History

2011-12

**Lady Blue Devils announce the hiring of AL Eckmann as the new softball coach.**

The Lady Blue Devils will have a new softball coach in the spring as veteran Al Eckmann takes over for Riverland program. For the past two seasons, Dan Swift has been the softball coach. Swift will go back to just one season and remain as the men’s basketball coach. Eckmann coached the Austin Packers to a pair of state championships in 1987 and 1988. “I look forward to the challenge of a head coach again and we’ll see how it goes” said Eckmann. Coaching at the college level is nothing new for Eckmann as he was an assistant for a few years after retiring from AHS. Now he takes over for a Riverland program that struggled last season and won only two games, both by forfeit. Prior to this season the program was very successful with four straight trips to the state tournament (three under Athletic Director David Lillemon). Getting a team on the field will be a challenge but Eckmann is ready for that. “It’s always more exciting when you’re in charge of the team” said Eckmann. You have to be ready for this and that, then deal with what happens on the field”. Eckmann has a keen eye for talent and he should be able to put a team on the field in 2012.

**Riverland Community College hires Sara Heim as their new volleyball coach.**

Sara Heim will take over for Helen Jahr, who resigned this past year. Heim was an assistant volleyball coach for Rochester C & TC last season. Heim enjoyed her high school playing days on the court with Wabasha Kellogg High School and after graduating in 2006, she earned a Bachelor Degree from Ripon State College in Oscosh, Wisconsin. “I know about the conference and how tough it is to win matches: said Coach Heim. “Riverland has been solid over the years and I want to continue the success”. The new coach has a lot of enthusiasm for the sport she loves and is eager to start the season. “I still love to play and can help the girls with their techniques and pre-season sessions”. Taking over a team with just a few weeks to go before the season will be a very difficult challenge.
**Volleyball-Sara Heim** 0-21  The volleyball program heads in a new direction under first year coach Sara Heim. Hired in early August, coach Heim had little time to recruit and will go into the season undermanned. Leading the list of eight players is sophomore Cassie Masberg. The Lady Blue Devils would fall in the opener, losing to Dakota County 20-25, 24-26, and 19. Masberg would be named MCAC player of the week with her performance in that contest, as she had four kills and 18 digs (6.0/g). After a successful alumni scrimmage, Riverland hosted WWTI and lost 17-25, 25-19, 6-25, and 14-25. Number #1 ranked Ridgewater College came to town and defeated RVLD 15-25, 20-25, and 21-25 in a very competitive match for Coach Heim’s squad. “I felt our team showed a lot of character against Ridgewater and I saw signs of improvement” said Heim. Riverland fell in four games to St Cloud Technical College, losing 11-25, 25-18, 25-22, and 18-25. In the pivotal third game, RVLD led 22-20 but could not close it out and St Cloud would score the final 5 points to win that game and the visitors then finished off the match with a 25-18 win. “We couldn’t stay together and communicate as a team” said Heim. “Still there were plenty of positives and we can build on those for our next match”. Cassie Masberg led the way with 10 kills. The Blue Devils drop to 0-5 on the season and 0-2 in MCAC action. The Lady Blue Devils traveled to Rochester and participated in a two day non-conference tournament and lost all four matches 2-0. They played three on day one losing to Dakota County, Ellsworth, IA, and Hibbing. “It was a hard day with only six players” said Coach Heim. “We definitely improved throughout the day. It was a learning experience for our team”. The second day of the tournament RVLD lost to NIACC 25-20 and 25-13. Robing Arjes led the way with 9 kills and 3 blocks while Brittney Dahl had 11 assists and 8 digs. Riverland has lost its first nine matches of the season. Close games failed to produce any winds as Riverland lost to Rochester 21-25, 11-25, and 21-25. The first game RVLD trailed 22-21 but RCTC scored the final three points to win game one. In the third game, the Lady Blue Devils came up short losing only by four points. “We’re struggling with consistency and that is the difference of winning games and losing”. “It does show how hard our girls are working to be able to play with the second place team, said Sara Heim. Cassie Masberg led the way with 8 kills and 5 digs. Riverland lost its next two matches to Minnesota West (0-3) and Ridgewater (0-3) to drop to 0-12 on the year. Anoka Ramsey came to town and the Blue Devils had their eye on their first victory but RVLD came up just short as the A-R won in five, 19-25, 17-25, 25-22, 25-19, 7-15. After being down two games early, Riverland rallied and won the next two to force a fifth game tie-breaker. “This says a lot about the character of this team in coming back after being down two games” said Heim. The Riverland squad drops to 0-13 and 0-6 in the MCAC south division. The same old story was true at Fergus Falls according to Coach Heim as RVLD lost 16-25, 23-25, and 8-25. “We stayed with them but could not finish” said Heim. “The team needs to find their competitive edge. Brooke really shined as the dig leader”. Dakota County defeated Riverland 17-25, 22-25, 16-25 in non-conference action. Masberg led the way with 10 kills.
The Blue Devils went on the road and lost 3-1 to St. Cloud and 3-0 to Fergus Falls to remain winless on the season. Playing in front of a roudy crowd at home, Riverland battled Rochester C & TC in lost in three, 8-25, 19-25, 12-25. Robin Arjes recorded a team high 7 kills for the evening. The loss drops Riverland to 0-18 on the year and 0-10 in the south division. Riverland would take one game from MN West but lost in four, 18-25, 25-20, 9-25, and 12-25. “Spot serving seems to be our strength” said Sara Heim. “The second game win came from a run of 11 led by the serving of Brittney Dahl, who added 24 assists in the loss. Also over the weekend Anoka Ramsey defeated Riverland in a three close games, 21-25, 22-25, 27-29. “Even though we lost, I am proud of the teamwork, hustle, and dedication of these girls” said Heim. The season would end with a five game match loss to Western Wisconsin Technical College. RVLD led 2-1 after three games but could not close it out as the games were 17-25, 26-24, 25-21, 19-25, and 15-5. “They blew us away in the first time we played them so this match proved how much we have improved over the course of the season” said Coach Heim. “We got off to a great start in the match”. Robin Arjes had 12 kills, Brittney Dahl added 24 assists, and Brooke Coughlin had 15 digs to lead the Blue Devils. “It was an awesome experience for me to coach this season and I got great support from the girls and their families” said first year coach Sara Heim. “We have a lot to build off of and I’m ready for next year”. Riverland finished the year winless at 0-21. Second year player Cassie Masberg earned MCAC All-Conference and All-Region 13 honors. Four players earned MCAC Academic Awards for their performance in the classroom; Laura Hemann, Rebekah Aase, Haley Christensen, and Elizabeth Schmidt.

