

**The Nation's Premier Award for
NCAA® Senior Student-Athletes**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOWE'S SENIOR CLASS AWARD ANNOUNCES 30 CANDIDATES
FOR 2008 NCAA® MEN'S SOCCER AND WOMEN'S SOCCER DIVISIONS

(Kansas City, MO) – Thirty male and thirty female senior student-athletes who have displayed both on-field and off-field excellence have been selected as candidates for the 2008 **Lowe's Senior CLASS Award** in the men's soccer and women's soccer divisions. The award, given annually to senior student-athletes across nine NCAA Division I sports, has become one of the most prestigious honors in college athletics and is sponsored by Lowe's, an Official Corporate Partner of the NCAA.

These individuals qualified based on their dedication and achievement in four areas: Classroom, Character, Community, and Competition. The Lowe's Senior CLASS Award is distinctive from many other honors in that on-the-field performance is only one factor in determining candidacy – a major emphasis is placed on off-the-field commitments and personal character.

The 2008 candidates on the women's side represent 26 different NCAA colleges and universities and 19 athletics conferences across the country. Five schools – Clemson, Notre Dame, BYU, Duke, and USC – boast two candidates each within this elite group of seniors. The Atlantic Coast Conference leads the pack with five candidates while the Big East Conference is close behind with three. The men's list follows a similar pattern with 28 schools representing 17 conferences. The University of South Florida holds the multiple-athlete honor on the men's side with two candidates. The Big East conference dominates with five total candidates followed by the Big Ten, Pac-10, and Ivy League, which are tied with three each.

From the list of 30 candidates (complete list attached), a national media committee will select 10 finalists for the 2008 Lowe's Senior CLASS Award in both divisions in October. Those 10 names from each division will then be placed on the official ballot for a nationwide vote beginning October 9 and concluding November 19. Fan balloting will be coupled with votes from coaches and media to determine the recipient of the award. Winners will be announced during the 2008 NCAA Division I Women's Soccer Championships in Cary, North Carolina, scheduled for December 5-7, and during the 2008 NCAA Division I Men's Soccer Championships in Frisco, Texas, scheduled for December 12-14.

"The caliber of individuals in this year's senior class of soccer players made narrowing the field to 30 for each category very difficult," said **Bob Gfeller**, Lowe's senior vice president of marketing and advertising. "We are ecstatic to see how many talented senior student-athletes are electing to use their skills not only on the playing field, but also in the classroom and in the community."

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An acronym for *Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School*, the award was launched during the 2001-02 season in response to the trend of college basketball players leaving college early to turn professional.

The award was conceived by sportscaster **Dick Enberg**, who continues to serve as Honorary Chairman, and has recognized winners in men's and women's basketball for seven years. Lowe's extended the award in 2006 to include baseball, softball, men's hockey and men's lacrosse, then in 2007 added men's and women's soccer. The award will also include the sport of football this fall, bringing the total awards program to nine NCAA Division I sports.

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ABOUT THE AWARD

An acronym for *Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School*, the Lowe's Senior CLASS Award honors the attributes of senior student-athletes in four areas: classroom, community, character and competition. The award program is designed exclusively for college seniors who are utilizing their complete athletic eligibility, remaining committed to their university and pursuing the many rewards that a senior season can bring. For more information, visit www.seniorclassaward.com.

ABOUT LOWE'S

With fiscal year 2007 sales of \$48.3 billion, Lowe's Companies, Inc. is a FORTUNE® 50 company that serves approximately 14 million customers a week at more than 1,525 home improvement stores in the United States and Canada. Founded in 1946 and based in Mooresville, N.C., Lowe's is the second-largest home improvement retailer in the world. For more information, visit www.Lowes.com.

ABOUT THE NCAA

The NCAA is a membership-led nonprofit association of colleges and universities committed to supporting academic and athletic opportunities for more than 400,000 student-athletes at more than 1,000 member colleges and universities. Each year, more than 54,000 student-athletes compete in NCAA championships in Divisions I, II and III sports. Visit www.ncaa.org and www.ncaa.com for more details about the Association.

