



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **FINALISTS SELECTED FOR THE 2007 LOWE'S SENIOR CLASS AWARD IN NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SOCCER; NATIONWIDE VOTING BEGINS**

(Kansas City, MO) – Finalists for the **Lowe's Senior CLASS Award** in the Men's Soccer and Women's Soccer divisions were announced today, launching a nationwide balloting process to determine the 2007 award winners for the nation's premier tribute to college seniors.

This marks the first year for the soccer divisions of the award, which is presented annually in eight NCAA Division I sports to a senior student-athlete who has outstanding attributes in four areas: the classroom, community, character and competition.

The women's finalists are: **Rachel Buehler** (Stanford University), **Kelsey Carpenter** (University of Texas), **Joanna Haig** (University of Louisville), **Valerie Henderson** (UCLA), **Courtney Hooker** (University of California, Berkeley), **Stephanie Lopez** (University of Portland), **Ella Masar** (University of Illinois), **Jessica Maxwell** (University of North Carolina), **Lindsey Ozimek** (Charlotte) and **Angie Woznuk** (University of Portland).

The men's finalists are: **Evan Barnes** (U.S. Naval Academy), **Kevin Forrest** (University of Washington), **Trini Gomez** (Loyola Marymount University), **Julius James** (University of Connecticut), **Tim Jepson** (Duke University), **Stephen King** (University of Maryland), **Peter Lowry** (Santa Clara University), **Brad Peetoom** (Syracuse University), **Julian Valentin** (Wake Forest University) and **Mike Zaher** (UCLA).

These finalists will be placed on the Lowe's Senior CLASS Award ballot for a nationwide vote beginning October 17 and concluding November 21. 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.

Winners will be announced during the NCAA Soccer Championships, scheduled on December 7-9 in College Station, TX for women and December 14-16 in Cary, NC for men. The Lowe's All-Senior All-America Team will also be recognized.

"These young men and women are great representatives of the sport of soccer, their respective institutions and themselves personally," said **Bob Gfeller**, Lowe's Senior Vice President of Marketing and Advertising. "Lowe's is pleased to salute these student-athletes for their on-field and off-field commitment to excellence and look forward to making the presentation to thousands of soccer fans during the NCAA Championships."

Finalists were selected from a list of 20 candidates in each division, based on personal qualities that define a complete student-athlete. While the on-field performance thus far during the college soccer season was a factor in determining the finalists, the criteria also includes a large emphasis on the classroom, character and community service.

An acronym for *Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School*, the award was launched during the 2001-02 season in response to the trend of college basketball players leaving college early to turn professional. The award was conceived by sportscaster **Dick Enberg**, who continues to serve as Honorary Chairman. Lowe's extended the award in the spring of 2007 to include four other NCAA sports: baseball, softball, men's hockey and men's lacrosse. With the addition of men's and women's soccer in fall 2007, a total of eight sports are now included in the awards program.

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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 2006 sales of \$46.9 billion, Lowe's Companies, Inc. is a FORTUNE® 50 company that serves approximately 13 million customers a week at more than 1,425 home improvement stores in 49 states. 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 [www.Lowes.com](http://www.Lowes.com).

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#### **ABOUT NCAA**

The NCAA is a membership-led nonprofit association of colleges and universities committed to supporting academic and athletic opportunities for more than 380,000 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.ncaasports.com](http://www.ncaasports.com) for more details about the Association, its goals and members and corporate partnerships that help support programs for student-athletes.

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## 2007 Women's Soccer Finalists

<b>Name</b>	<b>Height</b>	<b>Pos</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Conference</b>
Rachel Buehler	5'5"	D	Stanford	Pac 10
Kelsey Carpenter	5'6"	F	Texas	Big 12
Joanna Haig	5'10"	GK	Louisville	Big East
Valerie Henderson	5'7"	GK	UCLA	Pac 10
Courtney Hooker	5'8"	D	California	Pac 10
Stephanie Lopez	5'6"	D	Portland	West Coast
Ella Masar	5'5"	F	Illinois	Big Ten
Jessica Maxwell	5'8"	D	North Carolina	ACC
Lindsey Ozimek	5'7"	MF	Charlotte	Atlantic 10
Angie Woznuk	5'6"	MF	Portland	West Coast

## 2007 Men's Soccer Finalists

Evan Barnes	6'4"	GK	United States Naval Academy	Patriot
Kevin Forrest	5'11"	F	Washington	Pac 10
Trini Gomez	5'10"	MF	Loyola Marymount	West Coast
Julius James	6'1"	D	Connecticut	Big East
Tim Jepson	6'0"	D	Duke	ACC
Stephen King	5'8"	MF	Maryland	ACC
Peter Lowry	5'11"	MF	Santa Clara	West Coast
Brad Peetoom	6'1"	D	Syracuse	Big East
Julian Valentin	5'11"	D	Wake Forest	ACC
Mike Zaher	5'10"	D	UCLA	Pac 10