**Roster Included:**

- Cassie Masberg
- Brittney Dahl
- Robin Arjes
- Brooke Coughlin
- Laura Hemann
- Haley Christensen
- Rebekah Aase
- Bridget Bergstrom

**Assistant Coach:** Ashley Lau
Soccer- Soner Dogan (10-5) The Blue Devils begin the year with solid numbers (23 on the roster) led by returnees; Nick Kerling, Nate Trimble, and Rome Peralta Bartola. RVLD will feature former Austin High School players Rolando Rubio, Dante Ortiz, Pedro Herrera, Fernando Garcia and Joe Montes. Riverland Community College men’s soccer team opened its season with an impressive 8-0 win over Hibbing Community College. The Blue Devils scored three times in the first half and added five more in the second half to put the game out of reach. Rafael Bellon, a freshman from Brazil scored two goals along with Sam Scheffler and Diego Luz (another player from Brazil). RVLD outshot Hibbing 40-5 and Daunt Ortiz recorded the shutout in goal. Riverland followed up the next day in Owatonna (home game for RVLD) with another impressive win, 8-3 over Hibbing. The game was tied 2-2 at halftime but RVLD went on to score 6 goals in the second half for the win. The Riverland soccer team went on the road and came away with 2-1 over North Central University. NCU led 1-0 at halftime but Rafeal Bellon scored at the 55th minute to tie the game. Diego Luz scored the winner in the 80th minute to preserve the win. Esteban Sebastian was in goal for the victory. “We are very happy with this win and our start” said Soner Dogan, coach of the Blue Devils. “It shows we can play at a high level and this win gives our players and coaches more confidence”. Riverland defeated Crossroads College 1-0 in a rain shortened affair in Albert Lea. RVLD scored at the 32nd minute as Pedro Herrera fired a ball and beat the Knight’s goalkeeper to score Riverland’s only goal. A rainstorm came shortly after halftime and due to lightning the game was called at the 53rd minute. The Blue Devils are now 4-0 on the season. Injuries would not prevent Riverland Community College from extending its winning streak to five games as they defeated Finlandia University 4-2 at Wescott Field. RVLD trailed 2-1 before Luz drew a penalty kick and scored to tie the game. “That gave us the momentum for the second half” said Coach Dogan. Luz would score his 7th goal of the season to put the Blue Devils up for good. Dante Ortiz scored the final goal and Sam Sheffler was in net the second half to record the win. Riverland went on the road to Wisconsin and defeated U-W Richland Center 4-0. Diego Luz would score twice while Corey Anderson and Rolando Rubio each had a goal. The record would remain perfect as RVLD traveled to Rochester and defeated Crossroads 6-3 to run their unbeaten streak to seven games. Playing on artificial turf at the Rochester Sports Stadium, the Blue Devils grabbed a 4-2 halftime lead and never looked back. Padro Herrara tallied the first goal and Anderson Siqueira scored on a header to tie the game at 2-2. Rafael Ballon scored the next two goals in the first half. Herrara added another goal in the second half and Corey Anderson scored the final goal of the game for a 6-3 win. Riverland is 7-0 on the season. The Blue Devils traveled to Winona and lost to the St. Mary’s JV team 2-1 in a hard fought battle. Riverland would only have six shots on goal and Corey Anderson was the only one to find the net. RLVD suffered its first loss of the season. Going on the road again, this time a two day trip up north, RVLD defeated Hibbing but lost to Century College 4-0 in the weekend doubleheader. Bellon scored his 11th and 12th goals of the year to lead the assault against Hibbing.
Sam Sheffler also added a pair of goals as Riverland peppered their goal keeper with 36 shots. There were no offensive highlights on Saturday as Riverland was shut out by Century College 4-0. Riverland had only five shots on goal. This was the Blue Devils fourth game in eight days. RVLD traveled to Luther JV and lost 9-0 to a very tough Decorah, Iowa squad as there were only three shots on goal. The Blue Devils are now 8-3 on the season. Bethel College defeated Riverland 6-3 to make it three losses in a row for Coach Dogan’s team. Dante Ortiz, Anderson Siqueira and Nick Kerling each had a goal in the loss. The Blue Devils would scrimmage St Olaf before returning home after eight straight games on the road and defeated Century College 3-1. “Century is one of the premier community colleges men’s soccer teams in the division and region” said assistant coach Troy Stagenga. “For three years we have aspired to reach their level of excellence. This was an important win for this program”. After trailing 1-0 at halftime, RVLD battled the elements (high wins) and a tough Century defense and scored three unanswered goals to secure the victory. Pedro Herrera scored at the 51st minute, followed by Dante Ortiz (58th minute) and Herrara’s second goal in the final minutes. Riverland is now 9-4 on the season. The St. Mary’s JV team shut out Riverland 4-0 in the next to final home game. Herrara placed five of its team’s six shots on goal but none could reach the net. In its final home game and contest for five sophomores, Riverland Community College defeated Crossroads at Wescott Field 4-0 to finish its season on a winning note and complete the year 10-5. Pedro Herrera tallied two goals while Esteban Sebastian and Rafael Bellon also scored a goal. There was no post season play or honors as Riverland played under NJCAA “club status” for the second year in a row. Thirteen freshmen are eligible to return for next year’s season.

Roster Included:

Pedro Herrera    Joe Montez    Valentin Manzano
Rafael Bellon    Dante Ortiz    Sam Sheffler
Anthony Tate    Diego Luz    Rolando Rubio
Jesus Ledesma    Roberto Tores    Fernando Garcia
Nick Kerling    Nate Trimble    Rome Peralto

Ass’t Coaches: Troy Stegenga and Mario Garcia
Hall of Fame- Riverland Community College inducted six new members into the Athletic Hall of Fame at a ceremony on October 29, 2011. The 2011 class is the eighth class inducted to the Hall of Fame since 1997. They join 46 other former athletes and coaches. The day included a luncheon, a women’s and men’s alumni games. This year’s inductees include: Greg Carlson -football 1976-78, Nancy (Clemens) Martinz – softball 1981-83, Dennis LeBarron –tennis 1962-64, Don Miller-basketball 1951-54, Darrell Monson- baseball 1970-72 and Kevin Wilder- football 1974-76.

