Stephen A. Smith  
Sports Journalist

A native of Hollis, Queens, Stephen A. Smith built his foundation as a journalist over the course of 17 years in New York and Philadelphia. Today he is one of the preeminent voices in the African American community.

A graduate of Winston-Salem State University, Smith’s journalism career began as a high school sportswriter at the New York Daily News in the summer of 1993. Just 14 months later, he departed to cover college basketball for the Philadelphia Inquirer, where he reported on everything from college basketball and football at Temple University to national college basketball and football and ultimately the National Basketball Association. After four years as a beat writer on the Philadelphia 76ers, he became an NBA columnist in 2001. By March 2003, Smith was promoted to General Sports Columnist, becoming one of only 21 African Americans in the nation to hold such a title at that time.

Smith’s career at ESPN began just seven months later when he was hired away from Fox SportsNet’s Best Damn Sports Show, Period! to become an analyst/insider on its premier basketball show, NBA Shootaround. Since then, Smith’s demonstrative, informative, in-your-face style has invaded the airwaves on NBA Shootaround, SportsCenter, ESPNNews, and his own talk show, Quite Frankly, which aired from August 2005 to January 2007. Smith also hosted his own weekday radio show on 1050 ESPN in New York and, due to its success, it was picked up for national syndication.

In December 2009, Smith joined the FOX Sports Radio Network as a regular contributor and took on the network’s east coast morning drive show on January 4, 2010. Smith also served as a network commentator on various topics, and regular fill-in host for “The Steve Harvey Morning Show.”

Smith has become a regular guest on the MSNBC’s Morning Joe, The Ed Show, Hardball and Fox News’s Hannity. In 2010, Smith was also a guest on CNN’s Larry King Live and Your Money. Smith co-hosted The View twice.

In early February 2011, Smith returned to ESPN as a weeknight radio show host on 1050 ESPN Radio New York (WEPN-AM) as well as 710 ESPN Radio Los Angeles (KSPN-AM), and is also a columnist for ESPN.com.
Topics:
- Adversity: Keep Your Head in the Game!
- The Road to Great Leadership
- Ethics, On the Field & Off