

CD 78-11 Report: Cable system Operators  
Attitudes Toward Distant Signal  
Programming (March 1980)

Before the  
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Washington, D. C. 20036

In the matter of )  
 )  
Distribution of Cable )  
Royalty Fees )

STATEMENT OF DAVID J. STERN,  
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE NATIONAL  
BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

I am David J. Stern, General Counsel of the National  
Basketball Association.

My responsibilities include advising the Commissioner of  
the NBA, the Association's Board of Governors and the NBA Televi-  
sion Committee on all matters relating to the economic, administra-  
tive, legislative and legal aspects of cable television. I also  
have responsibility for commissioning research projects relating  
to NBA television policy and for compiling television research  
data for use within the NBA. I negotiate with suppliers of cable  
and subscription television programming and recently concluded the  
NBA's current cable television contract. I have presented to the  
Senate Subcommittee on Communications NBA's views on cable televi-  
sion issues and have responsibility for the presentation of NBA's

position before the Federal Communications Commission on issues of concern to the Association.

It is NBA's view that the division of the Copyright Royalty Pool must be based on the value of the programming involved. An evaluation of value must take account of both (a) the comparative benefit of the distant signal programming to the cable system that is importing it, and (b) the comparative impact on all program suppliers of the importation of their television programs into distant markets. All distant station programming is not of the same value to cable, and the comparative burdens and inequities to copyright owners vary as between program types.

I want to provide NBA's perspective on why we think that distant live professional sports programming is exceedingly valuable to CATV operators -- indeed, why it has a promotional value to cable because of its attractiveness to subscribers that is not measurable in terms of hours occupied or similar measures. And, coming at the matter from the other side, I want to convey the reasons why NBA believes that professional sports uniquely suffers economic detriment when a telecast of a game which it has authorized for local television carriage in one market is carried in distant markets by CATV systems.

1. Telecasts of Live Sports Events Are the Most Valuable Component of Distant Signal Programming Carried by Cable Systems.

There are both historical and current evidences of sports' value to cable.

Early in cable's development significant regional networks were created by systems' desire for signals of distant stations with substantial sports programming. WOR-TV in New York was seen in hundreds of thousands of cable homes in the East via microwave prior to any satellite transmission of its signal as a "super station." WGN-TV in the Midwest was seen in nearly a million cable homes as was KTVU in the West, as a consequence of microwave. All of these stations are independents with an attractive lineup of live professional sports events.

When the signals of television stations were first available via satellite for distribution to cable systems, viewer preferences dictated that the stations be sports stations. Accordingly, the first four satellite-fed stations carried significant sports programming -- and NBA programming in particular. (See, e.g., then WTGG (now WTBS) (carrying the NBA's Atlanta Hawks in addition to professional baseball and hockey), WGN-TV (carrying the Chicago Bulls in addition to professional baseball), WOR-TV

(carrying the New York Knicks and New Jersey Nets in addition to professional baseball and hockey), and KTVU (carrying the Golden State Warriors and the baseball Giants).) Two more stations authorized for the satellites are also significant sports outlets.

The attractiveness of distant station sports to cable operators is demonstrated also in the other ways in which significant systems structure their distant signal carriage to maximize the carriage of live professional sports. In addition to regular distant signal carriage of significant sports stations, we have the following examples:

1. The station from Philadelphia that brings in the Phillies is alternated on New York area cable system with the seasons so that a Philadelphia station always is carried when it has professional sports -- WPHL-TV during the summer with baseball and WTAF during the winter with hockey.

2. During the winter, systems in the New York area regularly "cherry-pick" the stations that bring in the Philadelphia 76ers (WKBS-TV) and the Boston Celtics (WBZ-TV) to present the games of those teams live.

3. Theta Cable notes "NBA or NHL games from WGN, Chicago; WOR, New York City; or KTVU, Oakland, are usually last-minute schedule additions." (Program Guide attached.) There are no examples

given of "cherry-picking" of syndicated shows or old movies; nor is there any suggestion that any of the distant stations are brought in for their own news productions.

The preeminence of sports programming as a cable service -- and its value to cable systems -- is seen also in the fact that sports events are virtually unique among the programming on distant stations that is separately purchased by both cable systems and subscribers.

Theta Cable in Los Angeles, for example, carries WTBS, WOR-TV, WGN-TV and KTVU, all of which are sports stations. But Theta also pays both a program charge and a transmission charge in order to bring in the schedule of Madison Square Garden Sports (NBA basketball, NHL hockey, Indoor Soccer, etc.) and the Entertainment and Sports Network, another programmer of sporting events. Cable systems in the Philadelphia area see substantial sports from distant television signals, but they also pay for (1) ESPN, (2) the MSG Sports package, (3) a Major League Baseball package, and (4) PRISM -- which is a pay channel for which the subscriber pays extra and gets the 76ers, Flyers and Phillies games. ESPN and MSG Sports each currently have about five million cable subscribers. Systems or subscribers in the proximity of at least six NBA teams pay directly for the games of their teams on cable TV.

The point is, the marketplace has demonstrated that sports programming -- identical to the sports programming on distantly imported signals -- has an established value for cable operators of a magnitude which prompts them to pay added dollars for more of the same. The expenditure would not be made unless it more than paid for itself in terms of added subscribers or added revenues from subscribers.