Basketball (w) Suzy Hebrink 13-14 With a nice balance of returning players and new recruits, the Riverland women’s program looks to return to the MCAC state tournament. “We’ve played two exhibition games and an alumni game and we are ready to go” said coach Hebrink. Returning are five players including Bridgette Bergstrom, Robing Arjes, Selena Gindratt, Kim Craig and Ashley Lau (played on the 2007-08 team). Seven new players join the team led by Rebecca Aase, a freshman from Austin. The Riverland women’s squad split a pair of games in the Minnesota Classic Tournament played in Worthington. RVLD cruised to a 68-47 win over Western Technical College in the opener. Rebekah Aase led the way with 17 points and 17 rebounds. Cassie Masberg chipped in with a dozen in the lopsided victory. Facing a tough Madison Area Tech team on Saturday, Riverland was defeated 79-65. “After being down by 14 points in the second half we made a nice rally to get it close” said coach Hebrink. “We have to learn to play better against pressure but I am pleased with the defensive effort in the first two games of the season”. Turnovers would plague the Blue Devils as NIACC defeated the home team 78-53. Aase recorded her second double/double by scoring 17 points and grabbing 10 rebounds. Masberg added 14 and Robin Arjes had 9 points. Riverland is now 1-2 on the year. Riverland Community College traveled to La Crosse and defeated WTI 72-55 after jumping to a 17 point halftime lead. Rebekah Aase led again with 18 points and 14 rebounds (she almost had a triple –double as she dished out 8 assists). “The first half was great and they had nobody to stop Aase” said Hebrink. Bridget Bergstrom had her best game so far with 10 points. Points were at a premium as the Lady Blue Devils defeated the Gustavus JV in a thriller 42-40. Sophia Hebrink would score off a rebound with two seconds to go to secure the win for Riverland. “We only took 51 shots and that is not enough” said Coach Hebrink. “We have to play better on offense but defensively we were very good”. Bergstrom led the way with 8 points while Aase grabbed 11 rebounds. The Blue Devils are now 3-2 on the season. Riverland cruised to a 42-point victory over Fond da Lac 82-40 in a non-conference affair in Cloquet. Cassie Masberg led the way with 22 points including a trio of three-pointers.
Bridget Bergstrom would have her best game of the year with 19 points and 10 rebounds. Riverland defeated St. Cloud Technical College 74-31 to win its fourth game in a row. Four players were in double figures led by Cassie Masberg with 16, Kim Craig had 13, Aase a dozen and Robin Arjes added 10 points. The winning streak would reach five games with a 31-point victory over Rainy River. Masberg would lead with 19 points, followed by Bridget Bergstrom’s 16 points and Arjes with 11 tallies. Riverland Community College is now 6-2 on the season. Pressure defense in the second half broke open a close ballgame as RVLD defeated Hibbing 76-57. Trailing by two at halftime, the Lady Blue Devils went on a 15-0 run and never looked back. Robin Arjes was a key figure in the rally with 8 rebounds and six steals. Brittany Murphy was one of five players in double figures as he tossed in a season high 17 points. Masberg (14), Aase (11), and Bergstrom (10) each topped the double figure mark. Riverland kept its winning streak a live inn a late rally to defeat Itasca 68-63. Down by five with 4 minutes to go, RVLD rallied and pulled out the win. Skyler Anderson and Cassie Masberg each converted on three-point plays in the closing minutes. Robin Arjes led the attack with 11 points, followed by Masberg with 10. Sophia Hebrink had 9 points and 9 rebounds in her best game of the year. RVLD improves to 8-2 on the year. Northland defeated the Blue Devils 72-44 to end the seven-game winning streak. “We were plagued by 20 turnovers the each half” said Hebrink. Ashley Lau scored 12 points to lead the way. Giving up a quick lead (trailed 8-0), RVLD could never recover and lost to NIACC 78-54 on the road. Masberg, Bergstrom and Aase each had 9 points in the loss. Riverland snapped a two game losing streak by defeating Southwestern College of Iowa 68-63. The Lady Blue Devils made 8 3-pointers on the night and that was the difference in the outcome. Ashly Lau had 17 points as he hit four treys to lead the way. Cassis Masberg added 16, Robin Arjes tossed in 14 and Rebekah Aase had 13 points. “With strong play inside we were able to kick the ball out and get some open looks beyond the arc” said Coach Hebrink. “It was nice to get a win before the break”. Riverland Community College is now 9-4 on the season. The first game back after the holidays did not go well and Western Technical College defeated the Lady Blue Devils 75-66. This was the third meeting this year and RVLD had won the previous two contests. “We just got outplayed; they shot the ball well and took better care of the basketball” said a dejected coach Hebrink. Rebekah Aase had a double-double with 15 points and 19 rebounds to lead the way. Robin Arjes added a dozen and Sophia Hebrink had 11 points. Riverland would lose again this time to Gustavus JV 66-52 in its final preparation for conference action, finishing its non-conference schedule with a 9-6 record. The Anoka Ramsey Rams, top ranked in the latest NJCAA Juco poll, came to town and struggled against an upset minded Blue Devil squad only to come away with a 56-54 win over Riverland Community College. The visitors scored the last 5 points to pull out the victory. “Give credit to our defense for their low scoring total” said Coach Suzy Hebrink. “It’s a disappointing loss after you lead the entire game except for the final few seconds”.
“You have to do the little things to win down the stretch and we had some turnovers that let them back into the game”. Rebekah Aase had a sensational game with 21 points and 18 rebounds to lead the way. Missing numerous free throws led to a second straight loss for the Blue Devils team in the MCAC southern division. Central Lakes defeated Riverland 58-53 (non-conference battle) as the Blue Devils shot a miserable 7 for 25 from the charity line. Robin Arjes led the way with 15 points and Aase and Lau each had 10 apiece. Riverland is now 9-8 on the year and 0-2 in the division. The Lady Blue Devils played well in spurts but inconsistency led to their loss to arch rival Rochester 71-52. “Turnovers certainly hurt us” said Coach Hebrink. “We are just so inconsistent right now and not playing well”. Ashley Lau led the way with 15 points, followed by Aase with 14 and Masberg added 10 points. The loss was Riverland’s fifth in a row and dropped them to 9-9 on the season. Balance in the scoring department led RVLD to a convincing 80-63 road win over Ridgewater and was the Blue Devil’s first win in the MCAC south division. “We had to have this game in order to have any realistic shot at getting to the state tournament” said Hebrink. “We got off to a great start and everyone contributed”. Rebekah Aase had a game high 22 points and 10 rebounds. Cassie Masberg scored 19 points and Lau added 13 points in the victory. “Brittany Murphy played her best game of the year” concluded the coach. Riverland would rally late and score the final 10 points to defeat Fergus Falls 63-56 in conference action. Down by three points with 56 seconds to go, RVLD would score 10 consecutive points for the win, paced by Sophia Hebrink, who scored eight of them. Aase carried the offense as she cleaned up inside scoring 26 points. Hebrink added 10 points, all of them coming in the last seven minutes. The win improves the Blue Devils record to 11-9 overall and 2-3 in the division. The Blue Devils have a week off as they have the bye in the rotation of the conference schedule. Poor shooting plagued the Lady Blue Devils as they lost to MN West 55-41 in conference action. Robin Arjes was the only scorer in double figures with 12 points and she also grabbed a team high 9 rebounds. “We need to find some offense; you can’t score 41 points and expect to win” said coach Hebrink. “It is bad news when you miss 11 free throws (9 for 20) on your home floor. Now we are in a log jam for the fourth playoff spot and we’ll have to make it up on the road”. The Riverland women’s team fell behind early (42-16 at halftime) and lost 68-49 to top ranked Anoka Ramsey in conference action. Rebekah Aase led with 13 points and 10 rebounds while Robin Arjes added 11 points. The Blue Devils snapped a two game losing streak and pounded Central Lakes 82-42 in front of their fans. RVLD made nine three pointers and three scored in double figures; Aase had 21, Ashley Lau with 19, and Sophia Hebrink chipped in with 15 points. “This was our best offensive game of the year” said coach Hebrink. “We passed the ball well and had lots of assists”. Riverland improves to 12-11 overall and 3-5 in the south division. Riverland Community College hosted Rochester in a southern division rival and gave the fans all they bargained for but lost in the end 71-66. The Blue Devils led by eight points with 5:00 to go in the contest but could not hang on. Rebekah Aase led the team with 21 points and 12 rebounds. Arjes added 15 and Lau with a dozen in the loss.
Despite the loss RVLD maintains 4th place in the MCAC southern division standings and has a key matchup with Ridgewater in their final home contest. Rebekah Aase was named NJCAA Player of the Week with her performances last week. Aase hit 6 of 11 shots from the field while scoring 21 points and grabbing 16 rebounds. Despite losing to Rochester, Aase posted 20 points and 12 boards. In its final home game, the Blue Devils didn’t mess around and soundly defeated Ridgewater 58-40. “It was a nice win to close out the home schedule” said coach Hebrink. There was good scoring balance and solid team defense to get this division win”. Ashley Lau and Rebekah Aase each had 10 points to lead the team to victory. Aase also had five rebounds, five assists, and four steals. RVLD improves to 13-12 on the season and 4-7 in the MCAC southern division. Fergus Falls hung on for a 60-56 win over Riverland and split the season series. “The offense really struggled and we took only a total of 49 shots” said Hebrink. The two big girls, Aase and Robin Arjes carried the scoring load, scoring 20 and 18 points respectively. With the loss Riverland hopes of making the MCAC play-offs were diminished. They close out the season at MN West next week after a bye date. Taking a 30 point loss to MN West the play-off chances were gone and the season came to an end. MN West canned 8 three pointers in the first half and never were threatened by the Blue Devils. “We needed to win this game to make the playoffs and instead we played horrible” said a dejected coach Hebrink. Robin Arjes led with 12 points followed by Aase with 10 tallies. Riverland ended 4-8 in the southern conference, tied for 4th with Fergus Falls but do to the tie-breaker, Fergus was awarded the 4th and final spot in the state tournament. Overall the Blue Devils finished 13-14 on the season. Rebekah Aase was named 1st team All-Southern Division and Robin Arjes earned honorable mention honors. Aase also was named to the 1st team MCAC All-State team.

