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**Dick Weiss**

## HOOPS ON CAMPUS



### St. John's storms into CBI

March 16, 2009

St. John's will be a part of the 16-team 2009 College Basketball Invitational (CBI), which announced the field for its second annual postseason event on Sunday night. The Red Storm will take on the Richmond Spiders from the Atlantic 10 in the first round of the East Regional, traveling to the Robbins Center at Richmond for a 7 p.m. matchup Wednesday.

The berth marks the first postseason appearance for the Red Storm since the 2003 NIT. St. John's finished the 2008-09 regular season with a 16-17 record, tying for the most wins in the five-year Roberts Era.

We're not sure how we feel about the Johnnies going to a post season tournament with a losing record, but it will give this young team more practice time and post season experience.

We also wonder if Seton Hall, whose coach Bobby Gonzalez campaigned for an NIT bid, was ever considered if even if they wanted to go. Three other Eastern schools - Buffalo, Northeastern and Vermont were also selected

Seven Big East teams - Louisville, UConn, Pitt, Villanova, Syracuse Marquette and West Virginia - received bids to the NCAA Tournament while three more - Georgetown, Providence and Notre Dame - will play in the NIT. The College Basketball Invitational is only in its second year of operation. It will be a single-elimination tournament up until the Championship Series, with all games being played at campus sites. The Championship Series will be a best-of-three series, home-away-home, in which the higher seed will get the first and last (if necessary) home games.

The event features eight first-round games, four second-round games, a semifinal round and then a Championship Series. The opening round of the event takes place on the Tuesday and Wednesday nights following the final weekend of conference tournament games (March 17 and 18 in 2009). The winner of each opening round game advances to the round of eight on the following Monday, with the semifinals to be held on Wednesday of that week. The Championship Series take place on Monday, Wednesday and Friday (if necessary) after the semifinals.

Bracketing is done geographically into four regions of the country (East, West, South, Midwest) to minimize missed class time. Brackets will be balanced competitively within each region. The final selection and bracketing process takes place after the NCAA Tournament field is announced. The 16-team field consists of teams that are not selected for the NCAA Tournament. Teams are invited based upon their performance during their conference and non-conference schedule, as well as how well the team is playing at the end of the regular season.

By Dick Weiss on March 16, 2009 1:00 AM | [Comments \(0\)](#)

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#### About This Blog

Dick Weiss - better known as "Hoops" - has been covering college basketball for 40 years, and since 1993 for the NYDN. He is a past president of the College Football and Basketball Writers' Associations and is a member of the USBWA college basketball writers' Hall of Fame.

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