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San Jose State will play Tuesday at Creighton

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San Jose State is in the postseason for the first time in 15 years.

The Spartans will play at Creighton at 5:05 p.m. Tuesday in Omaha, Neb., in the first round of the 16-team College Basketball Invitational, a 4-year-old event for teams that don't make the NCAAs or NIT.

It's the Spartans' first postseason appearance since the 1996 NCAA tournament when they lost to Kentucky 110-72.

"It's a really significant step for us," said coach George Nessman, whose team reached the semifinals of the Western Athletic Conference tournament for the first time.

"If you're going to draw a parallel, it's like if a football team goes to a bowl game for the first time" in 15 years.

Nessman learned of the CBI berth Saturday following the WAC tournament. But he did not know who, when or where the Spartans (17-15) were playing.

They were prepared to pay the $35,000 fee required to host a first-round game in the CBI but ended up as a road team.

"It's validation for (the players)," Nessman said. "They know over half the teams in the country are done and they keep going. There's a lot of joy in that."

Creighton (19-14) is a member of the Missouri Valley Conference.

- Adrian Oliver was selected to the All-WAC tournament team after scoring 73 points in San Jose State's three games.

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