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Media Relations Contact:

Andy Pulverenti, sports information director, (660) 831-4230, pulverentia@moval.edu

MVC MEN’S BASKETBALL KNOCKED OF BY NCAA D2 UMSL

Marshall, Mo. (December 1, 2013)- The Missouri Valley College men’s basketball team went on the road Sunday afternoon to St. Louis, Mo., for a matchup with NCAA Division II University of Missouri-St. Louis. The Vikings hung tough, but UMSL pulled away for a 75-65 victory.

The Vikings found themselves down by as many as four points in the early stages of the game. UMSL extended its lead to five points at 14-9 at the 13-minute mark, before the Vikings mounted a comeback. Over a two minute span midway through the first half, the Vikings went on an 8-0 run that was finished with a Junior Brad Hamilton (Pittsfield, Ill.) three-point field goal to put MVC up 22-19 with eight minutes remaining in the half. UMSL retook the lead two minutes later at 25-24 and eventually built up an eight point lead just before halftime. The Vikings went into the break trailing 28-30. The Vikings had 12-points off the bench and eight points off turnovers in the half.

UMSL scored the first two points of the half to put MVC down by double-digits for the first time in the game, but the Vikings quickly went on a run to tie the game. A 15-5 run by MVC over a five minute span early in the second half tied the game at 45-45 thanks to Hamilton hitting a two-point field goal to cap the run. The Vikings then grabbed their largest lead of the game moments later at
after Senior Jim Thomas (St. Louis, Mo.) hit two free throws. MVC held the lead until just before the seven minute mark when UMSL tied things up at 57-57. UMSL then rang off nine-straight points to take a 66-57 lead late in the game. The Vikings eventually got to within three points with just under two-minutes remaining in the game, but UMSL went 8-8 from the free throw line as the game was winding down to hold off MVC and knock off the Vikings 75-65.

The Vikings had five players in double-figures led by Hamilton who scored 16 points to go along with three steals and three assists. Sophomore Ravel Burton (St. Johns, Antigua) finished with 14 points, four rebounds and two blocks. Thomas finished with 13 points and both Sophomore Jacob Powell (Marshfield, Mo.) and Junior Johnny Brown (Kansas City, Mo.) finished with 10 points. The Vikings forced 18 UMSL turnovers,

The loss drops MVC to 6-4 on the season while UMSL improves to 5-2.

The Vikings will open Heart of America Athletic Conference play Thursday in a home double-header with the women’s team. Women’s game is at 5:30 p.m. and the men’s tip-off is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. hosting Central Methodist University.

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.