

Final 4 has strong Kirkwood flavor

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Kirkwood Community College has a catchy advertising slogan that says you can "Start Here, Go Anywhere."

That includes the Final 4 of the NCAA men's basketball tournament.

Chris Jans and Greg Heiar, two assistant coaches at Wichita State, have a strong connection to the Kirkwood Eagles.

Jans was the men's basketball coach at Kirkwood when the Eagles won the NJCAA Division II national title in 1998 with a 31-6 record. Heiar played for Jans at Kirkwood, and now both of them are trying to help Wichita State win the NCAA Division I title.

Wichita State (30-8) will face Louisville in the semifinals Saturday at 5:09 p.m. Michigan will meet Syracuse in the other semifinal, with the winners playing Monday night for the title.

Jans is the associate head coach at Wichita State.