To be sure, sports programming is not the only programming which is able to obtain additional payment from cable. A large number of cable systems have pay channels featuring first-run motion pictures and other quality productions. This is, in our judgment, a different programming product than that carried via distant television stations. It is one thing for a cable operator to offer, as a prime program selection, a popular, but perhaps dated movie, from a distant television station which may already have been seen on TV in the local market and which will be filled with commercials, if not seriously edited as well. It is quite another thing for a system to offer, even for an added fee, a channel bringing current motion pictures without commercial interruption and at convenient program times for subscribers. That is the distinction between distant signal movies and pay movies.

In the case of sports programming, however, the distant signal carriage and the pay cable showing of the live professional sporting event are identical. Notwithstanding the quite substantial distant signal importation of sports programming -- and the still greater importation in the offing via satellite -- there remains a cable market for more of the same. (Relevant to the Tribunal's task, however, is accounting in some way for the impact on that market from the substantial distant signal sports programming which is commonplace.)

The NBA does not suggest that there is no value to CATV operators in distant signal game shows, situation comedies, movies, action series, and the like, since they do provide a substantial programming selection, even though it is one duplicative of what is available locally.

There are, though, a number of distant signal programs that have no value to the cable operator, that he would not pay any price for in a free market, and that would probably be deleted altogether (and in some cases may be) in favor of something else but for the logistics involved. Falling into this category are purely local programs dealing with local problems and issues, including local news programs.

2. The Adverse Impact of Distant Signal Importation on Sports Programming Is Far Greater Than That Suffered by Any Other Claimant.

The nature and marketing practices of all sources of programming on distant signals, together with the various protections afforded to most non-sports programming, demonstrate that distant signal importation has a greater adverse impact on sports than on other forms of programming. This is inherent in the product. Sports is an attractive TV item because it is live, current and immediately topical. The value is normally earned once -- when the game is played (or shortly thereafter in a few cases of tape delays). The non-network market for each team is localized. In contrast, movies and syndicated programs may be seen again and again over many years in every market in the country.

Let me expand on this critical point.

The NBA, like all sports leagues, has one product to sell -- a live game between two teams. As a television attraction, it is a perishable and ephemeral commodity and, except in the rarest of instances, has no resale value -- when the game has been played there is no residual value to be captured. The same is not true for movies and syndicated programming.

The markets for professional games are, moreover, few in number and are largely mutually exclusive. When the Philadelphia 76ers are playing the Washington Bullets in Capital Centre, that game can be shown (a) to a national network audience, (b) to local over-the-air television audiences, (c) to local cable audiences, or (d) to a national cable network audience. The NBA's network will not purchase a game that will be shown on any other station or by any other means; a cable system will not be interested in purchasing a game that is available on local over-the-air television or network television. For our league the balance is a delicate one: there is (1) a network television contract calling for Sunday afternoon and playoff games, (2) a network cable contract calling for a Thursday Night game, (3) local over-the-air television contracts calling for the telecast of some "away" games back to the "home" fans, and (4) in only six instances, local cable contracts calling for the cablecasting of certain games in the "home" market.

Distant signal carriage of other games does not serve this television marketing structure. Direct siphoning of viewers arises when a cable system in Detroit imports a game between the Atlanta Hawks and the Boston Celtics at the same time that the Detroit Pistons (with the league's worst record) are playing at Utah

(another team having a losing season) and televising the game back home to Detroit. Viewership -- and thus the value -- of Detroit's televised game is diminished. There is a cumulative aspect to siphoning, as well. If a viewer is able to see imported games every night of the week (and two games on some nights), then he will be less likely to watch any one game -- including the network game which has been sold for a substantial sum based upon the fans it was expected to attract.

There is another consideration unique to sports. The choice of geographic markets is predetermined, since promotional and economic considerations dictate that the sale by an individual club be made, in the first instance, in the city in which that club is located. That is where the product will have its greatest appeal, and that is where the business of the club dictates that the product be sold.

Finally, NBA teams, like all sports teams, are without a choice as to the city in which their product will be sold and do not even enjoy freedom of choice with respect to the particular station involved to escape the consequences of cable carriage -- i.e., the freedom to choose a station the signal of which is not distantly imported -- since, as noted at the outset, it is the

presence of sports programming on a station that causes its signal to be a desirable one for importation in the first place.

These are problems unique to sports. Movies and syndicated programs are in a vastly different marketing situation. Putting to one side the theatre aspects of movie sales, both movies and syndicated shows are sold to maximize television viewing; they are licensed for viewing again and again on local stations around the country. Although for sports there is, for each game, only a one-time opportunity for TV revenues, for a situation comedy or a movie the opportunities are nearly limitless -- any particular episode of a series or any given movie may be seen on a network and, after that, many times on a station in each of the more than 200 television markets in the country. The damage from the distant signal carriage of such programs is minimal. Indeed, even apart from the fact that there seems to be no real injury whatever to the primary sales of such programs, such programs may also have regulatory non-duplication protection.

It is, of course, manifest that the local programming of television stations does not suffer any detriment by the distant importation of its signals. The value of WGN's Chicago news or its interview with the Mayor of Chicago is not in any way affected

by a showing of that program in Los Angeles since WGN has no intention to market that programming in Los Angeles -- presently or in the future. Indeed, there is a direct benefit to the station, which may elect to increase the amount it may charge to advertisers because of the added viewership that distant signal importation provides.

