

# Sports crowds in Hub: color them mostly white

By Steve Marantz  
Globe Staff

In the summer twilight when shadows stretch to infinity before disappearing, one city houses two worlds of sport. At Fenway Park the Red Sox are playing the Kansas City Royals to an audience of 34,000 people who pay for the privilege of watching. And at Washington Park in Roxbury, the Hillbillies are playing the Scorpions to an audience of maybe a hundred, who pay only Joe the Fish Man for his greasy, wonderful french fries and watch the amateurs stumble and soar.

A diamond game is the focus of these two events, baseball and softball, and though by conventional standards the major league baseball game is the superior spectator event, anyone taking the time to watch both could see that the softball fans clearly were unaware of this, and that if they were supposed to be enjoying

the amateurs and the rocky playground less, nobody had told them so.

Each event kindles a summer aura of its own, and what one provides in prestige the other provides in enthusiasm.

There's another difference, too: One crowd is nearly all white and the other is nearly all black.

Baseball-watching sets Boston's races apart, and why this should be happening to the sport Jackie Robinson integrated more than 30 years ago is a mystery to the Red Sox and a grievance to the people at Washington Park.

The Red Sox acknowledge that very few black fans buy their tickets — a casual observer won't count 50 in a crowd of 34,000 — and they are defensive about what this dearth insinuates.

FANS, Page 56