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Finals series format could work for NCAA

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By Kyle Nagel, Staff Writer

9:43 PM Saturday, March 27, 2010

Remember Saint Louis, the college basketball team that finished fourth in the Atlantic 10 Conference but missed out on an NIT bid and landed in the College Basketball Invitational postseason tournament?

Well, the Billikens have made their way into the CBI finals against Virginia Commonwealth.

But there's a twist. Saint Louis and VCU will play a best-of-three series to determine their title beginning Monday, March 29. The first game will be played at VCU, and the final two (if a third is necessary) will be played at Saint Louis on Wednesday and Friday.

I gotta say, I kind of like the finals series, even though the rest of the tournament was single elimination. Even a best-of-three series provides drama throughout the week (well, if anyone's paying attention to the CBI).

While we're talking about changing the NCAA tournament with more teams and all, it might not be a bad idea to take a look at making the finals a series.

It works very well in the NBA. It works well in other sports. Why couldn't it work for the NCAA tournament?

Well, tradition, for one.

But, particularly when you have two of the country's best teams, wouldn't it be more dramatic to see them go after each other on multiple nights? Wouldn't heroes still emerge?

I'd sure watch all week.

Contact this reporter at (937) 225-7389 or knagel@DaytonDailyNews.com.

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