In sum, the sports leagues have a product which is perishable -- the telecasts of its games live, as they occur. There is no secondary, tertiary, or other aftermarket of any kind. The market must be developed simultaneously with the event. Use of the product in one distribution outlet -- cable -- may impact the value of another such outlet -- local television. We believe sports to be uniquely threatened by distant signal carriage.

\* \* \*

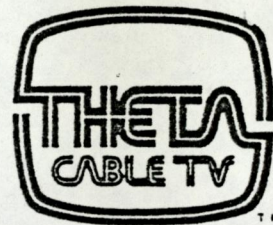
I have sought by my testimony to approach the division of the Royalty Pool from two different perspectives which are keyed to an assessment of the value of distant signal programming -- first, from the standpoint of benefit of sports programming to the "buyer," the cable system, and, second, from the standpoint of the posture of the "seller," the Sports claimants. What emerges is that the Sports claimants have a highly desirable

product which is used to great benefit by cable interests, and the great use made of that product by cable systems diminishes the value of the other markets to which the Sports interests must turn. It is the judgment of the NBA that these considerations, together with others being presented, compel the award of a large portion of the pool to the Sports claimants.

March 24, 1980

# Super Satellite Sportsletter™

THETA SPORTS FOR FEBRUARY 1980



Vol 1, No. 9

## Theta Adds Madison Square Garden Sports

### Irv Grossman Column

Now that Pete Rozelle's colossal lawn party is a fading, but generally favorable memory, it is finally possible to escape from the glow of Super Sunday and reflect properly on pro football's most obvious blemish, the serious injury.

Since we are a quick turn-on society, you would suppose that any sport that is made-for-television as is pro football would move the masses toward its calling. But fathers and mothers are encouraging if not ordering their offspring into other activities, most notably soccer, and even those who escape the blanket of parental protection are abandoning football on their own.

Certainly the sport has not lacked for awareness. Media attention seems to out-gain itself yearly. Television coverage provokes the patronage of even those who would normally rebel against anything that can be kicked, caught or passed. And the economic and spiritual lift pro football has given to a place like Pittsburgh probably should be bottled and sent to Chicago, Newark and the Chrysler Motor Co.

For awhile in the '70s, if you test an honest memory, the licensed mugging that was professional football caught the public's fancy. The "hit" was a virtuous routine measured in its intensity by the result (Did he hit him hard enough to cause a fumble, a sack, an incomplete pass?)

Plainly, a physical act had a physical consequence. People were hurt. Some senselessly. Some cruelly. Some terribly. And then, gradually, "hitting" was not such a wonderful thing to do and even those who played the game ordered some restriction.

In 1976 pro football's violence was challenged by one of the game's major players. Pittsburgh's Lynn Swann was nearly maimed by a hit by Oakland's George Atkinson and afterwards

... continued page 2

### ESPN brings busy sports schedule to February

Professional hockey and soccer, collegiate basketball and hockey, and a host of tournaments and special events will be featured this month on Theta Cable's all-sports Channel C through Theta's hookup with the Entertainment and Sports Programming Network (ESPN).

The LA Kings-Hartford Whalers game will be one of five NASL matches.

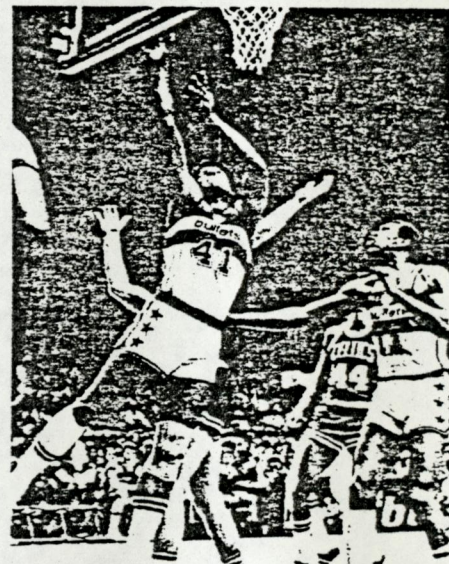
Four top-ranked NCAA basketball teams, DePaul, Louisville, St. John's and Brigham Young will be aired. Other teams featured include UCLA, Stanford, Arizona State, Florida State, Marquette, LaSalle and Rhode Island. A total of 22 NCAA games will be carried, including the Missouri Valley Conference playoffs late in the month.

NCAA hockey action is also on tap, with 11 games featuring five of the top ten teams in the country. The highlights of the month in that department will be the annual Beanpot Tournament from Boston Garden, wherein Boston College, Boston University, Harvard and Northeastern annually battle for Boston's citywide bragging rights.

Three other NCAA sports will make their debut on ESPN in February: Wrestling, with Big 8 Conference powers Oklahoma and Oklahoma State meeting in Stillwater, Okla. and a triangular meet between Cal-Poly Pomona, Arizona and Arizona State; Swimming, with defending Big 10 champion Indiana at Ivy League champion Harvard; and Tennis, with the National Indoor Championships and the California-Stanford duel.

Other special events include the Canadian National figure skating championships, professional skiing and World Cup tennis tournaments.

### NBA plus NHL professional live action a dynamite plus on Channel "H"



Madison Square Garden Sports brings its schedule of over 200 events via satellite transmission to Theta's Channel "H."

