MVC MEN’S SOCCER BEATS GRACELAND IN HAAC TOURNAMENT OPENER

Marshall, Mo. (November 8, 2013)- The No. 16 Missouri Valley College men’s soccer team hosted Graceland University in the opening round of the Heart of America Athletic Conference Tournament Friday evening at Gregg-Mitchell Field. Three second half goals helped push the Vikings to a 4-1 victory.

MVC was able to take early control of the match, thanks to a goal less than eight minutes after things started. Senior Forward Alberto Linan Gomez (Seville, Spain) put MVC ahead early after being set up by Junior Midfielder Ivan Ninkov (Pancevo, Serbia). The Vikings dominated much of play in the first half, getting off 11 total shots, compared to Graceland’s two shots. The Vikings also put five shots on goal, but good defense from Graceland kept MVC from adding to its lead. Despite the high number of shots for the Vikings, MVC went into the halftime break up 1-0.

Things got off to an even quicker start for MVC in the second half, as Gomez scored his second of the game just seconds after the restart off an assist from Junior Forward Tiago Ferreira (Sao Paulo, Brazil) to give MVC a 2-1 lead. Graceland responded, though, and cut into the Viking lead seven minutes later. The goal by Graceland cut MVC’s lead in half, at 2-1 with over 35-minutes remaining in the match. The Vikings though put things out of reach near the 59-minute mark when Ninkov scored off an assist by Sophomore Midfielder Carlos Berastain Munar (Palma de Mallorca, Spain), and MVC held a 3-1 lead. Graceland had chances to climb back into the match, but Senior Forward Nicholas Alexander (Manchester, England) put the game out of reach with less than three minutes remaining, giving MVC the 4-1 win.

Gomez now has 10 goals on the season, while Alexander increased his season goal total to 13. Ninkov collected his first goal and fourth assist of the year, and Ferreira notched his sixth assist. Meanwhile, Senior Keeper Josh Wells (Kent, England) came up with five saves in the match.
The win moves MVC’s record to 12-3-4 overall while Graceland’s season comes to an end at 7-8-3.

The Vikings now move on in postseason play and will travel to the top seed in the HAAC tournament, No. 7 MidAmerica Nazarene University. The two teams played to a 3-3 draw at Gregg-Mitchell Field Oct. 19. The semifinal match will be played Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. in Olathe, Kan.

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.