Bradyball 2000!
The Rivermen baseball team is looking to keep its winning ways going into the next century with a veteran team.

See page 4

They’re Back!
For the first time in school history, the Rivermen basketball team has qualified for the GLVC tournament. For the latest on both the Rivermen and Riverwomen's tourney runs, turn to pages 2-3.

Take me out to the ballgame!
New coach, new players, aggressive baserunning could spell success for the Riverwomen softball team this season.

See page 5
Under Bernsen's command, Rivermen drift into unchartered GLVC waters

Team makes its first postseason tournament since 1995-1996

BY NICK BOWMAN

When former Riverman Mark Bernsen was chosen to be the head coach of the 1999-2000 UM-St. Louis men's basketball squad, there was a certain air in the Mark Twain Building that had been lacking in recent years.

With him, Bernsen brought a host of talent, bringing eight recruits from as far away as San Antonio (Terence Helbert) to as close as his own backyard at UM-Kansas City (Anthony Love). In all, only three players, Michael Coleman, Greg Ross and Kechan Jackson, were left behind from the dismal 6-22 record of a year ago.

Although the Rivermen dropped their sixth in a row Saturday, losing to St. Joseph's 78-61, the team clinched the eighth seed in the Great Lakes Valley Conference tournament. By doing this, the team qualifies for its first GLVC tournament in school history.

One point Bernsen has stressed to his team is its offensive attack. Down the stretch, the Rivermen's numbers haven't been consistent, and last Thursday, in a 74-72 loss to Indiana/Purdue Fort Wayne, the team shot about 50 percent from the field.

"As we enter this final run of games, the guys really need to improve their accuracy with the ball," Bernsen said.

Also, the defense is becoming too complacent, allowing opponents down the stretch to hit about 65 percent from the floor.

"We've got to tighten our defensive sets," Bernsen said. "As the season has progressed, a lot of players have let their defense slip too much."

Perhaps the greatest accomplishment that Bernsen has made, though, is the sense of pride that UM-St. Louis is starting to feel for its team.

"The turnouts have been amazing," Bernsen said. "I am very excited about the future of this team. We have a good nucleus returning to next year's squad and people have supported the team very well. The fans have finally given us a true home court advantage."

GLVC Men's Basketball Bracket

#1 Ky. Wesleyan
8:30 p.m., Mar. 2

#8 UM-St. Louis

#4 Indianapolis
2:30 p.m., Mar. 2

#5 Lewis

#3 N. Kentucky
7:00 p.m., Mar. 2

#6 IUPU-Ft. Wayne

#2 S. Indiana
6:00 p.m., Mar. 2

#7 Bellamine

Riverman Michael Hamilton (11) tries to inbound the ball against Wisconsin-Parkside. Hamilton and his teammates will have to pick up their games to overcome the loss of Terrence Herbert, the team's leading scorer and rebounder.
Riverwomen clinch third seed, still have loftier goals in mind

Team accomplishes preseason goal with 91-81 win over St. Joseph’s, sets sights on winning first ever GLVC conference title

By Nick Bowman
Staff Associate

For the second time in her three-year tenure, Riverwomen head coach Shelly Ethridge will lead her team into the Great Lakes Valley Conference tournament as a 91-81 win over St. Joseph’s on Saturday clinched the third seed in the GLVC tournament.

Five Riverwomen scored in double figures Saturday. The team was led by Tawanda Daniel and Sara Mauck, who scored 27 and 21 points respectively. Amanda Wentzel added 13, Pauline Harris scored 11 and Tanisha Albert scored 10 to help the Riverwomen’s cause.

The GLVC has been dubbed the conference of the decade by the NCAA Division II bulletin, and with good reason.

“The GLVC is an extremely competitive conference,” Ethridge said. “Every game we expect to be a tough one.”

One of the preseason goals that Ethridge, along with assistants Kevin Tuckson and Melanie Marcy, set for this year’s team was to finish in the top three in its conference. That goal was accomplished with Saturday’s victory.

“At the beginning of the season, these women had one goal in mind and they knew that the talent was there to achieve it,” Ethridge said.

Ethridge, whose overall record with the Riverwomen stands at 45-24, has made huge strides into developing UM-St. Louis into a perennial winner. Last year’s team advanced to the second round of the GLVC tournament, losing 64-62 to Bellarmine College.

But the first-round victory over cross-town rival Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville was the first postseason victory for the Riverwomen since the inaugural 1974-1975 squad won the AIAW tournament under Head Coach Rita Hoff.

