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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL ALL-CONFERENCE SELECTIONS ANNOUNCED *Amherst's Stedman Becomes First Jeff to Earn Player of the Year*

HADLEY, Mass. – Amherst sophomore guard Caroline Stedman (Walpole, Mass.) has been selected by the conference coaches as the 2010 NESCAC Player of the Year. Stedman has helped her Lord Jeff squad assemble an unbeaten 27-0 record en route to their second NESCAC Women's Basketball title in the last three years this past weekend. She is the first player from Amherst to receive the league's top honor.

In addition to being named NESCAC Player of the Year, Stedman also earned All-Conference First Team recognition for the first time. A year ago, Stedman appeared in all 28 games for the Jeffs, averaging 2.2 points and 1.0 rebounds per game. This season, Stedman has started every contest and has highlighted a talented Amherst squad with a team-leading 12.6 points per game, a figure that ranks seventh overall in the NESCAC heading into this weekend's NCAA Tournament. She has also contributed an average 4.1 rebounds, 2.0 assists and 2.1 steals as part of the conference's top offense and defense. While Stedman's numbers have been good, she saved her best performances for NESCAC play with a league-leading 17.1 points per game and a consistent shooting percentage of 47.8 (55-for-115). Stedman put home 20-or-more points in three consecutive NESCAC contests, scoring a career-high 26 with a 9-of-17 showing from the floor (.529) and a 4-for-5 performance from beyond the arc at Colby on Jan. 30.

Representing Tufts on the All-NESCAC First Team were the tandem of junior guard Colleen Hart (Needham, Mass.) and senior forward Julia Baily (Farmington, Conn.), as both players are in the midst of career years. Hart currently paces the conference in scoring with 16.6 points per game and also averages nearly 36 minutes per game, more than any other player. The only returner from last winter's First Team, Hart broke the single-season and career record for three-pointers at Tufts this season, hitting 72 treys and making 45.3 percent of her attempts from long range. The 2008 NESCAC Rookie of the Year opened 2009-10 with a career-high 31 points in a loss at SUNY New Paltz on Nov. 20 and later on in the season reached 1,000 career points, the second junior in program history to accomplish the feat.

Baily follows Hart closely in scoring, holding second in the league with an average of 15.6 points. Baily has produced a conference-best 12 double-doubles so far this season, her most recent coming in a NESCAC quarterfinal setback to Bowdoin on Feb. 20 where she set a tournament record for boards with a 17-point, 17-rebound effort. An All-Conference Second Team member last year, Baily averages 9.1 rebounds per contest, good enough for second in the NESCAC.

Bates senior Lauren Yanofsky (Belmont, Mass.) capped her best season with the Bobcats by receiving All-Conference First Team honors for the first time. Yanofsky led Bates in points (15.1) and rebounds (6.4), as she was the top scorer for the Bobcats in 15 of their 26 games this year. In the semifinals of the NESCAC tournament against Amherst last Saturday, Yanofsky scored 11 points and became the 17th player in school history to eclipse 1,000, finishing with 1,001 career points.

Rounding out the 2010 NESCAC All-Conference First Team was senior guard/forward Alison Cappelloni (Sudbury, Maine) of Colby, the first player from the Mules to earn a spot on the squad since Sarah Walsh in 2003. Cappelloni heads up the Mules' offense for the second-straight year with 12.3 points per game while chipping in 6.3 rebounds. It has been a remarkable season of firsts for Cappelloni and company, as Colby reached the final of the NESCAC Women's Basketball Championship and has been selected to the NCAA Tournament this coming weekend for the first time ever.

Defensive Player of the Year honors were bestowed upon a member of Tufts for the third consecutive year, going to junior Vanessa Miller (Cincinnati, Ohio). A catalyst on defense for the Jumbos, the extremely quick 5-foot, 2-inch guard is first in the NESCAC in steals with 3.24 per game and has also grabbed 4.2 rebounds along the way. Miller always guards an opponent's best perimeter player.

Amherst first year guard Marcia Voigt (Skillman, N.J.) came away as the NESCAC Rookie of the Year. Voigt has seen regular minutes off the bench for the Jeffs this winter, averaging 7.7 points, 3.1 rebounds, and 1.7 assists per game on 41.5 percent shooting. She netted a season-high 23 points in her first career start, a win at Trinity on Jan. 23.

G.P. Gromacki of Amherst was the choice among the coaches, earning Coach of the Year honors outright for the first time in his career after sharing the award with Carla Berube of Tufts in 2008. In his third season with the Jeffs, Gromacki's squad is fresh off a second NESCAC title and boasts an unbeaten record heading into the NCAA Tournament. Gromacki owns a record of 83-7 while at Amherst.

### 2009-10 NESCAC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL ALL-CONFERENCE

#### First Team

G/F	Alison Cappelloni	Colby	Sr.	Sudbury, Maine
G	Colleen Hart *	Tufts	Jr.	Needham, Mass.
G	Caroline Stedman	Amherst	So.	Walpole, Mass.
F	Julia Baily ^	Tufts	Sr.	Farmington, Conn.
F	Lauren Yanofsky	Bates	Sr.	Belmont, Mass.

#### Second Team

G	Shannon Finucane	Amherst	So.	Cortland, N.Y.
F	Chessie Jackson	Williams	Jr.	Goleta, Calif.
F	Leah Rubega	Bowdoin	Sr.	Norwich, Conn.
C	Caitlin Hynes	Bowdoin	Sr.	Owl's Head, Maine
C	Sarah Leyman ^	Amherst	Jr.	Cincinnati, Ohio

**Player of the Year:** Caroline Stedman, Amherst

**Defensive Player of the Year:** Vanessa Miller, Tufts

**Rookie of the Year:** Marcia Voigt, Amherst

**Coach of the Year:** G.P. Gromacki, Amherst

\* - 2008-09 All-Conference First Team

^ - 2008-09 All-Conference Second Team