

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



## Tennessee's Rennia Davis Wins 2020-2021 Senior CLASS Award for Women's Basketball

**OVERLAND PARK, Kan. (April 1, 2021)** - First team All-SEC forward Rennia Davis from the University of Tennessee has been selected as the 2020-21 Senior CLASS Award® winner in NCAA® Division I women's basketball. The award, chosen by a nationwide vote of Division I women's basketball coaches, national basketball media, and fans, is given annually to the most outstanding student-athlete in Division I women's basketball. Davis is the third student-athlete from the University of Tennessee to win the Senior CLASS Award.

An acronym for *Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School*®, the 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. 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, community, character, and competition.

"Being a student-athlete at the University of Tennessee has pushed me and required a commitment in so many areas of my life," said Davis, who led the Lady Vols to a 17-8 record. "I have embraced that challenge as a Lady Vol, and I appreciate the opportunities for growth that I have been given. By nature, I am an introvert, and I have been encouraged and empowered to step outside of my comfort zone, especially in my role as a senior on our team and as a member of the VOLeaders program. I am grateful for those experiences."

Davis, a McDonald's All-American from Jacksonville, Florida, signed with Tennessee in 2016. In her final year at Jean Ribault High School, she averaged 20.3 points and 10.4 rebounds per game while leading the Trojans to a 30-1 record. They won both the CLASS 5A State Championship and Dick's Sporting Goods High School Nationals.

In her first season at Tennessee, Davis started 32 games and averaged 12.0 points and 7.6 rebounds per game. She improved the following season, averaging 14.9 points and 7.7 rebounds per game. Davis started to gain national accolades her junior year, culminating in All-SEC first team and All-America honorable mention recognition. She poured in 18.0 points and grabbed 8.2 rebounds per game, which was the best scoring average by a Lady Vol since Candace Parker in 2008.

As a senior, Davis earned All-SEC first team and All-America honorable mention honors again after leading the Lady Vols to a third place finish in the SEC. They ranked as high as 13<sup>th</sup> in the Associated Press poll after starting the season unranked. She is a finalist for the Cheryl Miller Award after averaging 17.3 points, 8.8 rebounds, and 2.3 assists per game. For her career at the tradition-rich Tennessee women's basketball program, Davis ranks ninth in total points and 10th in total rebounds.

"I am pleased to see Rennia recognized for her combination of impressive achievements on the court, in the classroom, in the community, and on our campus," said Kellie Harper, who has coached at Tennessee for the last two years. "Not only does she work extremely hard to be a strong student and one of the nation's top basketball players, she is able to balance her time well and demonstrate a commitment to giving back to others through leadership initiatives and charitable activities. Whether it's in professional basketball, as a potential business owner/operator or someone engaged in her community, Rennia has a very bright future and we're all very proud of her."

Davis has also excelled in the classroom. In only three years at Knoxville, Davis earned her undergraduate degree in hotel, restaurant, and tourism management. She earned SEC Academic Honor Roll twice and was honored with 2019-20 Chancellor's Honors for Extraordinary Academic Achievement. Davis is now pursuing her master's degree in agricultural leadership, education, and communications.

In her time at Tennessee, Davis has placed an importance on giving back to her community. She has spent over 50 hours volunteering at soup kitchens and participating with her Lady Vol teammates at annual events on campus. Davis is also a member of the VOLunteer Leaders Academy, which teaches student-athletes how to positively impact their team, campus, and community.

"Rennia Davis has personified the Senior CLASS Award during her four years at Tennessee," said Erik Miner, Executive Director of the Senior CLASS Award. "She has excelled both on the court and in the classroom, as evidenced by the countless accolades she has received. Rennia has shown tremendous character by dedicating her time to better the Knoxville community. It is our honor to congratulate Rennia Davis and the University of Tennessee for winning this prestigious award."

For more information on all of the finalists, visit [seniorCLASSaward.com](http://seniorCLASSaward.com).

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## **2020-21 Senior CLASS Award Women's Basketball First-Team All-Americans**

**Rennia Davis**, Tennessee  
**Dana Evans**, Louisville  
**Blanca Millan**, Maine  
**Michaela Onyenwere**, UCLA  
**Jill Townsend**, Gonzaga

## **2020-21 Senior CLASS Award Women's Basketball Second-Team All-Americans**

**Arella Guirantes**, Rutgers  
**Nancy Mulkey**, Rice  
**Ilmar'I Thomas**, Cincinnati  
**Unique Thompson**, Auburn  
**Mariah White**, Cleveland State

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### **ABOUT THE AWARD**

An acronym for *Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School*, the Senior CLASS Award honors the attributes of senior student-athletes in four areas: community, classroom, 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 a senior season can bring. Premier Sports Management manages the award.

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