“Our women definitely have their hearts set on higher things,” Ethridge said. “The GLVC title is well within our reach if we can keep our games sharp. Also, some of the veterans would really like to push for the NCAAs.”

UM-St. Louis enters the tournament on a roll with a thrilling 83-82 victory over Indiana/Purdue-Fort Wayne on Thursday.

UM-St. Louis shot an impressive 33-66 from the field, while hitting 62 percent of their shots from 3-point range.

Ethridge said defense decided the game. UM-St. Louis' swarming defense held the IUPU-Ft. Wayne deepball threat to 35 percent.

“One of the key factors in this game was to shut down their 3-point shot,” Ethridge said.

Daniel, playing with a torn meniscus in her knee that cut her playing time in half, still managed to drain nine buckets to lead the team in scoring at 18.

Albert, Wentzel and Mauck also hit double digits in scoring. Mauck played the whole 40 minutes.

“Coming down this final stretch, we’ve had a lot of bumps and bruises,” Ethridge said. “But it won’t change our style of play. We’re still going to attack for 40 minutes, and try to run for the title.”
Swinging for the fences

The Rivernow softball team takes fielding practice at their new home. The team will enjoy their first full season on the new field.

(RIGHT) Rivermen head coach Jim Brady works with catchers Scott Miller and Alex Ganahal on some defensive drills in practice.
Both baseball and softball teams are looking to improve on strong 1999.

Bradyball 2000 Preview

By Joe Harris
senior editor

After two trips to the College World Series, six seasons with 30 wins or more and almost 300 victories in the 90s, the Rivermen baseball team looks to continue its winning ways into the new century.

Rivermen head coach Jim Brady has a veteran club returning for the 2000 campaign that features a strong pitching rotation. Seth Hawkins will lead the staff which also includes Bob Kavran, Scott Johnson, Kevin Meyer, Tim Stringer and Lance Wilson.

Offensively, the Rivermen will be led by Tyler Bates, Joe Christian, Scott Luczak, Bob Stehman and Andy Warden.

The Rivermen also have several newcomers including freshmen pitcher Greg Bierling.

New Style for Softball team

By Dave Kohnworthy
staff editor

The Riverwomen’s softball team has a new look this season under first-year head coach Lesa Bonee’. UM-St. Louis looks to capitalize upon its fourth place finish last year with a squad made of primarily juniors and seniors.

“The biggest change you will see is the way that we run the bases,” Bonee’ said. “We are very aggressive. We are going to force the issue. We are going to put the ball into play and make things happen. We will have a very aggressive defense.”

In their own ballpark for the second year, UM-St. Louis looks to improve upon last year’s 32-21 record overall, and 12-6 in conference.

2000 Rivermen Baseball Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tyler Bates</td>
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2000 Riverwomen Softball Roster

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<tr>
<td>Amy Schriber</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kristina Romero-Walsh</td>
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</tr>
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Despite injuries, Blues look to pull a Rams in the NHL playoffs

Many teams in the National Hockey League in the lower half of the standings this year are playing for pride and not for playoff contention.

This is not the case for the St. Louis Blues who, as of press time, are the top team in the NHL.

The Blues have gone 8-2 in the month of February and have a current road winning streak of nine games. The NHL record for the longest road winning streak is ten games and the Blues have a chance to tie that when they travel to Atlanta to face the expansion Thrashers on Thursday night.

As they gear up for the playoffs, the Blues hope to continue the success and get everyone healthy. The team has experienced a number of difficult setbacks in the last few weeks with Al MacInnis re-injuring his back and Pierre Turgeon hurting his thumb.

Hopefully both of these players will be healthy for the playoffs. With these two players back, the Blues will be able to make the long haul through the playoffs and possibly bring home the Stanley Cup.

The Blues seem to have tremendous depth this year, and actually have a better record with Turgeon and MacInnis out of the lineup.

With the steady play of Lubos Bartecko, Michael Handzus and Marty Reasoner, the Blues players have downplayed their success lately, mainly because they know the road to the playoffs and possibly the Stanley Cup.

”When we lost those players, our depth chart took a major hit,” Schaub said. “Our talent really didn’t suffer, but our depth wasn’t there.”

Coming out from the break, the Rivermen showed no signs of relenting, winning their first couple of games by respectable margins. But key injuries to Alberti, who tore the meniscus in his left knee, along with the loss of Josh Ulrich (separated shoulder) and Matt Brinker (broken ankle) shaved even more men off of the depth chart.

“Whe we lost those guys, it was really tough to keep everyone up the chart and keep guys in the game more than we usually would have.”

The Rivermen couldn’t overcome every obstacle, however, and slowly the national tournament slipped away from their grasp.

