2009-10

**Volleyball**  Coach Helen Jahr  11-15  Only two sophomores return (Krissy Schemmel and Kate Krogh) on a roster filled with talented freshmen. “We’re solid at all of the positions with fast players and good passers” said Coach Helen Jahr who enters her 17th year at the helm. “It’s been four years since we’ve been to the state tournament and I’d like to get back this season”. The Lady Blue Devils opened its season in the Fergus Falls invitational and dropped all four of its matches. Playing without the services of setter Krissy Schemmel (injured in a scrimmage earlier in the week), Riverland struggled. In the opening match, RVLD lost to Rainy River by scores of 25-22 and 25-23. The second two game match was against Rochester C & TC (eventual tournament champion). Despite losing 25-20 and 25-21 to their arch rivals, coach Jahr was encouraged by what she saw from her team. In the third match, Riverland lost to Northland 25-18, 25-13 and then were defeated by Mesabi for seventh place, losing 25-16, 25-15. “It wasn’t that Northland was better but we ran out of confidence and things were not clicking” said Jahr. “They got frustrated and made too many mistakes”. Riverland survived a five game battle with Western Technical College to record its first victory of the season, winning the marathon by scores of 25-17, 25-22, 21-25, 21-25, and finally 15-13. “It went right down to the end with every point contested in the fifth game”, Riverland coach Helen Jahr said. Danyel Hythecker swatted a block for the last point and the win. Kelsey Brink recorded 12 kills for the night while Kristin Vesel had 29 set assists. Showing some strong signs of life, Riverland was edged by Ridgewater 25-10, 23-25, 25-17, and 25-22 in the conference opener. The Blue Devils had a chance to win the fourth game as they were tied 21-21 but a missed serve and a dropped ball proved costly and the Warriors clinched the match. “I am pleased”, Jahr said. Riverland sophomore setter Krissy Schmemmel returned from a knee injury and her presence helped the Lady Blue Devils really to defeat St. Cloud Technical College 20-25, 28-26, 25-21, and 25-10. “Krissy takes charge and pushes the ball to the open corner and her court awareness adds a great deal to our offense” said coach Jahr. The victory was the first in the southern division conference for RVLD and improved their overall record to 2-5. Riverland pulled of another comeback, losing game one and three to Fergus Falls only to come alive in game four and close it out in dramatic fashion with a win the fifth game. After losing game one 20-25, RVLD pulled even with a 25-19 game two win. Fergus Falls came back to win game three 25-19, but Schemmel again proved to be the difference as she rallied her team to wins of 27-25 and 15-10 to win the match. Krissy had 34 set assists along with 25 digs to lead Riverland to their second conference win (2-1). Riverland stepped out of conference and finished 2-3 in the Rochester invitational.
The Lady Blue Devils fell to Fergus Falls in match one, losing 11-25 and 15-25, then beat Western Wisconsin Tech 25-22, 23-25, 15-10. In match number three of the tournament, RVLD lost to Madison Technical College 7-25, 11-25 only to bounce back and defeat MN West 25-18, 25-22. In the final match of the day, Riverland lost to Rochester 25-18, 10-25, and 6-15. “Overall I feel we did really well” said coach Jahr. “Everybody played and we had fun and came out healthy”. Krissy Schemmel racked up 42 set assists and set 172 balls for the tournament to lead Riverland, who now stand 5-8 on the season. Riverland was swept by Rochester 11-25, 18-25, 20-25 to stop their two game division winning streak and left them 2-2 in the MCAC south. “Our blocking statistics were really low which meant we had to work harder defensively because the blocks did not stop their big hitters” said Jahr. Riverland climbed back above .500 in the conference with a road victory over MN West, winning 25-20, 25-14, and 25-23 to complete the sweep. Katie Williams had 16 digs (one that was the difference maker in game 3) to lead the way. Riverland continued its road trip to Willmar and was swept by Ridgewater 18-25, 19-25, and 23-25. “Ridgewater is a fast paced attacking team and they got off to a quick start and never looked back, although I feel like we should of won game three”, said Coach Jahr. The Lady Blue Devils returned home and defeated Anoka-Ramsey in a thrilling five-setter by scores of 14-25, 25-23, 25-18, 17-25, 15-11. Step Neumann led the RVLD offense with 19 kills on the night and her presence at the net was the decisive factor in game three. Schemmel had another big night with 27 set assists. Kate Krogh added 21 digs and seven kills. Riverland improved to 4-3 in the division and 7-10 overall. It wasn’t a pleasant trip across the state line as NIACC swept Riverland 11-25, 10-25, and 18-25. “They were a big attacking team and blocking team and we had trouble all day getting any offense going” said Jahr. Riverland took a major step closer to state as the won a four game match over St. Cloud Technical College 24-26, 25-22, 25-22, and 25-23. St. Cloud was relentless at the net and that led to a lot of digs according to coach Jahr. “It was a big effort on the road and a big win in our quest to qualify for the state tournament”. Riverland had to settle with a season split with Fergus Falls, losing 25-21, 19-25, 23-25, 24-26. Coming off a win on Friday night, RVLD started their weekend with Fergus winning 25-21 but in the end Riverland just made too many errors. The Lady Blue Devils drop to 5-4 in the division and 8-12 overall. Riverland traveled to Rochester and won game one 25-17, only to lose the next three games (19-25, 22-25, 17-25) and dropped them back to .500 (5-5) in the division. Kate Krogh had a great night with 30 digs while Schemmel kept the offense rolling with 31 set assists. Riverland kept their post season hopes alive with a three game sweep of MN West, winning 25-17, 25-18, and 25-14. “It was a fun night on our home floor and nice to get a division win” said Jahr.
Stephanie Neumann led the way with 11 kills and 3 blocks. The Lady Blue Devils wrapped up a state tournament bid with a three game sweep over Anoka Ramsey taking control of game one with a 25-21 win, then recording wins of 25-22 and 26-24 to improve to 7-5 in the division. It was Neumann again leading the way with 17 kills while Krogh added 10 kills and 21 digs. Krissy Schemmel chipped in with 17 digs and 28 set assists on the night. Riverland made it three wins in a row with a victory over Western Technical College by scores of 25-20, 25-17, 25-27, 25-16. “It was parent’s night and we controlled the match from the start” said Coach Jahr. Riverland finished the regular season 11-13. The Lady Blue Devils received the 4th seed in the MCAC State tournament and they faced #1 seeded Hibbing Community College from the Northern Division. RVLD lost in three games, 18-25, 18-25, and 9-25. In the consolation round, Riverland would face #3 seed Mesabi Range from the north and had lost its first round match to Rochester. Mesabi would defeat Riverland in three games 21-25, 16-25, and 13-25. The Lady Blue Devils were eliminated in finished the season 11-15 under Coach Helen Jahr. The MCAC All-Division team was announced and Riverland had two on the second team; sophomore Krissy Schemmel and freshman Stephanie Neumann. Schemmel was third in the league in sets with a 6.7 per game and fourth in digs with an average of 3.8. Neumann was second in the league in kills with 3.0 per game and 177 for the year.

