NO. 7 VIKINGS BEAT AVILA AND SECURE THIRD-StraIGHT HAAC TITLE

Marshall, Mo. (November 16, 2013)- The No. 7 Missouri Valley College football team traveled to Kansas City, Mo., for a matchup with Avila University to wrap up the 2013 regular season. The Vikings put Avila away early, coming away with a 26-0 victory. The win gives MVC a share of the Heart of America Athletic Conference championship, the third-straight conference title for the program, and puts the Vikings in line for an NAIA Football Championship Series berth.

The Vikings got started early against the Eagles, scoring on their first drive of the game. MVC started at its own 17-yard line, and drove to the Avila 15-yard line through 11 plays. Junior Quarterback Bruce Reyes (Beaumont, Texas) was 5 for 7 on the drive, but MVC had to setting for a 32-yard field goal by Freshman Kicker Lucas Guilfoil (Lake Lotawana, Mo.) to give the Vikings a 3-0 lead just five minutes into the game.

The Viking defense forced Avila into a three-and-out in its first possession, and the Viking offense responded with a scoring drive. MVC took over at its own 35-yard line and picked up back-to-back 24-yard plays to get into the end one, the first was a run by Reyes, then Reyes connected with Junior Wide Receiver Jarrell Davis (Merced, Calif.) for a touchdown that put MVC up 10-0 midway through the first quarter after Guilfoi’s extra point.

The first quarter came to an end with neither team able to get much going on offense, but the Vikings made their first second quarter possession county. Taking over at their own 17-yard line after an Avila punt, the Vikings drove for another score. This time it was an 11-play, 83-yard drive. The big play on the drive was Freshman Running Back Malachi Daniels (Branson, Mo.) picking up 32-yards, and eventually Reyes scored on a nine-yard rushing attempt to give MVC a 17-0 lead.

Avila’s next drive was its best to that point. The Eagles drove to the MVC 25-yard line, but were stopped by the Viking defense, and turned the ball over to the Vikings after failing to convert a fourth down attempt, with four minutes remaining in the half.
After the Vikings and Eagles traded punts, MVC took over from its own five yard line with just over a minute left in the half. The Vikings went the length of the field, and scored with just one second remaining in the half when Reyes hit Senior Wide Receiver Travis Thornton (Kentwood, La.) for a four-yard touchdown. The score gave the Vikings a 23-0 lead at the halftime break.

MVC was able to put points on the board on its first drive of the half, after Senior Linebacker Danny Reyes (Hesperia, Calif.) blocked an Avila punt. The Vikings were kept out of the end zone by Avila, but Guilfoil connected on an 18-yard field goal to give MVC a 26-0 lead early in the third quarter.

The Vikings had one more serious scoring threat in the game, late in the third quarter. MVC started at midfield and drove to the Avila 11-yard line, but Guilfoil missed on a field goal. The Viking defense did not allow the Eagles to get any deeper than the MVC 45-yard line through the rest of the second half, and the Vikings were able to use up the last four minutes of the game to win 26-0.

Leading the way for MVC was Reyes who was 14 of 24 passing for 177 yards and two touchdowns. Sophomore Quarterback Zack Dorton (St. Louis, Mo.) replaced Reyes midway through the third quarter and finished 6 for 9 for 54 yards. Daniels finished with 107 rushing yards on 12 attempts. Jarrell Davis finished with four receptions with 97 receiving yards and a touchdown. The Vikings had a balanced attack, with 228 rushing yards and 231 passing yards.

Defensively the Vikings were led by Reyes who finished with 10 tackles, 1.5 tackles for loss, one sack and a blocked punt. Senior Linebacker Andrew Huhman (Farmington, Mo.) finished with eight tackles and one tackle for loss. The Viking defense pitched its first shutout since beating Avila 49-0 on Sept. 17, 2011. MVC gave up just 137 total yards in the game, 45 rushing yards and 92 receiving yards. The 137 total yards in the lowest amount given up this season by the Viking defense.

On special teams, Junior Punter Jason Mayden (Carrollton, Mo.) finished with a 32.5 yard average on four punts, two of which were downed inside the 20-yard line. Guilfoil finished five of seven on kicking attempts in the game, and Senior Defensive Back Tyler Davis (St. Louis, Mo.) led the team with 38 return yards.
The win moves MVC to 8-2 overall and 8-1 in HAAC play. The Vikings capture a third-straight HAAC championship with the win, No. 13 overall for the program. The Vikings share the conference title with Baker University and Benedictine College which both finished the season at 8-1 in conference play. Avila falls to 4-7 overall and 2-7 in the HAAC.

The Vikings now await word on their berth into the NAIA Football Championship Series. The 16-team playoff will be announced Saturday at 3:00 p.m. The Opening Round of the FCS will be Saturday Nov. 23.

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.
MEN’S WRESTLING HOSTS THE HAAC DUALS SATURDAY

Marshall, Mo. (November 16, 2013)- The No. 3 Missouri Valley College men’s wrestling team hosted the Heart of America Athletic Conference Duals at the Burns Athletic Complex Saturday. The Vikings defeated Benedictine College 42-6, knocked off Graceland University 55-0, and defeated No. 14 Baker University 24-12.

In the first dual of the day, the Vikings took on Benedictine College. The Ravens entered the weekend in the “others receiving votes’ category in the NAIA Wrestling Coaches’ Top 20 Poll. The Vikings picked up four team points to start things off in the 125 pound weight class as No. 7 Sophomore Ryan Stearns (Williston, Vt.) defeated Ben Ranolph by a 14-2 score.

