**URGENT! PLEASE DELIVER** 



**Bull's Eye:** New Sportsman Chief Targeting 30mIn+, Fine-Tuning Brand

You'll find **Sportsman Channel**'s new CEO Gavin Harvey on **Twitter** under the name DaggaBoyTV. It's a handle he chose after travels to Africa, where he encountered dagga boys-mature, respected buffalo bulls that eventually leave the herd and go off on their own into the sunset. "It was kind of reflective. I asked is this happening to me in my career because I decided not to relocate to Philly (as pres of Versus). That's certainly a big herd, and I was wondering, 'where is the sunset taking me as I go into my golden years?" After nearly a year-long stint as **Fuse**'s gm, the sunset recently deposited him in New Berlin, WI, as CEO of the Sportsman Channel. A shooter since he was 10 years old, it's a job that combines 2 of Harvey's passions-brand building and the outdoors. At 26mln subs, with huge distribution gains in the past year and a half through deals with Comcast and others, his short-term goals include taking Sportsman past the 30mln mark. "It's about fine-tuning the brand so we can unleash the equity that we have-the purity of that position, the strength of those trademarks, refine scheduling, refine marketing," said Harvey, who has been on the job 2 weeks now and wants distributors to "know and understand the unbeatable value that we bring to them in this game." Joking that he's living out of a suitcase, Harvey is dividing his time between WI, his family in CT and affiliates on the road. Sportsman definitely isn't alone in the space, with **Outdoor Channel** a top 5 finisher among metered networks in distribution gains last year based on Nielsen universe estimates for Jan '09 and Dec '09 (it grew 15% to 34mln). Sportsman is not a nationally rated Nielsen net at this point, but it plans to look at becoming one as it approaches the 30mln mark. Between Jan '09 and Mar of this year, Sportsman says it added more than 15mln subs (that includes deals with **DISH** and **DirecTV**). "It is highly competitive," Harvey acknowledged. "I'm glad I'm where I am... Is it hard? Yeah. Do we have to prove our value every single day? Absolutely. But every day, more and more the signs are that we're winning that battle." While Harvey loves the singular outdoor focus of Sportsman, he's also looking to the formats of other great cable nets, ticking off Food, DIY, Discovery, Nat Geo as examples. "We've got a billion stories to tell in the outdoor space that could be really compelling, and I think the sky's the limit," he said.

<u>Wanted</u>: The always entertaining **Free Press** is urging supporters to post fliers around Chicago alerting folks to Tues' **FCC** public hearing there on **Comcast-NBCU**. The entertaining part? The fliers resemble Wanted posters, with FCC chmn *Julius Genachowski*'s photo on them and the words "Will he show up?" The group is disappointed he's not expected to attend, but the chmn's not the only one skipping the Windy City. Dem *Michael Copps* is the only commissioner slated to attend.

<u>At the Portals</u>: Never one to miss an opportunity to plug retrans consent reform, **ACA** told the **FCC** it should widen its quadrennial media ownership review by examining whether the pooling of retrans consent rights by local TV stations has produced negative effects. "ACA believes the ability of one TV station to arrange cable carriage for another TV station within the same local market reduces competition among local TV stations and erodes the quality and quantity of the

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programming offered by these stations," said ACA pres/CEO *Matt Polka*. Of course, ACA is also concerned that by jointly negotiating retrans, stations have deliberately attempted to increase their bargaining leverage over cable and satellite.

In the States: Frontier took ownership of approx 14mln access lines across 14 states from Verizon earlier this month, including some FiOS TV subs, and the transition has been a bumpy one for Epix. Without disclosing the number of affected subs or the problem areas, the premium net said technical issues have prevented some of the FiOS subs from receiving rightful access to EpixHD.com. The net said it's working with Frontier to disseminate free passes to affected customers so they can access its site during the transition. Frontier did not reply to inquiries.

**South Beach Sourness:** Scorn was rampant Fri after *LeBron James*' announcement that he's joining the Miami Heat, with the intensity of Cavaliers management's disdain of James perhaps rivaled by the pervasive potshots at **ESPN** from widespread media for its 1-hour special spotlighting The King's decision. That the special was far too contrived and unnecessarily sycophantic were common barbs, and those gripes may be dead on. But the telecast scored a 7.3 overnight rating—the highest for any non-**NFL** ESPN program in '10—and the net admirably agreed, at James' behest, to donate the ad proceeds to the **Boy & Girls Clubs of America**. Plus, anchors' and reporters' penetrating and insightful queries of James after his bombshell was delivered proved yet again why ESPN's considered the top sports media brand in the US. Going forward, the Heat and its cable broadcast partner **Sun Sports** are clear winners due to James' arrival, and **Fox Sports OH** and **MSG** the hard luck losers (*Cfax*, 7/8). Shares of MSG plummeted 4.61% in reaction to the James news, falling to a 4-week low after spiking to \$21.57 on Wed.

In the Courts: According to the NY Post, Hayden Christensen, who played Anakin Skywalker in the "Star Wars" movies, filed a lawsuit in NYC claiming **USA** pilfered his idea for a series about a "concierge" doctor. The actor alleges that USA's "Royal Pains" is similar to "Housecall," a show he pitched to the net in '05. USA didn't respond to a request for comment.

**Trademarking:** The **US Patent and Trademark Office** affirmed **Time Warner**'s request to trademark the term "On Demand Everywhere," according to governmental search engine **Trademarkia.com**. Interestingly, the corresponding trademark serial number is listed as a reason for the USPTO's suspension of **DISH**'s request to trademark the term "TV Everywhere." The latter decision was based on the disposition of Time Warner's trademark, so a ruling on DISH's appears imminent. -- The site also shows the USPTO's approval of **Comcast**'s trademark request for "DVR2GO."

