



## Lapchick to Pass the Torch of Leadership

*Center's Founder will continue to serve as Director Emeritus*

BOSTON, MA – Richard Lapchick, long-time director of Northeastern University's Center for the Study of Sport in Society, was named Director Emeritus of the Center effective August 8, 2001. Lapchick, who has directed the Center for more than 17 years, helped create landmark programs for young people that promote team building, human and civil rights, and racial equality.



Photo by Craig Bailey, NU Photography

Sport in Society Founder and Director Richard E. Lapchick (center) leaves the Center in the capable hands of its dedicated and passionate staff of Sport in Society, including its Leadership Team. The Sport in Society Leadership Team includes (left-right) F. Paul Ermlich, Kevin J. Matthews, Allyce Najimy, Susan Leitao, Kerrie Grover and (not pictured) Doris Bunte, Jeff O'Brien, Eileen Smart, and Kevin Fitzgerald. Lapchick will continue to serve the Center as Director Emeritus.

Emeritus of Sport in Society,” said Lapchick.

“As I change roles, I am fully confident that Allyce Najimy, our new Senior Associate Director, will guide us with her strength, creativity and determination in the years ahead

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## NFL's Patriots sign up MVP

*Violence Prevention Program trains football rookies and free agents*

FOXBORO, MA – From Bill Parcells to Pete Carroll to Bill Belichick, the New England Patriots have shuffled coaches the last four seasons in an attempt to regain their Super Bowl form of 1997. Throughout the fluxuation, Patriots' Owner Robert Kraft and Vice President Don Lowery have remained committed to improving the team in other ways. For the fourth consecutive season, the Patriots have enlisted the services of the Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) Program to work with their rookies and free agents.

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## From top to bottom: Do race and gender measure up?

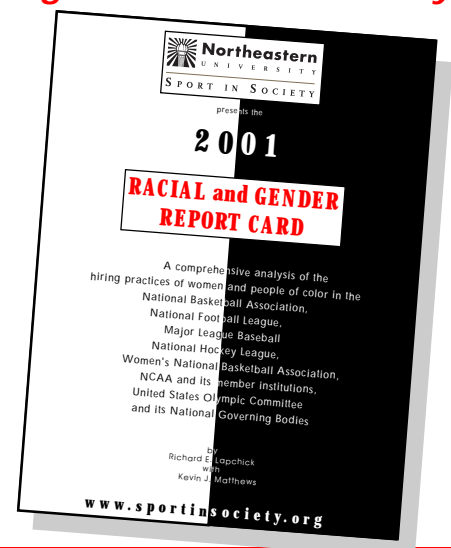
*Racial & Gender Report Card analyzes the major sports organizations on diversity*

BOSTON, MA – Northeastern University's Center for the Study of Sport in Society 2001 *Racial & Gender Report Card (RGRC)* is a comprehensive analysis the composition of players, coaches and key administrators in the NBA, the NFL, MLB, the NHL, Major League Soccer, the WNBA, the NCAA and its member institutions. This year's version of the *RGRC* for the first time, included the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) and its National Governing Bodies (NGB's).

According to its findings, only the WNBA and the NBA are close to genuine equity when it comes to opportunities for women and people of color in professional and decision-making positions in professional, Olympic and college sports. The WNBA and the NBA were the only sports to receive an A in the category of race.

Grades are based on the racial and gender makeup of members of the industry. In the 2001 *RGRC*, when grades for race and gender were combined, the WNBA (A) and NBA (B+) were only leagues above mid-range C averages. No category surveyed received less than a C for race. Only the WNBA had an A for gender. The MLB, NFL and MLS, all earned D's for gender.

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# Message from the Director



Richard E. Lapchick

After months of research, the most dramatic conclusion emerging from the 2001 *Racial and Gender Report Card* is that when women play sport among men, they do better than men at achieving racial and gender equity in their sport. The WNBA came out as sports best for both race and gender after the NBA had been on top for 11 straight years. The WNBA also became the first league to get A's in both race and gender.

