

Classic sports,

I can remember a lot of memories from sports. I am only 14 years old, but I love sports. I love Michael Jordan to death. He has always been my favorite player since he came into the league. The moment of his career that stands out in my mind is when he hit 6 threes in the championship game against Portland. I would love it if you would play that on your channel. If you choose my memory, please write back to me, telling me when you will play it. I would love it if you would replay this game for me. Thanks Abunch for this. Bye!!

Sincerely,

Ryan Masee

March 19, 1996

Dear Classic Sports Network,

My all time favorite sports' moment was when the "Rocket" Roger Clemens struck out twenty Seattle Mariners. I consider this historical moment in baseball hall of Fame material, without a doubt. Roger Clemens is without a doubt the fastest-throwing pitcher of all time. His intimidating size, and smooth, flawless form have given him the title of the number one strikeout artist in baseball. No body can even compete with the "Rocket" now! It is almost like he is un-human, something from a different planet, or world. No other pitcher is even the same caliber person as him. So remember! On this date; April 29, 1986 at Fenway Park, Roger became the first pitcher ever to record twenty strikeouts in a nine-inning game. He had at least one strike-out in each inning and fanned the side three times. Of his 138 pitches, 97 were fastballs.

P.S.

I am a big fan,
and I can't wait
to get my awesome T-shirt.

Sincerely,
Jason Fannon

ANOTHER
MEMORY
FOR ME.

CLASSIC SPORTS NETWORK #1

NO, MY NAME IS JOHN HENRY ROBERTS
AND I'M A 12 YEAR DIE HARD SPORTS
FAN!! AND I WATCH CLASSIC SPORTS
NETWORK EVERY DAY, "SO PLEASE REPLAY THIS
GREAT MEMORY THAT I JUST LOVE!!

SO CAN YOU PLEASE LET ME SEE THAT
GREAT GAME AGAIN. THANKS ALOT
I LOVE CLASSIC SPORTS NETWORK!!

MY MEMORY IS:

A 1994 OPEN DAY
SHOOT OUT BETWEEN NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS
AND THE MIAMI DOLPHINS!! THIS WAS A
GREAT OFFENCE OF SHOOT OUT, BETWEEN DREW
BLEDSE AND DAN MARINO "WHODAA!!" SO
BOTH TEAM SCORED BACK TO BACK ALL GAME.
BUT, LATE IN THE 4TH QUARTER, "NEW ENGLAND TOOK
THE LEAD, WITH BLEDSE TOUCHDOWN PASS LATE.
BUT DAN MARINO HAD ONE MORE CHANCE!!
WITH THE SCORE 32-35 IN THE FINAL MINUTES.
DON SHULA, CALLED THE PERFECT CALL ON 4TH
DOWN, "A FLY PATTERN TO ERVIN FRYER. AS
MARINO HIT HIM ON TARGET TO FINAL END
OFF THE PATRIOTS!! 39-35 BUT BOY WHAT
A GAME!! MAN I LOVE THAT GAME.
I'LL NEVER FORGET THAT MEMORY!! THANKS

February 24, 1996

Classic Sports Network
Murray Hill Station
P.O. Box 1830
New York, NY 10156

Dear Sirs:

Since we have had our DSS Satellite in October, there have been new additions to our channel lineup each month, but none has peaked my interest and had the most potential as the Classic Sports Network.

Twenty-four hours a day of sports memories. This is every armchair quarterback's dream. I am glad to see that you are open minded with the selections that I've seen thus far. A good mix of regular shows such as Sports Challenge and Tonight at the Fights as well as specials such as the All-Star Games and even an old figure skating championship. One of the best regulars is the Phi Beta Classics. There have been so many great college match-ups such as Magic vs. Bird in the College Championship game.

However, I wanted to take this time to request an installment to your lineup. I have always been a horse racing fan since my Grandfather showed me the sport at age three when a pretty good horse named Secretariat won the Triple Crown. I have now entered the business world and know many people in the horse industry. One thing that you don't see are the great rivalries and performances of Thoroughbred Racing's history. I realize that much of the early footage of say Man O' War and Seabiscuit and even the dominance of Calumet Farms with Whirlaway and Citation, may be difficult to find. However, if you look at the last forty years, there is a quality pool to draw from for a regular spot on your network. Whether it is a half hour or an hour once or twice a week, I know many people would go out and buy a dish just to get to see these memories.