Highlights of MSG's year-round schedule of live events are: Thursday night NBA professional basketball, Monday night NHL professional hockey, NCAA and AAU events, Major League Indoor Soccer, NCAA basketball and football.

In addition, Madison Square Garden specials include boxing, wrestling, tennis, track and field, horse shows and dog shows.

The NBA games are currently in mid-season. Regular season games are televised on Thursday evenings with occasional doubleheaders featuring East Coast and West Coast games. The 10 playoff games will be selected from those midweek games not shown on CBS.

At the college level, outstanding games are seen every week. The basketball National Invitational Tournament (NIT) will be one of the high-

... continued page 2

Irv Grossman... from page 1

Swann, an intelligent and serious man, said that any clear-thinking person should quit a sport that encourages such activity.

"I felt like a pioneer," Swann says, "because football was supposed to be a man's game—if you can't take it, get out. But I don't play to prove my manhood. I spoke out. I'm glad I did." Swann's complaints contributed to a significant rule change which has reduced the opportunity for cheap shots.

In 1978, more than a dozen starting quarterbacks were sidelined with major injuries. Obviously, an unwarranted attack on a quarterback should promote no greater disgust than on any other player but since the quarterback is the resident celebrity (when Ferragamo challenges Haden next summer the quarterback may be the resident controversy), the public reacted in loud voice.

The high magistrates of the sport then conceded that wearing a football uniform did not license one man to slug another in the head or around the neck and that delivering such felonious mischief into living rooms on Sunday afternoons did not make for good theatre. Another rule was authored.

"The new rules are working," was Rozelle's announcement prior to the Super Bowl. "Only three starting quarterbacks were lost this year."

A chronicler from Pittsburgh rose to suggest that the NFL's protection plan might extend to other heads other than quarterbacks'.

"Since the results were so positive, why couldn't you extend such protection against hits to the head to all other players?" the man asked. It was a plausible and professional question.

"The referees are supposed to call a penalty for any blow to the head," Rozelle answered. "The problem is they have to see it to call it. And they don't always see it."

One understands that injury is a possible consequence of the type of contact that pro football peddles. But anyone who witnessed the Super Bowl either in person or on television can argue that pro football shines most brightly when those who are prone to make the "hit" a tool of a uniformed mugger are restrained from such behavior.

In five more months when pro-action starts again we'll have a chance to see if the injuries begin once more.

## Channel D.\* Watch NBA and NCAA basketball

Here are upcoming basketball schedules for the NBA Atlanta Hawks, the Atlantic Coast Conference and South Eastern Conference NCAA Basketball teams. Be sure to watch the Sports Schedule either listing on Channel "A" or Channel "12" for any last minute game changes. NBA or NHL games from WGN, Chicago; WOR, New York City or KTVU, Oakland are usually last-minute schedule additions.

\*Channel J in portions of the San Fernando Valley or East Region of Thetaland

Here's the Atlanta Hawks NBA schedule:

### 1980 ATLANTA HAWKS NBA SCHEDULE

DAY	DATE	TEAM	TIME
Thursday	2/ 7	Utah Jazz	6:30PM
Sunday	2/10	Golden State Warriors	2:30PM
Tuesday	2/12	Portland Trail Blazers	8:00PM
Wednesday	2/13	Seattle Super Sonics	7:30PM
Friday	2/15	Denver Nuggets	6:30PM
Tuesday	2/26	Boston Celtics	4:30PM
Friday	3/ 7	Indiana Pacers	5:00PM
Saturday	3/ 8	Houston Rockets	6:00PM
Tuesday	3/18	New York Knicks	4:30PM
Wednesday	3/26	Philadelphia 76'ers	5:00PM
Friday	3/28	Washington Bullets	5:00PM

Here's the Atlantic Coast Conference Schedule:

DAY	DATE	TEAMS	TIME
Monday	2/11	Wake Forest/N.C. State	8:00PM
Saturday	2/16	Virginia/North Carolina	4:00PM
Wednesday	2/20	North Carolina/North Carolina State	6:00PM
Thursday	2/28	Quarter-finals	4:00PM
Friday	2/29	Semi-finals	6:00PM
Saturday	3/ 1	Finals	5:30PM

And here's the Southeast Coast Conference Schedule:

DAY	DATE	TEAMS	TIME
Wednesday	2/6	Vanderbilt/Auburn	6:00PM
Saturday	2/ 9	Wild Card Game	TBA
Monday	2/11	Alabama/Georgia	6:00PM
Thursday	2/21	Georgia/Tennessee	6:00PM
Wednesday	2/27	Playoffs	4:00PM
Thursday	2/28	Playoffs	4:00PM
Friday	2/29	Playoffs	4:00PM
Saturday	3/ 1	Playoffs	5:30PM

### ESPN... from page 1

lights of the college sports season to appear on Channel H.

Six of the nation's top 20 college basketball teams will be showcased in regular season action during February on MSG national satellite sports network.

Additional top rated clubs will be seen on MSG's post-season conference playoff schedule, to begin in late February.

Heading the powerful regular season schedule is a February 27 match-

up between Ray Meyer's number one ranked DePaul Blue Demons and Digger Phelps' Fighting Irish of Notre Dame, currently ranked seventh.

DePaul, whose third place finish in the 1979 NCAA tournament surprised the basketball world, has reeled off 12 straight wins this season in pursuit of another post-season bid.

Notre Dame once again has a formidable squad, led by junior forward Kelly Tripucka and senior guard Rich Branning.