*Technology:* Rumors about a revamp and re-launch of **Apple TV** persist, the latest positing the set-top's inclusion of a streaming rental service offering single TV eps for 99 cents.

**<u>Ratings</u>:** ION TV saw solid viewership growth in 2Q, earning YOY ratings growth for every night in prime. Over prime ratings increased 56%, total viewership surged 60% and HH impressions jumped 58%. Key demos also displayed growth. -- The most recent ep of **Comedy Central**'s "Tosh.0" scored series highs in 18-49 rating (1.7) and total viewers (2.4mln), marking 20% increases in the metrics and the 5th time in 6 eps of the summer season (premiered June 2) that the show has notched new highs.

<u>Editor's Note</u>: Don't miss out! Get the low-down on iTV and advanced advertising by signing up for **CableFAX's** Jul 21 Webinar, "Capitalizing on iTV." Speakers from **Canoe Ventures, Comcast**, **ActiveVideo** and **Ensequence** will walk you through it all. More info at http://www.cablefax.com/cfp/webinars/going\_interactive\_july21.html.

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## **CableFAXDaily**

### **CableFAX Week in Review**

Compony	Ticker	7/00	1-Week	YTD
Company	Ticker	7/09 Close		
		Close	% Chg	%Chg
BROADCASTERS/DBS DIRECTV:		25.62	(0 50%)	6 010/
DISH:				
DISH				
GE:				
NEWS CORP:				
				· · · ·
MSOS	01/0			(1.000())
CABLEVISION:				
COMCAST:				
GCI:				
KNOLOGY:				
LIBERTY CAPITAL:				
LIBERTY GLOBAL:				
LIBERTY INT:				
MEDIACOM:				
RCN:				
SHAW COMM:				
TIME WARNER CABLE				
VIRGIN MEDIA:				
WASH POST:				
WASH FUST				(2.33 %)
PROGRAMMING				
CBS:				
CROWN:	CRWN		4.09%	22.76%
DISCOVERY:				
GRUPO TELEVISA:	TV		5.65%	(9.06%)
HSN:				
INTERACTIVE CORP:	IACI		3.70%	9.38%
LIBERTY:	L		6.34%	(1.79%)
LIBERTY STARZ:				
LIONSGATE:				
LODGENET:	LNET		13.89%	(33.27%)
NEW FRONTIER:	NOOF		4.64%	(16.4%)
OUTDOOR:	OUTD		7.42%	(15.17%)
PLAYBOY:	PLA		(4.83%)	23.13%
SCRIPPS INT:	SNI		1.59%	0.27%
TIME WARNER:	TWX		7.06%	3.60%
VALUEVISION:				
VIACOM:				
WWE:	WWE		4.70%	4.63%
TECHNOLOGY				
ADC:	ADCT	0 00	15 100/	40 100/
ADDVANTAGE:				
ALCATEL LUCENT:				
AMDOCS:				(1 479/)
AMPHENOL:				(1.0%)
AOL:	AF IT			(12 00%)
APPLE:				
ARRIS GROUP:				
				```
AVID TECH: BIGBAND:				
BLNDER TONGUE:				
BROADCOM:				
	CSCO			

Compony	Ticker	7/09	1-Week	YTD
Company	Ticker			
		Close	% Chg	%Chg
COMMSCOPE:	CTV		7.98%	(6.63%)
CONCURRENT:	CCUR	5.12	10.34%	29.29%
CONVERGYS:				
CSG SYSTEMS:				
ECHOSTAR:	SATS	19.59	2.89%	(2.73%)
GOOGLE:				
HARMONIC:	HLIT	5.73	(3.54%)	(9.34%)
INTEL:				
JDSU:				
LEVEL 3:	LVLT	1.02	5.15%	.(33.33%)
MICROSOFT:	MSFT		4.30%	.(20.37%)
MOTOROLA:	MOT	6.76	4.32%	.(12.89%)
RENTRAK:				
SEACHANGE:	SEAC	8.11	2.66%	23.63%
SONY:	SNE		5.69%	(3.93%)
SPRINT NEXTEL:	S	4.28	2.88%	16.94%
THOMAS & BETTS:	TNB		7.44%	1.65%
TIVO:	TIVO	8.17	12.68%	.(19.75%)
TOLLGRADE:				
UNIVERSAL ELEC:	UEIC		5.28%	.(25.32%)
VONAGE:				
YAHOO:				
TELCOS				· · ·
AT&T:	T		2.22%	.(11.42%)
QWEST:	Q	5.43	3.04%	28.98%
VERIZON:	VZ		(0.6%)	.(19.56%)
MARKET INDICES				
DOW:	DJI	10198.03	5.28%	(2.21%)
NASDAQ:	IXIC	2196.45	5.00%	(3.2%)

#### **WINNERS & LOSERS**

#### THIS WEEK'S STOCK PRICE WINNERS

COMPANY	CLOSE	1-WK CH
1. ADC:	8.83	. 15.12%
2. LODGENET:	3.69	. 13.89%
3. TIVO:	8.17	. 12.68%
4. VONAGE:	2.42	. 11.52%
5. CONCURRENT:	5.12	. 10.34%

#### THIS WEEK'S STOCK PRICE LOSERS COMPANY

1. PLAYBOY:	
2. HARMONIC:	
3. CLEARWIRE:	
4. LIONSGATE:	6.84(1.44%)
5. VERIZON:	

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