Growing out of the popularity of women's basketball in particular and women's sport in general, the WNBA was launched five years ago with the NBA's marketing engine behind it. It vaporized the rival women's league, the American Basketball League that had started a year earlier, by drawing bigger than expected crowds and getting a TV package.

I sat in the crowd at the WNBA All-Star game in Orlando on July 16 knowing that the WNBA would be on top of the others in the *RGRC*, which I have authored or co-authored for 12 years. In the lead up to the game, the Orlando Sentinel gave extensive coverage. A significant portion was about whether or not the WNBA will survive? Post game coverage was as much about whether the game was really a sell-out or not as about the game itself. I have been at many a sporting event in my 56 years when the announced crowd was nothing like the actual one but I rarely read about it the next day. Judging by the in-house reaction, the fans were simply ecstatic to be there watching the best women players in the world go head-to-head.

The WNBA may not be filling the stands the way the NBA, NFL and MLB do. Neither did those leagues at similar stages of their own development. Nonetheless, the success that WNBA President Val Ackerman has had in encouraging the team and league office to hire the best people available to run the league and the teams should give lessons to the others sports. Like the Commissioners in the other leagues and with the president of the NCAA and the USOC, Ackerman has made it clear that representation of women and people of color in decision-making roles is critical to the success of the league. It is not a moral imperative but is a business imperative in our diverse nation.

Before becoming WNBA President, Val Ackerman was a senior official in the NBA where such values have been part of the culture since David Stern took over in 1983. I suspect that David Stern will not be too chagrined that the NBA has been dislodged as the best sports organization on issues of race and gender by the WNBA.

Among the men's professional leagues, the NBA still has had the highest grade in virtually every major category as it has for all 12 years of the publication of the *RGRC*. The NBA got a solid **A** in race and a **B-** in gender. No other men's league achieved those grades in either category. There was a huge gap between the combined grades of the WNBA and the NBA (93 and 85, respectively) and the next best which was college sport at 77. The rest of the sports covered were bunched between 72 and 75 with the NFL on the bottom of the list. In most cases, it was the grade for gender that dropped the averages of these men's leagues.

FOR A COMPLETE GRADE RE-CAP, SEE PAGE 6

Perhaps the best news on racial hiring practices was that there are now 20 head coaches or managers of color in the NBA, NFL and MLB. This is nearly 45% higher for what is arguably sports' most visible position than the previous best among the big three sports in past reports. In the WNBA there were three African-American head coaches and 7 women. There was an all-time high for Div. I men's basketball coaches of color (22%) but a decline for IA football head coaches of color to less than 5%. The percentage of women in head coaching positions dropped in the combined programs in Divisions I, II and III while the ranks of people of color as coaches in general gained in all three divisions.

As far as players go, the biggest story continues to be the internationalization of American sport. There was an all-time high of international athletes in the NBA (11%), the NHL (30%), MLS (25%), MLB (19%) and in the WNBA (27%). This was also true in college sport in general for all Div. I for both men and women. The NFL was the only exception. While increases of African-American players, especially in the NBA and NFL were noted, such percentages have been generally declining for more than a decade. The same is true for white players. The percentage of African-American players decreased in the period covered in MLS, the WNBA and in college sport for men and women. It was at a record 30 year low in MLB. The percentage of Latinos continued to dramatically rise in MLB, where it maintained its all time high of 26%, in MLS and in Div. I baseball. Women student-athletes reached an all-time high of nearly 41%.

Contrary to what is a widely held public perception, sport in no longer a black-white issue. And, as the success of the WNBA in this area proves, it is no longer about men.

This article appeared in the *SportsBusiness Journal*.

The mission of  
Northeastern University's  
Center for the Study of  
Sport in Society  
is to increase awareness  
of sport and its relation  
to society, and to develop  
programs that identify  
problems, offer solutions,  
and promote the  
benefits of sport.