Roster Included:

Selena Gindratt  Cassie Masberg  Robin Arjes
Kim Craig  Bridget Bergstrom  Ashley Lau
Sophia Hebrink  Skyler Anderson  Brittany Murphy
Takiyah Stewart  Rebecca Aase  Karley Phelps
Ass’t:  Ryan Weichmann
Riverland Community College Press Release:

The Riverland Community College men’s basketball program announced it will have new coach this season as Scott Koenigs takes over the program. Koenigs has been the Riverland baseball coach for nearly a decade and in the past was an assistant for the Blue Devils. “Getting back into coaching basketball will be fun for me” said Koenigs. “It is going to be a challenge to start the season. We are not real big but we have some guys who are athletic”. A talented group of freshmen will look to keep the Blue Devils competitive and at the semester break Koenigs is hopeful that some players will earn their eligibility back and join the team come second semester. Koenigs replaces Dan Swift, who coached the Blue Devils for five seasons and resigned for another position not related to athletics. “The main thing is we are trying to install a new attitude and play with more discipline this season” said Koenigs. We have some descent shooters and we will have to develop consistency to win in this league”. Koenigs has plenty of basketball coaching experience with seven years of coaching varsity basketball in the high school ranks.

Basketball- (Men) Scott Koenigs 12-14 In his first season, Koenigs will return four players who saw action last year, led by Densel Smith who will not see action until the semester break. Taylor Morgan will be a strong player (played two years ago) and give the Blue Devils some leadership. Playing a scrappy brand of basketball the Blue Devils opened the season with a pair of wins in the MN West Classic Tournament. Riverland posted a 74-64 win over WWTI to start the season and came back with a 53-50 win over Madison Area Technical College. In the opener, Zach Bunch tossed in 25 points and Taylor Morgan chipped in with 17 as good defense keyed the comeback against a much bigger team. Down 8 points at halftime, RVLD rallied to win its first game of the year. In the second contest, Riverland would win a tight game all the way as Morgan scored 21 of his game high 23 points in the second half. Marcus Ratliff had a dozen and Bunch tallied 11 points in the win. Riverland Community College would blow a 20 point lead against NIACC and lose 87-85 in a game where Zach Bunch would score 40 points for the Blue Devils. Bunch got a good look at a three pointer with no time on the clock for the win but it fell just short. “We played hard and with great energy but could not close it out” said coach Koenigs. “This game came down to making free throws in the final minutes and we didn’t get it done at the line”. Wayne Canady was the only other scorer for RVLD in double figures and he had 10 points. Riverland lost to WWTI 72-63 in a rematch on their home floor. Bunch would lead the way with 14 points but did not make a shot in the first half.
Taylor Morgan added 13 and Marcus Ratliff chipped in with 10 points in the second consecutive loss for the Blue Devils. The Riverland Community College men’s team erased a 20 point deficit and defeated the Gustavus JVs 80-78 in a thriller in Austin. Taylor Morgan scored 24 points and led the comeback with 15 in the second half. “We’re on the other side of a 20-point game this time and it was a nice comeback” said Koenigs. “Taylor is capable of doing that every night and he really stepped it up in the second half”. Jeff Clark-Neal had 16 points, followed by Ratliff with 13 in the victory. Good balance for Riverland led to a 12-point win over Fond da Lac in non-conference action. Neal led with 24 and Bunch (13), Ratliff (16), and Morgan also topped the 10 point mark. RVLD is now 4-2 on the season. Riverland defeated St. Cloud Tech 62-43 in a non-conference tilt. That weekend the Blue Devils would run their record to 7-2 with a pair of wins over Rainy River 96-80 and defeat Hibbing 97-69. Playing a key role in the weekend wins was Austin High native Andrew Kaiser. Kaiser had 17 and 16 respectively to help aid in the two victories. In the win versus Rainy River, Zach Bunch poured in 26 points to lead all scorers. Balance was a key in the win over Hibbing as four reached double figures led by Bunch again with 22, followed by Wayne Canady had 17, Kaiser’s 16, and Taylor Morgan 15. The Blue Devils traveled up north and lost a pair of heart breakers. In the first game of the road trip, RVLD lost 78-76 in overtime to Itasca. “We were down by 11 in the second half and come back to take the lead and had a chance to win the game but it didn’t happen” said Koenigs. Jeff Clark-Neal had 19 to lead all scorers, followed by Bunch with 18 and Morgan with 16 points. The next day Riverland Community College lost to Northland 78-77. A three-point shot at the buzzer by Northland was the difference in the game. Zach Bunch had 17 with Neal chipping in a dozen to lead the Blue Devils. Riverland would lose its third consecutive game as NIACC upended the MN squad 84-60 to close out the games before the holidays. “We kept missing shots and they ran away with it in the second half” said Koenigs whose team trailed only by five points at halftime. Neal had 19 to lead in the loss followed by Canady with 14 and Bunch with 13 points. RVLD is now 7-5 overall. Densel Smith returned to the lineup and scored 27 points to help the Blue Devils win the rubber game against WWTI 88-84. Jordan Osberg also was back and he chipped in with 15 points. Andrew Kaiser had a strong game with 19 points to aid in 19 point deficit comeback victory. Riverland snapped a three-game losing streak and now begins divisional action. In the conference opener, Anoka Ramsey defeated Riverland 80-57. Seven points was as close as the Blue Devils could get in the second half as poor shooting led to the onslaught. Smith led the team with 19, followed by Zach Bunch with 17 and Kaiser’s 9 points. Facing the top ranked team in the country was a tall order and Central Lakes would win easily over Riverland 93-69. “They’re a very good team and move the ball around to find the open shooter” said Koenigs. “They pushed the ball in the second half and we could not stay with them”. Marcus Ratliff led RVLD with 17 and Densel Smith added 16 along with Jordan Osberg with 15 points. Riverland (8-7 overall, 0-2 MCAC South) travels to arch rival Rochester in its next contest.
