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MVC MEN’S SOCCER ADVANCES IN NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

Marshall, Mo. (November 23, 2013)- The No. 20 Missouri Valley College men’s soccer team won the program’s first-ever NAIA Men’s Soccer National Championship Tournament game Saturday evening at Gregg-Mitchell Field, outlasting No. 11 University of Science & Arts of Oklahoma 2-1 in double overtime.

On a cold night, both teams came out and played solid defense in the first half. The Vikings got off just four shots in the half, while the Drovers were able to get off just one shot. MVC did put all four of their attempts on goal in the first half, but they were all denied by the USAO keeper. With neither team able to mount much offense, the game went into the halftime break tied at 0-0.

The second half started much better for the Vikings as they put early pressure on the Drovers. The Vikings got two early chances on USAO, but it was a shot by Senior Forward Alberto Linan Gomez (Seville, Spain) that opened the scoring. Gomez was set up by Senior Midfielder Miguel Jimenez (Madrid, Spain) and the Vikings grabbed at 1-0 lead, just 15 minutes into the second half. USAO responded quickly, and less than four minutes later grabbed the equalizer to tie the game at 1-1. The Vikings had a number of chances through the rest of the
second half, putting four shots on goal in the closing minutes of regulation, but neither team could find its second goal, sending the game into overtime.

Like the first half, both teams struggled to find much offensively in the first overtime. The Vikings had three shots, putting one on goal, but neither team could find a game-winner sending the game to the second overtime period. Gomez and Senior Forward Nicholas Alexander (Manchester, England) both tested the Drovers’ keeper, but both were denied early in the second overtime period. With time winding down in the second overtime, the Vikings were able to maintain possession deep in the Drovers side of the field. Sophomore Midfielder Carlos Berastain Munar (Palma de Mallorca, Spain) found Gomez at the top of the box, and Gomez was able to angle his shot past a diving Drover keeper, and into the back of the next with only seconds remaining to give MVC a 2-1 victory.

Gomez scored both goals for the Vikings, upping his total on the season to 12 on the season. Jimenez notched his third assist, while Munar added his seventh assist of the season. Senior Keeper Josh Wells (Manchester, England) finished with one save in the match to help the Vikings to victory.

The win improves MVC to 13-4-4 on the season while USAO finishes its 2013 season with a 15-5-0 record. The Drovers had previously beaten Missouri Valley in the 2011 NAIA Men’s Soccer National Tournament Opening Round in 2011.

The win moves MVC into the second round for the first time in program history. The Vikings will play Hasting (Neb.) College. Hastings defeated MVC in the 2010 NAIA Men’s Soccer National Championship Tournament Opening Round. The game date and time will be announced Sunday, but the game will be
played at the National site in Montgomery, Ala., at the Emory Folmar YMCA Soccer Complex.

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.