FOR MORE ARTICLES BY RICHARD LAPCHICK LOG ON TO [WWW.SPORTINSOCIETY.ORG](http://WWW.SPORTINSOCIETY.ORG)

The Sport in Society News is edited by  
F. Paul Ermlich

# Striking a Balance, Achieving Success, Making a Difference

## Massachusetts Student-Athlete Citizenship Awards honor today's young leaders

Photos by Paul Ermlich



Northeastern University's high-flying cheerleaders kick-off the annual Massachusetts Student-Athlete Citizenship Awards in NU's Blackman Auditorium.

BOSTON, MA – Northeastern University's Center for the Study of Sport in Society and the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) partnered once again to honor student-athletes from across the commonwealth as part of the annual *Massachusetts Student-Athlete Citizenship Awards*. The annual event was held to honor high school student-athletes who have excelled in the classroom, on the playing fields, and have shown a commitment to community service. The award ceremony was held on April 24, 2001 at NU's Blackman Auditorium in conjunction with National Student-Athlete Day (NSAD). NSAD, established by Sport in Society in 1987, is annually celebrated across the country on April 6. The national sponsor of all Sport in Society events is Reebok.

"It is always a special day when we take time out to celebrate our high school student-athletes for being such positive role models in their communities," said Kevin J. Matthews, the events coordinator and Director of the Northeast Regional Office of the National Consortium for Academics and Sports (NCAS), one of the co-sponsors of the event. "Sport in Society, the MIAA, the NCAS, and Reebok have shown tremendous support for this event and for the citizen leaders we celebrate today."

The theme to this year's event was "Today's Citizen Leader." Approximately 180 high school student-athletes were in attendance along with their chaperones. Forty seven (47) high schools from across Massachusetts gathered at Northeastern

University's campus, including an all-time high of seven schools from Boston's inner-city school system. Each school's athletic director or sports coach selected four high school student-athletes, two male and two female, who uphold the pillars of NSAD – success in academics, athletics, and a dedication to community service. These select young adults represented the best of the best of Massachusetts high school student-athletes, most of which boasted at least a 3.0 GPA. All 254 registered student-athletes were mailed a personalized certificate designating them as award recipients.

To give the event a high energy kick off, the members of Northeastern's Cheerleading Squad, got the crowd rocking with a electrifying routine which featured some dazzling acrobatic throws. Motivational remarks were then provided by Sport in Society Director Richard Lapchick and MIAA Deputy Director Bill Gaine, Jr.

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(left-right) NCAS Regional Director Kevin Matthews, MIAA Deputy Director Bill Gaine, Sport in Society's COO Alyce Najimy, and Director Richard Lapchick.

### HONORED

- Algonquin HS
- Assabet Valley Reg. Tech
- Beverly HS
- Bishop Stang HS
- Blue Hills Reg. Tech. HS
- Boston English HS \*
- Canton HS
- Carver HS
- Cathedral HS
- Catholic Memorial HS
- Charlestown HS \*
- Clinton HS
- Dartmouth HS
- Dracut HS
- East Bridgewater HS
- Fitchburg HS
- Foxborough HS
- Framingham HS
- Georgetown HS
- Holliston HS
- Jeremiah Burke HS \*
- John D. O'Bryant HS \*
- Lenox Memorial HS
- Madison Park HS \*
- Marblehead HS
- Mashpee HS
- Medford HS
- Milford HS
- Minuteman Reg. HS
- Mt. Saint Joseph Academy
- Natick HS
- Newton North HS
- North Andover HS
- North Middlesex Reg. HS
- North Quincy HS
- North School Tech. HS
- Old Colony Voc./Tech. HS
- Peabody HS
- Rockport HS
- Scituate HS
- Snowden HS \*
- South Boston HS \*
- St. Peter Marian HS
- Swampscott HS
- Tri-County Reg. HS
- Watertown HS
- Whitman-Hanson HS

\* Boston Inner-City School

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Sport in Society  
Awards Banquet  
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Fairmont Copley Plaza,  
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## Lapchick, Director Emeritus

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in conjunction with whoever is chosen as our new Director. I leave confident that the vision for the Center that we all helped create will remain intact. That vision includes: building current programs, spreading the curriculum of *Project TEAMWORK* and *MVP* across the nation, increasing research projects on social issues in collaborative efforts with prominent scholars, and increasing advocacy and work on issues of equity," said Lapchick.

