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LEGENDARY MVC COACH HONORED WITH NAMING OF FOOTBALL STADIUM

Dedication ceremony to take place during Homecoming festivities.

Marshall, Mo. (October 9, 2009)—The Missouri Valley College Board of Trustees have announced the naming of the football stadium as Volney C. Ashford Stadium at the official dedication ceremony, which is set for Saturday, Oct. 17 at the MVC Athletic Hall of Fame Luncheon. Gregg-Mitchell Field will remain the namesake of the field where the stadium stands to honor the families of the original donors.

In July Coach Ashford was posthumously inducted into the National Football Foundation College Hall of Fame. From 1941-47, Ashford led the Viking football team to a 41-game winning streak. Ashford coached the Vikings for 30 years from 1937 to 1967. According to the research of the NCAA and the NAIA records, the MVC win streak ranks 5th all-time for all divisions of college football.

Ashford graduated from MVC in 1931 and became head coach of the Vikings in 1937. Following the 41-game winning streak, Ashford led the Vikings to unanimous national acclaim as the number one small college team in the country in 1949.

He was named *Little All-American Coach of the Year* in 1950 and twice received the NAIA *Award of Merit*. In 1959, he was named *NAIA Coach of the Year*, and his overall record of 197-55-12 ranks him in the top 10 of all-time college coaches.

“Coach Ashford was an incredible coach, teacher, administrator and alumni to the institution, and his loyalty and devotion to our college has earned him this honor, which will forever be a part of MVC history,” said Bonnie Humphrey, MVC president. “This honor will forever memorialize the standards and ideals of the true Viking spirit.”

Ashford is a member of the MVC Athletic Hall of Fame, the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame, the Helms Foundation Coaches Hall of Fame, and the Helms Foundation National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics Hall of Fame. He helped found the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and received the Rockne Award for his contribution to athletics. Ashford passed away in 1973.

John Ashford, Coach Ashford’s son and 1971 MVC alumnus will be at the official announcement to comment on his father’s behalf.

Missouri Valley College Homecoming is set for Oct. 16-17. For a complete schedule, visit <http://www.moval.edu/ALUMNI/homecoming.asp>. For more information on Homecoming activities or to make reservations contact Jodi White at whitej@moval.edu or call (660) 831-4177.

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 over 30 majors and 7 pre-professional programs, and 15 sports. The most popular majors include education and business, and the newest majors are nursing, graphic design, dance, and hospitality/tourism management, which will begin in Fall 2009. 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.

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