MVC MEN’S BASKETBALL BEATS OTTAWA, WOMEN’S BEAT HANNIBAL-LAGRANGE

Marshall, Mo. (November 12, 2013)- The Missouri Valley College men’s and women’s basketball teams both played at home Tuesday evening. The women’s team defeated Hannibal-LaGrange University 74-52, while the men’s team knocked off Ottawa University 67-62

The women’s team got off to a slow start against Hannibal-LaGrange, trailing by as many as six points, until midway through the first half. After trailing 9-3, the Vikings went on a quick 7-0 run that was capped off by a Junior Guard TayLaya Earls (Indianapolis, Ind.) field goal to give MVC a 10-9 lead. The two teams played even until late in the first half, when MVC took the lead for good thanks to a Junior Center Samantha Kixmiller (Kearney, Mo.) field goal to give MVC a 17-15 lead. The Vikings then scored 16 of the next 20 points, and went into the halftime break holding on to a 33-19 lead thanks to a Sophomore Guard Rayna Smith (St. Louis, Mo.) field goal right before the break. The Vikings shot over 43-percent from the field in the half, and limited the Trojans to just 27-percent shooting. The Vikings also beat Hannibal-LaGrange on the glass by a 24-23 margin.

Hannibal-LaGrange came out early in the second half, and started to mount a comeback. The Trojans quickly turned a 14-point deficit into a 36-32 game around the 13-minute mark of the first half. The Vikings responded and put together a 9-0 run to extend the lead back to double-digits, ending the run with a Senior Center Brielle Martinez (Hamilton, N.J.) free throw. The Vikings were able to keep a double-digit lead throughout the rest of the second half, and got their first 20-point lead when Junior Guard DeVaughna Jenkins (Fresno, Calif.) made a field goal to give MVC a 65-44 advantage. MVC was able to hold off the Trojans from there and came away with a 74-52 win.
Leading the way for MVC was Senior Forward Gabi Morales (Bakersfield, Calif.) who had 15 points and nine rebounds. Also in double digits were Earls with 13 points, seven rebounds, three steals and two assists, and Smith who finished with 11 points six rebounds and three assists. The Vikings shot over 42-percent in the game and forced Hannibal-LaGrange to turn the ball over 19 times.

The win improves MVC to 2-2 on the season while Hannibal-LaGrange falls to 0-3. Up next for the Vikings is a home game Friday at 7:00 p.m. against Missouri Baptist University.

The Vikings will have another home game Tuesday when they host Hannibal-LaGrange University. Tip-off is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Burns Athletic Complex.

In the men’s game, the Vikings found themselves in an early hole against Ottawa University. After briefly taking a 2-0 lead to start the game, Ottawa was able to slowly build up to a six point lead at the 12-minute mark. The Vikings responded, and turned things around, thanks to an 8-0 run that was capped off by a Junior Brad Hamilton (Pittsfield, Ill.) field goal two minutes later. The Braves came right back with a 15-5 run of their own over the next five minutes to grab their largest lead of the game at 29-21. The Vikings chipped away at the Braves lead through the rest of the half, and eventually retook the lead for good when Sophomore Raviel Burton (St. Johns, Antigua) hit a field goal with one minute left in the half to give MVC a 33-31 lead. Hamilton his a three-point just before halftime, and the Vikings led 36-31 lead at the half.

The Vikings dominated in rebounding in the half, by a 26-17 margin, and shot over 43-percent from the floor.

After MVC quickly extended their lead to seven points in the opening seconds of the second half, Ottawa was able to whittle the Viking advantage to 40-29 at the 16:30 mark, and tie the game at 43-43 with 14-minutes left in the game. The Vikings retook the lead one possession later at 45-43 thanks to a Junior Johnny Brown (Kansas City, Mo.) field goal. MVC never let Ottawa get things back to a tie game, but could never build a lead of over five points through the rest of the half. Ottawa was able to get to within one point at 63-62 with 20-seconds
remaining, but Brown and Hamilton each hit two free throws apiece to hold off Ottawa and come away with a 67-62 win.

Leading the way for MVC was Burton who had a double-double of 10 points and 17 rebounds with eight blocks. Senior Jim Thomas (St. Louis, Mo.) finished with 17 points and five rebounds and Sophomore Jacob Powell (Marshfield, Mo.) had 14 points. The Vikings forced Ottawa into 14 turnovers, and limited the Braves to just 34-percent shooting.

The win improves MVC to 4-1 on the season while Ottawa drops to 2-3. The Vikings are off to their best start since the 2010-2011 season.

Up next, the Vikings will travel to Friends University for a non-conference matchup Saturday at 2:00 p.m. in Wichita, Kan.

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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.