Lapchick, often called the "racial conscience of sport," will assume a new position at the University of Central Florida (UCF) in Orlando where he will serve as the endowed DeVos Eminent Scholar Chair and the Director of the College of Business Administration program. The curriculum of the new master's program will use the values of Sport in Society as its driving force.

Said Lapchick, "My goal for the DeVos Program at UCF is that 10 years from now all sports business management programs across the country will recognize that the DeVos Program is not only the premiere graduate program addressing issues of sport business but also issues of sport in society. My hope is that they will adopt similar curriculum and values so that all people desiring to work in the business of sport will understand not only how to be profitable but also how sports can help build community and improve the lives in our communities."

Lapchick's new role at UCF in Florida will allow him to work closer to his family. However he will still travel to Boston, MA when duty calls at Sport in Society. He will also continue to dedicate a portion of his time to the National Consortium for Academics and Sports (NCAS) as its Director.

"As we begin a new era for Sport in Society, I thank all of those who have been with us from the very first days when Richard Astro, George Matthews, Jack Curry, and Scott Black got together to say that we can do something important," said Lapchick. "For those who have joined us along the way, it has been a great journey that has only just begun for Sport in Society

## Athletes in Service to America News

### Drexel University named fifth AIS operating site

PHILADELPHIA, PA – *Athletes in Service to America* is proud to announce Drexel University as the program's new operating site. The university will kick off its inaugural *AIS* campaign during the fall of 2001 and is currently recruiting corps member to serve the community.

operating site for *AIS*, joining the University of Kentucky, and serves as the parent office site. the Corporation for National Service



funded since 1994. *AIS* corps members are current and former student-athletes, who work throughout the year to teach elementary, middle, and high school youths about academic success, cultural diversity, and violence prevention. They work with children in grades K-12 providing tutoring, mentoring, diversity and conflict resolution training. In the five years of operation, *AIS* has enrolled over 400 corps members and provided over 400,000 hours of community service.

Drexel University becomes the fifth Canisius College, Eckerd College, Northeastern University. NU also *Athletes in Service* is a program of (AmeriCorps), and has been

### Corps members celebrated at graduation ceremony

BOSTON, MA – On July 27, 2001, the Northeastern University *Athletes in Service to America* site held an end of the year celebration to honor the outgoing 2000-01 *AIS* corps members. The dinner reception was held at the Spere Hall conference center at NU. There were four speakers during the evening: Dan Tobin from the Massachusetts Service Alliance, Marjorie Nance from the Hennigan Elementary School, Tim Scott who is a two-year member of *AIS*, and Allyce Najimy, *Sport in Society* Senior Associate Director. Also in attendance were staff members from Sport in Society, select



Photo by Adam Goodman

guests from the NU community, representatives from service sites and *AIS* alumni. The festive evening proved to be a celebration of the service and accomplishments of the 2000-01 NU corps members.

### Recruiting continues for AIS 2001-2002 campaign

*Athletes in Service to America* is in the process of looking for exceptional former varsity collegiate student-athletes for 1-2 years of community service at select universities and colleges. The programs begin in the Fall of 2001. Participants will provide academic tutoring and mentoring, and violence prevention training to children in grades K-12. Benefits include: living allowance, education award, loan forbearance, tuition assistance (depending on institution), professional development, and more ...

