



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 15, 2009

**LOWE'S SENIOR CLASS AWARD ANNOUNCES 2009 FINALISTS FOR NATION'S OUTSTANDING SENIOR STUDENT-ATHLETE IN NCAA® DIVISION I BASEBALL**

**Nationwide Voting Begins Today to Determine Winner of 2009 Award, which will be presented by Lowe's at the 2009 NCAA® Men's College World Series®**

(Kansas City, MO) – Ten of NCAA baseball's most successful senior student-athletes, who have committed four years of excellence both on and off the playing field, have been selected as finalists for the 2009 **Lowe's Senior CLASS Award** in the baseball division.

Nationwide balloting begins immediately to determine the third annual winner, who will receive the award from Lowe's, an Official Corporate Sponsor of the NCAA, during the NCAA Men's College World Series this June in Omaha, Nebraska.

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

The 2009 finalists are: **Scott Bittle**, University of Mississippi; **Brian Cloud**, Texas Tech University; **Grant Escue**, Bradley University; **Nick Faunce**, University of Kansas; **Nate Freiman**, Duke University; **Jason Haniger**, Georgia Institute of Technology; **Brandon McArthur**, University of Florida; **Matt Nohelty**, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities; **Ben Orloff**, University of California–Irvine; and **Adam Warren**, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

These 10 names will be placed on the Lowe's Senior CLASS Award baseball ballot for a nationwide vote beginning today and concluding May 31. Fan balloting, available on the award's official website [www.seniorclassaward.com](http://www.seniorclassaward.com), will be combined with votes from coaches, media and sponsors to determine the recipient of the award.

"These ten student-athletes are to be commended for their all-around outstanding achievements as on and off of the field," said **Bob Gfeller**, Lowe's senior vice president of marketing. "Lowe's is proud of its affiliation with the NCAA and college athletics, and we are pleased to honor these individuals who have displayed a commitment to character, community and the classroom in addition to their competition on the baseball field."

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 baseball. University of Alabama infielder Emeel Salem won the inaugural baseball award in 2007 and Rice University pitcher Cole St.Clair was the 2008 recipient.

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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 Division I 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.NCAA.org) and [www.NCAA.com](http://www.NCAA.com) for more details about the Association.

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The Nation's Premier Award for



NCAA® Senior Student-Athletes

## 2009 Lowe's Senior CLASS Award Baseball Finalists

Name	Position	School	Text Code*
Scott Bittle	Pitcher	University of Mississippi	BSB1
Brian Cloud	Pitcher	Texas Tech University	BSB2
Grant Escue	First Base/Outfield	Bradley University	BSB3
Nick Faunce	Outfield	University of Kansas	BSB4
Nate Freiman	First Base/Catcher	Duke University	BSB5
Jason Haniger	Catcher	Georgia Tech	BSB6
Brandon McArthur	Infield	University of Florida	BSB7
Matt Nohelty	Outfield	University of Minnesota	BSB8
Ben Orloff	Shortstop	University of California, Irvine	BSB9
Adam Warren	Pitcher	University of North Carolina	BSB10

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