



The Nation's Premier Award for

NCAA® Senior Student-Athletes

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 30, 2009

**FINALISTS SELECTED FOR 2009 LOWE'S SENIOR CLASS AWARD IN
NCAA® DIVISION I SOFTBALL; NATIONWIDE VOTING TO DETERMINE WINNER**

Award to be Presented by Lowe's at NCAA® Women's College World Series

(Kansas City, MO) – An impressive lineup of 10 senior student-athletes who have garnered tremendous achievements both on and off the field have been selected as finalists for the 2009 **Lowe's Senior CLASS Award** in the Softball division. Nationwide balloting begins immediately to determine the third annual winner, who will receive the award during the NCAA Women's College World Series in Oklahoma City, Okla.

The finalists were chosen from a list of 30 candidates based on personal qualities that define a complete student-athlete. These four primary areas of criteria include: **classroom, community, character** and **competition**.

An acronym for *Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School*, the Lowe's Senior CLASS Award has developed into the nation's premier tribute to college seniors. The award, which launched in 2001 with college basketball, is now in its third year for softball. Arizona outfielder Caitlin Lowe won the inaugural softball division award in 2007 and Virginia Tech pitcher Angela Tincher was the 2008 recipient.

The 2009 finalists are: **Whitney Haller**, Georgia Tech University; **Lillian Hammond**, University of Tennessee; **Jenae Leles**, University of Arizona; **Jessica Mapes**, Arizona State University; **Stacey Nelson**, University of Florida; **Amber Patton**, DePaul University; **Missy Penna**, Stanford University; **Samantha Ricketts**, University of Oklahoma; **Brittany Rogers**, University of Alabama; **Tammy Williams**, Northwestern University.

These 10 names will be placed on the Lowe's Senior CLASS Award softball ballot for a nationwide vote beginning March 30 and concluding May 7. Fan balloting, available on the award's official website www.seniorclassaward.com, will be combined with votes from coaches, media and sponsors to determine the recipient of the award.

"These outstanding student-athletes deserve recognition for their all-around achievements in the classroom, in the community and on the softball field," said **Bob Gfeller**, Lowe's senior vice president of marketing. "The Lowe's Senior CLASS Award is dedicated to honoring individuals who are making an impact on others with their talents. Lowe's commends each of these finalists, along with their respective coaches and universities."

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The 2009 award winner will be announced and presented with the prestigious Lowe's Senior CLASS Award trophy at the Opening Ceremonies of the NCAA Women's College World Series on June 2nd in Oklahoma City, OK. The Lowe's All-Senior All-America Team, based on final results of the balloting, will also be recognized.

The idea of an award to salute collegiate seniors was conceived by sportscaster Dick Enberg, who continues to serve as Honorary Chairman. It was inspired by the trend of college basketball players leaving college early to turn professional. The Senior CLASS Award was formed to honor senior student-athletes who fulfill their entire collegiate athletic eligibility, earn a college degree and give back to their community.

Lowe's, an official Corporate Partner of the NCAA, expanded the award in 2007 to include six other NCAA sports: men's hockey, men's lacrosse, baseball, softball, men's soccer and women's soccer. Football (Bowl Subdivision) was added in 2008 to bring the total sports affiliated with the award to nine.

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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 2008 sales of \$48.2 billion, Lowe's Companies, Inc. is a FORTUNE® 50 company that serves approximately 14 million customers a week at more than 1,650 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.

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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2009 NCAA Softball Finalists

Name	Position	School	Text Code*
Whitney Haller	First Base	Georgia Tech University	SB1
Lillian Hammond	Outfield	University of Tennessee	SB2
Jenae Leles	Third Base	University of Arizona	SB3
Jessica Mapes	Outfield	Arizona State University	SB4
Stacey Nelson	Pitcher	University of Florida	SB5
Amber Patton	Third Base	DePaul University	SB6
Missy Penna	Pitcher	Stanford University	SB7
Samantha Ricketts	First Base	University of Oklahoma	SB8
Brittany Rogers	Outfield	University of Alabama	SB9
Tammy Williams	Shortstop	Northwestern University	SB10

* To vote via text: "Text Code" to 839863