

Diversity in Sports Broadcasting

Audio by Danyelle Musselman

I would say that diversity of on-air talent is definitely improving. It may not be where it should be just yet, but it's definitely improving. Whenever I started out, it wasn't really popular to be a woman in sports and especially it wasn't popular to be a woman of color that was in sports. I remember being in college and I saw Sage Steele, who is now at ESPN, and she was a reporter doing sports for a local Tampa station. Her and Robin Roberts were two of the only black women that I ever saw that were on-air talent. Nowadays we can look and we can see so many different women of color, and so I definitely think that's positive. Also, whenever I started out at the national level, there were women, but we were really made to be quote-unquote one of the boys. I remember someone getting in trouble for wearing a sleeveless dress.

They wanted us all to wear suits, and that certainly has changed, and they allow women to express themselves the way that they want to -- long hair, makeup, style of clothing, all of that stuff. Where I do need to see more improvement is other minorities, not just African Americans. And that includes Asian sports broadcasters, Indian sports broadcasters, Hispanic sports broadcasters. I really don't see those on the TV. I don't feel like they necessarily mimic what we have in our society. So there needs to be more improvement. And I think that in order to see improvement, the people that are doing the hiring need to consciously go into this and just look at a diverse group of talent.