

Sports Broadcasting Hall of Fame Inducts First 11 Honorees

NEW YORK (Dec. 18, 2007)—Each year millions of sports fans make the pilgrimage to Canton, Ohio; Cooperstown, New York; and Springfield, Massachusetts to pay homage to their favorite sports legends enshrined at the Football, Baseball, and Basketball Halls of Fame. The figures honored within these sanctuaries represent a rich, shared tradition of competition in America. However, the exploits of our legendary sports heroes might never have been shared at all were it not for the hard work of sports broadcasters.

Long overlooked are the passionate men and women of broadcasting who've toiled for decades in near-obscure to make sporting events come alive. Producers, show hosts, and broadcast entrepreneurs have defined the way Americans experience the triumph and heartbreak of their favorite competitors and teams. Now, thanks to the efforts of Sports Video Group and more than 40 industry leaders, sports TV innovators have their own Hall of Fame.

On December 11, 2007, 400 sports industry executives gathered together at the New York Hilton to inaugurate the first 11 members of the Sports Broadcasting Hall of Fame. Presenting hosts Jim Nantz and Bob Costas—broadcast legends, themselves—ushered attendees through the lives and accomplishments of these first 11 inductees.

“This is an exciting night for the sports broadcasting community,” began Costas. “For the first time ever, we are honoring those who have made televised sports a cultural phenomenon and an economic powerhouse.”

And with that, the night delved into remembrances in speeches and film clips of each of the following nominees:

- **Roone Arledge**—ABC Sports chairman from 1977 until 2002, Arledge is the unquestionable father of the modern era of TV sports broadcasting.
- **Julius Barnathan**—For more than 40 years Barnathan helped transform ABC Sports programming and the Olympic games into technical masterpieces.
- **Frank Chirkinian**—While at CBS Sports, Chirkinian revolutionized PGA coverage and turned the Masters into a heralded sports event.
- **Howard Cosell**—Cosell changed the role of the sportscaster. In two minutes during every MNF telecast halftime, he helped turn highlights into a television mainstay.
- **Harry Coyle**—Coyle redefined the way baseball telecasts were produced with innovations like the centerfield camera shot.
- **Jim McKay**—From 1961-1998 McKay hosted ABC's Wide World of Sports, transforming the very definition of televised sports to mean more than just baseball and football.

- **Pete Rozelle**—From 1960-1989, Rozelle turned the NFL into the premier sports league in the country and helped make the NFL the first league to broadcast every game on TV.
- **Ed Sabol**—For more than 30 years, Sabol brought fans closer to the action than ever through NFL Films, the company he founded.
- **Tom Shelburne**—The founder of NEP SuperShooters, Shelburne played a huge role in establishing the remote production vehicle market that plays an integral part in every TV sports production.
- **Larry Thorpe**—Thorpe helped create new imaging technologies that made sports broadcasting what it is today and helped lead the charge to high-definition, a key component of today's sports viewing experience.
- **George Wensel**—Wensel embodied the sports TV technical professional during his short life, becoming a "must have" tech during his days at NEP.

These first inductees represent a wide cross-section of sports broadcasting. The group is comprised of hosts, technology entrepreneurs, media moguls, and program producers—all hand-selected by a panel of 43 industry visionaries brought together by the Sports Video Group. The panel included industry experts Dick Ebersol, Ross Greenburg, David Hill, Howard Katz, Geoff Mason, Sean McManus, Don Ohlmeyer and Michael Weisman.

The Sports Broadcasting Hall of Fame is produced by the Sports Video Group (SVG), an association dedicated to advancing the creation, production and distribution of sports content. For more information about SVG and the Sports Broadcasting Hall of Fame visit www.sportsvideo.org.

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About Sports Video Group

Sports Video Group's advisory board is comprised of executives from leading television and cable networks, including NBA, ESPN, PGA Tour Productions, CBS and ABC Sports, professional sports leagues and stadium operations. The complete list of board members can be found at:

http://www.sportsvideo.org/artman/publish/advisory_board.shtml

Sports Video Group is a division of Entertainment Technology Partners (ETP), a new venture formed by two leading figures in the entertainment media industry -- Paul G. Gallo and Martin A. Porter -- former executives at United Entertainment Media and producers of 25 magazines, Web sites and trade shows serving the business information needs of audio, video, broadcast, musical instrument and systems professionals.