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2008 Women's Soccer Candidates

Name	Position	School Name	Conference
Yael Averbuch	Midfielder	University of North Carolina	Atlantic Coast
Stefanie Baduria	Midfielder	Loyola Marymount University	West Coast
Lizzie Barnes	Goalkeeper	United States Naval Academy	Patriot
Brittany Bock	Forward/Midfielder	University of Notre Dame	Big East
Julie Bolt	Forward/Midfielder	Clemson University	Atlantic Coast
Natalie Capuano	Forward	University of Pennsylvania	Ivy
Jessica Carter	Midfielder	Brigham Young University	Mountain West
Lindsay Cunningham	Midfielder	Brown University	Ivy
Nikki Czaplicki	Forward	North Carolina - Charlotte	Atlantic 10
Amanda Gallow	Forward	University of Dayton	Atlantic 10
Jenae Gibbens	Midfielder	Cal State Fullerton	Big West
Patrice Godwin	Defender	University of Nevada	Western Athletic
Candace Gonzales	Defender	Georgia State University	Colonial
Kerri Hanks	Midfielder	University of Notre Dame	Big East
Molly Johnson	Midfielder	Clemson University	Atlantic Coast
Ahna Johnson	Forward	Fairfield University	Metro Atlantic
Katie Larkin	Defender	Brigham Young University	Mountain West
Emily McColl	Forward/Midfielder	Coastal Carolina	Big South
Christie McDonald	Midfielder	Duke University	Atlantic Coast
Kathryn Murphy	Midfielder	University of Memphis	Conference USA
Ashley Nick	Defender	University of Southern California	Pacific-10
Yolanda Odenyo	Midfielder	Oklahoma State University	Big 12
Lorraine Quinn	Midfielder	Duke University	Atlantic Coast
Laura Grace Robinson	Midfielder	Texas A&M University	Big 12
Amy Rodriguez	Midfielder	University of Southern California	Pacific-10
Kylee Rossi	Forward	University of Tennessee	Southeastern
Marisha Schumacher-Hodge	Forward	Boston University	America East
Almarie Soto-Ortiz	Midfielder	Southern University	Southwestern
Brittany Tegeler	Midfielder	University of Connecticut	Big East
Emily Zurrer	Forward	University of Illinois	Big Ten

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2008 Men's Soccer Candidates

Name	Position	School	Conference
Matt Besler	Defender	University of Notre Dame	Big East
Chay Cain	Goalkeeper	Indiana University	Big Ten
Michael Callahan	Midfielder	University of North Carolina	Atlantic Coast
Ryan Callahan	Midfielder	Oregon State University	Pacific-10
Stephen Carlson	Defender	Loyola Marymount University	West Coast
Kyle Christensen	Forward	University of Denver	Mountain Pacific
Sam Cronin	Midfielder	Wake Forest University	Atlantic Coast
Dylan Curtis	Midfielder	University of California Davis	Big West
Doug DeMartin	Forward	Michigan State University	Big Ten
Pat Disbennett	Goalkeeper	Saint Louis University	Atlantic 10
Cyrus Eaton	Midfielder	Belmont University	Atlantic Sun
Michael Fucito	Midfielder	Harvard University	Ivy
Adam Gartner	Defender	Eastern Illinois University	Missouri Valley
A.J. Glubzinski	Goalkeeper	United States Military Academy	Patriot
Maxwell Griffin	Forward	University of California Los Angeles	Pacific-10
Garret Guthrie	Defender	University of Missouri Kansas City	Summit
Kyle Hall	Forward	Syracuse University	Big East
George John	Midfielder	University of Washington	Pacific-10
Matthew Jones	Goalkeeper	Sacred Heart University	Northeast
Benten Kieffner	Defender	Winthrop University	Big South
Yohance Marshall	Defender	University of South Florida	Big East
Ossie Michalsen	Defender	University of Akron	Mid-American
Sean Milligan	Goalkeeper	Dartmouth College	Ivy
Kevon Neaves	Midfielder	University of South Florida	Big East
Chris Pontius	Forward	University of California Santa Barbara	Big West
Brad Ring	Midfielder	Indiana University	Big Ten
Dylan Sheehan	Forward	Brown University	Ivy
Zack Simmons	Goalkeeper	University of Massachusetts	Atlantic 10
Connor Tobin	Defender	University of Vermont	America East
O'Brian White	Forward	University of Connecticut	Big East