



N.C. STEP “No Spit” All-Stars – Week Nine Nominees

Campaign honors best high school football players who have pledged not to use spit tobacco

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CONTACT: Mike Sinnott
(517) 927-4570

CANTON, NC - The North Carolina Spit Tobacco Education Program (N.C. STEP) is honored to announce this week's nominees for the N.C. STEP “No Spit” All-Stars of the Week. The campaign honors the best high school football players in the state who have pledged not to use spit tobacco or any tobacco products – on or off the field! Each nominee has signed the N.C. STEP “No Spit” All-Star pledge not to use spit tobacco.

N.C. STEP “No Spit” All-Star of the Week – Nominees

<p>B.J. Beecher – Concord</p>	<p>Beecher has thrown for 1,885 yards with 24 touchdowns this season for Concord.</p> <p>E-mail your for Concord's B.J. Beecher.</p>
<p>Larenz Bryant – Vance</p>	<p>Bryant rushed for 197 yards with three touchdowns in a 31-25 overtime win over Hopewell.</p> <p>E-mail your for Vance's Larenz Bryant.</p>
<p>Seth Curtis – Murphy</p>	<p>Entering the regular-season finale at Swain County, Curtis has 2,348 yards of total offense with 28 touchdowns, throwing for 1,326 while rushing for 1,022 yards for the 7-3 Bulldogs.</p> <p>E-mail your for Murphy's Seth Curtis.</p>
<p>Khris Francis – Durham Hillside</p>	<p>Francis rushed for 128 yards on 20 carries with a touchdown to lead Durham Hillside to a 45-7 win over East Chapel Hill to clinch a share of the PAC 6 title for the Hornets.</p> <p>E-mail your for Durham Hillside's Khris Francis.</p>
<p>Will Grier – Davidson Day</p>	<p>Grier had completed 182-of-283 passes this season for 2,907 yards with 41 touchdowns for Davidson Day.</p> <p>E-mail your for Davidson Day's Will Grier.</p>
<p>Connor Mitch – Wakefield</p>	<p>Mitch threw for 275 yards (21/29) with three touchdown tosses as Wakefield scored 34 unanswered points in a 48-21 win over Broughton.</p> <p>E-mail your for Wakefield's Connor Mitch.</p>

Fans can vote for the weekly winner online at www.TheSportsFlash.com. Voting ends at 9:00 P.M. EDT on Thursday. The winner will be announced on Friday.

Coaches, parents, and fans can nominate any player for the N.C. STEP “No Spit” All-Star of the Week. To be eligible for the weekly award, the student-athlete must pledge not to use tobacco, understanding that spit/smokeless tobacco does not mean harmless. Spit/smokeless 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.

Student-athletes from across the state can download the N.C. STEP “No Spit” All-Stars pledge online at www.TheSportsFlash.com.

In the Oral Health America 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 design 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 Paul Turner at (828) 648-1211.

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 the state.

“The Sports Flash” (TSF) Radio Network delivers customized, local sports reports to 175 network affiliates in 13 different states, reaching more than 2.1-million listeners each week. In North Carolina, TSF Radio Network has 30 affiliates. TSF Radio Network provides 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, contact Mike Sinnott at (517) 927-4570.

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