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Media Relations Contact:

Andy Pulverenti, sports information director, (660) 831-4230, pulverentia@moval.edu

MVC WOMEN’S WRESTLING HOSTS LARGEST WOMEN’S COLLEGE OPEN IN THE COUNTRY SATURDAY

Marshall, Mo. (November 16, 2013)- The No. 9 Missouri Valley College women’s wrestling team hosted the MVC Open Saturday at the Burns Athletic Complex. The event was the largest collegiate women’s wrestling event in the country, in terms of the number of participants. The Vikings had an individual champion, one fourth place finisher, and a fifth place finisher at the Open.

In the 116 pound weight class, Senior Samantha Lovelace (South Prairie, Wash.) picked up a first round victory over Jessica Marso of Menlo College in a 9-8 decision. Lovelace was then defeated by No. 7 Bree Rapoza of Missouri Baptist University in the second round, sending her to the consolation bracket. In her first consolation bracket match, Lovelace earned a 5-4 decision over Higa to advance. Lovelace was then defeated Brittny Hernandez of Missouri Baptist College in the consolation third round before being eliminated to Lauryn Bruggink in a technical fall. Junior Tierra Williams (Portland, Maine) received a first round bye, but was defeated in the second round by Lauryn Bruggink of Wayland Baptist University in a first period pin. In her first consolation bracket match, Williams earned a technical fall victory over Leila Vazquez of McKendree University, but lost to Sherri Berube of University of the Cumberlands in the consolation third round in a second period pin. Also in the 116 pound weight class, Sophomore Samantha Higa (Aiea, Hawai’i) was defeated in her first round match by Rachel
Archer from Oklahoma City University in an 8-7 decision, then Higa was eliminated in her next match against Lovelace.

At 123 pounds, No. 2 Jacarra Winchester (San Leandro, Calif.) won by technical fall over Brianna Andazola of McKendree University in the first round, then won by technical fall against in the second round over Cady Chessin of Menlo College. In the quarterfinals Winchester defeated Laura Anderson of Simon Fraser University in a first period pin and advanced to the championship match with a technical fall over Tillman. In the championship match, Winchester came away with an 8-2 decision victory over Kayla Brendlinger of King College. Also at 123 pounds, Freshman Sharice Schnell (Waterloo, Iowa) earned a technical fall victory over Yulianna Cantu of Lindendwood-Belleville, but was defeated by a technical fall in the second round to No. 4 Tamara Tillman of University of the Cumberlands. In her first consolation round match, Schnell won by technical fall over Jill Amaya wrestling unattached to advance, but was eliminated in the next round by Samantha Lopez wrestling unattached in an 11-7 decision. Freshman Christy Powell (Atlanta, Ga.) won her 123 pound first round match by technical fall over Samantha Lopez wrestling unattached. Powell was defeated in the second round by No. 7 Montana Drum of Missouri Baptist University in a 10-6 decision. Powell earned a 6-0 decision victory in her first consolation match over Mollee Pond of Midland University. Powell was eliminated in her next match by Tanalei Louis of Oklahoma City University in a technical fall.

In the 136 pound weight class, Senior Mayleen Soto (Azusa, Calif.) picked up a first round bye, but was defeated in the second round by Jeanette Naranjo of the Oaks Wrestling Club in a 6-2 decision. Soto was eliminated one match later by Chrissta Hartinger wrestling unattached in a technical fall.

No. 6 Senior Frances Efiong (Arlington, Texas) advanced through the championship bracket in the 143 pound weight class thanks to a technical fall
victory over Kaleigh Jennings wrestling unattached in the first round, and a second round technical fall victory over Andrea Ruiz of McKendree University. In the quarterfinals Efiong advanced with an 8-5 decision win over Brittany David of Lindenwood, but lost in the semifinals to Tamyra Mensah of Wayland Baptist by a technical fall. In the consolation semifinals, Efiong lost to Stephanie Geltmacher of Oklahoma City University in a 4-0 decision. Efiong took fifth place, however, after defeating No. 9 Kayla Aggio of Oklahoma City University in a 6-5 decision.

In the 170 pound weight class, No. 9 Senior Brittany Jones (Grapevine, Texas) earned a technical fall victory over Welina Tong wrestling unattached in the first round. Jones then defeated No. 8 Gabriela Guzman of Lindenwood University in the quarterfinals before losing to No. 1 Justina Di Stasio of Simon Fraser University in a technical fall. In the consolation semifinals, Jones defeated No. 10 Kerri Bumpers of King College in an 8-0, but she lost her third place match to No. 8 Gaby Buzmann of Lindenwood University in a first period pin. Also, Sophomore Lachae Bynum-Banks (Pittsburg, Calif.) was defeated in her first round match by Solove Naufau of Menlo College in a first round pin, and was eliminated one match later by Brenda Mendoza of Wayland Baptist University in a technical fall. Sophomore Anissa Abrego (San Benito, Texas) was defeated in her first round match after being pinned by Kayla Volin of Jamestown College. She was eliminated in her next match by Aviance Watters wrestling unattached in a technical fall.

At 190 pounds, No. 10 Sophomore Jessica Ulloa (Concord, Calif.) was defeated in the first round by Justina Luafalemana of Northwest Tech in a second period pin.

The women’s wrestling team will next be in action Nov. 23 at the Harry Geris Duals in Ontario, Canada.
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.