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**MIKE CONNELLY**

**SVP & Executive Producer, FOX Sports Networks**

Michael Connelly is Senior Vice President and Executive Producer of FOX Sports Regional Networks, responsible for the day-to-day production of FOX Sports Networks’ 22 regional sports networks. He also manages partnerships with the NHL, NBA and MLB with more than 7,800 productions that include 12 NHL teams, 17 NBA teams and 15 MLB teams.

Over the past four years, Connelly has led the transition of the regional networks to the FOX Sports brand, overhauling staging and sets in more than 54 arenas and studios across the country. He also has integrated new graphics systems, on-air talent, producers, directors, executives and content to grow the FOX Sports brand in each of the 22 markets. Connelly oversaw the launch of FOX Sports San Diego, STO and the acquisition of YES Network productions into the FOX Sports family.

A 29-year veteran of the sports television profession, Connelly has worked with five different regional sports networks and five different television networks during his time in the industry. Prior to his current position, he spent six years as SVP and General Manager of FOX Sports Arizona, which marked a homecoming for him, as from 1997-2001, he served as FOX Sports Arizona’s first-ever Executive Producer and spearheaded efforts to start the network’s production department in the summer of 1997.

At FOX Sports Arizona, Connelly oversaw all aspects of the P/L, including sales, production, programming, marketing, public relations and affiliate sales for the state’s only regional sports cable network that reaches 3 million homes in Arizona and New Mexico. The network provides local cable and satellite coverage of MLB’s Arizona Diamondbacks, the NBA’s Phoenix Suns, the NHL’s Phoenix Coyotes and the NFL’s Arizona Cardinals, in addition to collegiate sports from Arizona State University, the University of Arizona, Northern Arizona University, New Mexico State University, the AFL’s Arizona Rattlers, the WNBA’s Phoenix Mercury, high school and many other popular regional sports programming options devoted to Arizona teams and athletes.

Under Connelly’s leadership, FOX Sports Arizona became and continues to be the leader in local sports television programming for its live game telecasts and original programming. He was instrumental in negotiating new long-term rights deals with the Arizona Diamondbacks, Arizona Coyotes and Phoenix Suns to make FOX Sports Arizona the teams’ first-ever exclusive broadcast partner.

Connelly also has significantly increased the amount of locally produced programs, including the network’s *Live!*pre-game and post-game shows, the successful *In My Own Words*series*, Snapshot* series,*The Eric Byrnes Show*as well as the *Rewind* and *Insider*programs that are focused on Arizona’s professional and collegiate sports teams.

Preceding FOX Sports Arizona, Connelly served as the Executive Producer for FSN West & FSN West 2 and National Sports Partners in Los Angeles beginning in 2003. He oversaw both networks’ event production of eight professional sports teams and multiple collegiate teams, including USC and UCLA as well as FSN’s national Pac-10 collegiate events. The pro teams included the Los Angeles Lakers, Los Angeles Dodgers, Los Angeles Kings, Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim, Los Angeles Clippers, Anaheim Ducks, Los Angeles Avengers and Los Angeles Sparks, and college partners USC and UCLA. He also managed FSN’s national productions of Pac-10 Conference football, basketball and Olympic sports, as well as other collegiate packages from the Big West and West Coast Conferences.

Connelly also served as the first Executive Producer for FOX Sports North in Minneapolis from 2001 to 2003 and oversaw the launch of FOX Sports North and Fox Sports Wisconsin in Milwaukee. There, he oversaw the production of the network’s regional sports programming that included comprehensive coverage of the Minnesota Twins, Milwaukee Brewers, Minnesota Timberwolves, Milwaukee Bucks, Minnesota Wild, Minnesota Lynx, collegiate events featuring the University of Minnesota, University of Wisconsin and Marquette University, plus magazine shows and special events. He also led the transition of FSN North when FOX purchased the network from CBS in 2001.

As the network’s first-ever Executive Producer, Connelly first joined FOX Sports Arizona when it launched in September 1996. He led the production effort for FOX Sports Arizona’s regional programming and was instrumental in helping launch the highly-acclaimed *Arizona Sports Report* regional news and highlight show in July 2000. Connelly managed the debut of the *Diamondbacks Baseball and Diamondbacks Countdown,* as well as *Coyotes Hockey and Coyotes Countdown*pre-game shows. He also oversaw production of various magazine shows devoted to FSN Arizona’s two collegiate sports properties, Arizona State and the University of Arizona.

Connelly previously worked as a producer and director for 15 years for FSN, CBS, NBC, ABC, ESPN, The Baseball Network and Midwest Sports Channel. Local team productions include the Minnesota Twins, Minnesota Timberwolves, Minnesota North Stars, Minnesota Wild, Arizona Diamondbacks, Phoenix Coyotes, Minnesota Wild and the Big Ten Conference.He received a Midwest Regional first Emmy Awards in 1996 and 1997 for his work producing coverage of University of Minnesota hockey and received multiple Emmy nominations for his work on Twins and Timberwolves telecasts. His most proud moment came when he was chosen to produce the 1991 Stanley Cup Finals for SportsChannel America.

At the start of his career in sports television, Connelly worked for nine years, finishing as coordinating producer and senior line producer at CBS O&O, WCCO Television and Midwest Sports Channel. He joined the network at its inception in 1989 when it was known as WCCO 2, and received the first of what would be three experiences in helping launch a regional sports television network.

Born and raised in Minneapolis, Connelly attended the University of Minnesota’s School of Mass Communications and Brown College of Broadcast Engineering. He and his wife, Cara, reside in Palos Verdes, California, and have two children, Anna and Jack.

--FOX SPORTS--