The Blue Devils dropped its third straight southern division game as they lost to Rochester 86-60. It was never close as RVLD trailed by 26 points (49-23) at halftime. Osberg led with 17 points and Andrew Kaiser added a dozen. Riverland drops to 8-8 and 0-3 in the division. Taylor Morgan scored a season high 29 points leading the Blue Devils to a much needed 76-63 win over Ridgewater. The visiting Austin crew led only by two points at halftime but pulled away in the second half. Densel Smith added 19 points in the victory. A late three-point attempt failed and Riverland came up short, losing to Fergus Falls 79-77 in conference action. Down by 20 points at halftime, RVLD rallied and took the lead by late in the game. Smith would hit two free throws with 25 seconds to go to tie the game at 77-77. Fergus ran the clock down and scored with 5 seconds to go. “We got the ball in Zach Bunch’s hand and he had an open look” said Koenigs. “I’m happy the way we battled back in the second half”. Riverland is now 9-9 and 1-4 in the south division. After a week off Riverland was back in action and defeated MN West 65-56 at home. After blowing a 17-point lead, MN West rallied to get within two points at the 2:00 mark but RVLD would make a decisive run at the end and win by nine points. “We just have to play smarter and not let teams back into the game” said coach Koenigs. “In the end it was a nice way to finish”. Densel Smith led with 16, followed by Jordan Osberg with 14 points.

Riverland climbed back over the .500 mark (10-9) and 2-4 in the MCAC southern division. The Riverland Community College men’s team could not hold a seven point halftime lead and lost 60-59 to Anoka Ramsey. A last second shot by Zach Bunch missed at the buzzer and the Blue Devils drop to 2-5 in the south division. Jordan Osberg led the way with 16 followed by Bunch with 15 points. Central Lakes built a 19-point halftime lead and cruised to a 80-55 win over Riverland in division action. “We got beat by a better team. They are athletic and always look for a good shot” said Koenigs. “They also play tough defense and we down real big in the first half”. Wayne Canady was the only scorer in double figures with 15 points. RVLD is now 10-11 overall and 2-6 in the MCAC southern division. Rochester defeated the Blue Devils 82-66 after leading by halftime by five. Riverland scored the first two buckets to start the second half (40-39) by Rochester went on a 16-2 run and it was over. Zach Bunch led RVLD with 19 points, followed by Taylor Morgan with 15, Jordan Osberg with 11 and Densel Smith with 10 points. Riverland defeated Ridgewater 80-77 to close out their home schedule with three games remaining on the road. The Blue Devils led by 12 points midway through the second half but allowed Ridgewater College to get back into the game and a 3-point attempt at the buzzer fell short for the RVLD victory. “We played pretty well in the second half. Our press created some turnovers and we built a nice lead” said Koenigs. Densel Smith and Zach Bunch each had led 22 points, followed by Jordan Osberg with 14 tallies. Fergus Falls handed Riverland Community College an 88-78 loss on the road. After trailing by 11 at halftime, RVLD got back within 6 points but fell short in the end. Zach Bunch led with 23 points. Osberg grabbed 10 rebounds and scored 19 points while Taylor Morgan had 18 points in the loss. RVLD drops to 11-13 overall and 3-8 in the south.
The Blue Devils would be no match for Dakota County Technical College and lost 79-53 in a non-conference tilt. “We got down 8-0 to them right away and played scared” said Koenigs against this Division II foe. Smith had 14 to lead the team and Osberg and Bunch each had a dozen. In its final game of the year, Riverland Community College defeated MN West 82-78 to close out the year on a winning note. The visiting Blue Devils trailed by 16 points in the second half but rallied to secure the win. “The guys didn’t quit and played hard to the end” said Koenigs. Jordan Osberg led with 21 points (7 rebounds, 6 steals, 3 assists), followed by Densel Smith with 16, Cody Meyer with 14, and Zach Bunch who had 13 points. Riverland Community College finished the season 4-8 in the MCAC southern division and 12-14 overall. Zach Bunch would be named to the All-Southern Division team.

Roster Included:

Shane Barry         Jordan Osberg         Jeff Clark-Neal
Brandon Sims        Densel Smith          Taylor Morgan
Zach Bunch          Wayne Cannady         Keith Thames
Marcus Ratliff      Vincent Awoleke       Andrew Kaiser

Ass’t: Ryan Weichmann
Volunteer Ass’t: Craig Doty

Press Release- Soner Dogan has announced his resignation from coaching soccer for the Blue Devils. The men’s soccer program has been under the guidance of Dogan for the past three years. His overall record was 12-37-2 and his team was 10-5 this past fall. He sited, “family related issues” as his reason for resigning and he was unable to fully commit to the program.