Roster Included:

Kristin Vesel    Krissy Schemmel    Kate Krogh
Mercedes Miklya Abbie Curry    Stephanie Neumann
Tiffany Kasper Katie Williams    Danyel Hythecker
Kelsie Brink Coach: Helen Jahr

MCAC Southern Division Weekly Awards:

Krissy Schemmel Setter of the Week Week #2
Katie Williams Libero of the Week Week #4
Stephanie Neumann Hitter of the Week Week #6
Kate Krough Hitter of the Week Week #7
Riverland Community College fielded its first ever NJCAA team headed by first year coach Soner Dogan. Dogan began the season with 16 true freshmen and assistant coach/second year player Troy Stegenga. The Blue Devils opened the season at Crossroads College in Rochester and played to a 1-1 tie after regulation. Crossroads scored in the first half but Riverland would score in the 80th minute to tie, Jovanny Santibanez scored the first goal in history. Coach Dogan said, “we pretty much dominated much of the game, taking 20 shots to Crossroads seven”. Riverland lost to Anoka Ramsey 15-0 in its home opener played at the Wescott complex in Austin. “It’s a learning experience for my team” said Soner Dogan. This was the first of six Region XIII games the Blue Devils will play to determine seeding for the season ending Region XIII tournament. RVLD traveled to Willmar and were defeated by Ridgewater College 10-0 in non-regional play. It was a very hot day and Riverland never were in the match. Riverland lost to Century College 6-1 and coach Dogan was pleased with the team’s effort. “Although we lost the game my players showed some character and personality by not giving up, especially after Gabriel scored a goal” said coach Soner Dogan. “My team showed some improvement on the field today”. The Blue Devils drop to 0-3-1 on the season. Riverland played a home game at the Albert Lea sports complex and recorded its first win of the season, defeating Crossroads College 5-1. It was tied 1-1 at halftime and Jovanny Santibanez scored 4 goals, one of them coming on a penalty kick. Riverland outshot Crossroads 24-12 in the game. Throughout the game the Blue Devils kept constant pressure on the net and they created a number of scoring chances. The victory was the first in team history since this is the inaugural season. Riverland traveled to White Bear Lake and lost 9-0 to Century College. The loss drops RVLD record to 1-4-1 on the season. The Blue Devils were shutout again, this time by Anoka Ramsey 9-0. Riverland hosted Ridgewater College in Albert Lea and came up short, losing 6-3. In a spirited battle in the rain Riverland scored three goals in the second half to erase an early deficit and wound up with a 4-4 tie with Crossroads College. “I am not happy with the result as we should of won” said Coach Doner Dogan. “But I am happy with the performance of my players”. Gabriel Sanchez scored one goal and the other three came off the foot of Javanny Santibanez and it looked like it would be the second win of the year for Riverland. But Crossroads scored late on a penalty kick and tied the game. RVLD falls to 1-6-2 on the season. Hibbing came to Albert Lea and shut out the Blue Devils 4-0. In the final regular season contest of the season, Bismarck College from North Dakota defeated Riverland 8-0. Riverland Community College competed in the Region XIII tournament, hosted by Anoka Ramsey with the winner advancing the District play-off match.
The Blue Devils were seeded #4 and drew Bismarck State College and lost 8-0 to be eliminated in the single elimination tournament, to finish the season 1-9-2 under the direction of first year coach Soner Dogan.

Roster Included:

William Dehoogh  Mike Heidel  Miguel Cisneros (capt)

