



## NEWS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Lowe's Senior CLASS Award Announces 2009 Finalists for Nation's Outstanding Senior Student-Athlete in NCAA® Division I (FBS) Football

October 8, 2009 (Overland Park, KS) – Ten NCAA® football student-athletes who excel both on and off the field were tabbed as finalists today for the 2009 Lowe's Senior CLASS Award in the football division. To be eligible for the award, a student-athlete must be classified as an NCAA Division I senior in the Football Bowl Subdivision and have notable achievements in four areas of excellence – classroom, character, community and competition.

An acronym for *Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School*™, the Lowe's Senior CLASS Award focuses on the total student-athlete and encourages students to use their platform in athletics to make a positive impact as leaders in their communities. The finalists were chosen by a media committee from the list of 30 candidates that were announced in September.

Nationwide balloting begins immediately to determine the winner. Lowe's, an official Corporate Partner of the NCAA, will announce the Senior CLASS Award™ winner in early January.

The 2009 finalists are: **Zane Beadles**, University of Utah; **Richie Brockel**, Boise State University; **Eric Decker**, University of Minnesota; **Kurtis Gregory**, University of Missouri; **Jerry Hughes**, TCU; **Dan LeFevour**, Central Michigan University; **Colt McCoy**, University of Texas; **Zoltan Mesko**, University of Michigan; **Darrell Stuckey**, University of Kansas; and **Tim Tebow**, University of Florida.

These 10 names will be placed on the Lowe's Senior CLASS Award football ballot for a nationwide vote beginning today and concluding December 6. Fan balloting is available on the award's official Web site, <http://www.seniorCLASSaward.com>, as well as through text messaging. Fans can text FOOTBALL to 74567 to vote for the finalists. These votes will be combined with votes from coaches and media to determine the recipient of the award.

"By accepting the responsibility that comes with being a student-athlete, the finalists for the Lowe's Senior CLASS Award in football have demonstrated leadership in the classroom, on the field of competition and in their communities," said **Tom Lamb**, Lowe's senior vice president of marketing. "We commend their dedication and encourage continuation of their great work during their senior year in college."

This marks the second year for the football division of the Lowe's Senior CLASS Award. In 2008, Ohio State University linebacker **James Laurinaitis** took home the inaugural football award.

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**ABOUT THE AWARD**

An acronym for *Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School*<sup>™</sup>, 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. 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. The award program has expanded the past two years to include a total of nine NCAA<sup>®</sup> Division I sports – football, men's and women's soccer, men's ice hockey, men's lacrosse, baseball and softball in addition to men's and women's basketball. The award is sponsored by Lowe's, an official Corporate Partner of the NCAA<sup>®</sup>, and managed by Premier Sports Management. For more information, visit [www.seniorCLASSaward.com](http://www.seniorCLASSaward.com).

**ABOUT LOWE'S**

With fiscal year 2008 sales of \$48.2 billion, Lowe's Companies, Inc. is a FORTUNE<sup>®</sup> 50 company that serves approximately 14 million customers a week at more than 1,675 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 [Lowe.com](http://Lowe.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.

**2009 Lowe's Senior CLASS Award  
Football Finalists**

| <b>Name</b>     | <b>Position</b>  | <b>School</b>               |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Zane Beadles    | Offensive Tackle | University of Utah          |
| Richie Brockel  | Fullback         | Boise State University      |
| Eric Decker     | Wide Receiver    | University of Minnesota     |
| Kurtis Gregory  | Offensive Line   | University of Missouri      |
| Jerry Hughes    | Defensive End    | TCU                         |
| Dan LeFevour    | Quarterback      | Central Michigan University |
| Colt McCoy      | Quarterback      | University of Texas         |
| Zoltan Mesko    | Punter           | University of Michigan      |
| Darrell Stuckey | Safety           | University of Kansas        |
| Tim Tebow       | Quarterback      | University of Florida       |