

# Sports

## Baseball, pure and simple

By Joel Graham

Staff Writer / Photographer

It was hard to watch some of my favorite professional baseball players sitting in front of a Congressional Committee, getting questions hurled at them about alleged steroid use. This question still bothers me; anabolic steroids have been a part of professional football for years, why is baseball taking all the heat? The Olympic Committee rarely finds that all natural competitors were the only ones who competed in all sorts of events. The world's biggest bodybuilder, Ronnie Coleman has won Mr. Universe multiple times and he's crammed anabolic 'roids in every vein in his body...and he's a Texas police officer!? I hurt for baseball.

Despite all the media hype about baseball's black eye(s), there is still plenty of purity in the game. There are players everywhere that simply play baseball because they love the sport and have been given natural, unaltered talent.

Buying into the media frenzy about how McGwire's record was a fake doesn't take away from the essence of the sport. Baseball, in all its glory, will always be, "America's Game". They will never convince me that any professional sport sustains even a scratch from a few players who break the rules. Show me a sport that has 100% integrity, with no record of anyone ever cheating. Jeez, even the Lawn Bowling League at the old folks

home has had a ball or two investigated for suspicious velocity. My brother's Grandmother used to cheat in every Poker match she ever won in Vegas in the 50's! Even the Cub Scouts back in the day had a Pinewood Derby Car every now and then, that blew the doors off the competition...I begged my old man not to put all those fishing weights in the nose of that car.

Anyway, the point is, kids all over the world are now wondering if they will ever be able to compete in the big leagues if they can't afford a cycle of Deca-Durobolin mixed with Testosterone. It's a wicked shame we can't all play with the dream of going pro just 'cause we feel like one day, with a lot of practice, and hard work, we can be one of the game's 'untouchables'.

I would just like to say, I admire the hell out of baseball's purists like those on our Brevard College team. You guys give credit to the game through hard work, determination, and heart, and that, is the essence of all great athletes. It's players like you who play with guts and claw your way towards each victory like rabid dogs. THAT IS BASEBALL, PURE & SIMPLE!!.....and...having said that, on the off chance that anyone is doing 'roids, I would like to be cut in on a book deal... Canseco didn't write that slop on his own, he needed a publicist. 50 / 50 from the book's proceeds and you can keep the "60 Minutes" money...how 'bout it?

## Ramsey Named NAIA All-American Scholar-Athlete

Angelita Colón-Francia

Assistant Director of Public Relations

Brevard College men's basketball player Jared Ramsey was recently named to the 2004-2005 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) All-American Scholar-Athlete Team.

According to the NAIA, honorees must be a junior or above in academic standing and have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale and must play in at least 70-percent of their team's games. Ramsey, a 6'3" junior guard from Rutherford College, N.C., is one of 146 basketball players nation-wide to be awarded this honor.

He started in 20 games for the Tornados this season, averaged five points-per-game and was one of the top 3-point shooters in the Appalachian

Athletic Conference (ACA) at 41 percent.

"This is a tremendous honor for



Brevard has had in my six years coaching here, and Jared is as worthy as any. He has tremendous work ethic in the classroom as well as on the basketball court. We could not be more proud of

Jared and Brevard College men's basketball team," said the team's head coach Mike Jones. "This makes the fourth Academic All-American

him."

Ramsey was earlier named to the AAC All-Academic Team and earned a place on Brevard College's fall Dean's List. To be eligible for the Dean's List, a student must be enrolled full-time and must have earned a 3.50 grade point average or higher for the semester.