# Madison Square Garden Schedule/February

DAY	DATE	EVENT	AIR TIME	DAY	DATE	EVENT	AIR TIME
Friday	2/ 1	Golden Gloves Boxing (tape delay)	4:30PM	Saturday	2/16	Indoor Soccer (MISL)	
Friday	2/ 1	Los Angeles Times Indoor Track Games	7:30PM			St. Louis Steamers at Philadelphia Fever	10:30PM
Saturday	2/ 2	College Basketball (Big 10)		Saturday	2/16	College Basketball (Big 10)	
		Indiana at Purdue (tape delay)	5:30PM			Michigan at Michigan State	5:00PM
Sunday	2/ 3	Indoor Soccer (MISL)		Sunday	2/17	Toronto Mapleleaves at NY Rangers	4:30PM
		Buffalo Stallions at Philadelphia Fever	10:30PM	Tuesday	2/19	College Basketball (Big 10)	4:30PM
Monday	2/ 4	College Basketball (SWC)				Iowa at Northwestern (tape delay)	5:00PM
		Texas A&M at Texas Tech	6:00PM	Wednesday	2/20	Edmonton Oilers at NY Rangers	4:30PM
Wednesday	2/ 6	College Basketball (Big 8)		Wednesday	2/20	College Basketball	
		Oklahoma at Oklahoma State	6:00PM			Big 8 Wild Card (tape delay)	7:00PM
Wednesday	2/ 6	Golden Gloves Boxing (tape delay)	8:00PM	Thursday	2/21	THURSDAY NIGHT NBA (Doubleheader)	
Thursday	2/ 7	THURSDAY NIGHT NBA				Phoenix Suns at Detroit Pistons	4:50PM
		Seattle Supersonics at Detroit Pistons	4:50PM			Philadelphia 76ers at San Diego Clippers	7:30PM
Friday	2/ 8	Millrose Track Meet	5:00PM	Friday	2/22	College Basketball (SWC)	
Saturday	2/ 9	Indoor Soccer (MISL)				SWC Wild Card	5:00PM
		Hartford Hellions at St. Louis Steamers	11:00AM	Saturday	2/23	NHL HOCKEY/Chicago Black Hawks	
Saturday	2/ 9	PRE-OLYMPIC EVENT				at Washington Capitals	10:30AM
		Russian Hockey Team vs. U.S.A. Hockey Team	2:00PM	Saturday	2/23	College Basketball (Big 10)	
Saturday	2/ 9	College Basketball (Notre-Dame)				Indiana at Michigan (tape delay)	4:30PM
		North Carolina State at Notre Dame	5:00PM	Saturday	2/23	College Basketball (Big 10)	
Sunday	2/10	Quebec Nordiques at NY Rangers	4:30PM			Minnesota at Wisconsin (tape delay)	8:30PM
Monday	2/11	MONDAY NIGHT NHL		Sunday	2/24	Indoor Soccer (MISL)	
		St. Louis Blues at Buffalo Sabres	5:00PM			Philadelphia Fever at Wichita Wings	1:00PM
Monday	2/11	Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show		Sunday	2/24	New York Islanders at New York Rangers	4:30PM
		(Opening, tape delay)	8:00PM	Tuesday	2/26	College Basketball (Big 8)	
Tuesday	2/12	Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show (Closing)	5:00PM			Big 8 First Round Play-off Game	6:00PM
Wednesday	2/13	Golden Gloves Boxing	5:00PM	Tuesday	2/26	Golden Gloves (Qtr. Final Rounds—tape delay)	8:00PM
Wednesday	2/13	College Basketball (Big 8)		Wednesday	2/27	College Basketball (Notre Dame)	
		Oklahoma at Kansas (tape delay)	8:00PM			DePaul at Notre Dame (tape delay)	7:00PM
Thursday	2/14	THURSDAY NIGHT NBA (Doubleheader)		Thursday	2/28	THURSDAY NIGHT NBA (Doubleheader)	
		Golden State Warriors at Milwaukee Bucks	4:50PM			Houston Rockets at Washington Bullets	4:30PM
		Denver Nuggets at Seattle Supersonics	7:30PM			San Antonio Spurs at NY Knicks (tape delay)	7:30PM
Friday	2/15	College Basketball Doubleheader (MSG) (tape delay)	5:00PM	Friday	2/29	A.A.U. Track Meet (Live from MSG)	5:00PM
		North Carolina vs. Rutgers					
		Notre Dame vs. Fordham					

## ACC/SEC tourneys set for Theta viewers

There are two basketball conferences in the NCAA which boast eight of the top twenty teams in the land, and Theta Cable, through its affiliation with Ted Turner's Super Station, is bringing live action to its viewers from both of them.

The Atlantic Coast Conference, an eight-team loop, has five schools among the nation's elite, and three of those five will be seen on Channel D or J in the coming weeks: North Carolina State hosts Wake Forest, Virginia is at North Carolina and North Carolina is at N.C. State.

Kentucky, LSU and Tennessee are the three Southeastern Conference Representatives in the Top Twenty. Tennessee's game with Georgia is scheduled, and there is a Wild Card game set for February 9 which could feature any of the other of those three ranked teams.

Topping off the regular season are the conference playoff tournaments, annual showdowns for the league titles and berths in the NCAA and NIT championship tournaments. Both conference playoff tournaments will be shown in their entirety.

