

TSN is moving to basic cable



Bob Spence
Entertainment
Thomson News Service

The Sports Network, Canada's 24-hour, all-sports TV service, has just taken a step that could curtail beer sales in bars and taverns.

TSN celebrated its fifth birthday Sept. 1 by moving from the ranks of pay-TV specialty channels to basic cable. In more than five-million Canadian homes, TSN is now part of the basic cable package.

As of August, TSN was being watched in about 1.8-million homes. Hordes of other Canadians would frequently venture down to a local bar to catch TSN telecasts of Blue Jay games or other events. Now, many of these Canadians have the option of staying home to watch the games.

When TSN was launched as a pay-TV channel in 1984, it had 320,000 subscribers. The network's first coup came in its initial year - acquiring the right to air Blue Jays' games. The Jays' 1985 pennant drive helped attract subscribers.

The network, which offers a wide variety of both professional and amateur sports, will likely more than make up in additional advertising revenue (because of the potential larger audiences) what it loses in pay-TV fees.

"Independent surveys showed the majority of Canadians wanted TSN on basic cable," said Gordon Craig, TSN president. "Canada is a nation of sports fans and they demanded more sports on television. TSN is in the perfect position to respond to that request by adding to and complementing the sports programming offered by conventional broadcasters."

With 24 hours to fill each day, TSN clutters up its off-hour programming with repeats of its prime shows, but it does offer about 3,000 hours of first-run programs each year, plus many specialty shows. And Sportsdesk, which airs five times daily, is the most comprehensive daily TV sports report in Canada.

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Family Channel also celebrated a birthday Sept. 1 - its first. The family-oriented pay-TV channel (60 per cent of its programs come from The Disney Channel in the U.S.) now has more than 240,000 subscribers.

Family Channel has surpassed its original target. In an interview a year ago, Susan Rubes, who has just stepped down as president, said FC hoped to have 220,000 subscribers by the end of its first year.

FC now expects to hit the 300,000-subscription mark by the end of its second year. That 300,000 mark is the level Rubes forecast a year ago as the break-even point.

Fletch Lives, Chevy Chase's second Fletch movie, is among the September video releases. Chase reprises his role as the unconventional investigative reporter I.M. Fletcher in this comedy.

A one-hour special by The Kids In The Hall - Dave Foley, Bruce McCulloch, Kevin McDonald, Mark McKinney and Scott Thompson - aired on CBC in December.

Rolling Stone magazine, in its "Hot" issue (May 9, 1988), hailed The Kids In The Hall as trail blazers who "may change the face of comedy."

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Globe will Fiddle on the Roof in "traditional" style this fall

By **BARB DUNLEAVY**
Herald Special

Georgetown Globe Productions have started rehearsals for the fall show. Audiences this year will be entertained in the traditional Globe fashion with the extremely popular Fiddler on the Roof.

Fiddler is the story of a Jewish family, set in a small town in Russia at the beginning of the Russian Revolution. Tevye (played by Joe Delguidice) and his wife Golde (played by Lyn Bostyovanski) are raising their family of five daughters in the ways of Jewish "tradition" and they enlist the services of Yentl (played by Shirley Ashenden), the town's matchmaker, to find suitable husbands for their daughters.

Tevye reflects on how much easier their lives would be "If I Were a Rich Man."

Yentl finds the perfect match for daughter Izeitel (Christine Ford) in the person of Lazer Wolfe (John Thomas), the town's well-to-do butcher who is a much older man.

Izeitel, however, has other ideas as she is in love with her childhood friend Matol the tailor (Phil Brennan).

They succeed in convincing

Tevye to allow them to marry and at the wedding, Golde and Tevye reflect on the passing years with the beautiful melody "Sunrise, Sunset."

A young scholar Perchik (Bill Korince) comes to town and agrees to tutor Tevye's daughters only to fall in love with daughter number two, Hodol (Meg Rosie).

As the Russian soldiers start to make their presence in town felt, a third daughter, Chava (Tricia McFarlane), meets and falls in love with Fyedka (Mark Prince) and this does not hold well with the Jewish traditions.

As time passes, the families of Anitevka are forced by the revolutionaries to leave their homes and Fiddler's haunting finale will leave audiences with a feeling of having been treated to an insight into life of Jewish family at an historic time.

Other members of the cast who play a role in this heartwarming story are: Frank Andrews, Derek Ashenden, Mary Bilik, Barb Dunleavy, Vic Dunleavy, Teresa Dzaman, Jay Eastment, Jack Ferguson, Fred Fulton, David Clover Jr., Jeanette Heinemann, Joan Herrler, Jennifer Hewitt, Gillian Hill, Leanne Inglis, Gillian Johnston, Kirsten Johnston, Becky Knowles, Vera Macdonald, Doug MacDougall, Rod MacIntosh, Martin Magder, Shannon Marshall, Keith Mills, Jean Murray, Jim Pace, Scott Peterson, Bob Rosie, Jan Stewart, Graham Stratford, Edna Turnbull and Marie Zions.

Fiddler on the Roof will be staged at the John Elliott Theatre Nov. 16-19, Nov. 23-26, Nov. 29, 30 and Dec. 1, 2. Tickets will be available at Royal LePage Real Estate at 170 Guelph St. on Sept. 25.

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