Ivan Okhin  Jake Thompson  Tan Do

Javanny Santibanez  Gabriel Sanchez  Chris Karge

Manuel Franco  Daniel Toledo  Miguel Angel Chacon

Lucas Dang (capt)  Justin Hollatz  Victor Armondo Lezama

Jared Jon Nordaas  Troy Stegenga; ass’t coach

Assistant Coaches: Mario Garcia, Mike Owaur, Angelo Pugliese, Troy Stegenga

Women’s Basketball- Suzy Hebrink  11-15  Coming of a history making season, the Lady Blue Devils return only two sophomores and lose their top two scorers from a year ago. Returning from last year’s state runner-up team is Mandy May and Gretchen Hebrink. Holly Waltz (played two years ago) is the other returning veteran. Krista Viehauser from Austin will provide a presence of inside play and double digit scoring along with her rebounding ability. Riverland opened the season at the MN West Classic in Worthington against northern foe Hibbing Community College. The Lady Blue Devils won their opener 70-44 in a rout of Hibbing. Krista Viehauser poured in 30 points and added 17 rebounds as RVLD led by 15 points at halftime. Joni Lillo finished with 13 points and Kelsey Brink added 10 points in the low post. “This was a big win over a team that went to the region finals last season” said Coach Hebrink. Riverland was unable to keep pace with Madison Area Technical College in day two to the MN West classic and were defeated 73-39. Foul trouble plagued RVLD as three players fouled out. Viehauser was the only in double figures as she had her second consecutive double double, scoring 17 points and hauling down 10 rebounds. The Lady Blue Devils played their third consecutive game on the road to start the season and lost to NIACC 59-44 despite Krista Viehauser scoring 31 points for Riverland. “We were 16 for 51 from the field and no threes were made so we really struggled from the field as a team” said coach Hebrink. The visiting Blue Devils also turned it over 27 times in the loss. RVLD drops to 1-2 on the season and will play an exhibition game against the alumni during the Hall of Fame festivities.
Riverland evened its record to .500 as they defeated the Luther College JV team 70-58 in the home opener. Four players were in double figures with Viehauser leading the way with 20 points. Brooke Rosentiel added 11 while Gretchen Hebrink and Mandy May each had 10 points. The Lady Blue Devils shot only 25% from the field and this allowed NIACC to easily defeat RVLD 65-37. “We need to put this loss behind us and try get our offense in order” said Coach Hebrink. Viehauser and May each had 14 points to lead Riverland in scoring. Riverland Community College posted a 70-15 win over Crossroads College of Rochester in non-conference action and evened their record at 3-3 on the season. Krista Viehauser poured in a game high 23 points while Kelsey Brink cleaned up the glass with 10 rebounds. Riverland would travel to St. Peter and foul trouble would plague the Blue Devils as they went down to defeat to the Gustavus junior varsity 71-57. Three players would foul out including Viehauser who has been the leading scorer all season. “We got off to a horrible start and couldn’t get beyond the foul trouble” said Coach Hebrink. “Our defense was slow and our offense was even slower”. Viehauser still managed to lead the team with 12 points and 11 rebounds while Mandy May chipped in with 10 points. Joni Lillo would hit five pointers and toss in 24 points to lead RVLD over Central Lakes 69-45 to return to the .500 mark for the season (4-4). Krista Viehauser scored 16 points and Mandy May finished the night with 13 points in the lop sided win. Riverland completed the weekend sweep with a 79-37 victory over Fond da Lac Community College. Fond da Lac, a second year program from the state of Minnesota, struggled the entire way and RVLD had its way as Joni Lillo would lead again the Lady Blue Devils with 23 points. Brooke Rosentiel added 19 points and a team high 9 rebounds. A strong second half defense propelled Riverland to a 83-63 win over Western Technical College. Krista Viehauser tossed in a game high 30 points, while Rosentiel and May also were in double figures with 13 and 11 points respectively. Riverland improves to 6-4 with its third straight victory. RVLD traveled up north for its annual inter-divisional series and defeated Vermilion 68-55 for its fourth win in a row. Defense was a key to the win and Holly Waltz provided a big spark by hitting two threes in the second half to extend Riverland’s lead to double digits and secure the win. Krista Viehauser led with 24 points, followed by Rosentiel with 11 and Mandy May with 10 points. Riverland’s streak ended as Mesabi defeated the Lady Blue Devils 70-51. Tied at 47-47, Mesabi finished on a 23-4 run as fatigue was a big factor in the loss according to Coach Hebrink. Viehauser again led with 24 points and 7 rebounds. No other Blue Devil scored more than 7 points. RVLD drops to 7-5 on the season. Following the holiday season, Riverland took a long time to get rolling in a 71-60 loss to the Gustavus junior varsity. RVLD committed 30 turnovers and “played horrible in the first half” according to Coach Hebrink. Krista Viehauser tallied 25 points to lead all scorers while Joni Lillo scored 15 followed by Brooke Rosentiel with 14.
With their final tune up before conference play, Riverland hung on to defeat Western Technical College 63-59 to improve to 8-6 on the season. Viehauser would foul out with five minutes to go but not before she poured in 25 points to lead the Blue Devils. Rosentiel added 9 points while Gretchen Hebrink snagged 4 steals and dished out 5 assists. MN West owned the second half and defeated Riverland 88-64 to open the southern division in the MCAC. “We led as many as 14 points in the first half but they started rolling and got with 3 points at halftime”. The second half was brutal and it was a disappointing way to start the conference” said Coach Suzy Hebrink. Krista Viehauser led again with 25 points followed by Brooke Rosentiel with 15 and Joni Lillo with 13. Riverland got down 11-0 and could never recover as Anoka Ramsey pulled away for a 79-57 win over the Lady Blue Devils. Most of the offensive surge was fueled by Krista Viehauser, who scored 20 points in the first half and ended up with 29 for the game. Rosentiel was the only other player in double figures with 15 points. Riverland drops to 8-8 overall and 0-2 in the division. The Lady Blue Devils would battle Minneapolis (15-2) all the way but would lose in overtime 78-70 in probably the best played game of the season by Riverland, according to coach Suzy Hebrink. Brooke Rosentiel had her biggest game of the year with 24 points and 9 rebounds while Mandy May added 18 and Joni Lillo tossed in 16 points. Krista Viehauser, the league’s leading scorer was held to 8 points. RLVD trailed 59-46 with five minutes to go but rallied to tie the game at 66-66 before losing in over-time. The Blue Devils dropped their fourth game to Rochester 66-51. With its top scorer on the bench (Viehauser) with an ankle injury, Joni Lillo led the charge with 15 points, followed by Mandy May and Brooke Rosentiel each with 10 points. The Lady Blue Devils took an eight point halftime lead and went on to defeat Fergus Falls 65-59 to record their first division win. Krista Viehauser came off the bench and scored 23 points, but the story of the day was Jone Lillo tossing in a career high 26 points which included three 3-pointers. Brooke Rosentiel led the team with 11 rebounds and added 7 points. Riverland improves to 9-10 on the season and 1-4 in the division. Riverland made it two in a row in the division with a 78-68 win over Ridgewater College. Great balance was the key, as four players scored in double figures led by Krista Viehauser with 19, followed by Rosentiel (18), Lillo (17) and Mandy May with 14 points. “It was a nice team effort and our guards came up with some big plays down the stretch to seal the victory” said Coach Hebrink. Marina Swanson played 27 minutes and had five blocked shots and added four rebounds. The win got the Blue Devils back to .500 on the season (10-10). In a back and forth game, Riverland managed to stay close but would lose to MN West 83-71 and drop to 2-5 in the division. “Inside three minutes they hit a three pointer to take a five point lead and we could not get any closer” said Coach Hebrink. MN West outscored the Blue Devils 24-10 from the foul line for the difference.
Krista Viehauser had 29 points and Brooke Rosentiel was the only other scorer in double figures with 14. Anoka Ramsey came out on all cylinders and RVLD fell behind by 18 points at halftime and would lose 67-48. Riverland shot 26 percent on the day and were never in since offensively. “They are a good team and they forced us into a lot of 3 point attempts which is not really our game” said Coach Hebrinnk. Viehauser had 19 to lead Riverland while Mandy May and Brooke Rosentiel each had 10 points. Riverland lost its third game in a row with a 72-58 setback to Minneapolis. Mandy May had her finest game of the season, scoring 21 points and holding Blackhawk (Minneapolis’s leading scorer) to 11 points. Krista Viehauser would end up with 16 and Joni Lillo added 15 points in the loss. Riverland would lose its fourth game in a row as Rochester took control from the beginning and handed the Blue Devils a 81-43 lopsided win. The Yellowjackets shot 56% from the field compared to Riverland’s 26 percent. Riverland traveled to Willmar but could not protect a 11 point halftime lead and went on to lose 73-67 to drop their fifth game in a row. “We did a good job of rallying from an early deficit (12-2) and had the momentum at halftime” said coach Hebrink. “Then we started flat in the second half and started standing around on defense”. Krista Viehauser scored a career high 33 points but it wasn’t enough. “We didn’t move the ball offensively the second half and settled for too many outside shots in the second half”. Riverland (10-15, 2-9) will end its season at home against Fergus Falls. An up and down season came to an end with a positive conclusion as the Lady Blue Devils defeated Fergus Falls 78-66 to finish the season 3-9 in the division. The win snapped a five game losing streak and gave Riverland a sweep of the season against the Fergus Falls Spartans. Krista Viehauser led with 26 points and 10 rebounds as four Blue Devils scored in double figures. Joni Lillo added 22 points, Brooke Rosenstiel with 14 and Mandy May had 11 points. “The team responded to each challenge and it was a nice way to go out with a win” said coach Suzy Hebrink. Riverland finished the season 11-15 overall. Krista Viehauser earned player of the week three times in her freshman season and was selected to the second team All-Division team. She led the league in scoring with a 21.7 ppg and was fourth in rebounding with a 8.5 rebounds per game average.

Roster Included:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mandy May</th>
<th>Gretchen Hebrink</th>
<th>Holly Waltz</th>
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<td>Krista Viehauser</td>
<td>Kelsey Brink</td>
<td>Danyel Hythecker</td>
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<td>Joni Lillo</td>
<td>Marina Swanson</td>
<td>Brooke Rosentiel</td>
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<td>Ass’t Coach: Dan Swift</td>
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Hall of Fame-Riverland Community College had the induction of six former athletes and supporters on November 14, 2009. This was the eighth class of inductees that joined 40 other former coaches and athletes previously inducted into the Hall of Fame beginning in 1997.

Amy Bartelt Fessel- (basketball 1990-92) was named All-conference and All-State two consecutive years as she led her team to a third place state finish her freshman year. In her sophomore year she averaged 16.9 pts/pg while piling up 389 points.

Clark Cipra- (golf 1969-71) was a standout golfer for two seasons, leading this team to a second place finish his rookie year (he shot 76-72 for third individually) and was named Honor Athlete of the Year. In his sophomore year, Clark finished runner-up and qualified for the NJCAA national tournament in Flint, Michigan. He also played two years of men’s basketball.

Oscar Haddorff- (shot clock operator 1987-2009) served on the basketball bench for 23 years. He also served as the interim women’s basketball coach in 1986-87.