#### Become an AIS corps member

For More information, call:

Canisius College Mark Notaro	Buffalo, NY 716-888-6631
Drexel University Richard Astro	Philadelphia, PA 215-895-2200
Eckerd College Brian Zaub	St. Petersburg, FL 727-864-7571
Northeastern University Marisa Petrecca	Boston, MA 617-373-4134
University of Kentucky Lisa Buchanan	Lexington, KY 859-257-6703

For more information on *Athletes in Service to America*, please visit: [www.sportinsociety.org](http://www.sportinsociety.org)

# Preventing Men's Violence Against Women a Team Effort

*MVP brings youth together from across the state for annual Youth Conference*



MVP Training Specialist Zach Falconer welcomes the students to NU's Eagan Center.



problem solving. Since the participating students were from rural, urban, and suburban communities, the conference provided them with opportunities to interact in ways that many had not before.

While the high school student leaders were from a diverse cross section of the population of Massachusetts, their shared goal of addressing men's violence against women highlighted how much they had in common.

"One of the key goals of this event is to show these young leaders that regardless of where they are from they have something in common – a belief in the philosophy of MVP," said Jeff O'Brien, MVP Director. "By working together as teammates on various problem solving challenges it helps them

realize their similarities, helping them to appreciate their differences."

MVP kicked off the event with a video that highlighted their work in the schools throughout the year. Three collage murals were also on display showing MVP in action.

Participating MVP staff



The Youth Conference assembled a diverse group of student leaders at NU's Solomon Court.

members included Associate Director Marissa Mezzanotte, and training specialists Elizabeth Nichols, Duane de Four, Zach Falconer, René Valliere, and Ed Miller. Assisting the MVP staff with the activities were members of Sport in Society's *Athletes in Service to America* and *Project TEAMWORK*.

"It was a great opportunity for the cross-section of youth we service to interact and appreciate one another in a fun setting," said training specialist Zach Falconer. "It was encouraging to see the kids grow together over the course of the day."



MVP Training Specialist Liz Nichols coordinates a team-building exercise.



High School student leaders pose before an MVP activity collage at the Youth Conference.



MVP Director Jeff O'Brien (front row, far left) and training specialist Duane de Four (front row, second from right) with the Patriots' rookies and free agents.

## Patriots sign up MVP

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The Patriots rookies and free agents took part in three 90-minute sessions on June 11, 12, and 14, 2001. During the training, MVP used their unique bystander approach to prevention, addressing the players not as potential perpetrators, but as empowered bystanders who can confront abusive peers. MVP Director Jeff O'Brien was joined by training specialists Duane de Four and Zach Falconer as they led the compelling discussions.

The Patriots organization has continued to be a proactive leader on the critical issue of men's violence against women on the professional level. The NFL has since contracted with MVP to provide service to several other pro football clubs during the course of the coming NFL season.

# 2001 Racial & Gender Report Card

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"As in society itself, we have a long way to go to achieve equality in sport," said Richard Lapchick, Sport in Society Director and lead author of the study. "There was a decline in the influence of women in most sports and organizations covered. This makes it even more striking that the WNBA, a women's league headed up by a woman, had the best record for diversity in sport. The NBA has always had the best record regarding diversity – its own creation is now a worthy rival."

Lapchick cited the best piece of individual news regarding race. "There are now 20 head coaches or managers of color in the NBA, NFL and Major League Baseball," he noted. "This is nearly 45 percent higher than the previous best among the big three sports in past reports. As [Sport in Society's] most visible off the field position, perhaps this will lead the way to more breakthroughs in other areas of our front offices and athletic departments."

There were also record numbers in both the NBA with ten (34 percent) African-Americans as head coaches, and in the 2001 Major League Baseball season with six African-Americans and one Latino manager (23 percent). In the NFL there are currently three (ten percent) African-Americans in this post.

Despite the widely held perception of the increases in African-Americans in athletics, the data shows otherwise. The percentage of African-American players decreased in MLS, the WNBA and in college sports for men and women, and is at a record 30-year low in MLB.

Said 2001 co-author, Kevin J. Matthews, Director of Sport in Society's *SportsCAP* Program, "As in previous reports, the 2001 data shows that professionals and decision-makers in professional, college and Olympic sports do not nearly reflect the number of players of color competing in the game. The Center publishes the annual study to indicate areas of improvement, stagnation and regression in the racial and gender composition of professional, Olympic and college sports personnel and to contribute to the improvement of integration in front office college athletics department positions."

