MVC WOMEN’S BASKETBALL KNOCKS OFF RANKED TEAM SATURDAY

Marshall, Mo. (November 23, 2013)- The Missouri Valley College women’s basketball team defeated NAIA Division II No. 25 St. Ambrose (Iowa) University in a non-conference matchup Saturday evening at the Burns Athletic Complex, 82-70. It’s the second win in a row over a ranked team for the Vikings.

MVC got out early against St. Ambrose, quickly leading 4-0 thanks to baskets by Senior Forward Gabi Morales (Bakersfield, Calif.) and Senior Forward Gabby Lovelace (Pleasant Hill, Mo.). St. Ambrose kept things close through the early part of the first half, but could never take over the lead. Eventually, the Vikings grew their lead to double-digits thanks to a 17-5 run that lasted nearly six minutes. The run was capped off with a Sophomore Guard Rayna Smith (St. Louis, Mo.) three-point field goal to give MVC a 32-20 lead with eight minutes remaining in the first half. St. Ambrose would not go away, and finished the half with a 9-0 run over the final three minutes to close to within 45-42 at halftime. The Vikings forced St. Ambrose into 21 turnovers, but St. Ambrose was efficient from the floor, hitting 68-percent of their shots.
The Vikings quickly extended their lead early in the second half, taking a 53-44 lead just four minutes after the break when Lovelace hit another field goal. The Vikings eventually built up a nine point lead at the 10:45 mark when Junior Guard TaLaya Earls (Indianapolis, Ind.) hit a field goal to give MVC a 63-54 advantage, but St. Ambrose was able to fight back. A 9-1 run over the next three minutes cut the MVC lead to just two points, and St. Ambrose even got within at point at 67-66 with just over four minutes remaining in the game. The Vikings responded and broke the game open by hitting 10 off 11 free throws over the final four minutes to pull away with a 82-70 win.

The Vikings were led by Morales who notched another double-double with 23 points and 14 rebounds. This was Morales’ second double-double in the last three games. Smith finished with 16 points, while Earls added 14 points, seven rebounds and five steals. The Vikings forced St. Ambrose into 36 turnovers and just 32-percent shooting in the second half. The Vikings also won the rebounding battle by a 51-44 margin.

The win gives MVC five victories in a row, and improves its record to 5-2. St. Ambrose falls to 4-2 on the season. The five straight wins in the longest for the program since the 2006-2007 season when the team won six straight games.

Up next, the Vikings will travel to Columbia, Mo. for a matchup with Stephens College Tuesday at 7:00 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.