Mike Smith- (baseball 1990-92) was an outstanding outfielder and catcher that earned him All-Conference and All-State honors both years and All-Region his sophomore year. He led his team to a state runner-up finish his freshman year.

Howie Strey- (official scorer from 1987-2009) served on the bench for 23 years as the official scorer and will continue his duties in 2010.

Mary Kittleson Weikum- (basketball 1981-83) led her team to back to back state appearances. As a freshman, she helped lead her team to a 5th place finish and her second season she averaged 18.5 pts/ pg and helped her team to a 4th place finish. Weikum was All-Conference both years and All-State and All-Region her sophomore season.
Men’s Basketball - Dan Swift  11-16

A trio of sophomores that all saw extensive duty in their first year of competition will try get the Blue Devils to the state tournament for the first time in Swift’s tenure. AJ Kortz, Derek Hahn, and Brian Voigt will bring much needed experience to a youthful squad. A trio of transfers should be of great help to the Blue Devils offensive scheme this season. These three include Khirley Floyd and Elimane Diallo from Orange Coast, California and Charles Watson from Blackburn College. Incoming freshman included Chris Jahr from Austin. Riverland opened the season with a pair of losses in the MN West Classic. Hibbing defeated the Blue Devils 80-73 in overtime in the opener. RVLD had the ball with 17 seconds to go in regulation tied at 70-70 but could not pull out the victory. AJ Kortz led the way with 19 points followed by Taylor Oetken with 15. In the second contest Madison Area Technical College pounded Riverland 98-64. Kortz again led with 19 and Oetken had 18 followed by Josh Davis with 10 points. Riverland led at halftime against NIACC (33-32) but could not hang on eventually lost 73-68 in non-conference action. Derek Hahn (16) led four players in double figures but it was not enough. A big statistic that led to Coach Swift optimism was 46 rebounds against a much taller NIACC squad. “This was an extremely physical game and it was nice to see our guys down low to have eight more rebounds for the contest” said Coach Dan Swift. RVLD drops to 0-3 season. After losing an exhibition game to the alumni, Riverland got back its first win of the season with a 62-61 win over the Gustavus Adolphus JV team. AJ Kortz had 14 and Josh Davis added a dozen in the defensive battle. NIACC returned its home and home series Riverland and blasted the Blue Devils 90-61 as the pressure from NIACC was too much to handle for RVLD. “They bring in five new guys and keep running the press and it led to a lot of turnovers and hurried shots” said Swift. Kortz again led with 21 and he was the only player in double figures. Riverland drops to 1-4 on the young season. Crossroads College defeated the Blue Devils 64-62 in what Brad Vaught (coach of Crossroads) termed as the biggest win in three years for his college. RVLD had the ball down 63-62 in the final seconds but turned it over. Central Lakes bounced Riverland once again as they won easily 70-52 over the Blue Devils. AJ Kortz scored 11 points and was the only player to reach double figures. “The defensive effort was there but we can’t get the offense going with all those mistakes” said a frustrated Coach Dan Swift. Riverland drops to 1-6 on the season. Riverland would end its three game losing streak with a 69-42 win over Fond du Lac (second year community college in the northern MCAC division). RVLD out rebounded Fond du Lac 40-28 and shot 19 of 24 from the foul line to lead to the victory. Brian Voigt scored a season high 23 points to help Riverland win its second game in as many contests, defeating WWTI 75-63 in overtime.
Derek Hahn also had a strong game with 16 points, going 4 for 8 from beyond the arc. Riverland hits the road for a northern road trip visiting Vermilion first and losing 81-71 but bouncing back with a 79-76 win over Mesabi Range College the second day. In the Vermilion contest, Kortz had 18 points followed by Voigt with 15. Riverland improved to 4-7 with their win over Mesabi Range. It was the AJ show as he poured in 25 points as the Blue Devils made 14 shots from behind the arc. Derek Hahn went 4 for 5 (12 points) from three point land and was key for RVLD in the first half, who led only by one (38-37) at halftime. AJ Kortz came out firing again to lead the Blue Devils to a 76-68 victory over Crossroads College in non-conference action. He made five treys and was 9 for 16 from the field. Khirley Floyd played a key part in the win with 9 second half points and 12 rebounds. Riverland ups its record to 5-7 and will return after the holiday and its second half of the season. Riverland upended Winona Saint Mary’s JV’s 64-61 for its third win in a row. AJ Kortz had 20 points followed by Derek Hahn with 14 in the victory. Kortz and Hahn both made four three pointers (RVLD had nine for the game). Defense ignited a second half surge which led to a 62-52 win over the Gustavus JV’s as the Blue Devils played in front of their home crowd for the first time in over a month. Kortz had 22 points to lead all scorers. Riverland improved its record to 7-7 and reached the .500 mark for the first time this season. WWTC defeated Riverland 92-68 to conclude the non-conference schedule of the Blue Devils. The loss was disappointing after defeating WWTC by 12 earlier in the year. Kortz led with 20, followed by Josh Davis with 13 and Derek Hahn who chipped in with a dozen. In the conference opener, a balanced attacked led to a Riverland victory over MN West 89-74. Four players reached double figures and ten scored as Brian Voigt poured in 24, AJ Kortz had 16, Taylor Morgan 14, and Josh Davis a dozen points. The Blue Devils improved to 8-8 and 1-0 in the division. Anoka Ramsey defeated Riverland 75-70 as a late chance at victory slipped away from the Blue Devils who had the ball inside a minute trailing by two but could not pull out the win. Kortz led the attack with 16, followed by Derek Hahn and Davis with 11, and Taylor Morgan chipped in with 10 points. The Blue Devils were defeated by Minneapolis 74-61 in divisional play at home on Saturday. Hahn would lead the way with 15 and Kortz was the only other starter in double figures with 14. Rochester came back from a 46-40 halftime deficit to defeat Riverland 93-80 in a very action packed contest. “We have to take care of things better and not put a team on the free throw line. We need to put together a full game and play for 40 minutes” said Coach Swift. Rochester shot 28 of 38 free throws compared to RVLD 12 of 24 attempts. Brian Voigt led with 15, followed by Taylor Morgan and AJ Kortz with 11 apiece. RVLD drops to 8-11 overall and 1-3 in the league. A slow start and slow finish led to a 80-58 loss to Fergus Falls. Morgan led with 14 and Shakir Gregg had 11 for the only two to reach double digits in scoring.
Riverland would lose its fifth game in row as Ridgewater defeated the Blue Devils 80-70. RVLD led by eight at halftime but shot only 25% in the second half in the loss. Taylor Morgan had 17, Brian Voigt added 15 along with Khirley Floyd. Riverland would defeat MN West for the season series sweep winning 75-72 on the road. Voigt would toss in 24 points (including 4 three pointers) to lead the team to victory. Floyd would add a dozen followed by Josh Davis with 11 points. Balanced offense from the Riverland squad led to a second straight win as they defeated Anoka Ramsey 82-75 in divisional play. Eleven players would score led by AJ Kortz who had 16 points. Davis (15) and Voigt (12) would also reach double figures. “We’re still in the hunt for state, but we need some things to happen. We’ll have to get some wins on the road”, said Coach Dan Swift. RVLD improves to 3-5 in the division. The Blue Devils were blown out in the second half and lost to Minneapolis in the lopsided affair 83-47. “We played the worst that we have played in any conference game all season” said Swift. Josh Davis scored 11 points in the loss to lead the way. Riverland drops to 10-14 overall. Rochester handed the Blue Devils a 27 point loss and they upended Riverland 83-56. RVLD scored only 19 points the first half (43-19). The Blue Devils went on the road and won 84-83 over Ridgewater in double overtime. AJ Kortz had a huge game with 26 points which included six 3-pointers. Derek Hahn had a double-double with 17 points and 10 boards, followed by Taylor Morgan with 15 points and 7 rebounds and Josh Davis who had 11 points. RVLD improved to 4-7 in the MCAC and 11-15 overall. Fergus Falls used a 11-0 run in the second half to defeat Riverland 73-60 in the final game of the season for Coach Swift’s team. “We had that second half lull and it’s so hard to fight back against a good team like Fergus Falls” said Swift. Shakir Gregg led with 14 followed by AJ Kortz who had a dozen. Riverland ends the season 11-16 and 4-8 in the southern division. AJ Kortz was named to the MCAC All-Division team.

