VIKING FOOTBALL GETS FCS PLAYOFF WIN OVER NORTHWESTERN SATURDAY

Marshall, Mo. (November 23, 2013)- The No. 7 Missouri Valley College football team hosted an NAIA Football Championship Series First Round game Saturday at Gregg-Mitchell Field, hosting No. 12 Northwestern (Iowa) College. The Vikings broke a close game open in the second half, en route to a 38-13 victory.

Missouri Valley got the ball to start the game and moved on Northwestern. After nine plays, the Vikings had the ball on the Red Raider 34-yard line, but a fourth down conversion attempt came up shot, turning the ball over to Northwestern.

After the Red Raiders were forced to punt on their opening possession, the Vikings took over at their own 11-yard line, but proceeded to drive down the field for the game’s opening score. The Vikings went 89 yards in 11 plays, taking up over six minutes, on the touchdown drive. Freshman Running Back Malachi Daniels (Branson, Mo.) scored from two yards out, and the Vikings led 7-0 after a Freshman Kicker Lucas Guilfoil (Lake Lotawana, Mo.) extra point late in the first quarter.
The next possession for the Vikings ended better for Northwestern, as the Red Raiders recovered a fumble deep in MVC territory. Northwestern scored two plays later on a 20-yard touchdown pass and tied the game at 7-7 with one minute left in the first quarter.

The tie score was short lived as Junior Running Back James Tillman (Kansas City, Mo.) returned the ensuing kickoff 58 yards to the Northwestern 28-yard line. Two plays later, Sophomore Quarterback Zack Dorton (St. Louis, Mo.) found Junior Wide Receiver Jarrell Davis (Merced, Calif.) for a 25-yard touchdown, and the Vikings went ahead 14-7 just seconds into the second quarter.

After both teams traded punts in the early stages of the second quarter, Northwestern was set up at their own 38-yard line. The Red Raiders moved the ball, eventually capping off a nine play, 62-yard drive with a four yard touchdown pass. However, the extra point was missed, and the Vikings held on to a 14-13 lead.

With time winding down in the second quarter, Northwestern was forced to punt from its own 20-yard line after Senior Linebacker Danny Reyes (Hesperia, Calif.) came up with a third down sack. Northwestern punted the ball away, but Senior Defensive Back Tyler Davis (St. Louis, Mo.) scooped the ball up on a bounce, and ran his way for a 42-yard punt return touchdown that gave MVC a 21-13 lead just one minute before halftime.

Tyler Davis came up with another big play on Northwestern’s ensuing drive, with an interception, and MVC went into the break up 21-13.
The start of the second half saw both teams trade punts. However, it was another Viking punt return that put some distance between the two teams. With just over two minutes remaining in the third quarter, the Red Raiders punted from their own 18-yard line. Jarrell Davis was able to take the punt return back 47-yards for a touchdown, and MVC extended its lead to 28-13 late in the third quarter.

The Vikings took advantage of a Northwestern miscue on special teams early in the fourth quarter. Junior Punter Jason Mayden (Carrollton, Mo.) punted from his own 45-yard line, and Northwestern received the punt at its own 17-yard line. However a hit by Freshman Linebacker Ricky Williams (Florida City, Fla.) caused the returner to fumble the ball and Junior Tight End Matt Lavender (Turlock, Calif.) recovered the fumble for MVC at the Red Raider 26-yard line. The Vikings eventually drove to the Northwestern 14-yard line and settled for a Guilfoil 31-yard field goal to extend the Viking lead to 31-13 with 12 minutes left in the game.

MVC capped off the scoring midway through the fourth quarter. With the ball at their own 42-yard line, the Vikings got a third touchdown from Jarrell Davis, as he took a handoff 58-yards for a touchdown, and put MVC ahead 38-13.

The Viking defense came up with one more stop, this time after Northwestern recovered a bad snap at the MVC two-yard line. The Viking defense kept Northwestern out of the end zone on the first three plays, and Senior Defensive Back Sherard Allen (St. Petersburg, Fla.) intercepted the fourth down attempt to finish off the game, giving MVC a 38-13 win.
Dorton finished 10 of 30 passing for 153 yards and one touchdown. Daniels had 18 carries for 68 yards and one touchdown. Darrian Turk finished with 34 yards receiving on two receptions. The Viking offense finished with 317 total yards.

The Viking defense was led by Reyes who finished with a game-high nine tackles and one sack. Junior Defensive Back Michael Barnes (Beaumont, Texas) had six tackles and one pass breakup and Junior Defensive Lineman Ty Phillips (East St. Louis, Ill.) had six tackles, 1.5 sacks and 2.5 tackles for loss. Senior Linebacker Andrew Huhman (Farmington, Mo.), Senior Linebacker Rahfee McClee (Orlando, Fla.) and Sophomore Defensive Lineman Taylor Moore (Springfield, Mo.) all had one sack, while Senior Defensive Lineman Leon Jackson (Merced, Calif.) had half a sack. The Viking defense gave up 157 total yards, 37 rushing yards and 120 passing yards. The Vikings also generated three turnovers.

On special teams, Mayden had a 29.7 yards per punt average on six punts while Guilfoil connected on his only field goal attempt and made all five of his extra point attempts. Tyler Davis finished with 58 return yards and one touchdown. Jarrell Davis led the team in rushing yards with 74, receiving yards with 48 and return yards with 123 yards, scoring three touchdowns. Jarrell Davis finished the game with 245 total yards.

The win moves MVC to 9-2 overall on the season while Northwestern ends its 2013 season at 8-3.

The Vikings are now 7-5 in the NAIA FCS under Head Coach Paul Troth, and are 4-2 all-time in the first round under Troth. The Vikings also advance to the FCS quarterfinals for the seventh time in program history.
The Vikings now await word on NAIA FCS quarterfinals opponent and game location. The quarterfinal pairings will be announced Sunday morning, and the quarterfinals will be played Saturday Nov. 30.

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.