



Currituck County's Harry Ferguson voted 5th Annual N.C. STEP "No Spit" All-Star of the Year

Fans selected Ferguson in online vote from among 10 finalists; all finalists pledged not to use spit tobacco

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 28, 2012

Contact: NC STEP, Paul Turner (828) 648-1211
TSF Radio Network, Mike Sinnott 517-927-4570

CANTON, NC – The North Carolina Spit Tobacco Education Program (N.C. STEP) is proud to announce that Currituck County's Harry Ferguson has been voted the 5th Annual N.C. STEP "No Spit" All-Star of the Year for baseball. More than 25,000 votes were recorded for the honor with Ferguson collecting 5,897 votes followed by High Point Central's Hansen Butler (5,295) and Wilkes Central's Christian Triplett (4,927). Each finalist for the honor had pledged not to use spit tobacco or any tobacco products – on or off the field!

Ferguson won 10 games this season with a 0.67 earned run average while tossing two no-hitters for Currituck County. Ferguson earned Northeastern Coastal Player of the Year honors for his effort this season with the Knights.

5th Annual N.C. STEP "No Spit" All-Star of the Year – FINALISTS

Dustin Batson – Brevard
Joe Bertone - Hopewell
Hansen Butler – High Point Central
Nicholas Collins – Union Pines
Hunter Donaldson – North Henderson
Harry Ferguson – Currituck County
Sean Grant – West Iredell
Mike Herbert - Providence
Christian Triplett – Wilkes Central
Ben Youngblood – Smithfield-Selma

N.C. STEP "No Spit" All-Stars of the Year

2012 – Harry Ferguson of Currituck County
2011 – William Johnson of Wilkes Central
2010 – Logan Deaver of South Lenoir
2009 – Ronald Womack of Hoke County
2008 – Chris Huie of Dixon

Each finalist has pledged not to use smokeless tobacco, understanding that smokeless does not mean harmless, as spit tobacco contains more than 28 cancer-causing agents. These cancer-causing agents are present in cigarettes, cigars, smoke, and all forms of smokeless tobacco, including spit, snuff, and chew. The nominees have made the healthy lifestyle choice not to use spit tobacco.

In the Oral Health American 2006 Spit Tobacco Report Card, the nation received a "D" for the use of spit tobacco. That means between 12 to 20-percent of all high school males in the country have used spit tobacco in the last 30 days. This campaign is designed to educate

young people in North Carolina about the dangers of spit tobacco and reinforce the healthy, lifestyle choice not to use tobacco products, especially spit tobacco.

N.C. STEP is an effort designed to educate North Carolinians about the dangers of spit tobacco. Each year, between 10 to 16 million Americans put their health at risk by using spit tobacco. N.C. STEP's mission is to prevent people, especially young people, from starting to use spit tobacco. For more information about N.C. STEP, contact program director Paul Turner at (828) 648-1211.

The winner of the N.C. STEP "No Spit" All-Star of the Year will receive a custom-designed ring from Jostens, Inc., the jeweler to the best athletes in the world, including the 2011 World Series champion St. Louis Cardinals.

Tobacco.Reality.Unfiltered, commonly known as TRU, is North Carolina's first-ever statewide youth tobacco prevention multi-media campaign that uses testimonials of real North Carolina teens as well as hard-hitting facts to dissuade young people from using tobacco. This grassroots initiative includes the TRU media campaign, a college tobacco prevention initiative and a grant program with grants covering every county in North Carolina.

"The Sports Flash" (TSF) Radio Network delivers customized, local sports reports to 179 network affiliates in 13 different states, reaching more than 2.5-million listeners each week. In North Carolina, TSF Radio Network has 30 affiliates. TSF Radio Network will provide the day-to-day management of the campaign and has managed "Tobacco Free" or "No Spit" campaigns for many organizations, including: Get Healthy Kentucky; South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control; Montana's Tobacco Use Prevention Program; and Wyoming Through With Chew.

For more information about TSF Radio Network and its tobacco prevention programs, contact Mike Sinnott at (517) 927-4570.