A silver lining, however, was in the distance as Matt Carapella, the Rivermen’s third line center, took the opportunity to show that the Rivermen were still hanging around. In a crucial game against the College of DuPage, he led off the third period with spectacular play that turned many heads.

“I was very pleased with Carapella’s line,” Schaub said. “They showed some of our go-to men a thing or two about hockey and stood up to the pressure of a crucial game.”

Also, Brinker, who bounced back from his injury and played exceptionally well despite soreness in the ankle, along with Tom Knackley and Jon Figgemeier, jockeyed for position on the team.

With the national tournament out of reach, the Rivermen set their sights on the Midwest Athletic Collegiate Hockey Association title. Coming into the last game of the season, UM-St. Louis was tied with Bradley University for the fourth and final spot in the MACHA tournament. Bradley would come back from a 2-1 deficit and tie the contest 2-2 with 23 left. Bradley would lose their contest to No. 1 Illinois, sending the Rivermen to Chicago for the brackets. But Schaub, having only six healthy players, declined the invitation.

“The conference tournament was we used our preseason goals,” Schaub said. “But sending only six men to the conference would not be enough to play in a tournament, let alone push for the conference title.”

Key injuries plague hockey team down the stretch

By Nick Bowman

Before the season, not much was said about Rivermen hockey, mainly due to its club status. But after a 9-0 start in which the team averaged seven goals per game, word went around that this team could be for real.

Add to this a rugged defense, anchored by team captain Craig Duffy and Josh Ulrich, and the Rivermen are a threat to any opposing team. UM-St. Louis also had three solid netminders in freshmen Shaun Kasen and Dan Schauman and senior Nathan Frankenberger.

Hockey fans saw that UM-St. Louis was one of the up-and-coming teams to be reckoned with.

With the success, an invitation to the American Collegiate Hockey Association national championship tournament was on the Rivermen’s minds.

All was in place for the tournament heading into the Christmas break. Ben Gilbertson (filling in for Ryan Craig, who was injured in the pre-season) had led the Mid-American Collegiate Hockey Association in goals for the first half of the season. Duffy was anchoring the defense, and Schuerman began to emerge as the top goaltender. Rocky Alberti was emerging as an offensive defenseman, and head coach Derek Schaub had his team poised for the national tournament.

“I was exceptionally pleased with Dan [Schuerman’s] play,” Schaub said. “He had a rough game against [then No. 1] Northern Illinois University, but he bounced back. He should be our go-to man next year.”

Rivermen forward Joe Figgemeier (24) battles for the puck in the offensive zone earlier in the season.
Men's tennis looks to improve on last year's fourth place finish

by Dave Kinworth||y

The men's tennis program is coming off a stellar year as the team finished fourth in the Great Lakes Valley Conference, losing to the previously 14th ranked team in the nation, Southern Indiana.

The Rivermen hope to equal or surpass last season's accomplishments with a lineup that features three seniors, three juniors and three sophomores.

Senior Scott Goodyear, a first-team, All-GLVC selection last season and Parkway West graduate, is the No. 1 singles and doubles player for the Rivermen this season.

“Scott is probably going to do somewhere fighting for the sixth spot in singles and one of the top three spots in doubles,” Gyllenborg said.

The third senior and captain of the Rivermen tennis team is Townsend Morris. Gyllenborg looks to Morris to lead UM-St. Louis to a winning season.

“He is probably going to be in the three spot,” Gyllenborg said. “He will probably be in the No. 3 doubles area also.”

Gyllenborg believes these three seniors are the core of the team that holds them together.

“They bring experience and have played in this conference now for four years now,” Gyllenborg said. “They bring leadership and basically I am looking for the seniors to play with a little more confidence than in the past. I want them to put the maximum amount of effort, teamwork and sportsmanship on the line. I expect a lot from them in all areas.”

One of the prized junior transfers that the Rivermen have this season is Minh Phan, from Kilgore Community College in Texas.

“He was a second team All-American and is right now going to fill the No. 2 singles spot and the No. 1 doubles spot with Scott Goodyear,” Gyllenborg said. “He finished in the top 50 nationally ranked players in Division II Junior College and can play both singles and doubles at a high level. He can play the baseline and at the net with very a good court game. He is going to be a very solid player for us and I think that he will rise to the occasion.”

Josh Heape, a junior transfer from Jefferson Community College, will be a welcome addition to the UM-St. Louis team as well.

“He will help add a lot of depth to this team this year,” Gyllenborg said. “He will probably play No. 3 or No. 4 singles and No. 2 doubles.”

