



Multiculturalism in Sports Highlighted by Human Rights Squad Forum

BOSTON, MA – Northeastern University's *Center for the Study of Sport in Society* and *Project TEAMWORK* will present the 12th Annual Human Rights Squad Forum at Northeastern University on **Thursday, May 8, from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm**. The Human Rights Squad Forum is an event that honors 30 regional school's students that have spent at least a year reducing prejudice and violence within their schools and local communities. Invited featured speakers include: Kip St. Germaine, 2002 Gold Medal Winner, US Sled Hockey Team; Jessie Simms, grandson of baseball icon Jackie Robinson; and Leo Nolan, Iroquois Nationals Lacrosse. Chosen by the students, this year's theme "**Multiculturalism and Sports**" will bring together athletes from diverse backgrounds to speak on the issues facing different minority groups in sports.

"As the face of our society changes, so does the the face of sports," said Susan Leitao, Director of *Project TEAMWORK*. "Recognizing this fact, our Human Rights Squad middle and high school students specifically selected this year's theme of 'Multiculturalism in Sports'. Cultural and ethnic diversity exists in all realms of society - and sports has a unique and important role to play in raising people awareness, understanding and tolerance."

During the forum, a local middle and high school student will receive the *Darryl Williams Award* for their efforts and service to their community. The *Darryl Williams Award* is presented to individuals going above and beyond their duties to the community by taking a proactive role in solving problems in their neighborhoods. Darryl Williams, a member of *Project TEAMWORK*, was shot more than 20 years ago while playing in a Charlestown high football game. The racially-motivated attack left Williams paralyzed, but not bitter. He speaks to youth across the nation, using his experience to promote tolerance and understanding.

This year's winners are: **Lynn Technical Vocational High School**, coordinators of their own Human Rights Squad for 9 years, and participated in the "Stop the Violence" March in Lynn. **FA Day Middle School** Human Rights Squad members in Newton was so motivated by a video on the Arab/Israel conflict, they are coordinating an effort to have the entire school watch the movie and open a dialogue to discuss the conflict that exists in the Middle East.

Project TEAMWORK also presents *Human Rights Leadership Awards*. The winner in the *Adult category* is **Doris Bunte**. Bunte is a highly-regarded community leader and speaker and was the first African-American woman elected to the Massachusetts Legislature. She was elected to seven consecutive terms in the House of Representatives. The winners in the *Student category* are **Michael McGue** and **Caitlyn Martin** of the Archbishop Williams High School in Braintree. Together, they trained the entire freshman class in diversity and conflict resolution.

Project TEAMWORK, a program of *Sport in Society*, is a non-profit diversity and conflict resolution program composed of former professional and collegiate athletes. This multi-raced, mixed gender team is trained to combat all forms of discrimination and teach practical conflict resolution skills.

For more information, contact Kevin Matthews, Sport in Society Director of External Affairs at **617-373-4256**.

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NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY'S CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SPORT IN SOCIETY

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.

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