MVC WOMEN’S BASKETBALL BEATS COLLEGE OF THE OZARKS

Marshall, Mo. (November 19, 2013)- The Missouri Valley College women’s basketball team welcomed College of the Ozarks to the Burns Athletic Complex Tuesday night for a non-conference matchup. The Vikings used strong second half shooting to pull away from the NAIA Division II No. 10 Bobcats in an 88-80 victory.

The Vikings got out early against College of the Ozarks, building up a seven point lead, at 11-4, when Sophomore Guard Julia Vasquez (Earth, Texas) hit a three-point field goal with 14:30 left to play in the first half. The Vikings were able to maintain a lead of at least five points, until College of the Ozarks chipped away, and trailed by as few as one point at the 7:30 mark in the first half. The Vikings were able to respond, and went on a 9-2 run to extend their lead to 32-24 when Senior Forward Gabi Morales (Bakersfield, Calif.) hit two free throws. College of the Ozarks eventually pulled back to within one point at 37-36 as the game went into halftime. The Vikings forced 10 Bobcat turnovers, and held College of the Ozarks to just 35-percent shooting in the first half.

MVC maintained a slim lead against the Bobcats through the early stages of the first half, eventually leading by six points, at 51-45, after a Morales field goal with 13-minutes left in the game. The Bobcats eventually got back to a tie game at 55-55, but the Vikings never trailed. After College of the Ozarks tied the game at 62-62, the Vikings went on a 9-1 run to extend the lead to 71-63 with just under five minutes remaining. The Vikings maintained at least a six point lead, and eventually lead by double-digits for the first time when Sophomore Guard Rayna Smith hit two free throws to give MVC an 83-72 advantage. The Vikings withstood a late comeback attempt by the Bobcats, and came away with an 88-80 victory.

The Vikings were led by Morales who finished with 29 points, eight rebounds and three blocked shots. The 29 points scored is a career high for Morales. Smith finished with 24 points and four rebounds. Smith also reached a career high with
the 24 points. Junior Guard TaLaya Earls (Indianapolis, Ind.) finished with a double-double of 16 points and 11 rebounds. As a team the Vikings shot nearly 52-percent from the floor in the second half, and forced 20 Bobcat turnovers. The 88 points is the most scored in a game for the women’s basketball program since 93-54 win over Central Methodist University on Feb. 24, 2008.

The win gives MVC four victories in a row, and improves its record to 4-2. College of the Ozarks falls to 6-3.

Up next, the Vikings will host St. Ambrose University in a non-conference matchup Saturday at 6:00 p.m.

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.