The 2001 *RGRC* was co-authored by Lapchick and Matthews. The report was designed by Sport in Society Communications Coordinator, F. Paul Ermlich. Research Assistants included: Kevin Amante, Jim Daly, Maria Berova, Yoni Goldberg, Adam Goodman, Kate Haynes, Rob Hensel, Marc LaFleur, Alex McLean, Eddy Martinez, George Singleton, Benjamin Weiss, and Dan Weiss.

To Download the Entire 2001 *RGRC*, please visit: [www.sportinsociety.org](http://www.sportinsociety.org)

RACIAL & GENDER REPORT CARD						
SPORT	RACE		GENDER		COMBINED	
	GRADE	PTS	GRADE	PTS	GRADE	PTS
WNBA	A	92.5	A	93.3	A	92.9
NBA	A	90.8	B-	78.8	B+	84.8
NCAA	C+	76.5	C+	76.4	C+	76.5
USOC	C+	77.7	C	71.6	C+	74.7
MLB	B	83.5	D+	65.5	C+	74.5
NGB's	C+	78.1	C-	69.3	C	74.0
MLS	B+	86.0	D	61.0	C	73.5
NHL	C-	69.3	C+	77.0	C	73.2
NFL	B	82.7	D	60.8	C	71.8



Photos by Paul Ermlich

MSAD featured Speaker Willette White, Northeastern University's Women's Head Basketball Coach, stressed organization as a key to balancing school and sports.

## NSAD at Northeastern

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Willette White, NU Women's Basketball Coach, and Kristin Deatherage, an NU Women's Volleyball Player, were this year's featured speakers. They provided personal anecdotes and suggested ways to continue to strike a balance once they advance from high school to college.

In addition, the event focused on three panel discussions on topics essential to success. The "Striking a Balance," panel featured Joanne Maldari (Academic Advisor, Univ. of New Hampshire), Jamil Abdullah (Basketball Player, Roxbury Community College), and high schoolers Christopher Barton (East Bridgewater H.S.) and Caleb Pelger (Peabody H.S.). The "Achieving Success" panel outlined strategies for overcoming obstacles. It featured Malcolm Wynn (Head Basketball Coach, Roxbury Community College), Marcus Blossom (Basketball Player, Northeastern University), and high schoolers Dalina Chawalit (Peabody H.S.) and Matt Samberg (Algonquin Regional H.S.). The "Making A Difference" panel featured Jeff O'Brien (Director, *Mentors in Violence Prevention Program*, MVP), Ally Martin (Corps Member, *Athletes in Service to America*), and high schoolers Mark Scialadone (Beverly H.S.) and April Hanson (Minuteman Regional H.S.).

In 2001, over 311,000 student-athletes were honored across the country as part of NSAD.



Sport in Society's Allyce Najmy (far left) on stage with the high school panelists.

# Human Rights Squad FORUM

**Project  
TEAMWORK**

**Project  
TEAMWORK**



Human Rights Leadership Award Winner Elizabeth Bloomer (left) with Sport in Society Senior Associate Director, Allyce Najmy.

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The 2001 Award in the student category was presented to Archbishop Williams High School's incredible Elizabeth Bloomer. Bloomer was honored for her astounding leadership and awareness raising on the issue of child labor atrocities, after she was inspired by the death of 12-year-old Pakistani boy, Iqbal Masih.

The Human Rights Leadership Award in the adult category honored Michael Brown and Alan Khazei, co-founders of *City Year, Inc.* *City Year* enlists more than 1,000 young adults nationwide for a year of full-time community service, civic engagement and leadership development. Eli Segal from the *Welfare to Work Partnership* was the special presenter.



