

## Politics and sports: Let's debate

Written by Fred Easter

Monday, 15 October 2012 09:37

---



Nobody asked me, but I have some unrelated thoughts.

I thought the President missed a lot of opportunities to unmask an oily, disingenuous liar during the first 2012 presidential debate. He seemed surprised by the lies told by his opponent, Mitt Romney. Wouldn't you think President Obama had had white men in nice suits lie to him before?

I was astonished that moderator Jim Lehrer kept asking the President if his views differed from Romney's. Only the Lord knows what Romney's views are today. And no one knows what they'll be tomorrow. That man is incapable of putting a stake in the sand and saying, "Here I stand."

I'm sorry this isn't a "battleground" state. I'd enjoy a steady diet of television ads showing Romney making contradictory statements to different audiences.

I predict the Lynx will meet the Connecticut Sun in the WNBA finals. I fully expect to be treated to the finest example of women's basketball ever. The Sun's 2012 MVP, Tina Charles, is a force in the paint – a truly dominant center. The Lynx were fortunate to have the 6' 5" Candace Parker to deal with, in its series with Los Angeles, in preparation for Charles. Parker was the MVP runner-up. She is not chopped liver either. We will also have a chance to see Lindsey Whalen and a maturing Renee Montgomery on the same floor. The two were traded for one another a few years back.

So, the Twins' response to two lousy years is the reorganization of their coaching staff.

I think the organization extracted the healthy teeth and overlooked the decayed one. I never saw third and first base coaches Steve Little and Jerry White send a runner to the wrong base. Both were let go by the team. Most of the players we used this year were up from AAA Rochester, where they were coached by Gene Glynn and Tom Brunansky. Those players brought their baseball IQ deficiencies with them from the minors. Now, the coaches that didn't teach them are joining them here. It's very hard to teach the game at the major league level.

Everyone notices that our home team's major need is starting pitching. Kyle Lohse, Matt Garza, Phil Humber and R.A. Dickey are names of currently successful Major League pitchers who wore Twins uniforms in the recent past. Lohse, not quite so recent, but he was in our rotation. Nick Blackburn was in the rotation too. Now, he's not even on the 40 man roster. Here's a young, once successful, major league pitcher that the Twins coaching staff can't seem to help get right. A few years ago, they almost lost Glen Perkins too. Of course, Johan Santana and Francisco Liriano were here as well. Of course, the explanation is that the Twins wouldn't be able to sign them. Maybe the reality is that the team can only afford dominant pitchers in the

## Politics and sports: Let's debate

Written by Fred Easter

Monday, 15 October 2012 09:37

---

pre-free agent part of their careers. Failing that, the Twins need a pitching coach who can keep young pitchers on track. That's the team's problem. It couldn't keep Liriano, Blackburn, Garza or Lohse on track. The organization blamed the pitchers and let them go. I think the team had a number of pitching issues that good coaching might've solved.

I also have a question about the Vikings' Joe Webb. He was drafted as a receiver and has shown a lot of promise as a QB. He can't seem to get on the field at either position. He has mad running skills but, I don't think wildcat plays can work unless there's a receiving threat Webb can pass to from the pocket.

But, like I said at the outset, nobody asked me.