Press Release- Sara Heims has resigned after one year as the head volleyball coach. She currently is working on her Master’s degree and cannot fully commit to the recruiting and coaching that is involved with the entire process. This past fall in Heim’s only season as the head coach her team went 0-21.
Baseball - Scott Koenigs 36-14  The Blue Devils are coming off a 31-14 season and a conference championship and despite having only four starters back, Koenigs has plenty of experience as 15 other players are second year athletes. Riverland Community College has 13 games scheduled for the Florida spring trip and 34 more games for the regular season. In the season opener in Vero Beach, Florida, the Blue Devils lost to the University of Connecticut-Avery Point 9-5. Committing four errors led to the loss and RVLD was only outhit 7 to 6 but gave their opponent too many extra chances at the plate. Mike Tindal collected two hits and Connor Hurst took the loss on the mound. After being rained out in a doubleheader with NIACC, the Riverland baseball team swept a pair of games for the initial wins of the season. In game one, RVLD posted a 6-1 win over Pro Teach Academy of Canada. Kyle Gorsuch was the starter in the first game and went five innings to get the win. He walked three and struck out seven while surrendering only 3 hits. Pounding out a dozen hits, Tyler Krekling, Michael Knutson, and Kenny Stelter each had two hits. “That was nice to get the first win of the season” said coach Koenigs. “It gave our young team confidence that they can compete down here with good teams”. In the night game Riverland defeated Rockville College of Maryland 20-5. Walks were the story as the Rockville pitchers had 16 walks. Donte Bledsoe and Braden Hunkins each had two hits in the victory. Starting pitcher Cody Meyer lasted only 1 and 1/3 innings due to wildness and Jon Mittag got the win in relief. Riverland would win a pair on its spring trip, this time defeating the Ontario Blue Jays 6-2 and Dakota College of Bottineau 6-1. Both games were played in Vero Beach. The two victories game the Blue Devils a four game winning streak. Victor Claudio hit a two run home run for the Blue Devils in game one and Aaron Palmer connected against Dakota. The Blue Devils are now 4-1 on the season. Riverland would split a pair with Massasoit Community College of Massachusetts, losing 4-0 in the opener and winning the nightcap 7-6. The Blue Devils collected only two hits in game one, one each by Matt Boswell and Aaron Palmer. Riverland would jump to a 4-0 lead in game two and never look back but it took two innings of relief by Brady Klingfus for the save to the Blue Devils to hang on and win 7-6. Boswell and Palmer each had two hits in the second game. Riverland defeated Academy Baseball of Canada 10-7 and Dakota College of Bottineau 8-3 to improve its record to 7-2 overall. After falling behind by six runs against the Academy, the Blue Devils rallied as Mike Tindal had 4 RBI including a two run double in the second inning. “The guys played hard and didn’t quit” said Koenigs. Eric Sandstrom had three good innings of relief to get the win, giving up only one hit. In the second game, in was a complete game win for Connor Hurst. He had 12 strikeouts on the day and scattered 11 hits. In the final day of the road trip, Riverland would lose 6-2 to the Ontario Blue Jays and 1-0 to NIACC of Mason City. “We just ran out of gas on that last day” said Koenigs. “We had only 7 hits in the doubleheader. The Blue Devils finished their road trip 7-4 and return home for four games next week. Hitting woes nagged Riverland Community College as they got swept by NIACC, losing 10-0 and 3-1. In the first game, RVLD was no-hit and in the second loss Riverland collected only five hits.
Joe Wagner took the loss in the opener, surrendering only 6 hits but five of the runs were unearned. In the nightcap, Eric Sandstrom pitched well enough to win, giving up only three hits and three runs, all unearned. RVLD is now 7-6 and travels to the Metrodome tomorrow for another doubleheader. The Blue Devils snapped a four game losing streak by upending Mesabi CC 2-1 and 5-4. Playing solid defense was the key in both victories, having only one error in the twin bill. “After playing poorly in the field yesterday, we switched the defense around for these two games and it made a big difference” said Koenigs. Marcus Kiewel scattered five hits and went the distance to get the win in game one. In the nightcap, Kyle Gorsuch gave up 4 runs but was the beneficiary of five RVLD runs to get the win. Ben Schaben had three solid innings of relief to record the save. He struck out three, walked one and gave up only one hit in his appearance. The Blue Devils are off now for 2 weeks before their next contest. Riverland hammered out 26 hits in its home opener and defeated Central Lakes 10-0 and 13-3. This was the first action in two weeks and both games only lasted five innings due to the 10-run rule. Marcus Kiewel went five innings and gave up only one hit and struck out seven to get the win in the opener. Matt Boswell and Aaron Palmer each had two hits to lead the way. In the nightcap Quinn Yocum and Chris May each collected two hits to lead the Blue Devils to their fourth win in a row. On the first day of the Cross-over tournament, RVLD defeated Fond da Lac 7-1 and Central Lakes 6-4. Brady Klingfus went 6 strong innings for the win and Braden Hunkins hit a homerun in game one. Riverland trailed 4-2 going into the bottom of the 6th inning in the nightcap but rallied with four runs to win its sixth game in a row. Four different players had an RBI in the decisive inning. Riverland is now 13-6 on the season. On day two of the tournament, Riverland Community College won a pair by the ten run rule, first defeating Hibbing 12-2 and then Fond da Lac 12-1. Kyle Gorsuch and Joseph Wagner got the mound wins for the Blue Devils who collected 21 hits in the two games. Matt Boswell had three hits in the opener while Donte Bledsoe had two hits and 2 RBI in game two. The winning streak reached 10 games as Riverland upended the Carleton JV team 11-3 and 14-5. Connor Hurst went 6 innings and scattered 4 hits to get the win in the opener. Bledsoe, Bosewell, and Chris May all had two hits in game one. In the nightcap, Cody Meyer went five innings, allowing 5 hits, striking out 6, and walking 5 to collect the win. Victor Claudio had a solo homerun in the second game. The Blue Devils record is now 17-6 overall. Western Technical College defeated RVLD 11-1 to end the streak at ten games but Riverland rallied and won game two 5-4. WWTC scored nine runs in the sixth inning to win a closely contested game through 5 innings. In the second game, Joseph Wagner went the distance and got the win while Donte Bledsoe provided the offense with four hits on the day. Riverland Community College will begin divisional play this weekend and currently stands 18-7, all of which are non-conference games to this point. The Riverland baseball team won three out of four games during the opening weekend of play in the MCAC southern division.
