MVC WOMEN’S BASKETBALL DROPS SEASON OPENER TO WILLIAM PENN

Marshall, Mo. (November 1, 2013)- The Missouri Valley College women’s basketball team opened its 2013-2014 season on the road at William Penn University. The Vikings hung with William Penn for much of the game, but eventually fell 81-68.

The Vikings found themselves in an early hole as William Penn quickly built up a 5-0 lead just minutes into the game. The Vikings bounced back and eventually grabbed a 15-12 lead at the 12:51 mark thanks to a three-point field goal by Senior Forward Gabi Morales (Bakersfield, Calif.). Senior Forward Brielle Martinez (Hamilton, N.J.) made a layup to give MVC a 17-15 lead just two minutes later, but William Penn put together a run to grab control of the lead. The two point lead for MVC turned into a 16-point deficit as William Penn went on a 22-6 run over a seven minute period in the first half to grab a 37-21 lead. The Vikings finished the half strong, scoring the final four points before halftime, but William Penn took a 43-33 lead into the break. The Vikings held the advantage in points in the paint by a 15-10 margin, and points off turnovers by an 11-8 margin at halftime, but allowed William Penn to shoot 41.6-percent from the floor, compared to just 31.6-percent for the Vikings.

Sophomore Guard Rayna Smith (St. Louis, Mo.) opened the second half with a three-point field goal, and Martinez followed things up with another layup to quickly cut William Penn’s lead to 43-38. William Penn responded and went on a 12-0 run over the next three minutes to extend the lead to 55-38, the largest lead of the game. The Vikings then traded baskets with William Penn through much of the second half. Eventually the Vikings cut the deficit to 73-60 with just over five minutes remaining thanks to two free throws by Junior Guard TaLaya Earls
(Indianapolis, Ind.), but William Penn held on and eventually defeated the Vikings 81-68.

Leading the way for MVC was Morales who finished with 23 points, on 9 of 21 shooting, eight rebounds and four blocked shots. Sophomore Guard Julia Vasquez (Earth, Texas) was also in double-figures with 14 points, three steals and two assists. The Vikings forced 19 William Penn turnovers, and beat William Penn on the offensive glass by a 14-12 margin.

The loss drops MVC to 0-1 on the season, but William Penn improves to 2-0 this year.

The Vikings will have their home debut Monday evening hosting No. 19 William Woods at the Burns Athletic Complex. The women’s game will be at 5:30 p.m. and the men’s game with William Woods will be at 7:30 p.m. Monday.

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.