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Oregon men's basketball: Weber State awaits Ducks in College Basketball Invitational

Ducks' season isn't over yet, after accepting CBI bid to host Wednesday game at 7 p.m.

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The Register-Guard

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Oregon accepted an offer Sunday to play in the College Basketball Invitational and the Ducks will host Weber State at Matthew Knight Arena on Wednesday at 7 p.m.

The Ducks (16-17) will be making their first postseason appearance since a second consecutive trip to the NCAA Tournament in 2008.

All games in the CBI, now in its fourth year, are played at campus sites. Washington, Stanford and Oregon State have played in previous years, with the Beavers winning the 2009 event.

Based on the bracket released by CBI officials Sunday evening, if Oregon wins its opener, the Ducks will play the winner of a game between Montana and Duquesne, who meet in Missoula on Wednesday.

The second-round games of the CBI are next Monday with the semifinals on March 23. The CBI plays a best-of-three series for its championship, with games on March 28, 30 and if necessary, April 1.

The first-round opponent for Oregon is somewhat of a surprise after Weber State officials announced Friday they had accepted an offer to play in the CBI and would host an opening-round game. Weber State, in fact, announced ticket prices of \$10 for adults and \$5 for under 18, with all seating in the Dee Center general admission.

Tickets for Wednesday's game at Matthew Knight Arena are priced at \$23 for Lower Bowl Reserved, \$18 for Upper Bowl Reserved and free for UO students.

The game will be televised live on HDnet, which is available on most cable systems.

The Wildcats were 18-13 overall and finished in third place in the Big Sky Conference with an 11-5 record. Weber State played one Pac-10 team this season, losing 59-58 to Arizona State.

Weber State rallied after losing leading scorer Damien Lillard (19.7 points) to a knee injury nine games into the season. He was considered one of the top players in the Big Sky Conference entering the season.

In Lillard's absence, four Wildcats averaged in double figures, led by 6-foot-3 senior Lindsey Hughey at 12.5 points. Weber State also had two players named first-team all-league by Big Sky coaches in junior transfer Scott Bamforth, who led the nation in three-point percentage for much of the season by shooting .531, and 6-6 Kyle Bullinger, who averaged 11 points and six rebounds.

Bamforth, a transfer from Western Nebraska Junior College, was also named newcomer of the year in the Big Sky.

Oregon season-ticket holders will be able to reserve their seating location for Wednesday's game before 5 p.m. today through their online account or calling 1-800-WEBFOOT. All unsold tickets will go on sale to the general public tonight at 8 o'clock only at goducks.com. The distribution of free student tickets will begin online today at 6 p.m.

The UO urges fans to avoid anticipated lines at the Matthew Knight Arena ticket windows by purchasing tickets at goducks.com and using the print-at-home option. The Matthew Knight Arena box office is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and the Casanova Center ticket office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Other teams from the West playing in the CBI are Boise State, which hosts Austin Peay on Tuesday, and San Jose State, which plays at Creighton on Wednesday.

Earlier Sunday evening, two Pac-10 teams snapped up berths in the National Invitation Tournament, with Washington State paired against Long Beach State and California put in a first-round game against Mississippi.

The Cougars will host the 49ers on Wednesday at 7 p.m., with the game on ESPNU. The 49ers are coached by former Gonzaga coach Dan Monson and won the Big West regular season title, finishing 22-11 overall.

Cal (17-14) will also be at home on Wednesday night, hosting Ole Miss (20-13). The NIT field of 32 teams includes one other team from the West Coast in Saint Mary's. The Gaels play Kent State in their opening game.

The CollegeInsider.com Tournament also announced its 24-team field on Sunday, which included the University of Portland and six other teams from the West in Air Force, Hawaii, Idaho, Northern Arizona, San Francisco and Santa Clara.

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