(left-right) Sport in Society Director Richard Lapchick, Human Rights Leadership Award winners *City Year*'s Michael Brown and Alan Khazei, and Archbishop Williams' Elizabeth Blomer, Sport in Society C.O.O. Allyce Najmy, and Eli Segal, *Welfare to Work Partnership*.

"As we celebrate our 10th-annual forum we take the time to honor our Human Right Squad, some of which have been active since the very first year in 1991," said Susan Leitao, Director of Project TEAMWORK. "These students are dedicated to making their own schools a safe and tolerant environment to learn. Our future is in good hands with these young leaders we congratulate today."

*Project TEAMWORK*'s Darryl Williams presented PTW's Darryl Williams Awards to deserving middle and high school Squads: West Roxbury (High School category) and Brown (Middle School category). Williams has spent his life as a motivational speaker after he was shot and paralyzed by a racially-motivated attack on the football field as a sophomore from Jamaica Plain H.S. in 1979.

**HUMAN RIGHTS SQUAD PLEDGE**  
 "As a **Project TEAMWORK** Human Rights Squad member, I pledge to respect all people, to speak out against prejudice and discrimination, to take individual responsibility for my actions, and to solve problems nonviolently. I pledge to work as part of the **TEAM** to create positive social change."

The theme of this year's event was "*Commitment to Service.*" To encourage the HRS members to continue their service in their community, *Project TEAMWORK* coordinated a service fair at the conclusion of the event. All 300 participating HRS members had an opportunity to visit service booths organized in NU's Curry Student Center in order to learn more about how they can continue to make a difference.

Fourteen services booths were on display representing: *Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) Program*, *Anti-Defamation League*, *National Conference for Community and Justice*, *United Way*, *City Year*, *Project Prove*, *Best Buddies*, *Unicef*, *Girl Power*, *Red Cross*, the Sports Museum of New England, the Middlesex District Attorney's Office, and the Mass. State Legislature.



The *Project Prove* info booth was just one of 14 on display at the service fair.

The special guest speaker for the forum was non-other-than Sport in Society's Founder and Director, Dr. Richard E. Lapchick. Always memorable and highly-motivational, Dr. Lapchick told a personal story from the heart that inspired the audience to embrace *Project TEAMWORK*'s creed of understanding, tolerance and conflict resolution. The forum also featured a special guest speech by Coach David Leitao, the Associate Men's Basketball Coach at the University of Connecticut. David Leitao is the brother of *Project TEAMWORK*'s director Susan Leitao, who herself was a professional basketball player in Nice, France.

Entertainment included the foot-stomping Ayer H.S. Step Dancers and the always electrifying Woonsocket H.S. Dancers, who capped the show with their hip-hop routine.

FOR A COMPLETE PHOTO GALLERY OF THE 2001 HUMAN RIGHTS SQUAD FORUM, VISIT:

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Woonsocket H.S. once again rocked the house at the HRS Forum.

Photos by Paul Ermlich



**S P O R T I N S O C I E T Y**

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**Tomorrow in Good Hands with Today's Youth**

**Project TEAMWORK celebrates 10th Human Rights Squad Forum**

BOSTON, MA – “I will be a Human Rights Squad Member forever.” ... “Memorable, moving, emotional and full of hope for the youth of the future.” ... “For the first time, saying the (Human Rights Squad) pledge was more than just words to me it was committing to a way of life.”

These were just some of the comments about Project TEAMWORK's Human Rights Squad Forum on May 9, 2001 at Northeastern University. Approximately 300 people convened at NU's Blackman Auditorium for the 10th-Annual event to honor members of Project TEAMWORK's Human Rights Squads. Human Rights Squads are teams of middle and high school students who pledge to reduce the amount of prejudice and violence in their school and community through organized team projects. HRS are coordinated by teachers and advisors who aid HRS members in completing work on community and school projects.



The Ayer High School Dance Team raises the roof at Project TEAMWORK's Human Rights Squad Forum.

Photo by Paul Ermlich

The forum celebrates those youths who held true to this pledge, and honors select individuals and schools with Human Rights Leadership Awards.

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