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## **SIX MVC COWBOYS PREPARE FOR CNFR IN CASPER, WYOMING**

*College National Finals Rodeo set for June 15-21.*

**Marshall, Mo.** (May 21, 2008)—Although school is out and the Missouri Valley College rodeo Vikings have ended the regular season with the NIRA Ozark Region title, they haven't put up their spurs just yet.

Six MVC cowboys are spending their first few weeks of summer break preparing for the College National Finals Rodeo, which begins June 15 in Casper, Wyo.

According to the CNFR Web site, College cowboys and cowgirls from eleven different regions in the United States and four Canadian Provinces enter the CNFR arena in an effort to win national titles in saddle bronc, bareback, bull riding, steer wrestling, calf roping, team roping, barrel racing, breakaway roping, and goat tying.

"We're so pleased with the efforts of these student-athletes," said MVC President Bonnie Humphrey. "They have an extremely long season and travel all over the country. To remain at the top of their game in their sport and in the classroom is an extraordinary accomplishment. I'm thrilled with the national recognition these student-athletes bring to themselves, our rodeo program, and the Institution."

MVC ended the regular season leading the NIRA national rankings with 7,905 points.

The six qualifiers for CNFR rodeo are: Jake Shaw, sophomore from Cocoa, Fla., who will compete in steer wrestling; Will Smith, freshman from Lugoff, S.C., who will compete in saddle bronc riding; Kyle Brennecke, sophomore from Grain Valley, Mo., who will compete in bareback riding; Kirk Nelson, senior from Sanborn, Minn., who will compete in saddle bronc riding; David Clapp, sophomore from Lykers, Pa., who will compete in bareback riding; and Cooper Link, senior from Louisburg, Kan., who will compete in bull riding.

"I'm so proud that Missouri Valley is being represented at the national level," said Ken Mason, MVC head rodeo coach. "Physically, financially, and mentally, this is a big trip. These kids work extremely hard throughout the year for this opportunity."

2008 marks the 60th year for the CNFR rodeo. The first was held in 1949 in San Francisco, Calif., at the famed Cow Palace. The year began with what we term a celebration of collegiate athletics and the western heritage we hold dear.

Student-athletes will also be competing for over \$200,000 in scholarships from the U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Co. Scholarship Awards Program.

For information on how to support the Viking cowboys as they head to Casper, Wyo., contact Ken Mason, head rodeo coach, at (660) 831-5286 or [masonk@moval.edu](mailto:masonk@moval.edu); or the Office of Institutional Advancement at (660) 831-4177. For more information about the CNFR rodeo visit [www.cnfr.com](http://www.cnfr.com).

**ABOUT MISSOURI VALLEY COLLEGE**

Missouri Valley College is a liberal arts college that provides educational, social and cultural experiences in a decidedly Christian environment. Established in 1889, MVC offers 28 majors and 7 pre-professional programs, and 12 sports and 20 varsity teams. The liberal arts heritage focuses on scholarship, critical thinking and academic excellence to prepare students to become members of a responsible citizenry. For more information, call (660) 831-4000 or visit [www.moval.edu](http://www.moval.edu).

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