



NAISMITH TROPHY 2009-10 PRESEASON WATCH LIST DOMINANT WITH UPPERCLASSMEN

ATLANTA (Oct. 29, 2009) – The Big XII Conference has claimed two of the last three Naismith Trophies for Men's College Player of the Year, and has done so with a sophomore (Blake Griffin, Oklahoma, 2009) and a freshman (Kevin Durant, Texas, 2007). The tide may turn in 2010 as upperclassmen claim 33 of the 50 spots in the Naismith 2009-10 preseason watch list, the Atlanta Tipoff Club announced today. Seniors (19) and juniors (14) lead the way followed by 12 sophomores and five freshmen.

Two conferences – the Big East and Atlantic Coast – placed nine representatives apiece while the Big XII and SEC each had eight. Big XII member Kansas was represented by three players while six other schools featured two candidates.

The watch list was compiled by the Atlanta Tipoff Club's Board of Selectors, which based its criteria on player performances from the previous year and expectations for the 2009-10 college basketball season. The Naismith Trophy presented by AT&T will be awarded at the 2010 NCAA Men's Final Four in Indianapolis, Ind.

"The level of talent is exceptional across all teams, conferences and classes, which further underscores just how many candidates have a legitimate chance to win this award," said Gary Stokan, Atlanta Tipoff Club president. "We are looking forward to the start of the season and to see who will end the year as the winner of the Naismith Trophy, the most prestigious award in college basketball."

Since 2005, presenting sponsor AT&T has set the standard in allowing fans to participate in determining the trophy winner. Through the power and ease of text messaging, fan voting will account for an unprecedented 25% of the final results – more than any other national college basketball award. In February, during CBS' coverage of college basketball, the "AT&T at the Half" segment will feature a Naismith Trophy update highlighting the players in contention for the award.

"AT&T congratulates these athletes for their exceptional career performances, and we're eager to see which player lands this esteemed award," said Tim McGhee, executive director, AT&T corporate sponsorships. "We know college basketball fans are passionate about the game, and through our text message voting program, we're giving them the opportunity to help determine this year's award recipient."

In late February, the Atlanta Tipoff Club's Board of Selectors will compile a mid-season team of the Top 30 players in the nation. Then in March, the Naismith Trophy voting academy will vote to narrow the list to the four finalists.

Other notable Naismith Men's College Player of the Year winners include Bill Walton, Larry Bird, Michael Jordan, Patrick Ewing, David Robinson and last year's winner, Griffin. The Naismith Trophy is the most prestigious national award presented annually to college basketball's player of the year.

[For more information, visit www.naismithawards.com.](http://www.naismithawards.com)

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2009-10 Naismith Trophy Preseason Watch List:

Last name	First Name	School	Position	Class
Alabi	Solomon	Florida State	Center	Soph.
Aldrich	Cole	Kansas	Center	Junior
Aminu	Al-Farouq	Wake Forest	Forward	Soph.
Anderson	James	Oklahoma State	Guard	Junior
Babbitt	Luke	Nevada	Forward	Soph.
Battle	Talor	Penn State	Guard	Junior
Booker	Trevor	Clemson	Forward	Senior
Bouldin	Matt	Gonzaga	Guard	Senior
Brackins	Craig	Iowa State	Forward	Junior
Bradley	Avery	Texas	Guard	Freshman
Butler	Da'Sean	West Virginia	Forward	Senior
Christopher	Patrick	California	Guard	Senior
Collins	Sherron	Kansas	Guard	Senior
Davis	Ed	North Carolina	Forward	Soph.
Downey	Devan	South Carolina	Guard	Senior
Dyson	Jerome	Connecticut	Guard	Senior
Ebanks	Devin	West Virginia	Forward	Soph.
Favors	Derrick	Georgia Tech	Forward	Freshman
Harangody	Luke	Notre Dame	Forward	Senior
Harris	Manny	Michigan	Guard	Junior
Hayward	Gordon	Butler	Guard/Forward	Freshman
Hayward	Lazar	Marquette	Forward	Senior
Henry	Xavier	Kansas	Guard	Freshman
Hummel	Robbie	Purdue	Forward	Junior
James	Damion	Texas	Guard/Forward	Senior
Jordan	Jerome	Tulsa	Center	Senior
Landesberg	Sylven	Virginia	Guard	Soph.
Lawal	Gani	Georgia Tech	Forward	Junior
Lucas	Kalin	Michigan State	Guard	Junior
Mitchell	Tasmin	LSU	Forward	Senior
Monroe	Greg	Georgetown	Center	Soph.
Ogilvy	A.J.	Vanderbilt	Center	Junior
Patterson	Patrick	Kentucky	Forward	Junior
Randle	Jerome	California	Guard	Senior
Reynolds	Scottie	Villanova	Guard	Senior
Samuels	Samardo	Louisville	Forward	Soph.
Sanders	Larry	VCU	Forward	Junior
Singler	Kyle	Duke	Forward	Junior
Smith	Tyler	Tennessee	Guard/Forward	Senior
Thomas	Isaiah	Washington	Guard	Soph.
Turner	Evan	Ohio State	Guard/Forward	Junior
Ubiles	Edwin	Siena	Guard/Forward	Senior
Varnado	Jarvis	Mississippi State	Forward	Senior
Vasquez	Greivis	Maryland	Guard	Senior
Walker	Kemba	Connecticut	Guard	Soph.
Wall	John	Kentucky	Guard	Freshman
Warren	Willie	Oklahoma	Guard	Soph.
White	Terrico	Mississippi	Guard	Soph.
Wise	Nic	Arizona	Guard	Senior
Wright	Chris	Dayton	Forward	Junior

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ABOUT THE ATLANTA TIPOFF CLUB

The Atlanta Tipoff Club, an Atlanta Sports Council property, is committed to promoting the game of basketball and recognizing the outstanding accomplishments of those who make the game so exciting. The Atlanta Tipoff Club, founded in 1956, has presented the Naismith Trophy since UCLA's Lew Alcindor first won the award in 1969.

The Naismith Award has become an emblem of excellence for the game, recognizing the Men's and Women's College Basketball Player of the Year, Men's and Women's College Basketball Coach of the Year, as well as awards for outstanding achievement in high school basketball, officiating, and contribution to the game.

ABOUT AT&T

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