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Raiders To Play For Trip To NJCAA Tournament

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POPLAR BLUFF - The Three Rivers College Raiders men's basketball team, which won the Region XVI title Saturday night, will play for the District 4 Championship at the Bess Activity Center in Poplar Bluff at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

Area residents are urged to turn out to cheer on the Raiders as they take on the Region IV Champions Highland (Ill.) Cougars. The winner of this game will advance to the NJCAA Men's Basketball National Championship Tournament March 20-24 in Hutchinson, Kansas.

The Raiders, who were third seed in the Region XVI tournament, pulled off two upsets to win the regional title, including defeating top-seeded Moberly 66-63 on Saturday.

"These last postseason games are all that really counts," Three Rivers coach Gene Bess said after Saturday night's Region XVI win over Moberly. "Right now, we're 2-0 and we've got Highland coming in Tuesday (for the district title game). We've got to win one more to make it to the big house. The early games prepare you for this postseason play. We didn't have a great season overall but what's really important is the postseason play. That's what really matters."

"Wouldn't it be amazing for us to win about five more and be the national champions," Bess added.

Admission to Tuesday's game is \$5.

For more information about the Raiders, visit RaidersAthletics.com. For information about the NJCAA National Championship, visit njcaa.org.

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