

Baseball should be colorblind

Continued from page 8B

three managers of African descent; Cito Gaston, Felipe Alou and Don Baylor. Baseball has a serious marketing problem and each year it becomes more evident that young people, including college students, of all ethnicities are identifying more with basketball and football stars. Cal Ripken, Mark McGwire, Roger Clemens, Mike Piazza, Chipper Jones and Greg Maddux are great ballplayers, and I enjoy watching them perform, however, they pale next to some of the black ballplayers who are actually canying the game today.

What makes us think that baseball has a marketing problem? According to Bud Selig, the acting commissioner of major league baseball, attendance remains lower than expected at this point. Even

before the cancellation of the World Series two years ago, MLB was taking a "big hit" - pardon the pun. Baseball seems to be afraid of appearing too black. As a matter of fact, even to this day, there are some white sports writers who say Mantle over Mays and Ruth over Aaron. As a youth, if I had to choose between the greatest athletes of the day, Willie Mays, Roberto Clemente, Jim Brown, Gale Sayers, Wilt Chamberlain, Bill Russell, Cassius Clay (Muhammad Ali) and Sonny Liston, etc., I would usually opt out by picking the sport that was in season. And to a great degree, young people still do this, but naming today's baseball stars would likely be low on the list. This despite ballplayers like Frank Thomas, Ken Griffey, Jr., Roberto Alomar, Albert Belle,

Cecil Felder, Barry Bonds, Tony Gwynn, who would be superstars in any era. Baseball has a serious marketing problem. And it will continue to suffer until it properly showcases its black ballplayers. One final point; even when baseball gets its act together, I am afraid that this will not necessarily translate into a stronger black community unless we continue to challenge these individuals (and MLB) to be positive role models and more.

HILTON: HIGHER EDUCATION is an internationally syndicated column designed to dialogue with college and world readers. Education is ongoing and certainly not limited to classroom study. Let's talk (909) 899-0650 Bus (3) & Fax (8).

Jones hopes to bring stability to Smith

Continued from page 8B

some good competition at the quarterback position," he said. "I think I just did the little intangible things that helped me get to the point where I am now as the starter. I just want to maintain that throughout the season so I can maintain that position."

After alternating Young and Calloway last year, McNeill's decision to go with Young will bring stability to the backfield, says receiver Reggie Lawrence.

With one quarterback, the offense can rally behind a leader instead of a tandem.

"That's going to help us a lot," Lawrence said. "Last year, we alternated quarterbacks, and it messed our rhythm up a lot because you get used to one style of quarterback then here comes another one. With one guy designated as the starter, we can get used to each other and make the right reads and make everything work smooth."

Since the end of last season, Young dedicated himself to becoming a better player. He trained harder with weights and spent more time breaking down film, which helped him learn how to read defenses.

"I got a little stronger. I hit the weights, I accomplished my goals," he said. "I worked real hard with coach Aycock and some of my offensive line-

men.

That helped me develop my other goals, which was to get smarter on the field."

Smith quarterbacks have the advantage of having a position coach this year.

Richard Basil, who played for McNeill at Savannah State, has helped speed Young's learning process. Although he had a year under McNeill's system at

TSU, Young doesn't think he has an advantage over the other quarterbacks.

"I won't say I have a leg up, per se," he said. "I'm still learning things because coach McNeill puts little wrinkles in it. I wouldn't say I have a leg up, but I have more knowledge of what he wants in the offense."

Young, an accomplished runner last year, has worked on his passing to make himself more versatile. His arm strength has improved, and it's evident in preseason drills.

"He's improved more in his throwing than anything," Lawrence said. "Last year, he made a lot of good reads, but his arm wasn't as strong as Trell's."

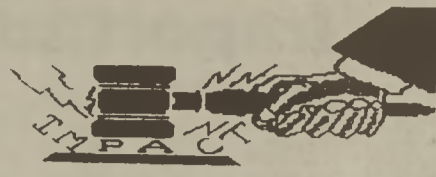
This year, he worked on that. He came in and he's getting the ball right where we want it."

Smith isn't expected to make waves in the CIAA this season, but Young thinks the Bulls will be competitive. After 14 years

of losing, there's only one way to go.

"I think we're the sleeper team in the CIAA. Nobody's looking for us to win, so there's no pressure on us. So we just go out and work hard and give that dedication, we'll win some ball games."

Want to Know Sports? Read The Post



IMPACT
IREDELL MEN PREPARING APPROPRIATELY FOR COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

PRESENTS

1st Annual STATESVILLE CITY CLASSIC

Elizabeth City State University

VIKINGS
VIKINGS
VIKINGS

VS

Livingstone College

FIGHTING BLUE BEARS

SPONSORED BY:

Bali • Hunt Mfg Co. • NationsBank
Statesville Record & Landmark

"Stay in School, Stay off Drugs Rally"

- Post Game Show -

Statesville High School Stadium, Statesville, NC
August 31, 1996

KICK-OFF 4:00 PM

Cost: \$12.00 / \$15.00 day of game

FOR INFORMATION CALL: 704-873-1229

Host Hotel - Holiday Inn (Statesville I-77) • 704/878-9691
Special Rates Based on Availability

Is Biakabatuka ready?

