



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**30 NCAA® MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SENIORS WHO EXCEL  
ON AND OFF THE COURT ARE SELECTED AS CANDIDATES FOR  
2008-09 LOWE'S SENIOR CLASS AWARD**

(Kansas City, MO) – Thirty senior male and female NCAA college basketball players were announced today as candidates for the 2008-09 **Lowe's Senior CLASS Award**, presented annually to an NCAA Division I student-athlete in nine sports. Based on criteria focusing on the "Four C's" of **classroom, character, community** and **competition**, the award winners will be selected by national balloting of head basketball coaches, national media and college basketball fans.

Lowe's, an official corporate partner of the NCAA, will present the winners with trophies during the weekends of the respective NCAA Men's and Women's Final Four.

An acronym for *Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School*, the award was launched during the 2001-02 season to honor the attributes of college basketball seniors who remain committed to their university and pursue the many rewards that a senior season and complete college education brings.

The list of 2008-09 basketball candidates (complete roster attached) includes a range of universities and conferences across the country. Male award candidates represent 27 different schools; the University of Memphis, University of North Carolina (at Chapel Hill) and University of Texas (at Austin) each have two candidates. Players from 14 different conferences are among the men's nominees. The Big 12 Conference leads the way with five candidates.

All 30 female award candidates hail from a different university. While 18 conferences are included among the list of nominees, the Big 12 Conference again landed the most with five female candidates.

Schools that placed both a male and female student-athlete on the roster of candidates include Duke University, Marquette University, University of North Carolina, and the University of Pittsburgh.

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“At Lowe’s, we take pride in acknowledging hard work and outstanding accomplishments both on and off the court,” said **Bob Gfeller**, Lowe’s senior vice president of marketing and advertising. “That commitment extends beyond our employees and customers and into the communities we serve where these student-athletes become real-life mentors. We’re thrilled to honor each candidate’s contributions and look forward to recognizing the award recipients at the men’s and women’s Final Four.”

From each of the two lists of 30 nominees, a national media committee will select 10 finalists for the Lowe’s Senior CLASS Award in February 2009. Those 10 names will be placed on the official ballot for a nationwide vote. In addition to voting by Division I head basketball coaches and national media, college basketball fans will also be able to submit ballots by text voting or on-line at [www.seniorclassaward.com](http://www.seniorclassaward.com).

The award was conceived by sportscaster **Dick Enberg**, who continues to serve as Honorary Chairman. It was inspired by the remarkable story of former Duke University basketball player **Shane Battier**, who could have been an NBA lottery pick but returned to college for his senior season and led the Blue Devils to the National Championship in 2001.

The Lowe’s Senior CLASS Award is in its eighth year for men’s and women’s basketball. Previous winners of the men’s award include **Juan Dixon** of Maryland (2002), **David West** of Xavier (2003), **Jameer Nelson** of St. Joseph’s (2004), **Wayne Simien** of Kansas (2005), **J.J. Reddick** of Duke (2006), **Alando Tucker** of Wisconsin (2007) and **Shan Foster** of Vanderbilt (2008).

Recipients of the women’s award include **Sue Bird** of Connecticut (2002), **LaToya Thomas** of Mississippi State (2003), **Alana Beard** of Duke (2004), **Kendra Wecker** of Kansas State (2005), **Seimone Augustus** of LSU (2006), **Alison Bales** of Duke (2007) and **Candice Wiggins** of Stanford (2008).

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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](http://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 1,625 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](http://www.lowes.com)

#### **ABOUT THE NCAA**

The NCAA is a membership-led nonprofit association of colleges and universities committed to supporting academic and athletics 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](http://www.ncaa.org) and [www.ncaa.com](http://www.ncaa.com) for more details about the Association.