The ACC tourney is slated for Feb. 28-Mar. 1, and the SEC event runs from Feb. 27 to Mar. 1.

## Channel C/ESPN Sports Schedule February

### 2/5/80 Tuesday

3:00 pm	SportsCenter (L)
3:30 pm	College Basketball Highlights
4:00 pm	Beanpot Hockey Tournament from Boston
6:30 pm	To Be Announced
8:30 pm	SportsCenter (L)
9:00 pm	College Basketball Highlights (R)
9:30 pm	1980 Top Ace Handball Championships Match 2 (R)
10:00 pm	Beanpot Hockey Tournament from Boston (R)

### 2/6/80 Wednesday

3:00 pm	SportsCenter (L)
3:30 pm	Canadian Figure Skating Championships
4:30 pm	NHL Hockey: Los Angeles Kings at Hartford Whalers (L)
7:00 pm	PKA Karate
8:30 pm	SportsCenter (L)
9:00 pm	Canadian Figure Skating Championships (R)
10:00 pm	NHL Hockey: Los Angeles Kings at Hartford Whalers (R)

### 2/7/80 Thursday

3:00 pm	SportsCenter (L)
3:30 pm	NASL Indoor Soccer: Atlanta at Detroit
5:30 pm	NCAA Basketball: Massachusetts at Connecticut
7:30 pm	To Be Announced
8:30 pm	SportsCenter (L)
9:00 pm	NASL Indoor Soccer: Atlanta at Detroit (R)
11:00 pm	NCAA Basketball: Massachusetts at Connecticut (R)

### 2/8/80 Friday

3:00 pm	SportsCenter (L)
3:30 pm	1980 Top Ace Handball Championships Match 3
4:00 pm	To Be Announced
4:30 pm	NHL Hockey: Colorado Rockies at Hartford Whalers (L)
7:00 pm	NCAA Basketball: UC Santa Barbara at U. of Pacific
9:00 pm	SportsCenter (L)
9:30 pm	1980 Top Ace Handball Championships Match 3 (R)
10:00 pm	NHL Hockey: Colorado Rockies at Hartford Whalers (R)

### 2/9/80 Saturday

1:00 am	NCAA Basketball: UC Santa Barbara at U. of Pacific (R)
3:00 am	NCAA Hockey: Cornell at Harvard
5:30 am	To Be Announced
6:30 am	Canadian Figure Skating Championships (R)
7:30 am	SportsCenter (L)
8:00 am	NCAA Hockey: Providence at Boston University
10:30 am	NCAA Basketball: Cincinnati at Florida State (L)
12:30 pm	To Be Announced
1:00 pm	Metro Conference Women's Basketball (L)
3:00 pm	SportsCenter (L)
3:30 pm	To Be Announced
4:00 pm	NCAA Hockey: Providence at Boston University (R)
6:30 pm	Final Pepsi Tennis Jr. Girls' SportsCenter (L)
8:30 pm	SportsCenter (L)
9:00 pm	NCAA Basketball: Rhode Island at Connecticut
11:00 pm	NCAA Hockey: Cornell at Harvard (R)

### 2/10/80 Sunday

2:00 am	To Be Announced
2:30 am	Metro Conference Women's Basketball (R)
4:30 am	NCAA Basketball: Cincinnati at Florida State (R)
6:30 am	Pepsi Jr. Girls' Tennis Final
8:30 am	SportsCenter (L)
9:00 am	NCAA Basketball: Rhode Island at Connecticut (R)
11:00 am	Olympic Hockey: Czechoslovakia vs. Canada from Montreal
1:30 pm	Women's Professional Bowling Assoc. from Jacksonville, Florida
3:00 pm	SportsCenter (L)
3:30 pm	Pepsi Jr. Boys' Tennis Final
5:30 pm	Olympic Hockey: Czechoslovakia vs. Canada from Montreal (R)
8:00 pm	SportsCenter (L)
8:30 pm	ACC Women's Basketball Championship
1:30 pm	Pepsi Jr. Boys' Tennis Final (R)

### 2/11/80 Monday

3:00 pm	SportsCenter (L)
3:30 pm	NASL Indoor Soccer: Detroit at Tampa Bay

... continued page 4

# Channel C/ESPN Sports Schedule February ...from page 3

5:30 pm To Be Announced  
 6:00 pm Beanpot Hockey Tournament—  
 Championship Game (L)  
 8:30 pm SportsCenter (L)  
 9:00 pm NASL Indoor Soccer: Detroit at Tampa Bay (R)  
 11:00 pm Women's Professional Bowling Association  
 from Jacksonville, Florida (R)

## 2/12/80 Tuesday

3:00 pm SportsCenter (L)  
 3:30 pm College Basketball Highlights  
 4:00 pm ACC Women's Basketball Championships (R)  
 6:00 pm To Be Announced  
 7:00 pm Women's Professional Bowling Association  
 from Jacksonville, Florida (R)  
 8:30 pm SportsCenter (L)  
 9:00 pm College Basketball Highlights (R)  
 9:30 pm Beanpot Hockey Tournament Championship  
 Game (R)

