

## **Penn State accepts CBI bid, to play Hampton at BJC on Wednesday**

**By John McGonigal | Collegian Sports Chief | Posted: Sunday, March 16, 2014 10:21 pm**

For just the third time since 2000, Penn State basketball is headed to the postseason.

While it's not what many hoped for prior to the season, the Nittany Lions (15-17, 6-12 Big Ten) are set to play in the College Basketball Invitational, or CBI. Penn State earned a spot in the tourney and will face Hampton at the Bryce Jordan Center on Wednesday at a time to be determined Monday.

The CBI, unlike the NCAA Tournament or NIT, is a 16-team, single elimination tournament, with each game hosted by the higher seeded squad. When two teams remain, they'll square off in a best-of-three series to determine a champion.

Penn State coach Patrick Chambers expressed after Thursday's loss to Minnesota in the Big Ten Tournament that if the Lions were invited to the CBI, they would accept.

"We are looking forward to the opportunity to play in the CBI," Chambers said via a press release.

"The team is grateful for [the] chance to continue practicing together and ultimately having a chance to compete for a championship."

It's easy to see why. With only two members of the current roster with postseason experience, the CBI should provide Penn State's younger members with a valuable opportunity at playing time.

With a chance in the tournament to get at or above .500 for the season, the Lions have to go through the 18-12 Pirates first and foremost. Hampton posted a 13-3 record in the MEAC, good for second place in the conference.

If Penn State defeats Hampton, it'll face the winner of Stony Brook and Siena in the quarterfinals. Also, if the Lions make it to the semifinals, they'll have a chance to rematch Princeton — Penn



### **Chambers Speaks During Timeout.jpg**

Penn State men's basketball head coach Pat Chambers speaks with his team during a timeout in their matchup against Illinois at the Bryce Jordan Center on Sunday afternoon, February 9, 2014. The Illini defeated the Nittany Lions, 60-55.

State's foe in the Return to Rec game earlier in the season. The Lions lost to the Tigers, 81-79, in overtime.