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MEN'S BASKETBALL All-Conference - March 3, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEN'S BASKETBALL ALL-CONFERENCE TEAMS RELEASED
Schultz of Williams Scores Player of the Year

HADLEY, Mass. - Senior guard/forward Blake Schultz (Atherton, Calif.) of Williams has been chosen by the conference coaches as the NESCAC Player of the Year. Schultz helped the Ephs win the 2010 NESCAC Basketball Championship this past weekend, their fourth league crown. He joins the ranks of former Williams stars Rob Bice (1994), Mike Nogelo (1997-98), and Ben Coffin (2004) in winning the conference's top honor.

The Ephs' top scorer for the second year in a row, Schultz currently leads the league with an average of 18.4 points per game heading into this weekend's NCAA Tournament action. The two-time All-NESCAC First Team selection has been the high scorer in 13 out of 27 games this season for Williams with a notable performance coming against Vassar on Dec. 5, a night in which he poured in a career-high 34 points on 11-for-13 shooting from the field and 8-for-10 from beyond the arc. Schultz is a threat to score from anywhere on the floor but has been especially deadly from long range, hitting a NESCAC-best 51.3 percent of his three-point attempts and draining 61 treys. Overall, Schultz has hit 52.1 percent of his shots (10th NESCAC) and 84.0 percent of his free throw attempts (4th) while also contributing 4.5 rebounds, 1.7 assists, and 1.6 steals per game. On Monday, Schultz was named as one of 10 finalists for the Jostens Trophy, given annually to the top Division III player in the nation based on basketball ability, academic ability, and community service.

Joining Schultz from Williams on the All-NESCAC First Team was James Wang (Sydney, Australia). Wang and his senior teammate have proven to be a formidable 1-2 combination for the Ephs this season, as the sophomore point guard is among the league leaders in multiple statistical categories. Starting all 27 games, Wang is second for Williams in scoring and fifth among all league players with 16.9 points per game while ranking third in the conference in assists (4.56) and assist-to-turnover ratio (1.86). Like Schultz, Wang is a prolific shooter, converting 57.1 percent of his attempts from the floor, 50.9 percent from three-point range, and 84.6 percent from the foul line - figures that put him in the top five in all three categories in the NESCAC. During the quarterfinals of the 2010 NESCAC Men's Basketball Championship, Wang dropped a career-high 30 points in a win over Wesleyan.

Colby senior forward Adam Choice (Newport, R.I.) received All-NESCAC honors for the third consecutive year. A Second Team member in 2008, Choice joined Schultz as the only holdovers from the 2009 First Team. Choice once again did a bit of everything for the Mules this winter and it showed, as he was among the top 10 players in five different statistical categories - points, rebounds, assists, steals, and blocks. Leading his squad in scoring for the third year in a row, Choice played nearly 33 minutes a game in his final season in Waterville and posted a career-best average of 18.3 points per game (3rd NESCAC). The three year starter finished his tenure with the Mules with 1,534 points, eighth all-time at Colby.

Bowdoin senior center Mark Phillips (Ashland, Mass.) and Bates junior forward Brian Ellis (Braintree, Mass.) both garnered All-NESCAC accolades, as all three Maine squads had one representative on the First Team. Phillips enjoyed a career year in the paint for the Polar Bears, ranking in the top 10 in both scoring and rebounds with a team-high average of 15.1 points along with 6.9 boards while recording four double-doubles. His shooting percentage of 62.7 (163-for-260) was good enough for second in the league. Ellis, the 2008 NESCAC Rookie of the Year, had his best season since joining the Bobcats with a team-leading 15.0 points (9th NESCAC) and 6.9 rebounds per game (9th).

Wesleyan freshman guard Shasha Brown (Harlem, N.Y.) earned Rookie of the Year honors. Brown led all first year players in scoring and was fourth overall with 17.8 points per game, adding in 3.9 assists and 1.6 steals. His 35-point performance in a setback at Williams on Nov. 24 proved to be one of the best this season, as it was matched by only one other player - Tufts senior Jon Pierce, a member of the 2010 Second Team. Brown also poured in 30 points in a victory over the Jumbos on Jan. 29.

For the second consecutive year, Middlebury senior Tim Edwards (Greenwich, Conn.) was selected by the coaches as NESCAC Defensive Player of the Year. Although he missed six games due to injury earlier this season, Edwards heads up the league's best defense with a league-leading 2.14 steals and has contributed 7.0 boards per game, with 5.71 rebounds coming on the defensive glass. Heading into this weekend's NCAA action, Edwards is second in the NESCAC in assists at 5.19 and owns an assist-to-turnover ratio of 2.10 while scoring 8.6 points per game. He also received All-Conference Second Team honors.

Coach of the Year went to Mike Maker of Williams. In only his second season with the Ephs, Maker has guided his team to an impressive 26-1 record en route to this year's NESCAC Men's Basketball title - the program's first since 2007 - and a first round bye in the 2010 NCAA Tournament.

2009-10 NESCAC MEN'S BASKETBALL ALL-CONFERENCE

First Team

G James Wang Williams So. Sydney, Australia
C Mark Phillips Bowdoin Sr. Ashland, Mass.
F Adam Choice \* Colby Sr. Newport, R.I.
F Brian Ellis Bates Jr. Braintree, Mass.
F Blake Schultz \* Williams Sr. Atherton, Calif.

Second Team

G Shavar Bernier Connecticut College Sr. Dover, N.H.
G Tim Edwards Middlebury Sr. Greenwich, Conn.
C Troy Whittington Williams Jr. Brooklyn, N.Y.
F Jon Pierce ^ Tufts Sr. Belmont, Mass.
F Mike Russell Colby Jr. Wellesley, Mass.
F Ryan Sharry Middlebury So. Braintree, Mass.

Player of the Year: Blake Schultz, Williams

Rookie of the Year: Shasha Brown, Wesleyan

Defensive Player of the Year: Tim Edwards, Middlebury

Coach of the Year: Mike Maker, Williams

\* - 2008-09 All-Conference First Team

^ - 2008-09 All-Conference Second Team