



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lowe's Senior CLASS Award Announces 2010 Finalists for Nation's Outstanding Senior Student-Athlete in NCAA® Division I Softball

March 29, 2010 (Overland Park, KS) – Ten NCAA® student-athletes who excel both on and off the field were tabbed as finalists today for the 2010 Lowe's Senior CLASS Award in the softball division. To be eligible for the award, a student-athlete must be classified as an NCAA Division I senior and have notable achievements in four areas of excellence – community, classroom, character 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 who were announced in February.

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 late May at the NCAA Women's College World Series® in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The 2010 finalists are: **Chelsea Bramlett**, Mississippi State University; **Francesca Enea**, University of Florida; **Alissa Haber**, Stanford University; **Becca Heteniak**, DePaul University; **Tiffany Huff**, University of Tennessee, Knoxville; **Molly Johnson**, University of Kentucky; **Megan Langenfeld**, University of California, Los Angeles; **Charlotte Morgan**, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa; **Nikki Nemitz**, University of Michigan; and **Nicole Pauly**, Northwestern University.

These 10 names will be placed on the Lowe's Senior CLASS Award softball ballot for a nationwide vote beginning today and concluding May 17. Fan balloting is available on the award's official Web site, <http://www.seniorCLASSaward.com>, as well as through text messaging. Fans can text SOFTBALL 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.

"It takes a tremendous amount of discipline to play a sport in college and still maintain an identity as a student," said **Tom Lamb**, Lowe's senior vice president of marketing. "These 10 softball finalists have managed to do just that, scoring high marks in the classroom, the community and on the diamond."

This marks the fourth year for the softball division of the Lowe's Senior CLASS Award. University of Florida pitcher **Stacey Nelson** received the award for the 2009 season and Virginia Tech pitcher **Angela Tincher** took home the 2008 honor. In 2007, University of Arizona outfielder **Caitlin Lowe** won the inaugural softball award.

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(r) 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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2010 Lowe's Senior CLASS Award Softball Finalists

Name	Position	School
Chelsea Bramlett	Catcher	Mississippi State University
Francesca Enea	Outfield	University of Florida
Alissa Haber	Outfield	Stanford University
Becca Heteniak	Pitcher/Designated Player	DePaul University
Tiffany Huff	Catcher/First Base	University of Tennessee
Molly Johnson	Shortstop	University of Kentucky
Megan Langenfeld	Pitcher/First Base	UCLA
Charlotte Morgan	Designated Player/Pitcher/First Base	University of Alabama
Nikki Nemitz	Pitcher	University of Michigan
Nicole Pauly	Second Base	Northwestern University