

Penn Will Oppose Big 8 Runnerup

Penn will play the Big Eight Conference runnerup and the East Coast Conference champion will meet the winner of the Eastern College Athletic Conference's New York-Connecticut regional playoff when the NCAA basketball tournament opens on Saturday, March 15.

The matchups for that Palestra doubleheader were announced Thursday as the NCAA completed the field and pairings for its 32-team competition.

Kansas (18-7), Missouri (18-7) or Kansas State (17-8) will be the first-round foe for Penn (23-4), which qualified by winning its sixth consecutive Ivy League championship.

Kansas, leads the Big Eight race by one game over K-State and Missouri with one set of games remaining Saturday: Oklahoma at Kansas, Oklahoma State at K-State and Missouri at Colorado. The Big Eight champion gets an automatic berth in the tournament's Midwest Region, while the runnerup was chosen under the NCAA's new format of inviting worthy second teams.

Opponents in the other Palestra game will be determined in playoffs this weekend.

La Salle (20-6) meets American (16-9) and Lafayette (21-4) faces Rider (16-10) in East Coast Conference semifinals tonight on Lafayette's court at

NCAA Schedule

EAST REGION

First round—East Coast champion vs. ECAC N. Y. — Conn. winner and Penn (23-4) vs. Big Eight second team at the Palestra, Atlantic Coast champion vs. New Mexico State (20-6) and Furman (21-4) vs. ECAC New England winner at Charlotte (N. C.) Coliseum.
Regional—At Providence Civic Center.

MIDWEST REGION

First round—Mid-American champion vs. ECAC Southern winner and Southeastern champion vs. Marquette (21-3) at Tuscaloosa, Ala. (U. of Alabama), Indiana (28-0) vs. Western AC second team (Arizona, 20-5 or Texas-El Paso, 19-5) and Ohio Valley champion vs. Pacific Eight second team at Lexington, Ky. (U. of Kentucky).
Regional—At Dayton (O.) University.

MIDWEST REGION

First Round—Southwest champion vs. Cincinnati (21-5) and Atlantic Coast second team vs. Creighton (20-5) at Lubbock, Tex. (Texas Tech) Louisville (24-2) vs. ECAC Metropolitan N. Y. winner and Big Eight champion vs. Notre Dame (18-8) at Tulsa, Okla. (Oral Roberts).
Regional—At Las Cruces, N. M. (New Mexico State).

WEST REGIONAL

First round—Arizona State (22-3) vs. Southeastern second team and Nevada-Las Vegas (22-4) vs. San Diego State (14-11) at Tempe, Ariz. (Arizona State), Pacific Eight champion (UCLA, 22-3, or Oregon State, 18-9) vs. Big Ten second team and Montana (20-4) vs. Utah State (21-5) at Pullman, Wash. (Washington State).
Regional—At Portland (Ore.) Coliseum.

tonight's openers.

Winners of the Palestra games will advance, along with the victors in a doubleheader at Charlotte, N.C., to the East Regional at Providence, March 20 and 22. The national semis are March 29 and the final March 31 at San Diego.

Times for first-round games will be announced after consultation with the televising networks.

Princeton (18-8) also got into the postseason picture Thursday as the National Invitation Tournament picked the first four of 16 teams for the March 15-23 competition at Madison Square Garden. Also named were Oral Roberts (19-6), Southern Illinois (18-8) and Oregon (17-8), which is coached by former Penn coach Dick Harter.

The NCAA committee, meeting at Mission, Kan., selected five independent teams and seven conference runnersup to join the four ECAC playoff winners and 16 conference champions which receive automatic bids.

Independents chosen were Marquette (12-3), Cincinnati (21-5), Utah State (21-5), Creighton (20-5) and Notre Dame (18-8).

Second teams were invited from the Atlantic Coast, Southeastern, Missouri Valley (New Mexico State, 20-6), Pacific Eight, Big Ten and Western AC, in addition to the Big Eight.

Easton. The final will be played there at 3 P.M. Saturday.

The ECAC's New York-Connecticut tournament, tonight and Saturday at Buffalo, is one of four such playoffs among Eastern independents, with each winner advancing to NCAA competition. Top-seeded Syracuse (18-7) plays Niagara (12-13) and St. Bonaventure (13-12) meets Fairfield (13-12) in