



NEWS RELEASE

CONTACTS:

Laurie Bollig, Premier Sports Management
lbollig@premiersportsonline.com, 913-681-6990 x117

Maureen Rich, Lowe's Public Relations
Maureen.A.Rich@Lowe.com, 704-758-2298

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Texas A&M's Emily Peterson Selected by Nationwide Vote of Media, Fans and Coaches as Lowe's Senior CLASS Award Winner in Women's Soccer

December 4, 2009 (College Station, TX) – Texas A&M defender Emily Peterson, a fifth-year senior who overcame a serious physical disability to lead her team to the 2009 NCAA Division I Women's Soccer Championship round of 16, has been selected as the Lowe's Senior CLASS Award winner for women's soccer.

The award, chosen by a nationwide vote of Division I women's coaches, national soccer media and fans, is awarded annually to the most outstanding senior student-athlete in NCAA[®] Division I women's soccer. The announcement and trophy presentation were made today by Lowe's, an official Corporate Partner of the NCAA, during the 2009 Women's College Cup[™] in College Station, Texas.

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 excellence in the **classroom**, outstanding **character** and **community** service in addition to **competition** on the field.

"It is a tremendous honor to be the recipient of the Lowe's Senior CLASS Award. The past four years I have been blessed to go to a school known for its tradition of hard work, whether it is in the classroom, on the field, or around the community," Peterson said. "Winning this award is a reflection of that Aggie Spirit and what I love so much about Texas A&M. I would like to thank everyone for their support. I am truly honored."

Peterson has a 3.92 grade point average in finance as part of the Mays Business Honors Program at Texas A&M. She is a member of the Dean's List and President's Honor Roll and was one of 43 top business undergraduates to participate in an intensive professional development program designed to strengthen leadership abilities. Peterson was born without a left arm but has participated in team sports since a young age at the encouragement of her parents. She volunteers for the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children hand camp every year, counseling parents of children with upper-limb differences.

"I'm so excited for Emily and for her fans at hearing the news of her being selected as the recipient of this year's Lowe's Senior CLASS Award!" Texas A&M coach G Guerrieri said. "Petey's such a wonderful and inspirational role model for everyone who values hard work, intelligence, modesty, and what it means to be a great and caring teammate. I'm so proud of her and feel blessed to have been around Emily Peterson in her college years."

On the field, Peterson led Texas A&M to its 10th appearance in the NCAA tournament round of 16. During the first two matches, she recorded a goal from her central defender position and tallied an assist as well. Texas

Lowe's Senior CLASS Award news release continued

A&M lost in double overtime to Florida State in the tournament and finished the year 15-7-3 with a final regular-season ranking of No. 22.

"As a tireless worker in the classroom and on the field of competition, Emily epitomizes the spirit of the Lowe's Senior CLASS Award," said Tom Lamb, Lowe's senior vice president of marketing. "We are proud to recognize her achievements at Texas A&M and look forward to the great contributions she will make after her playing days have concluded."

2009 Lowe's Senior CLASS Award Senior All-America First Team

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>School</u>
Elizabeth Betterbed	Midfielder/Defender	Army
Kelsey Davis	Goalkeeper	Portland
Blakely Mattern	Defender	South Carolina
Kelley O'Hara	Forward	Stanford
Emily Peterson	Defender	Texas A&M

Senior All-America Second Team

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>School</u>
Kristi Eveland	Defender	North Carolina
Theresa Ferraina	Forward	Loyola (Maryland)
Lauren Lopez	Defender	North Carolina –Greensboro
Lizzy Nichols	Defender	Harvard
Myra Sack	Midfielder	Dartmouth

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.

Lowe's Senior CLASS Award news release continued

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.

###