



**Los Angeles
Sports Council**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LAKERS NBA TITLE NAMED

GREATEST SPORTS MOMENT OF 2009

LOS ANGELES (February 19, 2010) -- The **Los Angeles Lakers** NBA championship was named the top sports moment of 2009 at the 5th annual **LA Sports Awards**, held tonight at the JW Marriott at L.A. Live.

The Lakers defeated the Orlando Magic 4 games to 1 in the Finals for the franchise's 15th NBA title.

The LA Sports Awards are presented annually by the Los Angeles Sports Council to celebrate the greatest moments of the year in sports in the Los Angeles/Orange County area.

During the gala the overall Top 10 moments of 2009 as selected by a blue-ribbon media panel were revealed in ranked order. They are:

- 1. Lakers Win NBA Title** (June 14): Lakers defeat Orlando in five games to win their 15th NBA championship and 10th in Los Angeles.
- 2. Zenyatta's Run to Glory** (November 7): In one of the most dramatic performances in Breeders' Cup history, Zenyatta wins the Breeders' Cup Classic at Santa Anita.
- 3. Angels Sweep Red Sox to Advance to ALCS** (October 11): Angels win the AL West and sweep the Boston Red Sox to reach the American League Championship Series.
- 4. Dodgers Sweep Cardinals to Advance to NLCS** (October 10): Dodgers win the NL West for the second year in a row and sweep the Cardinals to reach the National League Championship Series.

5. Fisher's Clutch 3s Help Win Game 4 (June 11): Derek Fisher's clutch three-point shots -- one with 4.6 seconds left in regulation and another with 31.3 seconds to go in overtime -- power the Lakers over the Magic in the pivotal Game 4 of the NBA Finals.

6. Ethier's Walk-Off Heroics (November): Dodger right fielder Andre Ethier is named MLB's Clutch Performer of the Year after leading the majors with six walk-off hits, including four home runs.

7. Adenhardt's Legacy Inspires Angels (April 9): The tragic death of rookie pitcher Nick Adenhardt in an auto accident provides season-long inspiration to his teammates and fans.

8. Luc Enters Hockey Hall (November 9): Eight-time All-Star Luc Robitaille of the Los Angeles Kings is inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame.

9. Leslie's Stellar Career Ends (September 26): Eight-time All-Star Lisa Leslie retires from the Los Angeles Sparks of the WNBA.

10. (tie) Japan Wins World Baseball Classic (March 23): In a dramatic Final at Dodger Stadium, Japan edged Korea 5-3 in 10 innings to win the World Baseball Classic.

(tie) Lysacek Wins World Skating Title (March 26): Evan Lysacek became the first American man to win the World Figure Skating Championships since 1996, at Staples Center.

In other award presentations, **Pau Gasol** of the Lakers was honored as 2009 "Sportsman of the Year" and world champion sprinter and Los Angeles native **Allyson Felix** was named the "Sportswoman of the Year." Angels Manager **Mike Scioscia** received the "Coach of the Year" award and Lakers Owner **Dr. Jerry Buss** was the recipient of the "Sports Executive of the Year."

Also, champion racehorse **Zenyatta's** dramatic win in the Breeders' Cup Classic at Santa Anita was honored as the "Exceptional Athletic Performance" for 2009.

During the festivities, fifteen additional awards also were presented to each of the major local teams and universities -- plus Horse Racing, Motor Sports, and Tennis -- recognizing each organization's greatest moment of 2009. Those winners were determined by on-line fan voting and the complete list of winners will be posted on the Sports Council's website www.lasports.org beginning on Monday, February 22.

A "moment" refers to anything from a specific instant in time -- such as a winning goal, hit or shot -- to a special event, individual or team record, or career achievement. Nominated moments must have taken place in the local area or have involved a local athlete or team.

The L.A. Sports Council is a non-profit organization and will utilize the event's proceeds to further its mission of promoting economic development through sports

in Southern California. For further information, please visit the Sports Council website at www.lasports.org.

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