In the 133 pound weight class No. 12 Sophomore Todd Brackett (Farmington, Mo.) picked up a second period pin of Clifford Ikenberry to give MVC a 10-0 advantage. The Vikings picked up six more points after Freshman Daniel Rivera (Houston, Texas) pinned Michael Cutherbertson in the first period.

MVC earned a fourth straight victory when Benedictine left the 149 pound match up with No. 2 Sophomore Jake Ekster (Houston, Texas) open. MVC earned a close 7-6 decision as No. 8 Sophomore Dylan King (Hamilton, Mo.) edged Zack McClure in the 157 pound weight class, and the Vikings extended their lead to 25-0.

No. 7 Junior Riley Boomer (Sheridan, Mich.) picked up a first period pin of Johnny Perz in the 174 pound weight class to extend MVC’s lead to 31-0, but Benedictine picked up its only points in the 184 pound weight class as Sophomore Wade Aylett (Irrigon, Ore.) was pinned in the first round by Ethan Jirak.

The Vikings finished the dual with a 13-5 decision in the favor of No. 3 Senior Josh Manu (North Providence, R.I.) in the 197 pound weight class over No. 15 Stephen Loosbrock and No. 11 Sophomore Gabi Mussallam (San Diego, Calif.) won by a 15-8 decision over Josh Wilson in the 285 pound weight class. The Vikings took the dual by a 42-6 score.
In the second dual of the day, the Vikings took on Graceland University. Starting the dual off at 125 pounds, Stearns picked up a technical fall victory over Garett Owens to put MVC up 5-0.

MVC picked up two forfeit victories in the next weight classes, as Brackett won in the 133 pound weight class and Rivera also won in the 141 pound weight class to move MVC’s advantage to 17-0. Ekster earned a first period pin in the 149 pound weight class over Demond Jennings to give MVC a 23-0 lead.

King won by forfeit in the 157 pound weight class, and Sophomore Taylor Smith (Platte, City, Mo.) won by major decision over Dakota Britt in the 165 pound weight class to move MVC’s lead to 33-0. At 174 pounds, Boomer picked up a first period pin over Bryson Kinyon.

Bader earned a major decision victory over Mereditch Meador at 184 pounds, and Manu pinned William Faircloth in the first round of the 197 pound weight class. No. 9 Junior Dan Mueller (Collinsville, Ill.) picked up a win by forfeit in the 285 pound weight class, and MVC defeated Graceland University 55-0.

In the final dual of the afternoon the Vikings took on No. 14 Baker University. MVC got out to an early lead thanks to Stearns defeating No. 11 Alan Callahan 4-2 in the 125 pound match to put MVC up 3-0. Baker came back and won the 133 pound match when No. 15 Bryce Shoemaker defeated Brackett by an 8-1 decision to tie the dual at 3-3.

The Vikings picked up two victories in a row when Bitney came away with a 14-5 major decision over Nathan Garcia in the 141 pound weight class, which was followed up with Ekster winning by technical fall over Joel Hood in the 149 pound weight class.

With MVC up 12-3 in points, Baker got a win in the 157 pound weight class as Aaron Seybold pinned Dylan King in the first round to pull the match to 12-9 in favor of MVC. Baker tied the dual in the 165 pound weight class as Cole Price won by a 5-2 decision over Smith.

MVC got some points back in the 174 pound weight class as Boomer defeated Bryant Guillen by a 9-4 decision. Bader followed the win up with a decision victory of his own in the 184 pound weight class, 3-2 over John Hambleton to give MVC an 18-9 win.
Manu put the dual out of reach for Baker, as he defeated No. 12 Robert Shadrach in the 197 pound weight class in a 5-1 decision, and Mueller came away with a 6-2 win in the 285 pound weight class over Beau Bennett as MVC won the dual 24-12.

The Vikings finish the day 3-0 in the HAAC Duals.

MVC has a quick turnaround as they compete in the UCM Open in Warrensburg, Mo., Sunday.

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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 win 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.
MVC MEN’S BASKETBALL DROPS ROAD MATCHUP TO FRIENDS UNIVERSITY

Marshall, Mo. (November 16, 2013)- The Missouri Valley College men’s basketball team went on the road Saturday afternoon and played in Wichita, Kan. against Friends University in a non-conference matchup. The Vikings trailed by just three points at halftime, but fell 92-51.

The Vikings came out and took an early lead against Friends, leading by as many as five points with just under 13-minutes remaining in the first half after a Sophomore Jacob Powell (Marshfield, Mo.) three-point field goal. Friends eventually battled back and took the lead at the nine-minute mark at 19-17, and led by as many as seven points late in the first half. A Sophomore Raviel Burton (St. Johns, Antigua) field goal with just over one minute remaining in the half tied the game up at 28-28, but Friends scored the final three points before halftime, and took a 31-28 lead into the break.

The Vikings shot 42-percent in the first half, and hit all five of their free throw attempts, but Friends shot 50-percent at the half to grab the slim lead.

The second half started off well for Friends, as they scored the first 10 points of the second half, to move what was a three point lead to a 13-point cushion. Friends extended the lead to 20-points at the 16-minute mark, which was as close as the Vikings would be through the remainder of the game. Friends finished the second half shooting 73-percent and came away with a 92-51 win.

Leading the way for MVC was Powell who had 13 points and eight rebounds, finishing as the only Viking in double-digits. Buton, Senior Jim Thomas (St. Louis, Mo.), and Freshman Jacob Fletcher (Springfield, Mo.) all combined for 20-points in the game for MVC.

The loss drops MVC to 4-2 on the season while Friends improves to 2-2 on the season.

Next up for the Vikings is road game at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kan., Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
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