

***Diverse: Issues In Higher Education* Announces 2009 Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar Finalists**

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Contact: Ralph Newell, (703) 385-2981, ext. 3013

FAIRFAX, VA. -

*Diverse: Issues In Higher Education* magazine has announced the Top 4 male and female finalists of the 2009 Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar Award. The winners will be profiled in its May 28, 2009, edition.

In no particular order, the top 4 male and female winners are:

**Male Finalists**

Kenneth Avila	Baseball	Northwestern University
Jamaal Parker	Track & Field	University of Georgia
Brian Robiskie	Football	Ohio State University
Masumi Turnball	Soccer	University of Kentucky

**Female Finalists**

Shardea Croes	Softball	Slippery Rock University
Lamarra Currie	Track	UNC Charlotte
Marcia Newby	Gymnastics	University of Georgia
Ashley Paris	Basketball	University of Oklahoma

In 1992, *Black Issues In Higher Education* magazine, now *Diverse*, established the Sports Scholars Awards to honor undergraduate students of color who exemplify the standards set by tennis great Arthur Ashe Jr.

A scholar and athlete, Ashe sought to expand opportunities for young people. Each year *Diverse: Issues In Higher Education* invites every postsecondary institution in the country to participate in this awards program by nominating their outstanding sports scholars. In addition to their athletic ability, students named Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholars must exhibit academic excellence as well as community activism. To be included, students have to compete in an intercollegiate sport; maintain a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.2; and be active on their campuses or in their communities. This year approximately 600 male and female student-athletes from across the country were nominated.

Past female recipients of the award have included the University of Tennessee's Kara Lawson, who now plays for the WNBA's Sacramento Monarchs (2003), and Santa

Clara University's Danielle Slaton who was the youngest member of the U.S. National Soccer Team that won a silver medal in the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia (2001).

*Diverse: Issues In Higher Education* is the nation's only news magazine dedicated exclusively to diversity issues in higher education. Visit [www.diverseeducation.com](http://www.diverseeducation.com).