The divisional schedule opened with a split against Anoka-Ramsey on the road as the Blue Devils won 9-1 but lost 6-4 in the night cap. Marcus Kiewel went the distance in game one, scattering five hits. Ben Scaben started and took the loss in the second game. The Blue Devils stranded 12 runners in the nightcap. Returning home RVLD swept a pair from Rochester C & TC, winning by the scores of 12-2 and 10-7. “We played well in Anoka the first game but came out flat in the second and took the loss” said Coach Koenigs. “Once again we hit the ball hard and won game one today but got down 6 runs in the second contest, only to come back and win”. Kyle Gorsuch pitched a six-hitter while Riverland cranked out 11 hits, led by Jason Kezman’s solo homerun in the first game against Rochester. The Blue Devils trailed 6-0 after 3 innings only to rally with four runs in the bottom of the 3rd and five runs in the 6th, ignited by a two run homerun by Victor Claudio to tie the game at 7-7. Matt Boswell had three hits to lead the attack in game two. RVLD is now 21-8 overall and 3-1 in the south division. Riverland lost to Fergus Falls 4-3 and bounced back to win the second game 9-5 in MCAC southern division action. RVLD committed 3 errors and had only six hits in the opener. Joe Wagner took the loss on the mound. Aaron Palmer had two hits including a homerun in game one. In the nightcap, the Blue Devils rallied for 8 runs in the fifth inning to split the doubleheader, despite committing three more errors. The bid big blow was a bases loaded double by Braden Hunkins. Ben Schaben pitched two innings of scoreless baseball to secure the win. Riverland defeated Central Lakes 10-0 and 5-1 after getting rained out to St Cloud Technical College, game two be determined at a later date. Against Central Lakes, the bats were hot in game one, pounding out 10 hits and led by Matt Boswell with three hits. In the nightcap, Eric Sandstrom game up only one run and struck out 8 hitters. RVLD now stands 24-9 and 6-2 in the league. The Blue Devils pounded MN West 10-1 and 18-7 in non-conference action, winning 6-5 and losing 5-3. Jon Mittag got the win in game one and Cody Meyer took the loss in the nightcap, despite striking out 11 batters. Riverland is now 27-10 overall. Riverland traveled to Ridgewater and won a pair, 6-3 and 3-2 in a crucial series to stay alive in the conference race for the top seed. Riverland split with Cloud Technical College, losing 9-1 but winning 7-6 in the nightcap. The split earned St Cloud the outright regular division championship. RVLD had only one hit the first game, that by Tyler Krekling. Brady Klingfus pitched all seven innings for the win in the second game, scattering 8 hits, walking three and striking out two batters. Riverland now stands 28-11 overall and 9-3 in the division. The Blue Devils wrapped up the regular season with a pair of wins over Carleton JV’s 9-4 and 19-1. “This was a good way to close out the season” said Koenigs. Riverland Community College opens the post season play with a best-of-three series and the winner advancing to the Region 13 tournament. Central Lakes shocked the Blue Devils in game one of the series with a 1-0 victory. The Raiders scored their only run in the 3rd inning and Riverland could only muster up 6 hits in the loss. Riverland was winning 2-0 in the sixth inning of game two and rain caused a postponement.
Ben Schaben started in game two and went 5 full innings when the game was postponed due to weather. The following day play resumed in the must win game for the Blue Devils and Conner Hurst finished off for the save. He would also cruise through seven innings in the 3rd and final game striking out 13 batters for the 8-0 win. “We bounced back after the first game loss and the guys played real well on Saturday” said Koenigs. “It’s exciting to move on in the playoffs”. RVLD now stands at 34-12 overall. Riverland advances to the Region 13 tournament next weekend, with the winner moving on to the NJCAA College World Series. With a pair of standout pitching performances, Riverland won a pair of games and advanced to the semi-finals of the Region 13 play-offs. Conner Hurst went 7 innings, walking none and striking out 7 while giving up 8 hits as the Blue Devils defeated Rochester 6-1. Michael Knutson and Braden Hunkins each had two hits in game one. In the second game of the tournament, Riverland defeated Itasca 8-0. Ben Schaben gave up only 4 hits while striking out 6 and walking none. Riverland had 13 hits, including two by four different players. Riverland would drop a tough 3-2 decision to St Cloud Technical College in the semi-final round. This dropped the Blue Devils into the loser’s bracket and Rochester would end their season, defeating Riverland 3-0. “We hit the ball hard but they made the defensive plays” said Koenigs. This was our fourth time playing Rochester and it is tough to beat someone four times in a row. Joe Wagner took the loss on the mound. Matt Boswell ended his career with two hits. The Blue Devils ended their season with a 36-14 overall record. This was one win shy of the school record of victories in a season. Donte Bledsoe, Chris May and Boswell earned All-Division honors. May also was selected to the MCAC All-State team while Bledsoe was All-State and All-Region.