Roster Included:

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Ass’t Coach: Scott Koenigs
Baseball- Scott Koenigs 36-12 State Champions/ Region 13 Champions.

Coming off a NJCAA World Series, the Blue Devils will look for a repeat this season. “Last year was great for our program and we hope to build on that success this spring”, said Coach Scott Koenigs. Brian Voigt will play shortstop and lead a solid pitching staff with 8 key veterans. Mitch Jaeger, Derek Hahn, Shawn Pape and Winston Smith are part of that group to play key roles in the success of the Blue Devils this season, who will open with a 10-game road trip in Florida over spring break. In the season opener in Cocoa Beach, Florida, Riverland defeated ASA Institute 5-3. Brian Voigt came on in relief of Ryan Palmer (injured ankle) and got the mound win and Kyle Young, Kyal Williams, and Jeff Huth each collected two hits. Voigt went 5 and 1/3 innings, allowing five hits and 2 runs for the mound victory. The Blue Devils then split a doubleheader with Brookdale, losing 12-2 but bouncing back with a 5-0 win the nightcap. Brookdale finished 3rd in the nation last season and were ranked #3 in this year’s early NJCAA poll. Shawn Pape had the only hit in game one. In the second encounter, Kyal Williams, a freshman from Australia pitched a 5-hit shutout while striking out six and walking two batters. Pape went 2 for 3 while Voigt also banged out two hits. Brad Winkelman clouted a two run home run. “We’re pleased to be 2-1 with after a tough weekend of competition” said Coach Koenigs. Ranked #10 in the latest NJCAA poll, Riverland won over Montgomery-Rockville 13-3 and then blanked Ontario Blue Jays 6-0 in the late game. Brad Winkelman pitched all five innings in the first game to record the win, while Voigt led the hit parade with 2 hits and 3 RBI. Tyler Jones just missed a no-hitter by giving up only one hit in the seventh inning in the 5-0 shutout in game two. Kyal Williams and Reece Steckler each collected two hits in the victory. Ontario won in the rematch as they defeated the Blue Devils 12-5. Drew Madsen suffered the mound loss while Brian Voigt clouted a homerun and a triple in the loss. Riverland would bounce back with a pair of wins, defeating Alfred State 7-1 and Cumberland CC 13-3 to up their record to 6-2. Voigt was the winning pitcher in game one, scattering three hits while striking out two batters. Aaron Fisher went 3 for 4, Kyal Williams 2 for 2 including a home run and Winston Smith 2 for 3 and two RBI. Williams would pitch game two in the five inning affair surrendering three hits. Again the bats were alive for Riverland as they collected 11 hits. Shawn Pape was 2 for 3, Voigt 2 for 2 and scored 4 runs, Williams 2 for 4 and four RBI. Riverland would end its Florida road trip with a sweep over Jamestown College, winning 13-5 and 8-4 in the nightcap. Mitch Jaeger was the winning pitcher in game one, scattering 10 hits, striking out seven and walking only two batters. Aaron Fisher had 2 hits and five RBI to lead the way. Dustin Fritz added three hits and scored three times. In the late game, RVLD trailed 4-0 in the bottom of the third only to score 8 runs, led by Brian Voigt’s three run home run to ignite the rally. Voigt would add another hit and finish the game with 5 RBI.
“I’m very pleased to get 8 wins this past week against stiff competition” said Coach Scott Koenigs. “It was a great trip to find out how some of our freshmen would do”. Our pitchers were solid and hopefully we can continue to get better once we get back. Our goal again is to win the conference and state titles” said Koenigs. Riverland completed its road trip 8-2. Riverland returned home in high fashion and battered Hibbing Community College 22-1 and 19-0 to two five inning games shortened by the ten-run rule. Reece Steckler had a pair of home runs in game one and Brian Voigt recorded the mound victory. Tyler Jones went five innings in game two to get the mound win and Shawn Pape started the offensive explosion with a three-run homerun. Renne Araujo also added a round tripper, as seven homeruns were hit in the doubleheader. In the Crossover tournament held in Austin (hosting a six team round robin tournament), Riverland collected four more wins to improve to 14-2 on the season. After lasting Central Lakes 10-0 in game one, RVLD edged Northland 5-3 in the nightcap of day one of the competition. Kyle Young and Reece Steckler each had had homeruns in game one while Mitch Jaeger went the distance for the mound win. In the nightcap, Kyal Williams went 4 and 1/3 to get the win and Brian Voigt had to come on for 2 and 2/3 innings to get the save. Young hit two run homeruns to support the Blue Devils offense and Voigt was tough on the mound to preserve the win. Riverland would continue its hot play in day two of the competition with a 14-1 win over Hibbing and a 7-6 victory over Central Lakes. Voigt had two homeruns in game one and Brad Winkelman got the mound win. In game two, Dustin Fritz was the hero, smacking a two out single to drive in the winning run in the bottom of the seventh inning. Kyle Young paced the hitters with three hits and two RBI. Riverland has now won 10 games in a row. Kyle Young was named NJCAA “player of the week” and MCAC player of the week. In six games last week, Young went 14 for 19 with six homeruns, one double, one triple and 16 RBI. The Blue Devils upended the Carleton JV team 8-5 but lost 7-5 in the nightcap. The loss ended the Blue Devils win streak at eleven games. Kyle Williams got the mound win in game one with Voigt recording the save with two perfect innings. Shawn Pape led the way with 3 hits, including a homerun. Voigt and Derek Hahn also homered. In the nightcap, Drew Madsen got off to a rough start and would take the loss on the hill. Young and Voigt each had two hits in the loss, which drops RVLD to 15-2 overall. Riverland would return to Carleton and start another streak with a sweep, winning 4-3 and 10-6. Brian Voigt upped his record to 4-0 with the mound win in game one, recording 6 strikeouts and scattering 10 hits. RVLD scored in the seventh inning with a RBI single by Kyal Williams, scoring Kyle Young who led off with a double. In the late game, the Blue Devils rallied from a 5-0 deficit after 4 innings to steal the win. Shawn Pape and Kyle Young each had homeruns. Young’s was a grand slam in the seventh inning.
