



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**EVAN BARNES, GOALKEEPER AT U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY, NAMED WINNER
OF 2007 LOWE'S SENIOR CLASS AWARD AS TOP SENIOR STUDENT-ATHLETE
IN NCAA® DIVISION I MEN'S SOCCER**

Award Presented by Lowe's At NCAA® Men's College Cup®

(Cary, NC) – A tremendous leader and one of America's brightest young collegians, **Evan Barnes** of the United States Naval Academy has been selected as the men's soccer recipient of the 2007 Lowe's Senior CLASS Award. The award, chosen by a nationwide vote of coaches, media and fans, is presented to the outstanding NCAA® Division I senior student-athlete in men's soccer.

Lowe's, an official corporate sponsor of the NCAA®, will honor the senior goalkeeper, who becomes the first-ever winner in the new men's soccer division of the award, with an on-field trophy presentation today during the NCAA® Men's College Cup® in Cary, NC.

Earlier this year, Lowe's announced the addition of men's and women's soccer to the award program, bringing the Lowe's Senior CLASS Award to a total of eight NCAA® sports. The award was originally launched in 2001 with basketball. An acronym for *Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School*, the Lowe's Senior CLASS Award has grown into the nation's premier tribute to college seniors.

The award identifies personal qualities that define a complete student-athlete, with criteria including excellence in the **classroom**, **character** and **community**, as well as **competition** in sports.

"First, I want to thank Lowe's and everyone involved for creating this award recognizing student-athletes in NCAA soccer," Barnes said. "I was flattered to even be considered for the award and I am truly honored to be selected from a group of such accomplished individuals and distinguished sports programs. Without the support of my family, friends, teammates and coaches, none of this would be possible. I am proud to represent them as well as the Naval Academy soccer program."

Barnes, who was recently named third team Academic All-America, posted a 1.39 GAA and a .705 save percentage during his senior season. He recorded 31 saves and three shutouts and was named Patriot League Goalkeeper of the Week on Sept. 4, after leading Navy to a pair of season-opening shutouts.

In the classroom, Barnes is an Honors Systems engineering major with a 3.88 overall GPA and has posted a 4.0 every semester he has been on the soccer team. He is chairman of the U.S. Naval Academy Leadership Conference where he is responsible for the planning and execution of the nation's premier undergraduate leadership conference, a four-day event involving over 250 participants from more than 26 colleges and universities.

In the community, Barnes is involved with a broad spectrum of fascinating projects that are making an impact from campus to other countries. His global reach came on a project called Blood: Water Mission, an effort to provide clean water for people in Africa, to promote healthier communities, and protect individuals infected with AIDS from deadly water parasites and bacteria. Barnes has also volunteered extensively at The Center of Ohio Science and Industry (COSI), teaching basic scientific principles to elementary and middle school students. He has also dedicated his time to his fellow students as the founder of a company peer tutor program. Through the tutor program, Barnes assigned mentors to individuals struggling academically and kept track of all meetings and academic progress.

"It has been an absolute honor for the coaching staff to work with a gentleman such as Evan Barnes," said **Rich Miranda**, men's soccer coach at the U.S. Naval Academy. "His commitment, determination and passion set the standard for student-athletes at any level. In addition, his leadership and desire to understand, learn and seek self improvement is what embodies the Naval Academy student-athlete and ultimately contributed to his on-going success. We are very proud he is a part of our soccer program. Evan represents what academics and athletics is all about."

"Lowe's is extremely pleased to honor student-athletes who work hard to achieve goals in every aspect of life," said **Bob Gfeller**, SVP of Marketing and Advertising at Lowe's. "Evan Barnes has displayed a tremendous amount of dedication and leadership in pursuing excellence during his athletic and academic career. His desire to utilize his skills to make an impact on other people is very evident. He is an outstanding choice for the first ever Lowe's Senior CLASS Award winner in men's soccer."

The Lowe's Senior CLASS Award also names an All-Senior All-America Team based on voting results of the finalists. Joining Barnes on the 2007 First Team are: **Kevin Forrest** of the University of Washington, **Trini Gomez** of Loyola Marymount University, **Julius James** of the University of Connecticut and **Tim Jepson** of Duke University. The Second Team consists of: **Stephen King** of the University of Maryland, **Peter Lowry** of Santa Clara University, **Brad Peetoom** of Syracuse University, **Julian Valentin** of Wake Forest University and **Mike Zaher** of UCLA.

Sportscaster **Dick Enberg**, Honorary Chairman of the Lowe's Senior CLASS Award, first conceived the idea of an award for seniors in 2001 in response to the growing trend of men's basketball players leaving school early for the NBA.

Lowe's has expanded the Senior CLASS Award program this year to include NCAA® Division I men's hockey, men's lacrosse, baseball and softball in addition to men's and women's basketball and now men's and women's soccer. The winner in each sport is announced at the respective NCAA® Championship events.

"Recognizing the many achievements of student-athletes is a goal the NCAA proudly shares with our corporate partner Lowe's," said **Greg Shaheen**, NCAA Senior Vice President for Basketball and Business Strategies. "The Lowe's Senior CLASS Award places a spotlight on the quality attributes of our future student-athlete graduates. The NCAA is proud to honor student-athlete leaders who have demonstrated a commitment to excel on the field of competition while they earn their degrees."

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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 2006 sales of \$46.9 billion, Lowe's Companies, Inc. is a FORTUNE® 50 company that serves approximately 13 million customers a week at more than 1,425 home improvement stores in 49 states. 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.

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The Nation's Premier Award for
NCAA Senior Student Athletes



All-Senior All-America Teams

As selected in balloting for the Lowe's Senior CLASS Award by cumulative results of NCAA® Division I Coaches, National Media and Fan Balloting

Men's Soccer

First Team

First	Last	Position	Height	School
Evan	Barnes	GK	6'4	U.S. Naval Academy
Kevin	Forrest	F	5'11	Washington
Trini	Gomez	M/F	5'10	Loyola Marymount
Julius	James	D	6'0	Connecticut
Tim	Jepson	D	6'0	Duke

Second Team

First	Last	Position	Height	School
Stephen	King	M/F	5'8	Maryland
Peter	Lowry	M/F	5'11	Santa Clara
Brad	Peetoom	D	6'1	Syracuse
Julian	Valentin	D	5'11	Wake Forest
Mike	Zaher	D	5'10	UCLA