Roster Included:

- Jon MIttag
- Michael Osmundson
- Brady Klingfus
- Jamie Adams
- Andrew Schunck
- Dallas Coleman
- Pedro Martinez
- Matt Boswell
- Jacob Hines
- Kenny Stelter
- Brandon Hunkins
- Preston Higbe
- Mike Tindal
- Chris May
- Kyle Gorsuch
- Ben Schaben
- Will McKnight
- DJ Taylor Hokah
- Tyler Krekling
- Michael Knutson
- Nick Djorgonoski
- Quinn Yocum
- Eric Sandstrom
- Victor Claudio
- Connor Hurst
- Aaron Palmer
- Donte Bledsoe
Coach AL Eckmann takes over the softball program and inherits a team that did not win a game last spring. Eleven girls will make up the roster with five sophomores heading the list; Bridget Bergstrom, Jody Holmquist, Morgan Herda, Robin Arjes, and Kim Craig. Long-time assistant Ron Bergstrom will join Eckmann on his staff. The Lady Blue Devils took a southern road trip to Kansas playing three dates. In the season opener, RVLD lost to Hutchinson Community College 15-0 and 16-0. Riverland was no hit in game one and collected four hits in game two. Rachel Donovan had two hits and Sara Sundberg and Kim Craig had the other two. On day two of the trip, Bethany College JV team defeated the Blue Devils 11-3 and 10-2. Seven hits were banged out in game on by RVLD, led by Sundberg and Craig with two apiece. In the nightcap, Riverland collected six hits, one each by six different players, including a double by Haley Underwood. On the final day of the trip, Hesson Community College defeated Riverland 18-0 and 19-0. In game one Robin Arjes had a triple and Bridget Bergstrom had a double. In the nightcap, Jodi Holmquist had the only hit. Riverland Community College is now 0-6 and returns home to entertain NIACC and Gustavus next week, following spring break. The Lady Blue Devils would be rained out to NIACC and will make the games at a later date. Gustavus JV would come to town and defeat Riverland 7-2 and 9-2 in non-conference action. In game one, Bridge Bergstrom would take the loss, surrendering up 10 hits, while walking only one batter and striking out two. She also had two hits to lead the attack while Robin Arjes had a solo homerun. In the second game, Robin Arjes took the mound loss, going only 1 and 2/3 innings. Sara Sundberg would throw the final 5 and 1/3. Arjes again connected with her second homerun of the season and also added a single, going 2 for 3 with a RBI and run scored. “We’re trying to get this program back on track so it is important for the girls to improve each time they take the field” said AL Eckmann. “We played better than in the spring trip down in Kansas and that’s the name of the game”. Walks issued by the Riverland pitchers led to numerous runs for NIACC as they swept the Blue Devils 10-2 and 10-3 in non-conference action. Riverland Community College outhit NIACC for the day 15 to 11 but there were 15 walks in the doubleheader issued by RVLD pitchers that led to their defeats. Sara Sundberg had two hits in each game and Robin Arjes collected a pair in game two. Riverland is now 0-10 on the season. Riverland Community College snapped their 10-game losing streak with a 5-3 division win over Fergus Falls in game one of a doubleheader.
Sara Sundberg picked up her first pitching win by tossing a 4-hitter, walking three and striking out seven. “She’s been making marvelous strides” said Coach AL Eckmann. “She’s learning to pitch to spots and she has a nice drop ball”. Morgan Herda drilled a two run homerun and Whitney Bamrick had two hits to lead the way in the victory. The Blue Devils led 5-0 in the nightcap but lost 8-5 as Fergus would rally late to collect a split in the doubleheader. Robin Arjes, Kim Craig and Bamrick all had two hits in the second game. The Blue Devils would get off to early leads in both games against Rochester but RCTC would come back to win by the scores of 27-5 and 10-4 for the sweep. Sundberg would take the mound loss in game one and Bridget Bergstrom to the loss in the late game. RVLD would collect 18 hits in the doubleheader which was encouraging to Coach Eckmann. Sundberg collected four hits in the two losses. Sara Sundberg pitched her first career win as she shutout MN West 7-0 in the first game of the double header. Sundberg struck out 7 and allowed only one hit while walking four batters. Haley Underwood, Whitney Bamrick and Bridget Bergstrom all had two hits in game one. In the nightcap, Riverland lost 10-9. RVLD trailed 8-3 but rallied to take the lead 9-8 only to lose it in the end. Sara Sundberg and Bergstrom both went 3 for 4 with 2 RBI, while Morgan Herda and Courtney Schnaith each had two hits in the loss. Riverland Community College is now 2-14 overall and 2-4 in the south. The Blue Devils showed how far they have come this year as they split with Ridgewater, ranked #10 in the latest NJCAA softball poll. After losing 15-5 in game one, RVLD upended Ridgewater 12-7 to gain a split. Underwood had five hits in the doubleheader and four RBI. Bridget Bergstrom got the win with five innings of pitching, scattering 13 hits. Anoka Ramsey swept the Blue Devils by the scores of 10-6 and 18-14 in division play. Both teams had 28 hits on the day led by Whitney Bamrick with five hits in both games. In the opener, RVLD led 6-3 after three innings but could not hold the lead. Sara Sundberg took the loss. In the night cap, Anoka led 10-0 after three but Riverland rallied to tie the game at 10-10. But Anoka scored 8 runs in the last three innings for the sweep. Sundberg took the loss in relief of Bergstrom, who lasted only four innings. The Lady Blue Devils fell to 3-17 overall and 3-7 in the league. Riverland traveled to St Cloud Technical College and were able to play only 2 innings before the rain came and cancelled both games. They will not be made up at a later date. After getting rained out to MN West (postponed to a later date) Riverland hosted Rochester and lost a pair, 11-9 and 14-5. Robin Arjes hit a home run in both games while Haley Underwood had 4 hits for the two games. In the first game, RVLD got within one run as they scored 3 runs in the sixth to trail only 10-9 but they came up short. Arjes had three hits in the opener and Sara Sundberg took the loss on the mound. In the nightcap, the Blue Devils led 4-3 after three innings but Bridget Bergstrom could not hold down the Rochester bats as the Yellowjackets scored 11 runs in the final three innings. Jodi Holmquist had two hits to lead the hitting attack. RVLD drops to 3-9 in the southern division and 3-19 overall. Ridgewater upended Riverland 7-1 and 9-1. Sara Sundberg went the distance in game one and took the loss. “We played pretty well in the first game defensively” said Al Eckmann.
“Our hitters struggled against their pitching”. Courtney had two hits in game one. In the nightcap, Bridget Bergstrom gave up nine hits and pitched very well. RVLD had only one hit, that by Haley Underwood. Anoka Ramsey defeated Riverland 9-3 and the second game was rained out to finish out the Blue Devils road trip. The Blue Devils hosted an eight team Cross-over tourney and each team played 4 games. Riverland lost 10-1 to Itasca, 12-3 to Hibbing, 9-6 to Vermilion and lost 8-0 to NDSCS (Wahpeton, ND) and then won by forfeit over Northland Community College. Riverland now stands 5-27. Fergus Falls was to come to town for the final weekend of action for the Lady Blue Devils but forfeited both contests to Riverland Community College. The next day Riverland hosted St Cloud Technical College to close out its season. After getting a pair of wins from a forfeit from Fergus Falls, the Lady Blue Devils lost 11-1 and 8-3 to St Cloud Technical College to end their season. Riverland had six errors in game one and only five hits. “We just didn’t make any plays in the opener but we did not commit any errors in the nightcap and that was nice to see” said Coach Al Eckmann. Sara Sundberg pitched both games and took the losses. RVLD banged out 14 hits in the nightcap and finished the season 5-15 in the MCAC south division and 6-30 overall.

Roster Included:

Whitney Bamrick  Haley Underwood  Rachel Donovan
Sara Sundberg  Courtney Schnaith  Bridget Bergstrom
Jodi Holmquist  Morgan Roemhildt-Herda  Robin Arjes
Brianna Myers  Erica Stehlik  Kim Craig

Assistant Coach: Ron Bergstrom
Athletes of the Year 2011-12

Athlete of the Year honors have been named by the Riverland Community College sports programs for the year 2011-12. Robin Arjes is the recipient of the Female Athlete of the Year award while Matt Boswell has been named the Male Athlete of the Year.

Arjes, a sophomore from Austin, was a three-sport athlete while playing volleyball, basketball and softball. In volleyball, she was second on the team with 42 blocks and had 142 kills on the season. Playing as the forward spot in basketball, she averaged over 8 points per contest and five rebounds while leading the team in steals with 42. In softball, the left-handed hitting first baseman led the Lady Blue Devils in home runs with 6, had seven doubles and drove in 16 runs while batting .304.

Bosell, a sophomore from Austin, Texas has been a two year standout for the baseball team.