

NBC said last week it doesn't plan to carry Major League Baseball games if they are played by replacement players.

(There was no movement on strike negotiations last week despite the President's efforts to bring about a settlement.) At an IRTS conference in New York (co-sponsored by BROADCASTING & CABLE), Jon Miller, senior VP of NBC Sports Programming, said that "NBC has no interest in broadcasting anything other than Major League games with regular players." Seconding that sentiment from the advertising side was BBDO Senior VP Stephen Grubbs, who said that "from an advertising standpoint, there's no way we'll support games played by replacement players." On the topic of **NFL coverage**, panelist Len DeLuca, VP/programming for CBS Sports, hinted that the network may try to wrest broadcast rights back from Fox when their four-year contract ends in 1997. "There may be a little alteration in the next NFL deal," DeLuca said without elaboration.

The Carsey-Werner Co., responsible for some of the biggest hits in television in the past 10 years, is **turning its attention to feature films** with the formation of Carsey-Werner Moving Pictures. The company also signed feature film producer Polly Platt to an exclusive production deal.

The FCC may create new call letters for radio and TV stations and auction them to the highest bidder, if a Clinton administration budget proposal becomes law. The legislative proposal would empower the FCC to auction new call letters when more than one station applies for them, said an administrative official. And to heighten interest in new calls, the official said, the proposal also would allow the FCC to issue calls starting

ABC, CBS turn profit in '94

Capital Cities/ABC Inc. reported a 43% operating income gain for 1994, totaling \$1.238 billion, on revenue of \$6.379 billion, an increase of 12%. Capcities' fourth-quarter numbers: operating income up 45%, to \$440 million, on revenue of \$1.974 billion, up 12%. Capcities reported strong across-the-board gains for the ABC Television Network, its owned-stations division and ESPN.

CBS Inc., which also reported year-end and fourth-quarter results last week, showed a 1994 operating profit of \$426.2 million (up 3%) on revenue of \$3.711 billion, up 5%. For the fourth quarter, however, CBS showed a revenue drop of 18%, to \$855.2 million. But operating income was up by 4%, to \$65.5 million, led by strong results from the owned television stations and radio divisions. CBS said net income was down 14% for the year, primarily because of lower interest income and a higher effective tax rate, according to the company. Although revenue was down in the fourth quarter due to the lack of pro football inventory (it lost rights to NFC coverage to Fox in 1994), earnings were unaffected, because earlier writedowns accounted for the losses.

—SM

with letters other than "K" and "W."

In its continuing push to clear the top 10 markets, the **Samuel Goldwyn Co. has cleared *Flipper*** on Disney-owned KCAL(TV) Los Angeles for a fall launch. The first-run series will air in weekend access on the station. The show has been sold in 40 markets representing 45% of the country, including eight of the top 10 markets (New York and Chicago are the exceptions).

FCC Chairman Reed Hundt has taken to calling himself the agency's "CEO." He made the reference to himself while telling reporters about the agency's year-long reorganization effort. That reorganization added two new bureaus and shifted 20 of the agency's top staffers to new jobs.

Toronto-based **Skyvision Entertainment** and Los Angeles-based **IndieProd Co.** have wrapped up a deal with feature film producer Carolco Pictures Inc. for rights to **produce an action hour TV series** based on Carolco's film "Universal Soldier." The

deal was first reported in BROADCASTING & CABLE (Dec. 12, 1994).

Gross-Weston Productions partners **Marcy Gross and Ann Weston have signed an exclusive in-house production deal with MGM Television** to develop and produce a wide range of TV projects.

The UPN Saturday afternoon movie block, **UPN Movie Trailer**, earned a 4.0 Nielsen rating/10 share in 20 metered markets for its airing of "Airline" on Feb. 4, up 25% from the 8 share of its lead-in and up an equal amount from the time period's share in February 1994. The movie was the highest rated of the first three UPN films to air since the network launched in January.

The Fox Affiliate Association Board of Governors has named a new chairman—Joseph A. Young, VP/GM of wxIN(TV) Indianapolis—and has added four new officers to its nine-member board. Young, previously vice chairman, succeeds Gregg Filandrinos, VP/GM of KDNL-TV St. Louis. The new board comprises

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