CHAD LANCE SETS ALL-TIME WINS MARK FOR MVC MEN’S BASKETBALL

Marshall, Mo. (November 4, 2013)- On Saturday Nov. 2, the Missouri Valley College men’s basketball team defeated Hannibal-LaGrange University 80-63 to open its 2013-2014 season. While the Vikings moved to 1-0 on the season, the win meant something else for Coach Chad Lance. The season opening victory was win No. 144 in Coach Lance’s career, making him the all-time wins leader for the MVC men’s basketball program. Coach Lance entered the season tied with MVC Athletic Hall of Famer Grover C. Redford for the most men’s basketball wins of all-time, he now stands alone atop the list.

“Being mentioned in the same category with Coach Redford is unimaginable,” says Lance. “I can’t quite contemplate having my name being in the same discussion as him, or some of the other great coaches that have been at Missouri Valley over the years.”

To illustrate Lance’s point, the Viking basketball teams play home games in a facility named after the legendary coach; Grover C. Redford Gymnasium.

Chad Lance came to Missouri Valley College in 1994 as a student, and despite a brief stint at Hannibal-LaGrange, has been with the Viking men’s basketball program ever since. He played for the men’s basketball team under current MVC Athletic Director Tom Fifer and then spent time as an assistant coach, before taking over the head coaching duties in the 2003-2004 season.
“It’s indescribable, really, coaching at my alma mater,” says Lance. “I’ve worn the jersey, gone through some great wins and tough losses, but it’s an amazing feeling to be coaching where I went to school.”

Lance knows that while his name will be the one that sits atop the wins list, there have been a number of people that have helped him get to this point. Most important of which is the support he gets at home from his wife Ellen and their two kids, Jace and Jada Rae.

“The support system off the court helps to keep me motivated,” says Lance. “Ellen is an alum of Missouri Valley also, and the wins and losses affect her just as much as they do me. Plus, it’s great to have my kids out at the games, supporting the team. Everyone in my family bleeds purple and orange.”

In addition to his family, Lance credits past players and coaches for helping create a positive and winning environment for the men’s basketball program that has helped him through the years. Assistant Coach Ramone Powell has been a part of the program for nearly a decade as a player and a coach. Coach Powell worked behind the scenes leading up to Saturday’s game to help commemorate Lance’s achievement.

“Coach Powell contacted a lot of guys for a video that they created for me,” says Lance. “It’s always great to see past players, see them grow up and tell them how important they are to the program.”

With the all-time wins achievement out of the way, Lance is now focused on getting this year’s team to play at a high level.

“Having played at and attended Missouri Valley, this is a very important place for me and my family,” says Lance. “I look forward to the future of the College and the men’s basketball program.”

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.