



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

West Virginia's Da'Sean Butler Selected by Nationwide Vote of Media, Fans and Coaches as Lowe's Senior CLASS Award Winner in Men's Basketball

April 3, 2010 (Indianapolis) – West Virginia University forward Da'Sean Butler has been selected as the Lowe's Senior CLASS Award winner for men's basketball.

The award, chosen by a nationwide vote of Division I men's coaches, national basketball media and fans, is awarded annually to the most outstanding senior student-athlete in NCAA® Division I men's basketball. The announcement and trophy presentation were made today by Lowe's, an official Corporate Partner of the NCAA, during the 2010 NCAA® Men's Final Four® in Indianapolis.

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 award identifies personal qualities that define a complete student-athlete, with criteria including **community** service, excellence in the **classroom**, outstanding **character** and **competition** on the court.

"I am truly honored to receive such a prestigious award. This award would not be possible without my teammates. I want to thank my teammates, the staff and our great Mountaineer fans everywhere," Butler said. "I am grateful that I have been a role model to children and have had a positive impact on the community."

Butler has participated in several public service projects on behalf of his school, the Big East Conference and the state of West Virginia. He has been in an anti-smoking campaign for the state and has filmed a public service announcement about respect and sportsmanship for the conference. In addition, he has spent many hours in the community volunteering with elementary school children and visiting local hospitals.

"This award could not go to a more deserving young man. As good a player as Da'Sean is on the floor, he is a far better person off the floor," West Virginia head coach Bob Huggins said. "Rarely, if ever, do you see a young man immerse himself into a community and a state the way Da'Sean has."

Butler's team has advanced to the NCAA Final Four where it meets Duke in the national semifinals tonight. The Mountaineers are 31-6 entering the semifinal matchup. Butler leads the team in scoring with 17.4 points per game in addition to 6.3 rebounds and a team-high 117 assists. He led the Mountaineers to the Big East Conference tournament championship on the strength of two last-second, game-winning shots. He was named to the all-Big East first team and was the Big East tournament most valuable player.

"Da'Sean has been a vocal leader in his team's locker room throughout his career at West Virginia, but he's also taken the opportunity to be a vocal leader on his campus and in the community," said Tom Lamb, Lowe's senior vice president of marketing. "By competing and excelling at the highest level, Da'Sean has proven that he has what it takes to succeed after graduation in whatever field he chooses."

2010 Lowe's Senior CLASS Award Senior All-America First Team

| Name | Position | School |
|----------------|----------|-----------------------------|
| Da'Sean Butler | Forward | West Virginia University |
| Luke Harangody | Forward | University of Notre Dame |
| Adam Koch | Forward | University of Northern Iowa |
| Chris Kramer | Guard | Purdue University |
| Jon Scheyer | Guard | Duke University |

Senior All-America Second Team

| Name | Position | School |
|---------------|----------|-------------------------------|
| Matt Bouldin | Guard | Gonzaga University |
| Marquis Hall | Guard | Lehigh University |
| Damion James | Forward | University of Texas at Austin |
| Raymar Morgan | Forward | Michigan State University |
| Josh Young | Guard | Drake University |

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. 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® 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®, and managed by Premier Sports Management. For more information, visit www.seniorCLASSaward.com.

ABOUT LOWE'S

With fiscal year 2009 sales of \$47.2 billion, Lowe's Companies, Inc. is a FORTUNE® 50 company that serves approximately 15 million customers a week at more than 1,700 home improvement stores in the United States, Canada and Mexico. 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.

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 and www.NCAA.com for more details about the Association, its goals and members and corporate partnerships that help support programs for student-athletes.

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