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CBE Classic teams just want to get better

By BLAIR KERKHOFF
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The goal this time of year isn't complicated.

"We have to get better," Pittsburgh coach Jamie Dixon said.

"It's all about seeing improvement every time out," said Texas coach Rick Barnes.

Early season tournaments are about finding identities and personalities, and that's what will happen at the Sprint Center tonight for the CBE Classic.

Pittsburgh meets Wichita State in the opener at 6:30 p.m., and Texas takes on Iowa in the second game.

Winners and losers meet on Tuesday.

But the improvement each team seeks is relative. Texas appears to be in a different class.

The third-ranked Longhorns have won two games in blowout fashion. Texas is talented and deep enough to give its heralded freshman class time to adjust. Avery Bradley, rated by some as the nation's top incoming freshman, has come off the bench.

J'Covan Brown, a freshman who sat out last season to improve academically, starts at the point.

"It's hard to get everybody out there," Barnes said. "But if guys do their job, they'll find their way onto the court."

The Hawkeyes, 1-2, broke into the victory column in their last outing, defeating Bowling Green 68-46.

"We played much better basketball," Iowa coach Todd Lickliter said. "This is a group that's going to keep getting better."

Wichita State steps up in class against the Panthers, the Big East power that lost four starters from last year's Elite Eight team.

"We've got two good wins, but this is a whole different ballgame," Shockers coach Gregg Marshall said. "They're going to be bigger, stronger, more athletic."