

Programming

CBS weighs in; big battles loom

CBS picks up ABC-produced series; slots first Canadian-produced series for prime time

By Steve Coe

CBS's announcement of its fall schedule last Tuesday left Fox as the only network still holding its new season cards. The unveiling of CBS's lineup reveals there will be some heated battles between the big three networks next season.

Peter Tortorici, president, CBS Entertainment, said the network, which has long been known for its strength in smaller markets and among older viewers, set the schedule keeping urban markets in mind. As evidence of that strategy, he noted that the three new dramas are set in urban areas. Tortorici also said the network went into the process with specific development for Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday nights.

CBS added seven new series, three comedies and four dramas, leaving only Sunday and Tuesday nights untouched. The biggest matchup involving CBS likely will be the head-to-head competition between CBS's new medical drama *Chicago Hope* and NBC's *E.R.* on Thursday night at 10 p.m. Both new series are set in Chicago hospitals and are from big-name producers; *Picket Fences*' David E. Kelley is the creator of the CBS show and Michael Crichton, who wrote "Jurassic Park," is the executive producer of *E.R.*

The situation is similar to the battle that was waged this past season on Sunday nights by NBC's *seaQuest DSV* and ABC's *Lois & Clark*. Tortorici said the expected press coverage of the matchup will benefit both shows in terms of sampling. He denied that CBS's scheduling of the drama was in response to NBC's slotting of its hospital series. "We had a gaping hole to fill on Thursday night. Everyone knew we were doing this show and that it was a medical show," he said.

Tortorici also said the network does not have a general policy of short-ordering new series but looks at series on a case-by-case basis. Last season the network angered many suppliers in the creative community by ordering only six or eight episodes

of most of its new series. Apparently in an attempt to mollify producers, Tortorici said the practice will not be a blanket policy.

Two of the three new sitcoms, *The Boys Are Back* (Monday, 8 p.m.) and *Daddy's Girls* (Wednesday, 8:30 p.m.), were given full 13-episode

How the '94-'95 season is shaping up—

	New show * New time	abc ABC	CBS	NBC
MONDAY	8:00	Coach*	The Boys Are Back	The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air
	8:30	Blue Skies	Dave's World	Blossom
	9:00	Monday Night Football	Murphy Brown	NBC Monday Night at the Movies
	9:30		Love & War	
	10:00		Northern Exposure	
	10:30			
TUESDAY	8:00	Full House	Rescue: 911	Wings*
	8:30	Me and the Boys		The Martin Short Show
	9:00	Roseanne		Frasier*
	9:30	Ellen*	CBS Tuesday Movie	The John Larroquette Show*
	10:00	NYPD Blue		Dateline NBC
	10:30			
WEDNESDAY	8:00	Thunder Alley*	The Nanny	The Cosby Mysteries
	8:30	All American Girl	Daddy's Girls	
	9:00	Home Improvement	Touched by an Angel	Now with Tom Brokaw & Katie Couric
	9:30	Grace Under Fire		
	10:00	Turning Point	48 Hours	Law & Order
	10:30			
THURSDAY	8:00	My So-Called Life	Due South	Mad About You
	8:30			Friends
	9:00	McKenna	Eye to Eye with Connie Chung	Seinfeld
	9:30			Madman of the People
	10:00	Prime Time Live	Chicago Hope	E.R.
	10:30			
FRIDAY	8:00	Family Matters	Diagnosis Murder	Unsolved Mysteries*
	8:30	Boy Meets World		
	9:00	Step by Step	Under Suspicion	Dateline NBC II
	9:30	Hangin' with Mr. Cooper		
	10:00	20/20	Picket Fences	Homicide: Life on the Street*
	10:30			
SATURDAY	8:00	The ABC Family Movie	Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman	Young at Heart
	8:30			Empty Nest*
	9:00		The Five Mrs. Buchanans	Sweet Justice
	9:30		Hearts Afire*	
	10:00	The Commish	Walker, Texas Ranger	Sisters
	10:30			
SUNDAY	7:00	America's Funniest Videos	60 Minutes	Earth 2
	7:30	On Our Own		
	8:00	Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman	Murder, She Wrote	seaQuest DSV
	8:30			
	9:00	The ABC Sunday Night Movie	CBS Sunday Movie	NBC Sunday Night at the Movies
	9:30			
10:00				
10:30				