MVC SOCCER SPLITS MATCHES WITH OTTAWA TUESDAY NIGHT

Marshall, Mo. (October 1, 2013)- The Missouri Valley College men’s and women’s soccer teams hosted Ottawa University in non-conference matchups Tuesday night at Gregg-Mitchell Field. The MVC women held an early lead, but were defeated by Ottawa 2-1. The men’s team only needed one first half goal to defeat Ottawa 1-0.

The MVC women’s team took control of the match early and were able to get nine shots off in the first half, four of which were on goal. The Vikings were able to breakthrough at the 29-minute mark when a shot by Freshman Midfielder Riley Kerr (St. Peters, Mo.) hit the bottom of the crossbar and went down into the goal, to give MVC a 1-0 lead. Both teams had opportunities for another goal before halftime, but MVC went into the break with a 1-0 lead.

Things went MVC’s way to start the second half, as the Vikings got off seven shots in the first 14-minutes of play in the half, but could not add to the lead. A shot by Senior Defender Kelsey Hieb (St. Peters, Mo.) early in the half bounced off the cross bar, and the Ottawa team made five saves in the half. Ottawa would tie up the score though at 1-1 at the 66-minute mark. Then with just over two minutes remaining Ottawa found the game-winning goal off a free kick, and the Braves held on for a 2-1 victory.

Riley scored her third goal of the season, all coming within the last three matches. The Vikings outshot Ottawa 18-10 in the match and Senior Keeper Erikka Diarte (Stockton, Calif.) made five saves in the match, but it was not enough to come away with the victory.

The loss dropped MVC to 7-3-1 on the season, and it was the team’s second straight loss. Ottawa improved to 4-4-1 with the win.

On the men’s side the Vikings had plenty of early opportunities, testing the Ottawa keeper throughout the first half with 12 total shots, including eight that
were on goal. Midway through the first half the Vikings were able to score a goal thanks to Sophomore Midfielder Carlos Berastain Munar (Palma de Mallorca, Spain) in the 25th minute. Ottawa had chances of their own, but the Vikings took the 1-0 lead into halftime. The Vikings kept the pressure on in the second half and limited Ottawa to just five total shots, but MVC could not build on the one goal lead and eventually outlasted Ottawa 1-0 for the victory.

Munar scored his third goal of the season as the Vikings had 22 shots. Senior Keeper Josh Wells (Kent, England) finished with eight saves in the match and recorded his sixth shutout of the season.

The Vikings improved to 8-1-1 on the season while Ottawa dropped to 2-7.

The Viking men’s and women’s soccer teams will travel to Benedictine College Saturday for a Heart of America Athletic Conference doubleheader. The women’s game starts at 5:30 p.m. and the men’s game is scheduled for a 7:30 p.m. start. The men’s game will feature two top 10 teams as the Vikings enter the match ranked No. 10 and the Ravens are ranked No. 7 in this week’s NAIA Men’s Soccer Coaches’ Top 25 Poll.

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.