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## Cats rush to CBI

### Vermont visits Wisconsin-Green Bay tonight in opener

BY JOHN A. FANTINO • FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER • MARCH 18, 2009

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Just past midnight Sunday, upon learning that the University of Vermont men's basketball team received a nod to play in the College Basketball Invitational postseason tournament, Mike Trimboli scurried to his [computer](#).

UVM's senior guard sought the low-down on the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, where the Catamounts will be playing their first-round game tonight at 8. There was no time to waste.

Since finding out about its berth in the CBI — a 16-team event that plays third fiddle to the NCAA and NIT postseason tournaments — the Cats squeezed in one practice at Patrick Gym on Monday before hopping a flight to the Midwest on Tuesday morning.

"We took five or six days off because of spring break and I'm kind of worried that we might be a little rusty," said UVM coach Mike Lonergan, whose team was relegated to the CBI after being upset by Albany in the America East tournament quarterfinals March 7.

The Cats will seek to gain a measure of redemption by making a run in the program's fifth postseason appearance in seven years. They played in the NCAA tourney three straight years from 2003-05 and went to the NIT 2007.

They face a UW-Green Bay team that finished second in the Horizon League with records of 22-10 overall and 13-5 in league play, the Phoenix's first 20-win season in 10 years. UW-Green Bay lost in the Horizon semifinals to eventual champion Cleveland State.

Like Vermont, UW-Green Bay boasts three 1,000 point scorers, paced by senior forward Terry Evans, the school's all-time leader in steals (235) and blocked shots (131) who ranks third in rebounds (762). The roster lists four players 6-foot-8 or taller.

UW-Green Bay is 13-1 at the 10,000-seat Resch Center this season, including a 75-66 win over then-No. 11 Butler.

"It's going to be a tough atmosphere to play in," Lonergan said, "and we have to travel across the country."

Vermont has won seven of its last eight road contests, six of those victories by double digits.

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ALISON REDLICH, Free Press

Senior guard Mike Trimboli (13) will be looking to extend his Vermont career as the Catamounts take on Wisconsin-Green Bay tonight in the opening round of the College Basketball Invitational.

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