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## Lowe's Senior CLASS Award 2008-09 Women's Candidates

<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Conference</b>
Demetress Adams	University of South Carolina	F	Southeastern Conference
Nnenna Akotaobi	University of Denver	F	Sun Belt Conference
Kristi Cirone	Illinois State University	G	Missouri Valley Conference
Dellena Criner	University of Nevada	G	Western Athletic Conference
Krystal Ellis	Marquette University	G	Big East Conference
Robyn Fairbanks	Utah Valley University	C	Independent
Megan Frazee	Liberty University	G/F	Big South Conference
Jada Frazier	University of New Orleans	G	Sun Belt Conference
Rachel Galligan	Eastern Illinois University	F	Ohio Valley Conference
Amber Guffey	Murray State University	G	Ohio Valley Conference
Taylor Hardeman	Oklahoma State University	G	Big 12 Conference
Brooke Johnson	Western Carolina University	C/F	Southern Conference
Kelly Krumwiede	Bradley University	F	Missouri Valley Conference
Shalee Lehning	Kansas State University	G	Big 12 Conference
Kristi Little	Duquesne University	G	Atlantic 10 Conference
Rashanda McCants	University of North Carolina	F/G	Atlantic Coast Conference
Renee Montgomery	University of Connecticut	G	Big East Conference
Amanda Nisleit	Iowa State University	F	Big 12 Conference
Courtney Paris	University of Oklahoma	C	Big 12 Conference
Jessica Pike	Oakland University	G	The Summit League
Amy Rosenkrantz	University of Vermont	G	America East Conference
Jami Schaefer	Gonzaga University	G	West Coast Conference
Lauren Schober	Bucknell University	G/F	Patriot League
Koren Schram	Dartmouth College	G	Ivy Group
Takia Starks	Texas A&M University	G	Big 12 Conference
Kristi Toliver	University of Maryland	G	Atlantic Coast Conference
Abby Waner	Duke University	G	Atlantic Coast Conference
Morgan Warburton	University of Utah	G	Mountain West Conference
Christina Wirth	Vanderbilt University	F	Southeastern Conference
Shavonte Zellous	University of Pittsburgh	G	Big East Conference



## Lowe's Senior CLASS Award 2008-09 Men's Candidates

<b>Athlete Name</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Conference</b>
A.J. Abrams	University of Texas	G	Big 12 Conference
Jonathan Adams	Old Dominion University	F	Colonial Athletic Association
Antonio Anderson	University of Memphis	G	Conference USA
Connor Atchley	University of Texas	F/C	Big 12 Conference
Jimmy Baron	University of Rhode Island	G	Atlantic 10 Conference
Dane Brumagin	University of Missouri, Kansas City	F	The Summit League
Dionte Christmas	Temple University	G	Atlantic 10 Conference
Josh Dotzler	Creighton University	G	Missouri Valley Conference
Robert Dozier	University of Memphis	F	Conference USA
Marcus Ginyard	University of North Carolina	F/G	Atlantic Coast Conference
Tyler Hansbrough	University of North Carolina	F	Atlantic Coast Conference
Sam Hinnant	East Carolina University	G	Conference USA
Jason Holsinger	University of Evansville	G	Missouri Valley Conference
Lester Hudson	University of Tennessee at Martin	G	Ohio Valley Conference
Curtis Jerrells	Baylor University	G	Big 12 Conference
Marcus Landry	University of Wisconsin	F	Big Ten Conference
Matt Lawrence	University of Missouri	G	Big 12 Conference
Andrew Lovedale	Davidson University	F	Southern Conference
Jack McClinton	University of Miami	G	Atlantic Coast Conference
Jerel McNeal	Marquette University	G	Big East Conference
Leonard Mendez	Georgia State University	G	Colonial Athletic Association
Danny Morrissey	Pennsylvania State University	G	Big Ten Conference
Greg Paulus	Duke University	G	Atlantic Coast Conference
Taylor Rochestie	Washington State University	G	Pacific-10 Conference
Matt Szalachowski	Lehigh University	G	Patriot League
Paul Velander	University of Nebraska	G	Big 12 Conference
Andy Wicke	Belmont University	G	Atlantic Sun Conference
Gary Wilkinson	Utah State University	F	Western Athletic Conference
Terrence Williams	University of Louisville	F	Big East Conference
Sam Young	University of Pittsburgh	F	Big East Conference