Continued from page 8B

"I know my plays, but it's up to the coaches to judge," he said. "My job is just to get ready and work hard. When they think I'm ready, they'll put me out there, but I've just got to stay focused to what I've got to do, and everything else will take care of itself."

Capers wouldn't commit to handing the starting job to Biakabatuka for Friday or the

season-opener. The Panthers have a two-week roster exemption because Biakabatuka signed late, which allows coaches to monitor his progress.

"We'll just see how he fares. We'll see how he looks on tape in practice, then we'll evaluate and give him a little bit more," Capers said. "He's not going to have a whole lot of free time over the next few weeks."

Make it easy on your friends and family! Get a subscription to The Post!

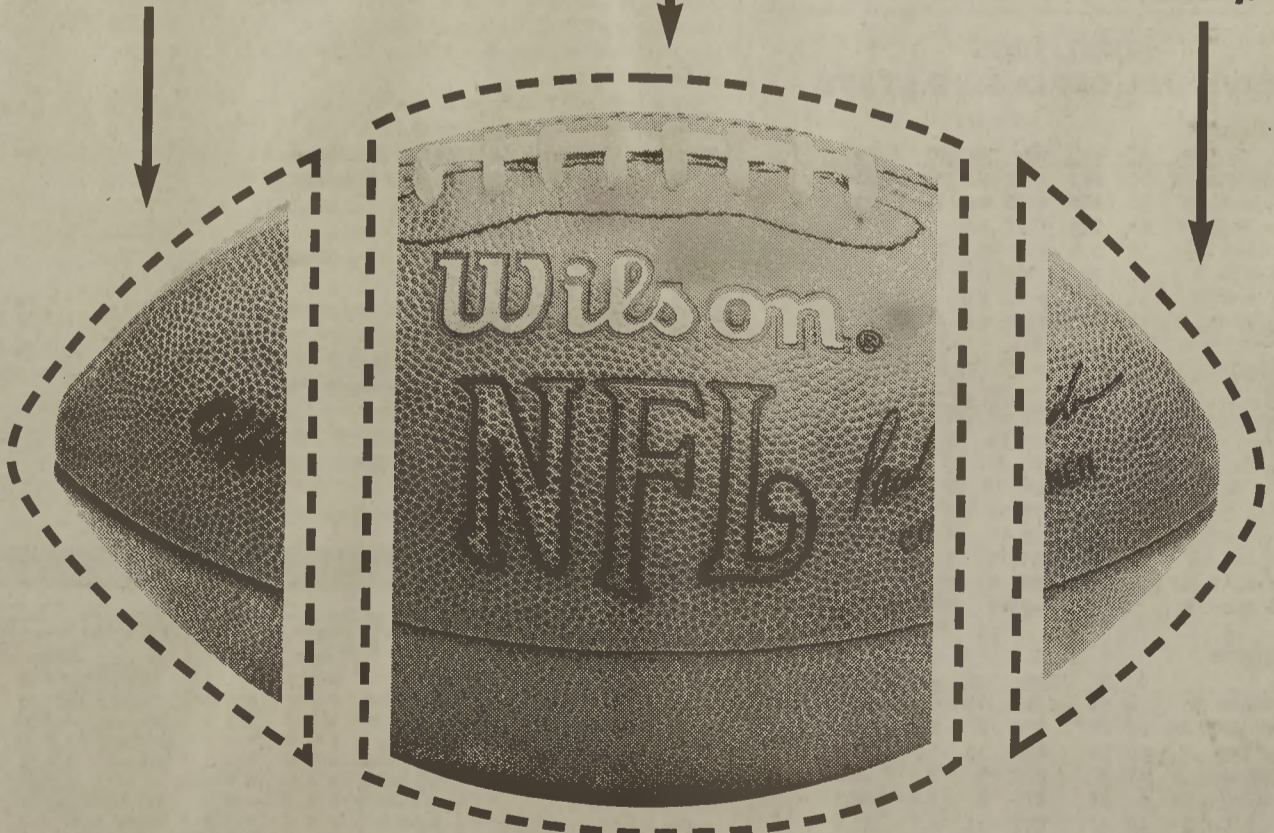
Call 376-0496.

Make The Right Third Down Call. 704-358-7800

PSLs For Only \$1,000 Down Now.*

\$1,000 In January, '97

And \$1,000 Next July, '97



Own a lifetime of NFL action for only \$1,000 down and a year to pay the two remaining installments.

But hurry, there's less than 3,200 PSLs remaining.

Call 704-358-7800 to reserve your PSL today.

*plus the price of season tickets

Club Seats	SOLD OUT	Section E	\$3,000 per PSL
Section A	SOLD OUT	SECTION E IS THE ONLY SECTION AVAILABLE	
Section B	SOLD OUT	Section F	SOLD OUT
Section C	SOLD OUT	Section G	SOLD OUT
Section D	SOLD OUT		

ONCE THEY'RE GONE, THEY'RE GONE.

