

# **40-TEAM FIELD ANNOUNCED FOR 2006 POSTSEASON WNIT**

## **\*For Immediate Release\***

Monday, March 13, 2006 – The first 40-team field in the history of the Postseason Women's National Invitation Tournament was announced tonight.

The WNIT kicks off postseason action Wednesday, with preliminary-round games. Sixteen teams will play in that round, and then feed into 16 first-round games. All games are held on the campuses of participating schools, and no seeds are designated. This is the first year that the tournament expanded from 32 to 40 teams, which was done to offer more postseason opportunities to teams that won their regular-season conference title but lost in their conference tournament and did not earn an NCAA automatic berth.

The field features four teams each from the Big 12 and Big East conferences. From the Big 12, Kansas State, Nebraska, Iowa State and Kansas were chosen. From the Big East, Pittsburgh, Villanova, Marquette and Cincinnati made the field. Three teams made the WNIT from the Atlantic 10: Charlotte, St. Joseph's and Xavier. Three teams also made it from the Colonial (James Madison, Delaware and Hofstra) and the Missouri Valley (Indiana State, Drake and Northern Iowa).

Game times will be announced Tuesday, March 14, by the WNIT. For more information, visit the Web site at [www.womensnit.com](http://www.womensnit.com)

## **Preliminary Round**

### **Wednesday, March 15, 2006**

Jackson State at Rice

Western Illinois at Illinois

Stony Brook at Hofstra

Belmont at Tennessee Tech

### **Thursday, March 16**

Northern Iowa at Kansas

Cincinnati at Florida International

Santa Clara at Oregon State

UC-Santa Barbara at Fresno State

## **First Round**

### **Thursday, March 16**

Eastern Michigan at Indiana State

Wisconsin-Green Bay at Iowa State

### **Friday, March 17**

Western Illinois-Illinois winner at Marquette

South Carolina at Xavier  
James Madison at Charlotte  
Belmont-Tennessee Tech winner at Western Kentucky  
Drake at Nebraska  
Idaho State at Kansas State  
**Saturday, March 18**  
Jackson State-Rice winner at Indiana  
Northern Iowa-Kansas winner vs. Mississippi  
Delaware at Pittsburgh  
St. Joseph's (Pa.) at Virginia  
Cincinnati-Florida International winner at Miami  
Stony Brook-Hofstra winner at Villanova  
Santa Clara-Oregon State winner at Wyoming  
UC-Santa Barbara-Fresno State winner vs. UNLV