The last of the sophomores is Brad Houx, a transfer from Jefferson Community College and graduate of Lee’s Summit.

“He is looking to make the lineup in both singles and doubles,” Gyllenborg said.

The Rivermen lost two players over the past offseason due to the departure of David Crowell, a senior who graduated early and Andy Coon, who has moved to a position on the team as a volunteer coach.

Despite only having nine players on the roster this season, Gyllenborg remains optimistic about this season and his team’s capabilities.

“We improved dramatically from last year to this year with four transfers,” Gyllenborg said. “The problem is that we have already seen a couple of the teams that were above us [Southern Indiana and Indianapolis] and the hopes are to move out of the fourth spot. Obviously our goal is to win the GLVC Championships. But after seeing both Indianapolis and Southern Indiana, we got better, but we know that they got better too. If we can get into that championship match though, we have the talent to play with anybody, but it won’t be easy.”

Rec sports expects competitive finale to spring intramurals

by Chris Bunce

Intramurals has played a major role in rejuvenating Rec Sports, and the spring season is already underway.

Volleyball intramurals are through the first half of the schedule and beginning the second half. Two leagues play on Monday nights with the “A” and “B” leagues. On top of the “A” league is the I.T.N. team with a record of 8-0, with The Fish blowing down their necks.

In the “B” league, The Spikers are atop the division.

For the “A” league, the playoffs begin March 20 and the “B” league playoffs begin March 13.

According to Pam Steinmetz, the intramural coordinator at UM-St. Louis, the camaraderie of all teams is great to witness.

“The ‘A’ league is very close with great competition and the top two will probably win the championship,” Steinmetz said. “They play on Monday nights at either 7:00 or 7:45. I hope that everyone can come out and take a look.”

The basketball intramurals are also at the midpoint of their season as well. Atop the standings are Bling Bling with a record of 3-0. Also tied with Bling Bling are last year's defending champion Midwest Maulers.

With only the top four teams making the playoffs, Steinmetz thinks it looks to be a close finish.

“The division is going well and it is very exciting,” Steinmetz said. “I can't wait to get to the playoffs.” The games are on Tuesday nights at 7:00, 8:00, 9:00 and 10:00 in the Mark Twain building.

Also in the mix with volleyball and basketball comes indoor soccer, which has become very competitive over the previous years.

With the regular season ending last week, Meadows United finished first with a record of 4-0. The playoffs begin this Wednesday with Meadows United taking on IBID 2.

“The league is going well, and Meadows United looked very good especially after bouncing back from outdoor soccer,” Steinmetz said.

A UM-St. Louis tennis player serves in a match last year. The team enters the 2000 season with hopes to become one of the elite in the GLVC.
Repeating as Super Bowl champions may be difficult

Once the Super Bowl Champions, now the washed up team without the nucleus to complete two in a row. This is the motto for the majority of the National Football League teams after they win the unforgettable championship (the exception is the Denver Broncos).

Once is enough for some players and then they move on to the bigger contract brought so much enthusiasm to the franchise making it hard to earn. Can you blame the players who are earning under $1 million to start on the Super Bowl Champion St. Louis Rams?

The Rams are going by the wayside as the team has lost its starting center and a defensive specialist. Are they going to be able to resign Todd Lyght? Are they going to be able to resign Orlando Pace? What is next to come for the team that brought so much enthusiasm to the team with the nucleus to start the season?

A loss for words was inevitable ever since the Rams won the Super Bowl and now the reality is setting in. The once prominent Rams organization is letting all of their key players slip through the lines of free agency only to make the good teams get better. Can the Rams compete if they do not do anything over the offseason? The answer is a resounding no.

It was hard to win the Super Bowl, but it is going to be even harder to win it without some of your key offensive linemen. Maybe the whole strategy is that the Rams do not need defense to win football games. Maybe the whole ploy is to pass and run the ball so that the other team does not even get to have the ball the entire game. Good luck then!

With all of the veteran players that the Minnesota Vikings and the Buffalo Bills have recently let go, why aren't the Rams making any kind of pitch to acquire a quality Pro Bowl player?

There are all of these questions and no answers from the Rams' front office. They must just be satisfied with our Super Bowl Championship and now it is time to unload the low paid players who are due for bigger contracts. Are they the Florida Marlins of football?

The ploy of fans is for the Rams organization to make an effort to put a quality Super Bowl contender team on the field for next year. Do not allow all of these teams (Tennessee and Green Bay just to name a couple) to strengthen their teams without some other motive in mind.

St. Louis was a great town to be spoiled by a championship, now it is hard to win it without some of your key offensive linemen.