THE BATTALION

nner Tackles New Mexico St. In NCAATo

By The Associated Press The National Collegiate Athletic Association invited 10 atlarge teams to participate in its annual championship in March Tuesday.

But Marquette University, rated No. 8 in the nation, turned down the bid and decided to go to the National Invitation Tournament in New York in a dispute over its placement in the Midwest regional.

Marquette.

Although the NIT said it would make no announcement until Wednesday afternoon, Coach Al McGuire of Marquette said his team was taking the NIT over the NCAA.

The NCAA invites 10 at-large teams, plus 15 conference cham-

in the latest Associated Press poll, already has qualified by winning the Southeastern Conference title and Western Kentucky has won the Ohio Valley Conference.

The NIT will invite 16 teams for its tournament in New York's Madison Square Garden, starting pions, some of which have to be March 13 and ending March 21.

March 7, March 12-14 and March 19-21 with the finals at College Park, Md.

UCLA, 21-1 after suffering its first defeat Saturday, has won the NCAA championship three years in a row and is almost a

sure thing to represent the Pacific Eight this season. St. Bonaventure, a leading in-

dependent with a 19-1 record and

Unranked Dayton, 17-7, then decided by postseason tourna-accepted the NCAA bid, replacing ments. Kentucky, the No. 1 team held on three successive weekends, NCAA along with fifth-ranked NCAA along with fifth-ranked New Mexico State, 21-2, who will play the SWC winner, sixthranked Jacksonville, 20-1, and eighth- rated Marquette, 19-3, which was replaced by unranked Dayton.

Others receiving NCAA invitations included Notre Dame, 20-5, Houston, 20-3, Utah State, 18-5. Villanova, 17-6, Niagara, 19-4 and Long Beach State, 21-3.

Although the NIT was not announcing the invitation to Marquette, privately it was not denying the news.

McGuire said the decision of the NCAA to place Marquette in the Midwest regional was the basic factor in rejection of the bid. He said Marquette wanted to be placed in the Mideast regional at Dayton, Ohio instead the winners of the Southwe of the Midwest. The regionals

will be played March 7. McGuire said Jacksonville an Notre Dame had been put in the Mideast regional which also i cludes the champions of the Bi Ten and Kentucky, Southe

Conference.

Serv Conference champs, in the seco Each H round after a first round bye. In the Midwest regionals the Thu are three members at-large, pl

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