MEN’S WRESTLING OPENS SEASON AT OCU OPEN SUNDAY

Marshall, Mo. (November 3, 2013)- The No. 3 Missouri Valley College men’s wrestling team opened its 2013-2014 season by taking part in the Oklahoma City University Open Sunday. The Vikings had two medalists, including a first place finisher at the event.

In the 125 pound weight class No. 7 Sophomore Ryan Stearns (Williston, Vt.) dropped a quarterfinal match, but picked up two wins in the consolation bracket, the first over Cooper Finch of University of Central Oklahoma by a 4-2 decision then Stearns defeated Eli Hale who was wrestling Unattached by a 4-3 decision. Stearns was eliminated in the consolation semifinals by Ryan Brooks who was wrestling Unattached in an 11-0 decision.

In the 133 pound weight class No. 12 Sophomore Todd Brackett (Farmington, Mo.) lost his quarterfinal matchup. After receiving two bye’s in the consolation bracket, Brackett was eliminated by Brian Crutchmer who was wrestling Unattached in an 8-2 decision.

No. 16 Junior Brian Bitney (Puyallup, Wash.) opened his day with a loss to Davey Dolan who was wrestling Unattached from Oklahoma State University in a technical fall in the 141 pound weight class. Bitney then won his first consolation matchup with Michael Martin wrestling Unattached from Oklahoma State in a 7-0 decision. In the next round Bitney was eliminated after dropping a 16-7 decision to Dalton Dennis of Oklahoma.

In the 157 pound weight class Junior Jared Sterling (Tacoma, Wash.) lost his opening matchup, but earned a win in his first consolation bracket match. Sterling defeated Trevor Sterling of Oklahoma City University in an 8-1 decision, but he was defeated in the next round by Hunter Muskrat of Oklahoma City University in an 8-5 decision.
No. 7 Junior Riley Boomer (Sheridan, Mich.) won his quarterfinal match in the 174 pound weight class over Matt Reed of Oklahoma in an 11-5 decision. Boomer then lost in the semifinals to No. 2 Jose Alvarez of Wayland Baptist University in a 10-4 decision, and was also defeated by Easton Hargrave in a first period pin in the consolation semifinals.

In the 197 pound weight class No. 3 Senior Josh Manu (North Providence, R.I.) worked his way to the championship match with a second round 13-5 major decision victory over Brad Johnson who was wrestling Unattached from Oklahoma State University. Manu then defeated Michael Connor who was wrestling Unattached from Central Oklahoma University in a 13-8 decision. In the semifinals, Manu beat Ben Laures of Oklahoma State University in a first period pin. In the championship match, Manu defeated Justin Rockhill of New Mexico Highlands in a first period pin to win the weight class.

Also in the 197 pound weight class Senior Carl Lawrence (Sullivan, Mo.) won his first round match over Taylor Baird of Bethany in a 7-4 decision. Lawrence eventually lost his next match, and was eliminated after losing by injury default.

In the 285 pound weight class No. 9 Junior Daniel Mueller (Collinsville, Ill.) took third place. Mueller earned a first round, first period pin of Michael Mahoney of Texas. Mueller then defeated Lorenzo Serna of Newman in a 4-0 decision to advance to the semifinals. Markese Christian defeated Mueller in the semifinals in a first period pin. In his first consolation match Mueller defeated No. 11 Zach Anderson of Bethany in a 4-1 decision and earned his third place finish with a 3-1 decision victory over Ethan Driver wrestling Unattached from Oklahoma State University.

The Vikings also had participants in the OCU Open Freshman and Sophomore Open. However, none of the entrants wrestled in the medal round.

The Vikings will next be in action on Nov. 16 when they host the HAAC Duals at the Burns Athletic Complex.

ABOUT MISSOURI VALLEY COLLEGE
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information systems (associate degree). Above all, Valley is committed to student success. For more information, call (660) 831-4000 or visit www.moval.edu.