“Our guys showed a lot of character and didn’t quit after falling behind” said Coach Koenigs. The wins improve RVLD to 17-3 overall. Riverland was #7 in the latest NJCAA poll. Riverland would shut out WWTI twice, winning 17-0 and 7-0 to increase their win total to 19 games. The Blue Devils would open the conference with a pair of wins, defeating Anoka Ramsey 12-2 and 2-0. Mitch Jaeger pitched 6 strong innings while Winston Smith banged out 4 hits in game one. Brian Voigt improved to 5-0 as he shutout the Rams in the nightcap, striking out 11 batters. Continuing on the road trip RLVD traveled north to Hibbing and swept the Cardinals 4-2 and 21-9. Brad Winkelman earned the win in the first game and Drew Madsen won game two. Pape was 5 for 5 in the second game and Voigt added three hits. The wins improved the Blue Devils to 23-3 overall. Riverland remained unbeaten in conference play as they defeated MN West 18-1 and 16-4 in the two five inning contests. Voigt and Kyal Williams recorded the mound wins while the long ball also figured in the two victories. Brian Voigt collected one and Brad Winkelman added three homeruns, including a grand slam. The streak ended at 10 games as Rochester C & TC edges Riverland 7-6 in 9 innings in game one but RVLD bounced back with a 14-2 in game two to gain a split of the divisional twin bill. Mitch Jaeger started and went six innings and was replaced by Voigt, who took the loss, his first (6-1). Upset by the loss in game one, Riverland pounded out 15 hits in the nightcap, with Kyle Young, Winkelman and Voigt all hitting home runs. The split left Riverland 5-1 in the division and 26-4 overall. The Blue Devils were swept by Dakota County, losing 12-2 and 4-2. “Dakota County is the best team we have faced since the Florida trip and we gave them a lot of extra outs” said Koenigs. Winkelman and Voigt would take the mound losses. Kyle Yound had two hits in the opener and Pape would collect two hits in the nightcap. Riverland got back on the winning track with two wins over MN West, winning 3-0 and 17-5 at Dick Seltz Field. Kyal Williams recorded a shut out in the opener, scattering seven hits. Jeff Huth and Winston Smith each had back-to-back RBI singles to put RVLD up 2-0 and that is all the runs Williams needed. The Blue Devils scored eight times in the second inning of game two and never looked back. Brad Winkelman hit a grand slam to lead the charge. Riverland improved to 7-3 in the league and 28-6 overall. Winkelman was named MCAC player of the week last week after hitting .625 with four homeruns and 12 RBI’s. The Blue Devils continued their winning ways with a pair of wins over WWTI in non-conference play, winning 14-2 and 21-4. The #4 nationally ranked Blue Devils launched a total of nine homeruns and 40 hits in the sweep. Shawn Pape blasted three home runs and had 8 RBI in game two. Voigt and Young each added two home runs apiece. Riverland would sweep Anoka Ramsey 12-2 and 10-0 to set up the showdown with Dakota County this week. In the opener, Young, Steckler, and Reece all went deep while Mitch Jaeger was the beneficiary of the long ball as he scattered 5 hits for the mound win.
Brian Voigt pitched a three-hitter in game two, upping his record to 7-2. “This was a good sweep at home and we have clinched a spot in the state and regional tournament” said Koenigs. “Now we’re playing the top seed and two of the better teams in the nation (Dakota County and Rochester) to determine the seedings and conference title”. Brian Voigt is NJCAA “player of the week” for his efforts last week. He hit .500 (13 for 26), with 13 runs, five doubles, one triple, 5 homeruns and 15 RBI’s. Dakota County rolled to wins as they defeated Riverland 12-1 and 14-7 in the late game to complete the sweep. “We played horrible” said Scott Koenigs of his team who was 0-4 versus DCTC this season. “Our guys didn’t make good pitches and they bashed the ball all over the park”. Kyle Williams took the loss in the five inning affair in game one. Jeff Huth would hit a two-run homerun in game two only to keep that game from not being shortened by the 10-run rule. Riverland drops to 9-5 in the league. In the final conference doubleheader of the season, the visiting Yellow Jackets from Rochester swept the Blue Devils 5-0 and 9-1. “We’ve got a lot of guys banged up and it’s taking its toll” said Koenigs. “We just didn’t do much with the bats”. Riverland collected only seven hits in the two games. RVLD ended the regular season 32-10 and 9-7 in the southern division to finish third. The seedings came out for the MCAC state and Region 13 tournament and the Blue Devils were seeded 5th in the nine team field. Riverland opened with Rochester (seeded #4) and beat the Yellow Jackets 10-5 in the opening round. “It was a great win as they kind of had our number during the regular season” said an elated Scott Koenigs. Kyle Williams, Jeff Huth, and Renne Araujo all had three hits. Williams also collected 3 RBI and scored 3 runs in the victory. Mitch Jaeger went 6 innings for the mound win and Tyler Jones came on for the save. In a dramatic final at bat, RVLD defeated Dakota County 5-4 to advance to the winner’s bracket in game two of the state tournament. With the game tied at 4-4 in the bottom of the seventh, Winston Smith singled and went to second on a sacrifice bunt. Later he would advance to third on a wild pitch and score on an infield hit by Renne Araujo. Tyler Jones pitched all seven innings for the win, scattering seven hits. Riverland defeated Ridgewater 5-1 to advance to the championship game. Kyal Williams fired a three-hitter and struck out nine batters as he was in total command of the game. Araujo went 3 for 3 while Derek Hahn had two hits and an RBI. The Blue Devils met Ridgewater again in the championship game and defeated the Warriors 5-2 to advance to the JUCO World Series. Brad Winkelman was the starting pitcher and went 7 and 2/3, allowing one run and seven hits. Brian Voigt, who injured himself in the final doubleheader of the regular season, finished up the game and recorded his 4th save of the season. “It’s been a tough year with injuries and adversity so it was great to see our guys step it up in the tournament” said Koenigs whose team returns to the World Series for the second consecutive year.
With RVLD ahead 2-1 after seven innings, the Blue Devils scored three runs in the 8th to put the game away. Smith and Kyle Young had key RBI singles in that inning. “As poorly as we played over the last week of the season and coming in as the 5th seed, I didn’t know what to expect. But we got there and the guys played great baseball” said Koenigs. Riverland is now 36-10 and will travel to Tyler, Texas and play Manchester, Conneticut in the opening round of the JUCO World Series. Riverland would trail 4-0 after three innings and could not overcome the deficit but outhit Manchester 13 to 8. Brian Voigt took the loss as he lasted only three innings. Jeff Huth had three hits, including a two run home run. Riverland then drew Tyler, Texas, ranked #2 in the final poll. Tyler had lost to Glouceter, Mass. and dropped into the loser’s bracket versus the Blue Devils. RVLD managed only 6 hits in the nine inning affair and lost 6-2 and were eliminated from the tournament. Kyle Young collected two hits while Shawn Pape and Reece Steckler each had one RBI. Riverland finished the season 36-12. Brian Voigt, Kyle Young, and Shawn Pape earned MCAC All-Southern Division honors while Voigt and Young were selected All-State. Voigt also earned All-Region 13 honors and to top off his honors he was selected as 1st Team All-American. Brian hit .453, led the team in homeruns with 16 (a school record), 17 doubles (a school record), 60 RBI and 54 runs. He also was 7-4 on the mound with 4 saves.

