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college basketball invitational

## Rams thrilled for extended play

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The Denver Post

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### College Basketball

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OK. It wasn't the iconic "Welcome to Las Vegas" sign that greeted Colorado State a week ago for the Mountain West Tournament. But how many teams can say they also passed "Daniel Boone National Forest" in the same week?

CSU coach Tim Miles made that tourist's observation by cellphone Tuesday as the Rams

neared their Morehead, Ky., destination. Colorado State (16-15) is an eight-point underdog at Morehead State (23-10) tonight in the first round of the College Basketball Invitational.

"We're excited to continue our season," Miles said. "It's good, especially for the younger guys, to go into a competitive environment. It makes you better."

With three freshmen — starting guard Dorian Green and key reserve forwards Greg Smith and Pierce Hornung, the third-year tournament is an ideal stage for the Rams.

No less important is letting all-MWC second-team forward Andy Ogide continue his season after he was tossed in the first half of the MWC Tournament quarterfinals against San Diego State.

Morehead State junior center Kenneth Faried, the Ohio Valley Conference player of the year, ranked second nationally with 13.0 rebounds. "He's a beast," Miles said.

It's the second straight 20-win season for the Eagles. Donnie Tyndall's name could surface on upcoming coaching "hot" lists.

"He gets his kids to play hard," Miles said. "They have a high activity level. They really defend well and I'm impressed with their defensive energy."

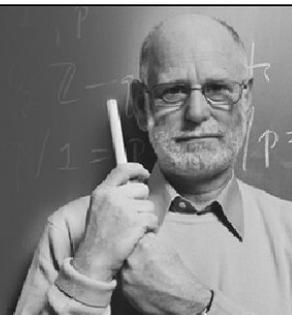
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