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For Immediate Release
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CONFERENCE USA MEN'S SOCCER AWARDS ANNOUNCED ***Gumede, Chavez, McInnes and Withrow Take Top Individual Awards***

IRVING, Texas – Conference USA has announced its 2009 all-conference first, second and third teams as well as postseason specialty award winners for men's soccer, as selected by the league's nine head coaches.

Tulsa (11-4-2, 6-1-1) earned its third-straight Conference USA regular season title and will host the 2009 C-USA Championship as the No. 1 seed. The Golden Hurricane placed a league-best six players on the all-conference teams, including three on the first team. Junior forward **ASHLEY MCINNES** was named the 2009 Most Valuable Player, with a team- and conference high 21 points this season. Teammate **JUSTIN CHAVEZ** was named Defensive Player of the Year. That duo was joined by sophomore forward **AUSTIN NEIL**, who was the top point-scorer in C-USA regular season matches this season, on the all-conference first team.

UAB senior forward **TWO-BOYS GUMEDE** was named the C-USA Offensive Player of the Year. Gumede was also a two-time Player of the Week selection this season. Junior goalkeeper **CARL WOSZCZYNSKI** was also named to the first team after leading the Blazers to seven shutouts, four in C-USA play, for a 12-4-1 record (5-2-1 C-USA) and a bid to the C-USA Championship. Woszczyński tallied seven shutouts on the season and 0.89 goals against average.

Marshall head coach **BOB GRAY** was named the C-USA Coach of the Year after leading the Thundering Herd (10-6-1, 6-2-0) to a No. 2 seed in the C-USA Championship. This is Gray's 14th season at the helm for the Herd and this is his second C-USA Coach of the Year honor, winning in 2005. In his 32nd year of coaching, he has compiled 396 career wins (396-208-40). MU goalkeeper **DANIEL WITHROW** was voted the 2009 C-USA Freshman of the Year. Withrow led the conference in save percentage (.808) and led the Herd to a 1.04 GAA on the season. He was even credited with the game-winning goal in a key 2-1 victory over South Carolina. Senior **DUSTIN DAWES** represented Marshall on the all-conference first-team. Dawes tallied a team-best seven goals on the season.

Kentucky and South Carolina both placed two players on the all-conference first-team. UK senior defender **BARRY RICE** was a unanimous selection and earned his third-straight first-team honor. Rice was joined by teammate **JASON GRIFFITHS**, who is also a repeat first-team selection from a year ago. South Carolina junior forward **SAM ARTHUR** and senior defender **TYLER RUTHVEN** both earned a nod on the first-team from the coaches. SMU senior midfielder **DANE SAINTUS** rounded out the All-Conference first team.

A total of five Kentucky (13-5-0, 5-3-0) players earned all-conference nods, tying UAB for the second-most, as the Wildcats secured the No. 4 seed to this weekend's C-USA Championship.

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2009 Conference USA Men's Soccer Awards, page 2

Many of these awards winners will be competing in the 15th Annual C-USA Men's Soccer Championship, which is scheduled to begin Friday, Nov. 13, at the Hurricane Soccer and Track Stadium in Tulsa, Okla. Top-seeded Tulsa will play No. 4 seed Kentucky in a 7:30 p.m. CT semifinal Friday. That match follows the first semifinal scheduled for 5 p.m. CT between No. 2 seed Marshall and No. 3 seed UAB. A champion will be crowned Sunday, Nov. 15 at 1 p.m. CST. That match will also be televised live by CBS College Sports.

A complete list of the three all-conference team selections and specialty award winners follow:

2009 C-USA MEN'S SOCCER AWARDS

Most Valuable Player

Ashley McInnes, Tulsa

Offensive Player of the Year

Two-Boys Gumede, UAB

Defensive Player of the Year

Justin Chavez, Tulsa

Freshman of the Year

Daniel Withrow, Marshall

Coach of the Year

Bob Gray, Marshall

All-Conference First Team

F: Sam Arthur, South Carolina

F: Austin Neil, Tulsa

F: Two-Boys Gumede, UAB

MF: Jason Griffiths, Kentucky

MF: Dustin Dawes, Marshall

MF: Dane Saintus, SMU

MF: Ashley McInnes, Tulsa

D: Barry Rice, Kentucky

D: Tyler Ruthven, South Carolina

D: Justin Chavez, Tulsa

GK: Carl Woszczyński, UAB

All-Conference Second Team

F – Matt Lodge, Kentucky

F – Jose Parada, Tulsa

F – Babayele Sodade, UAB

MF – Payton Hickey, SMU

MF – Yaron Bacher, UCF

MF – Kevan George, UCF

D – Rick Alleman, Memphis

D – Curtis Ushedo, UAB

D – Chris Taylor, Tulsa

GK – Dan Williams, Kentucky

GK – Daniel Withrow, Marshall

All-Conference Third Team

F – Steven Cabas, FIU

F – Sebastian Frings, FIU

F – Blake Brettschneider, South Carolina

F – Nicholas Robson, UCF

MF – Matt Butler, Marshall

MF – Kekoa Osorio, SMU

MF – Hunter Christiansen, Tulsa

MF – Michal Mravec, UAB

D – Anthony Hobbs, FIU

D – Brad Walker, Kentucky

D – Kendall Sutton, Marshall

D – Andreas Guenther, Memphis

D – Ian Kalis, SMU

GK – Jimmy Maurer, South Carolina

All-Freshman Team

Anthony Hobbs, D, FIU

Sebastian Frings, F, FIU

Matt Lodge, F, Kentucky

Devon Perkins, Marshall

Daniel Withrow, GK, Marshall

Tom Jackson, F, Marshall

Andreas Guenther, D, Memphis

J.J. Greer, F, Memphis

T.J. Nelson, D, SMU

Kofi Gyawu, F, UAB

Nicholas Robson, F, UCF