



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lowe's Senior CLASS Award Names 30 NCAA® Student-Athletes Each to the 2009 Men's and Women's Soccer Candidate Classes

August 26, 2009 (Overland Park, KS) – Sixty NCAA® men's and women's soccer student-athletes who excel both on and off the field were tabbed as candidates today for the 2009 Lowe's Senior CLASS Award in the two soccer divisions. 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 – classroom, character, community and competition. The complete list of candidates follows this release.

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 2009 candidate class of 60 includes 10 student-athletes who were named Scholar All-Americans by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America in 2008. Four of the 60 have maintained a cumulative grade point average of 4.00. Twenty-one candidates represent teams ranked in the preseason top 25 men's and women's polls. And 13 of the 60 candidates are on the preseason watch list for the Hermann Trophy, awarded annually by the Missouri Athletic Club to the top male and female Division I soccer players in the country at the end of the season. Lowe's, an official Corporate Partner of the NCAA, will announce the Senior CLASS Award winners during the 2009 NCAA Men's and Women's College Cup championships in early December.

Each of the 30 candidate classes will be narrowed to 10 finalists midway through the regular season, and those 10 names will be placed on the official ballot. Ballots will be distributed through a nationwide voting system to media, coaches and fans, who will select one male candidate and one female candidate who best exemplify excellence in the four Cs of classroom, character, community and competition.

"Lowe's is proud to be associated with the nominees for the Senior CLASS Award in soccer," said Bob Gfeller, Lowe's senior vice president of marketing and advertising. "Each of the student-athletes has shown tremendous commitment to their studies during their college careers. They have also demonstrated great character and a passion for community service."

This marks the third year for the men's and women's soccer division of the Lowe's Senior CLASS Award, and more than 175 student-athletes were nominated this year. Wake Forest University midfielder **Sam Cronin** received the men's award for the 2008 season, while **Kerri Hanks** from the University of Notre Dame won the women's award. In 2007, United State Naval Academy goalkeeper **Evan Barnes** took home the inaugural men's soccer award and **Stephanie Lopez** from the University of Portland received the women's award.

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Lowe's Senior CLASS Award news release continued

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 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 1,675 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.

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.

**2009 Lowe's Senior CLASS Award
Men's Soccer Candidates**

Name	Position	School
Francisco Aristeguieta	Midfielder	University of South Florida
Mark Blades	Defender	Northwestern University
Zak Boggs	Forward	University of South Florida
Ronnie Bouemboue	Forward	North Carolina State University
Nick Cukar	Midfielder	San Jose State University
Malcolm DeBaun	Defender	Loyola University (Illinois)
Richard Edgar	Midfielder	George Mason University
Joel Gustafsson	Defender	St. John's University
Rylan Hawkins	Goalkeeper	University of Washington
Craig Henderson	Midfielder	Dartmouth College
Steven Kinney	Defender	Elon University
Kyle Knotek	Defender	Northern Illinois University
Andrew Kydes	Midfielder	United States Military Academy
Tennant McVea	Defender	Loyola College (Maryland)
Devin Muntz	Midfielder	Princeton University
Benjamin Murray	Midfielder	University of Dayton
J.T. Noone	Midfielder	Temple University
Patrick Sampson	Goalkeeper	Loyola Marymount University
Ofori Sarkodie	Defender	Indiana University
Zack Schilawski	Forward	Wake Forest University
Chris Schuler	Defender	Creighton University
Assaf Sheleg	Defender	Saint Peter's College
Austin Skakle	Defender	Campbell University
Dean Sorrell	Defender	UAB
Toni Stahl	Midfielder	University of Connecticut
Michael Thomas	Midfielder	University of Notre Dame
Alexander Torda	Forward	University of Dayton
Eric Weigman	Forward	IUPUI
Jason Yeisley	Forward	Pennsylvania State University
Ben Zemanski	Midfielder	University of Akron

**2009 Lowe's Senior CLASS Award
Women's Soccer Candidates**

Name	Position	School
Hailey Beam	Midfielder	University of North Carolina - Charlotte
Elizabeth Betterbed	Midfielder/Defender	United States Military Academy
Kelsey Davis	Goalkeeper	University of Portland
Becky Edwards	Defender/Midfielder	Florida State University
Kristi Eveland	Defender	University of North Carolina
Kim Feeney	Defender	Loyola Marymount University
Theresa Ferraina	Forward	Loyola University (Maryland)
Rachel Friedman	Defender	Western Kentucky University
KayAnne Gummersall	Forward	Duke University
Erin Guthrie	Goalkeeper	Rutgers University
Lauren Hyde	Defender	University of Florida
Kim Kemper	Forward	Sacramento State University
Kasey Langdon	Forward	Oklahoma State University
Lauren Lopez	Defender	University of North Carolina - Greensboro
Nikki Marshall	Forward	University of Colorado
Blakely Mattern	Defender	University of South Carolina
Katrina McCrory	Midfielder	IUPUI
Courtney McMahon	Midfielder	Manhattan College
Sophia Merrifield	Defender	Yale University
Katie Miller	Defender/Midfielder	Marquette University
Angie Muir	Midfielder	Butler University
Lizzy Nichols	Defender	Harvard University
Kelley O'Hara	Forward	Stanford University
Emily Peterson	Defender	Texas A&M University
Sophie Reiser	Forward/Midfielder	Columbia University
Ali Riley	Defender	Stanford University
Myra Sack	Midfielder	Dartmouth College
Katie Schoepfer	Forward	Pennsylvania State University
Lindsey Smart	Midfielder	Utah State University
Amanda Waugh	Forward	Central Michigan University