## 2/13/80 Wednesday

3:00 pm SportsCenter (L)  
 3:30 pm 1980 Top Ace Handball Championships  
 Match 4  
 4:00 pm Best of World Soccer #11  
 5:00 pm NCAA Basketball: Boston University at  
 Connecticut (L)  
 7:00 pm NCAA Wrestling: Oklahoma at Oklahoma  
 State  
 8:30 pm SportsCenter (L)  
 9:00 pm 1980 Top Ace Handball Championships  
 Match 4 (R)  
 9:30 pm Best of World Soccer #11 (R)  
 10:30 pm NCAA Basketball: Boston University of  
 Connecticut (R)

## 2/14/80 Thursday

3:00 pm SportsCenter (L)  
 3:30 pm NASL Indoor Soccer: Fort Lauderdale at  
 Detroit  
 5:30 pm NCAA Basketball: Providence at  
 Rhode Island  
 7:30 pm To Be Announced  
 8:30 pm SportsCenter (L)  
 9:00 pm NASL Indoor Soccer: Fort Lauderdale at  
 Detroit (R)  
 11:00 pm NCAA Basketball: Providence at  
 Rhode Island (R)

## 2/15/80 Friday

3:00 pm SportsCenter (L)  
 3:30 pm LaBatts Pro Skiing from Alberta, Canada  
 4:00 pm Best of World Soccer #12  
 5:00 pm Beanpot Hockey Tournament:  
 Championship Game (R)  
 7:30 pm To Be Announced  
 8:00 pm Sunkist Track Meet from Los Angeles (L)  
 10:00 pm SportsCenter (L)  
 10:30 pm NCAA Basketball: Long Beach State at  
 Utah State

## 2/16/80 Saturday

12:30 am SportsCenter (L)  
 1:00 am ACC Women's Basketball Championship (R)  
 3:00 am NCAA Basketball: Long Beach State at Utah  
 State (R)  
 5:00 am LaBatts Pro Skiing from Alberta, Canada (R)  
 5:30 am Sunkist Track Meet from Los Angeles (R)  
 7:30 am SportsCenter (L)  
 8:00 am Pepsi Jr. Girls' Tennis Final (R)  
 10:00 am To Be Announced  
 10:30 am NCAA Basketball: St. Louis at Tulane (L)  
 12:30 pm NCAA Hockey: Notre Dame at Michigan  
 Game 1  
 3:00 pm SportsCenter (L)  
 3:30 pm 1980 Top Ace Handball Championships  
 Match 5  
 4:00 pm Best of World Soccer #13  
 5:00 pm NCAA Basketball: St. Louis at Tulane (R)  
 7:00 pm Avon Tennis of Oakland (L)  
 8:30 pm SportsCenter (L)  
 9:00 pm Avon Tennis of Oakland (cont.) L

## 2/17/80 Sunday

12:00 am SportsCenter (L)  
 12:30 am NCAA Hockey: Notre Dame at Michigan  
 Game 1 (R)  
 3:00 am To Be Announced

3:30 am Avon Tennis of Oakland (R)  
 8:00 am SportsCenter (L)  
 8:30 am NCAA Basketball: Central Connecticut at  
 Connecticut  
 11:30 am Sunkist Track Meet from Los Angeles (R)  
 12:30 pm NCAA Hockey: Notre Dame at Michigan  
 Game 2  
 3:00 pm SportsCenter (L)  
 3:30 pm Women's Professional Bowling from  
 Clearwater, Florida  
 5:00 pm NCAA Basketball: Central Connecticut at  
 Connecticut (R)  
 7:00 pm Avon Tennis Championships from Oakland (L)  
 8:30 pm SportsCenter (L)  
 9:00 pm Avon Tennis Championships from Oakland (L)  
 10:30 pm NCAA Hockey: Notre Dame at Michigan  
 Game 2 (R)

## 2/18/80 Monday

3:30 pm NASL Indoor Soccer: California at Tulsa  
 To Be Announced  
 5:30 pm To Be Announced  
 6:30 pm NCAA Basketball: LaSalle at DePaul (L)  
 8:00 pm 1980 Top Ace Handball Championships  
 Match 5 (R)  
 8:30 pm SportsCenter (L)  
 9:00 pm NASL Indoor Soccer: California at Tulsa (R)  
 11:00 pm NCAA Basketball: LaSalle at DePaul (R)

## 2/19/80 Tuesday

3:00 pm SportsCenter (L)  
 3:30 pm College Basketball Highlights  
 4:00 pm To Be Announced  
 4:30 pm NHL Hockey: Montreal at Washington (L)  
 7:00 pm NCAA Basketball: UCLA at Arizona State  
 9:00 pm SportsCenter (L)  
 9:30 pm College Basketball Highlights (R)  
 10:00 pm NHL Hockey: Montreal at Washington (R)

## 2/20/80 Wednesday

3:00 pm SportsCenter (L)  
 3:30 pm NCAA Basketball: UCLA at Arizona State (R)  
 5:30 pm Best of World Soccer #14  
 6:30 pm Pepsi Boys' Tennis Final (R)  
 8:30 pm SportsCenter (L)  
 9:00 pm Best of World Soccer #14 (R)  
 10:00 pm To Be Announced  
 10:30 pm NCAA Wrestling: Oklahoma at Oklahoma  
 State (R)

## 2/21/80 Thursday

3:00 pm SportsCenter (L)  
 3:30 pm Best of World Soccer #15  
 4:30 pm Avon Tennis Championships from Oakland (R)  
 7:30 pm To Be Announced  
 8:30 pm SportsCenter (L)  
 9:00 pm Best of World Soccer #15 (R)  
 10:00 pm Women's Professional Bowling Association  
 from Clearwater, Florida (R)

