy Behnke, Zach Vlietstra and Brandon Huhn all hit home runs to lead the 16-hit barrage. “We came out swinging the bats in the opener and lid up the scoreboard” Riverland coach Scott Koenigs said. Huhn was the recipient of all the run production and went six innings on the mound for the win (4-hitter). More long balls from the Blue Devils went flying as Riverland defeated Dakota County Technical College 7-5 and moved to the title round. Chris Lindemann had the big blow with a two out, two run-homerun to tie the game in the fourth inning. Brady Banse got the pitching win going 4 and 1/3 innings, with Zach Vlietstra getting the save, working the final 2 and 2/3. “Zach came in with the bases loaded in the fifth and got out of the jam. It’s exciting to be playing for the state championship” said Coach Koenigs. The Blue Devils can finish no worse than second and secured themselves for one of three bids in next week’s regional tournament. The perfect weekend for the Riverland baseball team was capped off with a 6-2 win over Fergus Falls and the first state championship in the school’s history in 37 years. After two impressive wins on day one of the MCAC state tournament, Riverland finished it off in fine fashion with a strong pitching performance from Ryan Palmer. Palmer would go 5 and 2/3 innings, scattering five hits and striking out four batters. Brian Voigt came on in relief and tossed a perfect 1 and 2/3 innings to record the save. A four run rally in the second inning paved the way, led by Chris Lindemann’s three run homer. Shane Lange and Voigt each had RBI singles in the sixth to put the game away.
“It’s been a long time since Riverland won a state title in baseball, and everybody on the team is pretty excited” said an elated coach Scott Koenigs. “We won the state championship with solid pitching and we got the big hits when we needed them”. During their three game sweep of the state tournament, the Blue Devils committed only two errors. They also bashed out six home runs. Riverland (34-8) is the top seed from Minnesota in the upcoming Region 13 tournament. The winner advances to the NJCAA national tournament. Top seeded Riverland rolled to a pair of wins in the opening rounds of the Region 13 tournament. With the scored tied 2-2 after five innings, Zach Vlietstra hit a three-run home run to give the Blue Devils the lead and the victory 6-4 over Northland C & TC. Riverland next cruised to a 10-2 win over Fergus Falls and is only one win away from advancing to the NJCAA national championships. In the opener, Brandon Huhn started the game but lasted only one inning due to a sore arm. Brian Voigt came on and went the next six innings and recorded the win, scattering nine hits and only allowing one earned run. Vlietstra not only was the hitting star, he came in and pitched the last two innings in relief to record the save. “Nowacki is a tough pitcher for Northland and it was nice to get some hits off him in the first game” said Koenigs. Brady Banse went 8 strong innings in the late game and the Blue Devils won via the eight run rule in eight innings. Banse surrendered 7 hits, walked 2 and struck out 3 batters in the complete game. Brandon Huhn and Derek Hahn each had a home run to lead the 15-hit attack. “It was nice outing on the hill from Banse and we needed it after that close first game” said Koenigs. Riverland Community College claimed the Region XIII title on the heels of a decisive 14-3 win over Northland and advance to the NJCAA tournament in Tyler, Texas later this week. Ryan Palmer started on the mound and went five innings and got the win, striking out five and giving up only one earned run. Three other pitchers would give up only one run as the Blue Devils rolled to their 37th win of the season, and all-time high in the history of baseball at Riverland. It was tied 1-1 heading into the fourth inning, when RVLD ignited for 6 runs. The big blow was Shawn Pape’s bases clearing double. Brandon Huhn later would put the game away with a 2-run double in the same inning. Pape had three hits to lead the 17-hit attack. Andy Behnke also had 3 hits and an RBI. “We had so many guys that stepped up and help us win the regional title. I’m very proud of this team, and its satisfying to see the guys rewarded for all their hard work” said coach Scott Koenigs. Riverland (37-8) plays the #1 ranked team in the nation, the Richland Thunder Ducks in the first game of the JUCO World Series. The Blue Devils were ranked #6 in the final poll of the NJCAA.
Riverland lost its first game 14-8 and then lost to Suffolk Community College 5-3 in the loser’s bracket to be eliminated from further competition. In the opening game of the eight-team field, trailed 9-1 after three innings but rallied and cut the deficit to 10-7 but would get no closer. Brady Banse started on the mound and took the loss, lasting only 1 and 2/3 innings. The Blue Devil pitching staff walked 11 batters and 14 hits in the loss. Kyle Starkey led the attack with 3 hits, while Shane Lange, Zach Vlietstra each had two hits. The Sunday game was much closer but Suffolk scored 3 runs in the top of the seventh (3-run home run) to break a 2-2 tie. Brandon Huhn was the starter and lasted into the ninth (8 and ½ innings) and suffered the loss. “We outplayed them, but left 13 runners on base” said Koenigs in the season ending loss. “It was a frustrating end to a great season. Still, making it to the JUCO World Series was a great experience and the folks in Tyler treated us well”. Riverland Community College finished the season 37-10 overall record. Four players were named to the Southern Division Baseball Team; Brandon Huhn, Brian Voigt, Brady Banse, and Kyle Starkey. Huhn and Starkey earned MCAC All-State and All Region honors. Kyle Starkey was selected as the MCAC “Player of the Year”. Kyle Starkey was named to the 1st team All-American team and Brandon Huhn was selected to the 3rd team All-American team. Starkey batted .471 (64 for 136 including 14 doubles) scored 43 runs, and had 48 RBI’s. Huhn batted .372 (42 for 113) with 6 home runs, 37 RBI and scored 25 runs. He also was 5-2 on the mound with a 1.83 ERA.

