VIKING FOOTBALL DROPS SEASON OPENER AT OTTAWA SATURDAY

Marshall, Mo. (September 14, 2013)- The No. 2 Missouri Valley College football team went on the road Saturday evening to No. 18 Ottawa (Kan.) University, taking part in the KCAC/HAAC Challenge. The Vikings outgained Ottawa, and held the ball for over ten more minutes than the Braves, but Ottawa came away with a 20-6 victory over the Vikings in a rematch from the opening round of the 2012 NAIA Football Championship Series.

Things got off to a rough start for MVC when Ottawa came away with a turnover deep inside Viking territory on the first drive of the game. It took Ottawa just one play to score the game’s opening points, on an 18-yard touchdown, giving the Braves an early 7-0 lead.

The Vikings and Braves traded punts on their second drives of the game, but MVC was able to move the ball on its third drive. The Vikings worked on a short field after a 25-yard kickoff return by Defensive Back Tyler Davis (St. Louis, Mo.) and found the endzone five plays later when Junior Quarterback Bruce Reyes (Beaumont, Texas connected with Sophomore Fullback Del’Von Franklin (Hawk Point, Mo.) in a 33-yard touchdown pass. The extra point was missed and the Vikings trailed 7-6 midway through the first quarter.

The Viking defense responded after the touchdown and forced Ottawa to punt after three plays. A 28-yard punt return by Junior Wide Receiver Jarell Davis (Merced, Calif.) set MVC up inside the Ottawa 40-yard line. In what would become a regular occurrence for the MVC offense, the Vikings got the ball inside the Ottawa 25-yard line, but turned the ball over on downs at the Ottawa 22-yard line. Again the Viking defense forced a three-and-out against the Braves, and the Viking offense took over near midfield. After completing his first four passes in the drive, Reyes was picked off on a third-and-eight play at the Ottawa 24-yard line, and the Vikings turned the ball over again deep in Ottawa territory, this time early in the second quarter.
Both teams traded punts early on their next drives, but Ottawa broke through and extend its lead around the nine-minute mark of the second quarter with a 46-yard touchdown pass-play, giving the Braves a 13-6 lead after the extra point was missed. The ensuing kickoff was returned by Jarell Davis to near midfield, and the Vikings looked to mount a game tying drive, moving the ball to within the Ottawa 20-yard line on eight plays. However, the Vikings turned the ball over going for it on fourth down, giving Ottawa the ball at their own 20-yard line.

The Viking defense kept Ottawa from getting any momentum on offense on their next possession as Junior Defensive Lineman Ty Philips (East St. Louis, Ill.) picked up his first sack of the season and Senior Defensive Lineman Kaleig Mohommed (Kansas City, Mo.) also came away with a tackle for loss to force Ottawa to punt deep in its own territory. Both teams again traded punts late in the second quarter, but the Vikings found themselves with the ball near midfield when Tyler Davis took a punt return 34-yards with just over 90-seconds remaining in the half. MVC drove Ottawa 16-yard line, picking up a 21-yard pass play when Reyes hooked up with Freshman Wide Receiver Darrian Turk (Silsbee, Texas) early in the drive, but a 33-yard field goal attempt by Junior Kicker Dan Mouro (Hilmar, Calif.) sailed wide left, and the teams went into halftime with Ottawa holding onto a 13-6 lead.

Ottawa took the opening kickoff of the second half, but punted after only three plays, as the Viking defense held their ground helped by Phillip’s second sack of the game. A short Ottawa punt gave MVC the ball just shy of midfield, and the Vikings put together one of the most impressive drives of the game. MVC drove 40 yards in nine plays, setting up another field goal attempt for Mouro. The 35-yard attempt was blocked by Ottawa, and returned 65-yards for a touchdown. The extra point gave Ottawa a 20-6 lead early in the third quarter.

On their next drive, the Vikings moved the ball even deeper into Ottawa territory setting up a fourth and goal from the Ottawa eight yard line, but a Reyes pass to Sophomore Wide Receiver Jacoby Bellard (Beaumont, Texas) was stopped at the two yard line, and the Braves took over possession. The two teams traded punts through the rest of the third quarter and into the early portions of the fourth quarter, until MVC put together another 10-play drive that took the ball within...
the Ottawa 20 yard line. On a fourth down attempt Reyes was sacked, stopping another promising drive for the Vikings, and maintained the Ottawa 20-6 lead.

On the next Ottawa drive, the Viking defense stepped up again, this time forcing a fumble inside Ottawa territory. Senior Linebacker Danny Reyes (Hesperia, Calif.) recovered the fumble and returned it to the Ottawa 15 yard line with just over 7-minutes left in the game. However the Ottawa defense made a big play of its own, intercepting a Reyes pass in the endzone to again keep MVC off the board, despite having the ball deep inside Ottawa territory.

The Vikings had two more attempts at getting points on the board late in the fourth quarter, but Ottawa came up with another interception, this time at the 18 yard line, and forced another turnover on downs by MVC after MVC had the ball at the Ottawa 26 yard line. Ottawa was able to run out the clock, and defeat the Vikings 20-6.

Leading the way offensively for MVC was Reyes who went 33 of 58 for 299 yards passing with one touchdown and three interceptions. The leading rusher was Freshman Running Back Malachi Daniels (Branson, Mo.) who picked up 67 yards on 16 carries. Twelve different Vikings had a reception in the game, led by Turk (Silsbee, Texas) who had seven receptions for 63 yards. Franklin had the lone touchdown for MVC on a pass reception. Jarell Davis finished with 134 total yards in the game.

Defensively the Vikings were led by Philips who had five solo tackles, two sacks, and four tackles for loss in the game. Brad Avila had three solo and two assists, while Mohommed and Junior Defensive Back Michael Barnes (Beaumont, Texas) each had a sack. The Vikings only allowed 27 total yards rushing in the game.

As a team the Vikings had 28 first downs, compared to Ottawa’s eight. The Vikings also ran 99 plays for 407 total yards, while Ottawa ran 49 plays for only 153 yards.

The loss drops MVC to 0-1 on the season while Ottawa improves to 1-1. This is the first regular season loss for MVC since a 35-19 defeat to Benedictine College on Oct. 15, 2011.
The Vikings will host No. 10 MidAmerica Nazarene University for Family Weekend Saturday Sept. 21. Kickoff is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. at Gregg-Mitchell Field.

ABOUT MISSOURI VALLEY COLLEGE
Known for its dynamic, richly diverse, and friendly educational environment, Missouri Valley College offers many opportunities to grow in mind, body, and spirit. Grounded in the liberal arts, undergraduate studies empower students to master interdisciplinary skills needed to succeed in a knowledge-based global society. MVC offers over 40 academic programs, study abroad program, honors program, extracurricular activities, and 13 sports. The most popular majors include education and business, and some new majors are ag-business, nursing, graphic design, and health information systems (associate degree). Above all, Valley is committed to student success. For more information, call (660) 831-4000 or visit www.moval.edu.