## 2/22/80 Friday

3:00 pm SportsCenter (L)  
 3:30 pm NCAA Basketball: Brigham Young at  
 Colorado State  
 5:30 pm NCAA Wrestling: Oklahoma at Oklahoma  
 State (R)  
 7:00 pm Best of World Soccer #9 (R)  
 8:00 pm Jack in the Box Track Meet from San Diego (L)  
 10:00 pm SportsCenter (L)  
 10:30 pm NCAA Basketball: Long Beach State at  
 Cal-Fullerton

## 2/23/80 Saturday

12:30 am SportsCenter (L)  
 1:00 am NCAA Basketball: Brigham Young at  
 Colorado State (R)  
 3:00 am WCT Tennis: Finals from Richmond, Virginia  
 (R)  
 7:00 am SportsCenter (L)  
 7:30 am 1980 Top Ace Handball Championships  
 Match 1 (R)  
 8:00 am NCAA Basketball: Long Beach State at  
 Cal-Fullerton (R)  
 10:00 am To Be Announced  
 10:30 am NCAA Basketball: Memphis State at Tulane  
 (L)  
 12:30 pm Jack in the Box Track Meet from San Diego (R)  
 2:30 pm To Be Announced  
 3:00 pm SportsCenter (L)

3:30 pm NCAA Hockey: Michigan at North Dakota  
 Game 1  
 6:00 pm Tokyo Elite Gymnastics (R)  
 8:30 pm SportsCenter (L)

## 2/24/80 Sunday

9:00 am NCAA Basketball: Memphis State at Tulane  
 (R)  
 11:00 am NCAA Hockey: Michigan at North Dakota  
 Game 1 (R)  
 1:30 am SportsCenter (L)  
 2:00 am Jack in the Box Track Meet from San Diego (R)  
 4:00 am Women's Professional Bowling Association  
 from Clearwater, Florida (R)  
 5:30 am To Be Announced  
 6:00 am National Indoor College Team Tennis Part I  
 SportsCenter (L)  
 8:00 am National Indoor College Team Tennis Part II  
 8:30 am NCAA Basketball: Louisville at Florida State  
 (L)  
 10:30 am To Be Announced  
 12:30 pm Metro Conference Women's Basketball:  
 Cincinnati at Virginia Tech (L)  
 1:00 pm SportsCenter (L)  
 3:00 pm 1980 Top Ace Handball Championships  
 Match 6  
 3:30 pm NCAA Hockey: Michigan at North Dakota  
 Game 2  
 4:00 pm National Indoor College Team Tennis Part I (R)  
 SportsCenter (L)  
 6:30 pm National Indoor College Team Tennis Part II  
 (R)  
 8:30 pm Metro Conference Women's Basketball:  
 Cincinnati at Virginia Tech (R)

## 2/25/80 Monday

3:00 pm SportsCenter (L)  
 3:30 pm Best of World Soccer #16  
 4:30 pm NCAA Basketball: Louisville at Florida State  
 (R)  
 6:30 pm NCAA Wrestling: Cal Poly, Arizona,  
 Northern Arizona  
 8:00 pm 1980 Top Ace Handball Championships  
 Match 6 (R)  
 8:30 pm SportsCenter (L)  
 9:00 pm Best of World Soccer #16 (R)  
 10:00 pm NCAA Hockey: Michigan at North Dakota  
 Game 2 (R)  
 12:30 pm SportsCenter (L)

## 2/26/80 Tuesday

3:00 pm SportsCenter (L)  
 3:30 pm College Basketball Highlights  
 4:00 pm To Be Announced  
 4:30 pm NHL Hockey: Los Angeles at Washington (L)  
 7:00 pm To Be Announced  
 7:30 pm Best of World Soccer #17  
 8:30 pm SportsCenter (L)  
 9:00 pm College Basketball Highlights (R)  
 9:30 pm NHL Hockey: Los Angeles at Washington (R)

## 2/27/80 Wednesday

3:00 pm SportsCenter (L)  
 3:30 pm Best of World Soccer #17 (R)  
 4:30 pm NHL Hockey: Boston at Hartford (L)  
 7:00 pm NCAA Basketball: Missouri Valley  
 Conference Play-offs  
 SportsCenter (L)  
 9:00 pm NHL Hockey: Boston at Hartford (R)

## 2/28/80 Thursday

3:00 pm SportsCenter (L)  
 3:30 pm NCAA Basketball: Marquette at Detroit  
 5:30 pm NCAA Swimming and Diving: Indiana at  
 Harvard  
 8:30 pm SportsCenter (L)  
 9:00 pm NCAA Basketball: Marquette at Detroit (R)  
 11:00 pm NCAA Wrestling: Cal Poly, Arizona,  
 Northern Arizona (R)

## 2/29/80 Friday

3:00 pm SportsCenter (L)  
 3:30 pm NCAA Basketball: Hawaii at Brigham Young  
 5:30 pm Best of World Soccer #13 (R)  
 6:30 pm NCAA Basketball: UCLA at Stanford  
 SportsCenter (L)  
 8:30 pm NCAA Swimming and Diving: Indiana at  
 Harvard (R)

Note: All events subject to change without notice. See Channels "A" and "12" for updates.

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