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Softball - Dan Swift  31-12  Conference Champions  First year coach Dan Swift inherits a fist full of veterans as 10 players return (Dave Lillemon resigned from the softball position after three year's) for their second season of softball. Coming off a season that saw last year’s team get 4th in the state and 3rd in the Region tournament, Swift has a lot to be optimistic about. Leading the way is All-Region Laura Meyer who hit in in every contest she played in last season (33 games-batted .509). Holly Waltz returns from two years ago that saw her hit .437 and steal 33 of 33 bases. Autumn Jurgensen, a star pitcher for Austin High, transfers in and expected to be the ace of the staff. The Blue Devils started the season down south, traveling with the baseball team to Florida for a six game swing. RVLD opened the season against Kellogg College and won 11-5. Liz Triplet had two hits and 3 RBI to lead the way, while Jurgensen recorded her first mound win, scattering 5 hits and 5 runs. County College of Morris upended the Blue Devils 9-2 in the second game of the day. Annie Breult (was 9-5 last season), took the loss. Mandy May and Holly Waltz each had two hits and Laura Meyer’s 34-game hitting streak ended, after going 0 for 3. Riverland defeated Thompkins Cortland from New York 5-2, upsetting the national champions from a year ago. The Blue Devils pounded out 12 hits while Jurgensen pitched seven strong innings, allowing seven hits and only two runs. Meyer went 3 for 4, while Chelsey Swanson and Holly Waltz each collected two hits. RVLD then would lose 5-3 in the late game against the London Lightning. Liz Hahn took the loss in the nightcap and five girls each had only one hit. RVLD drops to 2-2 on the road trip. The Blue Devils completed their southern road trip with two victories, one over Ancaster Blizzard 4-3 and in the nightcap a 12-7 win over Finger Lakes. Thenedra Corey had a walk off single to beat the Blizzard while Annie Breault got the mound win, scattering 8 hits and walking three batters. Jessica Wilde collected three hits and Meyer, Waltz, Corey, Justin Sanvick, and Liz Triplett all had two hits apiece. In the second contest, Autumn Jurgensen pitched a complete game, giving up 7 runs while striking out seven. Chelsey Swanson was 2 for 4 with two RBI. Riverland is now 4-2 on the season. The Lady Blue Devils went north for the non-conference opener(s) in Minnesota and lost all three games. Vermilion defeated Riverland 9-5 in the first of three games all played in Grand Rapids. Eight walks by RVLD pitchers led to the loss. Wilde led the way with 3 hits while Waltz, Swanson, and Corey all had two hits apiece. In the second game of the day, Riverland was shut out by Central Lakes 8-0 in five innings. Jurgensen took the mound loss and the Blue Devils had only three hits. In game three, Itasca shut out Riverland 8-0 as Liz Hahn was the losing pitcher. Once again, hits were hard to come by as RVLD had only two hits. “The weekend was a tough one for our team” said Coach Swift. “We went 0-3 and didn’t play well in any of the games”. The Blue Devils drop to 4-5 on the season. Riverland would lose 2-1 to Dakota County but bounce back in the nightcap with a 9-5 victory. Autumn Jurgensen took the
loss, despite striking out 8 batters and walking none. After losing its fourth game in a row, RVLD would rally after trailing 4-0 in the third inning. Liz Triplett would get the key hit with a two run double that put the Blue Devils ahead for good. Liz Hahn came on in relief of Jurgensen in the third inning and get the win. Riverland opened the conference play with a sweep over Anoka Ramsey (first year program), winning 11-0 and 17-2. Autumn Jurgensen and Annie Breault got the wins on the mound as there was plenty of offense in both five inning affairs. Neither pitcher walked a batter. Triplet was 2 for 2 with an RBI and Jessica Wilde also had two hits. In the nightcap, Holly Waltz, Laura Meyer, Chesly Swanson and Liz Triplet all had two hits. Riverland would split with Rochester, winning game one 5-2 but lost the nightcap 12-0 in five innings. Autumn Jurgensen scattered seven hits and did not walk any batter do get the mound win. Holly Waltz and Thenedra Corey each had a pair of hits. Riverland is now 8-7 overall and 3-1 in the southern division. After winning 4-2, Riverland completed the road sweep over St. Cloud to continue their winning ways. RVLD would score two runs in the seventh to win game one on Liz Triplet’s two run triple. Jurgensen had another solid outing on the mound to get the win. She gave up only three hits and walked one. Riverland would score 11 runs in the first three innings of game two to win easily. A total of 14 hits supported the mound win by Annie Breault. Thenedra Corey led the hit parade with three hits, including two homeruns, scored 3 runs and had 3 RBI. Autumn Jurgensen was named MCAC player of the week last week. She went 2-1 with 1.66 ERA and recorded 11 strikeouts Riverland recorded another double header sweep, this time at the hands of Fergus Falls. The Blue Devils edged Fergus 2-1 in game one and then won in a slug fest 9-7 to complete the sweep. “We did what we needed to do to get a couple of big division wins” said coach Dan Swift. RVLD scored one run in the bottom of the sixth tied 1-1 to win the first contest. Liz Triplet had the RBI double to score singling Laura Meyer. Autumn Jurgensen again was tough on the mound, giving up seven hits but walking none. Annie Breault would get the win in game two but needed relief help from Liz Hahn to get the victory. RVLD led 9-2 but Fergus rallied to get within two runs and had the tying runs on in the sixth but came up short. Chelsey Waltz led the hit parade with 3 hits, including two homeruns, scored 3 runs and had 3 RBI. Autumn Jurgensen got both mound wins while Liz Hahn picked up a save in the nightcap, pitching two scoreless innings. In game one, Riverland scored five runs in the 5th inning, ignited by Liz Triplet’s 3-run homerun. She had three hits and 4 RBI to lead the hitting. Jurgensen scattered 8 hits but did not walk anybody. In game two, RVLD scored 4 runs in the first inning with the key blow a two run single by Chelsey Swanson. Jurgensen tired after five innings and gave way to Hahn, who was brilliant in her two inning stint of relief. The Lady Blue Devils are now 8-7 overall and 3-1 in the
division. Riverland won two games by the 8-run rule, defeating Anoka Ramsey 9-0 and 17-3 to increase their winning streak to eight games. Autumn Jurgensen threw a no-hitter in game one, as one Riverland error spoiled the perfect five inning game. Chelsey Waltz, Laura Meyer, and Thenedra Corey all had two hits in the opener. Annie Breault went five innings in the nightcap to get the win, scattering 5 hits. Holly Waltz and Jessica Wilde had three hits to lead the 13-hit attack. Riverland is currently ranked #10 in the latest NJCAA poll. Riverland rolled to a 12-1 win over MN West and then escaped with a sweep as they won the nightcap 4-2. Autumn Jurgensen went the distance in both games to record both mound wins. Jurgensen did not walk a batter in either game and recorded a total of 12 strikeouts. Holly Waltz and Mandy May each had three hits in game one. In the nightcap, Jurgensen yielded only 4 hits and Riverland scratched across enough run support to complete the sweep. The wins improve Riverland to 18-7 overall, 13-1 in the division. Riverland would step out of conference action and host NDSCS (ND college), winning 7-5 but losing 11-7 in the second game. The loss snapped a 11-game winning streak by the Blue Devils. Jurgensen got the mound win in the opener but needed help from Liz Hahn, who came on in relief in the 6th inning to record the save. NDSCS scored four times in the sixth with the tying runs on but came away the loser. Thenedra Corey had three hits and one RBI to lead the way. In the second game, Hahn started and lasted only three innings, taking the loss. Mandy May, Holly Waltz, and Liz Triplet each had two hits. Riverland would take over first place in the southern division with a sweep over Rochester 8-0 and 4-3. The two teams came into the games tied for the top spot. Autumn Jurgensen tossed a four-hit shutout in game one. Laura Meyer led the 12-hit attack with 3 hits and scoring two runs. Jurgensen also went seven innings in game two to record the win as she gave up only four hits again. RVLD rallied and scored two runs in the seventh inning for the victory. A two out error would lead to a run scoring single by Jessica Wilde to cap off the victory. “Our team really showed some character and showed we have the confidence in each other to get the job done” said Coach Swift. Riverland is now 21-8 overall and 15-1 in the southern division. The Blue Devils would continue their winning ways with two wins over MN West, 10-5 and 7-6. Riverland is now won 14 straight conference games. Thenedra Corey would hit her 8th home run of the season to lead the team in game one. Mandy May also added a three-run dinger. Jurgensen went seven innings, but was not as sharp as usual but got plenty of run support. Annie Breault got the win in game two, giving up only two earned runs and 4 hits. Holly Waltz was 3 for 3 and scored three runs to lead the Blue Devils. RVLD is now ranked #5 in the latest NJCAA poll. Riverland pounded St. Cloud 11-2 and 19-0 to run its conference record to 19-1. Autumn Jurgensen was rested today and plenty of run support was enough for Annie Breault and Liz Hahn to both record mound victories. Breault pitched a two-hitter and Hahn a one-hitter in the five inning affairs.
A pair of road wins over Ridgewater wrapped up the MCAC southern division title for the Riverland softball team. The visiting Lady Blue Devils won 3-1 and 12-0 to improve to 21-1 in the division. Autumn Jurgensen pitched both games to record the wins. She gave up only 4 hits in game one and threw a 2-hitter in the five inning game in the nightcap. Holly Waltz and Laura Meyer each had two hits in the opener to lead the way.

