



The Extra

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

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PC men awarded bid to CIT

By Nick Herman
Sports Editor

For the first time since moving to Division I in 2007, the Presbyterian College men's basketball program is taking part in a postseason tournament.

PC (18-15) was awarded a bid to the CollegeInsider.com Tournament (CIT) Wednesday. The 32-team tournament, which has been around since 2009, will open with first-round games no earlier than Monday, and run through to the championship game on April 4. All tournament games are played on campus and will be broadcast on the CBS Sports and CBS Sports Digital Networks.

The selection of the Blue Hose highlights what has been a huge turnaround for the program under second-year head coach Dustin Kerns. The program, which had gone six straight years (including Kerns' first in 2018) with at least 20 losses, clinched its first-ever winning season in Division I and wrapped the 2019 Big South regular season with a 9-9 record.

The Big South rewarded the Blue Hose with several postseason awards, including Adam Flagler as Big South Freshman of the Year, Davon Bell named to the All-Big South second team, Francois Lewis was an all-conference honorable mention, Cory Hightower was picked for the All-Freshman team, and J.C. Younger made the All-Academic team.

"This is what every program aspires to do and having the opportunity to play for a championship is special. We hope to make Presbyterian College proud and continue our journey with this team," Kerns said.

Northern Colorado won last year's tournament, defeating Illinois-Chicago in the championship game. Two teams – Liberty and Wofford – have gone from last year's CIT field to earn berths into automatic bids to this year's NCAA Tournament.

Also of note is the University of Maryland-Baltimore County, which became the first-ever No. 16 seed to win a men's NCAA Division I Tournament game last year, made the CIT the previous season.

PC is the 13th Big South program to make the tournament



Photo by Nick Herman

STILL DRIVING – Chris Martin and the Presbyterian College men's basketball team earned the program's first postseason tournament bid since the D-I transition when it was selected to the CollegeInsider.com Tournament Wednesday. The Blue Hose will learn their opponent, where they will play their first-round game, and when, on Sunday.

since its inception. The last time PC made a postseason tournament was the 2006 NCAA Division II Tournament. That team advanced to the second round of the South Atlantic Regional and finished with a record of 25-10.

Council votes to begin process in purchase of fire trucks

By John Clayton
Editor

The Laurens County Council narrowly approved a plan at its Tuesday meeting to research and begin the bidding process on lease-purchase arrangements for a dozen new fire vehicles by Laurens County Fire Services.

Laurens County Fire Services Director Greg Lindley says his agency needs a dozen new fire vehicles to replace vehicles that are 30 years old or older. He is looking to purchase 10 new pumper trucks and two new rescue trucks for county fire departments at a cost not to exceed \$3.5 million. No purchases can be made without the approval of council.

"These are what I call our front-line vehicles," Lindley told council members, who voted 4-3 to allow Lindley to look into the lease-purchase arrangements.

He said the older trucks have become expensive to maintain and in some cases, his department is unable to find replacement parts because the companies that produced the equipment and formerly supplied parts are no longer in business.

Lindley said the county has attempted to replace aging equipment every 10 years, the last replacement cycle coming in 2010 when the county purchased a dozen vehicles.

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