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August 25, 2015

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The 2015 season is right around the corner, and Blue Ridge Communications will be providing another year of fantastic local high school football coverage.

Bob Capasso is the voice of TV-13 Sports and is now entering his 25th year with the company. The 1984 Seton Hall graduate has experienced first-hand the way that the evolution of technology has been beneficial to the broadcast of high school football. "Everything was on big bulky tape back then," explained Capasso. "You'd have to bring the tape back to the studio after the game. Now, we have high definition. Instant replay was much more complicated as well, you had to rewind the tape and find the play.

Now it's digital, you just hit a button and go instantly from there."

Capasso knew since he was a kid that he wanted to be a broadcaster. However, the voice of TV-13 Sports initially started out in the industry by calling games on the radio—which was also much more difficult to set up years ago, when technology wasn't as advanced. "When I was at Seton Hall, our radio station would do all of the men's and women's basketball games," he said. "We'd travel with the team

and it was a great experience. I had to deal with a 75-foot coaxial cable when setting up for a broadcast (by himself). You would literally have to run it out of the stadium, from under bleachers. After that, you would have to point the antenna toward the station to get the signal. Now it's all done easily over a cell phone signal."

Radio set-up is now a one-man job, but a television broadcast involves a large crew. Each member has a specific, important job. "Just like any sports team, our production is a total team effort," Capasso noted. "It doesn't matter what the weather is like, the producers and the crew are there hours before the game starts to set up. Then when we (the broadcasters) go home, they have to break down all of the equipment."

Not only is the physical set-up of a broadcast easier now, the broadcast itself is a much better product due to the easy access of information. "The research capability is what's

Associated Press
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Bloomberg I Was Harassed After the Ashley Madison Hack

Philadelphia Daily News Kane is held for trial amid talk of porn emails

changed as an announcer," said Capasso. "The resources available to us are so much different now. Back then, to prep a broadcast as an announcer, I'd have to keep bags and bags of newspapers if I wanted to find scores and stats. I would have a couple years' worth of bags full of newspapers. If you wanted a team's roster, you'd have it mailed a week in advance, or have them fax it out to you. Now in this day and age you can have it emailed in seconds. I can talk to the coach about X's and O's instead of spending all of the time on the phone acquiring a just roster with the spelling of names. The 'information age' has really changed the way I prepare for a game."

Capasso's weekly preparation for a Friday football broadcast looks something like this: Monday – Monday Evening QB show (and a lot of editing).

Tuesday/Wednesday – Start preparation for each game; have conversations with each head coach (includes getting all roster information, thoughts on game).

Thursday – After his day shift, he goes home and transcribes all of the statistical information on his spotter sheet. Capasso has to submit all of this information to his field director by the end of the night, so all of the graphics, stats, standings, and lineups can be displayed on the TV screen that the viewer sees at home.

Friday – Game Time! All homework must be done by now!

"All of the work we do that entire week leads up to one day," Capasso explained. "Being in the atmosphere is one of the best parts. The excitement builds, especially when there's a big rivalry. You feed off of that as a broadcaster and you are truly a part of the whole contest. Being there for the actual game is the best part of the job. You're there and it's happening--live in front of you. You can talk about it and watch the highlights, but seeing the two teams out there that have worked all week leading up to the game, and putting it out on the line is truly special."

TV-13's sports department has come a long way behind Capasso, but he really emphasized that the headship across the company is second to none. "The great thing about us (TV-13) is that we have great leadership. They've really committed to sport," he said. "They do it because they're committed to the community. We make sure that during football season, we get at least one game per every school. Our management is committed to community. I can't wait. I love the summer, but when it gets to this point of the year, I'm ready to go." – ***Lehigh Times News***

New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman has written to the New York Public Service Commission, urging the agency to investigate Verizon and examine how deregulating the telecom giant has impacted state consumers and businesses. Verizon's refusal to upgrade aging DSL lines or expand FiOS has been a **touchy subject of late**, after a New York City study found the company failed utterly to live up to FiOS deployment promises in New York City. **Schneiderman's letter** urges the PSC's investigation to explore "whether there is adequate competition for broadband service throughout the various regions of New York State, and whether there are any areas that are still essentially cable monopolies."

The letter also urges the PSC to examine "whether telecommunications companies are making honest representations about infrastructure build-out," and "to fully understand the impact of deregulation on consumers and businesses."

While New York City's stunted FiOS deployment gets most of the attention, New York State residents in Binghamton, Buffalo, Albany, Syracuse and many more rural markets have also been left on aging infrastructure that Verizon's trying to walk away from to focus on more profitable wireless service. The CWA has been **highlighting these issues** as the two sides hammer out a new labor contract.

The CWA wants to make hay from Verizon's decision to largely give up on landlines, Schneiderman likely wants to win favor with the unions by pushing for an investigation that will likely never seriously happen, and Verizon continues to run as quickly as it can away from the fixed-line broadband business. – ***DSL Reports***

Months after acquiring two Mexican mobile-phone companies for around \$4.4 billion, U.S. telecommunications giant AT&T Inc. is beginning to rebrand its services in the country, a process that should take through the end of next year, company officials said Monday.

AT&T bought Grupo Iusacell and NII Holdings Inc. unit Nextel Mexico following changes in Mexican laws and regulations that gave rivals advantage to compete against dominant carrier América Móvil, such as zero charges to complete calls on the América Móvil network. AT&T launched several new plans on Monday under the AT&T brand and will begin renaming Iusacell and Nextel stores by the end of the year in a process that is expected to be completed by the end of 2016, AT&T Mexico Chief Executive Thaddeus Arroyo said at a news conference.

The U.S. giant's strategy for Mexico includes leveraging its U.S. network, which it will expand into a North American mobile service area of 400 million potential consumers. A first move was to allow Mexican customers to use their individual plans for voice, data and messaging while in the U.S. with no added charge, and to call friends and family in the U.S. who are on the AT&T network.

That led rivals to offer competing plans. América Móvil has a "without borders" plan eliminating roaming and long-distance charges to-and-from the U.S., while T-Mobile US Inc. also dropped extra charges for calls and texts to and from Mexico and Canada. "Many of the plans you're seeing now, when did they arrive? They arrived when we came to bring more competition," Mr. Arroyo said.

He also defended the dominance regulations to which América Móvil is subjected. "Things haven't changed a lot. We are here to change it. We have less than 9% of the market, 68% of the market is still totally in one company. So the asymmetric rules are necessary." Following AT&T's recent announcement that it plans to invest an additional \$3 billion in Mexico through 2018 to expand its high-speed mobile broadband coverage to 100 million people, América Móvil said it intends to invest \$6 billion in the next three years in its mobile and fixed-line networks.

After cleaning up its customer base in Mexico, AT&T ended with eight million subscribers, Mr. Arroyo said, but declined to provide estimates for subscriber growth. América Móvil had 72.6 million wireless subscribers at the end of June, and Spain's Telefónica, which has also benefited from the asymmetric regulations, had 23 million, a 14% increase from a year before. While gradually moving the Nextel and Iusacell brands to AT&T premium services, the U.S. company intends to keep the Unefon brand, which was part of Iusacell, for low-end prepaid users. – *Wall Street Journal*



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