In the second game, Chelsey Swanson had 3 RBI. Riverland improved to 27-8 overall. Riverland wrapped up the regular season with two more wins, this time at the expense of Fergus Falls. The Lady Blue Devils won 13-2 and 10-3 to end its conference season with a 23-1 record and earned the #1 seed in next week’s MCAC tournament. Nine runs in the top of the third inning broke open game one, led by Liz Triplet’s two hits and three RBI. Annie Breault got the mound win, tossing a two-hitter. In game two, RVLD scored 6 runs in the first inning and never looked back. Laura Meyer and Jessica Wilde each had two hits and Liz Hahn went seven innings for the mound win, scattering 8 hits while walking only one batter. Riverland finished the regular season 29-8. The conference title also earned the Blue Devils the right to host the Region 13-A tournament the week after the state classic. After a day of rain, the Blue Devils won their opening round game in the MCAC state tournament with a 7-4 win over Hibbing. RVLD pounded out 14 hits while Autumn Jurgensen kept Hibbing in check to get the mound win. Liz Hahn came on in the seventh to record her third save. Laura Meyer had a big day at the plate with a 4 for 4 performance, scoring two runs and had a pair of RBI.

In the second game, Riverland came up short losing 6-5 to Ridgewater. After sweeping the Warriors in division play (4-0), Ridgewater would get the revenge. Jurgensen took the mound loss, giving up nine hits. A two out error led to three unearned runs and proved to be the difference in the loss. Riverland would win in the loser’s bracket, defeating Rainy River 9-1 in a five inning affair. Thenedra Corey and Meyer each had three hits to lead the 10-hit attack. Riverland would lose in its next game, this time dropping a 5-3 game to Rochester, sending home the Blue Devils with a disappointing 4th place finish in the tournament. Autumn Jurgensen took the mound loss, giving up 8 hits but walking none. RVLD had five errors in the loss. Riverland dropped to 31-10 overall and will get ready to host Rochester in the Region 13-A tournament. This is a best 2 out of 3 with the winner advancing to the NJCAA national tournament. Rochester came up with seventh inning rallies in the bottom of the seventh innings to sweep both games and end the dream season for the Riverland softball team. The Lady Blue Devils had the most victories in school history but could not get by their arch-rival Rochester Community and Technical College. RVLD scored one run in the top of the seventh to take one run lead but a decisive double broke a tie to win in its final at-bat. “We booted fly ball in the first inning and they came up with the key hits for the winning runs in the seventh” said Coach Swift.
Autumn Jurgensen took the mound loss, scattering nine hits and walking none. RCTC won the coin flip in both games and were the home team. In the second game of the day, Jurgensen posted a shut out for six innings but Rochester rallied for three runs in the seventh, the final blow a two run walk off home run by Kelly Damon and Rochester ended the season for Riverland. The Blue Devils finished 31-12 on the season. Laura Meyer, Autumn Jurgensen and Holly Waltz all earned All-Division honors. Meyer and Jurgensen were named to the MCAC All-State team. Laura would land All-Region honors for the second consecutive season and was named NJCAA 2nd Team All-American. She batted .535, was 77 for 144, scored 48 runs and stole 16 of 17 bases for the season.

Roster Included:

Laura Meyer, Justine Sanvick, Chelsy Swanson
Holly Waltz, Mandy May, Thenedra Corey
Chesley Waltz, Christy Van Dyke, Annie Breault
Liz Hahn, Autumn Jurgensen, Jessica Wilde
Rachel Knopps, Liz Triplett

ATHLETES OF THE YEAR- This year’s female athlete of the year was Mandy May and the Male athlete of the year was Derek Hahn. Both student-athletes are sophomores at Riverland. May was a two year starter in women’s basketball and softball. This past season she started every contest. She was captain of the basketball team and the leader of this team. She averaged 8.8 points per game and was the Blue Devils top defensive player. Mandy was the shortstop for the softball team and she batted .404. May is majoring in Liberal Arts and had a 3.3 GPA for the spring (1/2 of basketball season and complete softball season). Derek Hahn, also a two sport athlete, was a co-captain in basketball and led the team and conference in 3-point field goal percentage at 42% (52 of 123). In baseball he was the Blue Devil’s catcher and batted .317, scoring 29 runs with 20 RBI, helping his team reach the NJCAA World Series for the second consecutive season. Derek graduated with a Liberal Arts degree and an overall GPA of 3.3. The award winners were nominated and voted upon by the coaches.
Academic All-Americans: Riverland Community College had four outstanding student athletes earn Academic All-American honors. They were all sophomores. The NJCAA requirements to achieve this prestigious award are:

To have completed at least three full-time semesters and participated in at least one season of competition. There have been only four recorded athletes in the history of Riverland to have achieved such an honor and in 2009-10 Riverland Community College had four Academic All-Americans.

Jared Matson—men’s Basketball
Holly Waltz—women’s basketball and softball
Christy Van Dyke—softball
Elizabeth Hahn—softball