In the 1950's, there were stars such as Swaps, Nashua, Bold Ruler, Round Table and Gallant man. The 1960's had Majestic Prince, Buckpasser and the leading sire of all time, Northern Dancer. The 1970's was the boom time for the sport as Secretariat became the first Triple Crown winner in 25 years setting record times in the Kentucky Derby and Belmont that still stand today. Ruffian carried the cause of the woman in the battle of the sexes match race with Foolish Pleasure. Seattle Slew became the 10th Triple Crown winner, but the first to make it through without losing a race. The greatest rivalry in the sport was displayed in the 2&3 year old campaigns of Affirmed and Alydar culminating with the Triple crown wins of Affirmed in 1978 when Alydar became the only horse to finish second in each of the three races-and by a total of two lengths. The 1980's saw only the second and third fillies win the Kentucky Derby as Genuine Risk(1980) and Winning Colors(1988) did the trick. Alysheba and Sunday Silence nearly won the Triple Crown in 1987 & 1989 respectively only to lose the Belmont to each of their rivals.

I've given you just some of the highlights from the Triple Crown off the top of my head, but there have been many different races and horses that have bloomed outside of the Triple Crown season. John Henry winning Horse of the Year in 1981 and 1984. Forego winning Horse of the Year from 1974-1976. The advent of the Breeder's Cup in 1984 that more times than not decides divisional championships and horse of the year. Some of the most storied races are the Champagne and Fountain of Youth for 2 year olds, The Travers, The Jockey Club Gold Cup, The Arlington Million, etc., etc., etc.

One more thing that I'd like to commend you on and reinforce with the coverage of thoroughbred racing I hope you will pick up is to remember it is only half the story to just show a specific moment in sports. To show the events ~~in~~ around the event and set the scene of the times literally transports us to that moment and provides a historical perspective on that time. I've seen footage of the match race between Ruffian and Foolish Pleasure. If you only see from the point that the horses leave the gate to when Ruffian breaks down, you know what happens, but you don't have an idea or a feel of what the event meant. Seeing the women wearing Ruffian buttons and the men wearing Foolish Pleasure buttons and people that admittedly didn't follow the sport, but were passionate about whether the male or the female horse would win. Seeing even the clothes the people wore, you get a feel for the times of the mid 1970's when the sexual revolution was in full force and women were fighting to be taken seriously and men were bent on showing their dominance. This is not my favorite sports memory but it shows what a difference it makes to set up an event. I like to collect old magazines with my heroes on the cover, but half the fun is looking at the types of ads, language and styles are used in the magazine.

In closing, I hope you will give serious consideration to having a regular segment to horse racing. I'm not a hockey fan, but I think its great that Clash for the Cup is there every day for those who do like it. A half hour a day or an hour twice a week would give terrific exposure and ample time to showcase an event as I've described. Just think how nice it would be to come home in the afternoon to watch Affirmed battle Alydar in each of the three Triple Crown races on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Thursday may show career highlights of Spectacular Bid and Friday Genuine Risk. I hope that you will mix it up with coverage of a Triple Crown series and specific Triple Crown races with profiles on a horses career.

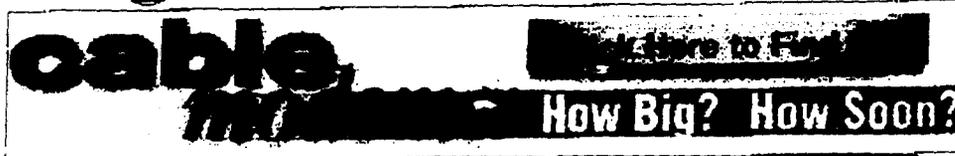
Thank you for your time and keep serving up the memories.

Sincerely,


Chuck Fuqua

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**Cable
World**

Playing Hardball: Classic Sports Net Tackling C'Vision

By Will Workman

A nasty battle between a New York City-based programmer and a cable operator bubbled over last week when Classic Sports Network said it will go to the FCC to challenge Cablevision Systems Corp.'s carriage negotiations.

Classic Sports executives said they wrote to Cablevision president James Dolan, accusing the nation's sixth-largest MSO of a "blatant violation" of Section 616 of the 1992 Cable Act by requesting an ownership stake, as well as exclusivity, for carrying the network.

As the FCC interprets it, Section 616 was written to prevent MSOs from taking "undue advantage" of programmers by "coercing vendors to grant ownership interests or exclusive distribution rights to multichannel distributors in exchange for carriage."