Roster Included:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brady Banse</th>
<th>Nate Steenblock</th>
<th>Brian Voigt</th>
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<tr>
<td>Brandon Huhn</td>
<td>Winston Smith</td>
<td>Josh Pilcher</td>
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<td>Andy Behnke</td>
<td>Derek Emanuel</td>
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<td>Kody Retterath</td>
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<td>Shane Lange</td>
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<td>Alex Buckentine</td>
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<td>Ass’t : Dan Swift</td>
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**Player of the Year**- Brian Voigt was named the Riverland Community College Male Athlete of the Year while Laura Meyer and Anna Hebrink shared the honor of Female Athlete of the Year.

**Voigt**, a freshman from Southland High School, was a two-sport standout in basketball and baseball for the Blue Devils. In basketball, he averaged 8 points per game and 5.4 rebounds per contest. On the baseball diamond he helped the Blue Devils make to the JUCO World Series. He hit .386 on the season with 10 doubles, two triples, and one home run. Voigt also had a .524 on-base-percentage. On the mound, he was 5-0 on the season with a minuscule 0.36 ERA. Voigt had 24 strikouts and 15 walks in 33 1/3 innings. His grade point average for his freshman year was 3.31.

**Meyer**, a freshman from Washburn High School, was a two-sport standout for the Lady Blue Devils. She was Riverland’s top female golfer throughout the season and placed 8th individually at the MCAC state meet and led her team to 4th place overall. In softball, Meyer batted .509 for the season and led the team with 59 hits (a record for hits in one season). Meyer hit safely in 33 consecutive games she played in this season. She earned All-Division, All-State, and All-Region honors, plus had an outstanding year in the classroom with a GPA of 3.88 (4.0 in the spring).

**Hebrink**, led the Riverland women’s basketball team to its best finish in three decades. The Lady Blue Devils were state runner-up, the region runner-up, and this year’s team posted all-time school record with 23 wins. During her stellar career, Hebrink compiled a 16.6 per game scoring average. Finishing her junior college career with 937 points, Hebrink earned All-Division, All-State, All-Region honors. The honors culminated with her being named as an NJCAA third team All-American. Hebrink will continue her basketball career next season at Bemidji State University in Minnesota.
SOCCER
Riverland Community College will field its first ever competitive soccer team in the fall of 2009 and has hired Dr. Sonar Dogan to be the coach. “This is a big step for Riverland, said athletic Director David Lillemon. “We think we have an opportunity to offer a sport that will attract a whole new clientele at Riverland”. The addition of the men’s soccer program comes at the heels of the elimination of the school’s golf program earlier this year. “In these tough economic times you’re not necessarily thinking in about adding teams” said Ron Langrell, executive vice-president of Riverland. “Although we are implementing a number of budget reductions this year, it’s very exciting when someone of Dogan’s athletic and academic caliber presents the college with the opportunity to better serve communities in a multitude of ways”. Dogan has been involved with the sport of soccer at every level. He played varsity soccer as student at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Ankara University, Turkey. A certified soccer referee, Dogan has officiated at the professional and college levels, including the Big 10 Conference. “I have a passion for two things; teaching and soccer” said Dogan. “With my current teaching/coaching position I can do both”. “We’re thrilled to have someone with Sonar’s experience heading our men’s soccer team”, said Langrell. “Fielding a new team in any sport is a challenge for a college, but with Sonar coaching we feel we have a head start”. Riverland intends on adding women’s soccer in 2010.