In a statement, Cablevision called the letter "baseless," saying that it always has been in "full compliance with FCC regulations." The 2.4-million-subscriber MSO also said it's constrained by tight channel capacity and doing its "best to accommodate the many new services that wish to be carried."

Contrary to Classic Sports' charges, the Cablevision statement said, "We have never demanded equity as the price of carriage, although we note such arrangements are commonplace in the cable industry."

Several executives at Cablevision and its programming arm, Rainbow Programming Holdings Inc., didn't return phone calls for comment late last week. But a Cablevision spokesman said 10-million-subscriber Classic Sports is "clearly" negotiating through the media.

The letter marked the beginning of a 10-day period in which Cablevision can respond before Classic Sports files notice with the FCC. If the network does that, it would become the first party to invoke Section 616 of the 1992 Cable Act, according to an FCC spokesman.

"We have never actually gotten one in the past, although we've heard of similar letters," the spokesman said.

Once the FCC receives a complaint, it can hear the evidence, request discovery and even issue subpoenas. Penalties include fines or ordering an operator to carry a network, "but only if it doesn't displace someone - then we would have to go to negotiations," the FCC spokesman said.

While noting that the letter is simply notification and that other such disputes have been settled before reaching the FCC, Classic Sports' CEO Brian Bedol said his move isn't just a negotiating tactic.

In its letter, Classic Sports charged Cablevision with "bullying" the network to sell all or part of it to the MSO and then denying Classic Sports any "meaningful" carriage.

The letter also said Rainbow executives Josh Sapan and others told Classic Sports executives that Dolan was "obsessed" with buying the new service and would play hardball on carriage issues until Classic Sports conceded.

Classic Sports, backed by such deep-pocketed investors as H. Wayne Huizenga and AT&T Ventures, is currently in 50,000 of Cablevision's 2.8 million homes.

"What puts this over the line is when Cablevision notifies us that they've decided not to launch us soon after we notified them that they couldn't buy us," Bedol said.

The same logic applies to Cablevision's insistence on exclusivity in Connecticut soon after Classic Sports notified the MSO of a carriage deal it had signed with Southern New England Telephone, he said.

Late last week, Bedol said he hadn't received a response from Cablevision. He stressed that he doesn't want to paint other operators with the same brush and limited his criticisms to Cablevision.

"We don't take this action lightly, and we wouldn't enter into it if we didn't feel we have a very strong case," he said.

Classic Sports has been negotiating for carriage on Time Warner Cable in New York after losing distribution on WBIS+ when that new superstation switched to a business news and sports format in late January. Classic Sports is hopeful it will land one of 12 channel slots on Time Warner's rebuild scheduled to be completed this autumn.

But the network's case against Cablevision will be difficult to prove given the subjective nature of spoken negotiations, according to two attorneys familiar with the 1992 Cable Act.

"The outcome of this case is likely to be decided on the very specific fact of the negotiations between the two parties," said Wes Heppler, an attorney with the Washington, D.C., law firm of Cole, Raywid & Braverman. "It's likely that the commission will have a very difficult time sorting through this case, and I wouldn't want to be on the commission."

Mark Palchick, an attorney with Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease who once represented a cable operator that invoked Section 616 but settled before an official FCC complaint was filed, said the disclosure process of an FCC proceeding could hurt both sides.

He also pointed out that Classic Sports may ultimately wind up with only a Pyrrhic victory: "I'd be very surprised if the facts are crystal clear in this case."

Both attorneys and other sources said Classic Sports' course is a lot less expensive than filing an antitrust suit, adding that the issue probably will be settled before it reaches the FCC.

"Generally, if there's some way to settle, the parties will," Palchick said. "Quite frankly, no one wants the FCC to make a determination in their business, and no matter how good a case you have, you always have the chance of losing."

Several senior cable programming executives, including one with experience at Rainbow, said Cablevision and other operators routinely try strong-arm tactics, but that Cablevision is notorious for pushing the limits.

In one instance, when Court TV was in the early stages of being shopped to operators, Cablevision came out with its own version of the network called In Court in a move to gain an ownership stake, said two sources familiar with the maneuver that eventually worked.

"[Cablevision] got wind of [Court TV] and announced a competing service; then they negotiated \$ to buy a piece of the action," one source said, adding that In Court was just a bluff. "It never existed. It was just a bunch of trade ads. Even though [Cablevision] had a vapor service ... it was enough to cause some cable operators to back off [a Court TV distribution deal.]"

A second source confirmed the story: "It was like, get a booth at the show and then negotiate for a stake - but that's typical of Cablevision."

(March 10, 1997)

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