

ment format.

The Heat also announced that the Sunshine Network has renewed its local cable rights package for another five years. Each rightsholder will air 30-40 regular-season telecasts, plus some pre- and postseason play (to the extent the postseason becomes available).

WYHS-TV says it will produce a show before and after each game it airs, including full coverage of Heat Coach Pat Riley's postgame analysis. Each day the station airs a game will be promoted as a "Heat Day," says Adam Ware, executive vice president, Silver King Broadcasting. Ware also says that the station will provide periodic live updates for all Heat games airing on the Sunshine Network, which is managed by Fox/Liberty Sports. ■

Tylo wins \$5 million

A Los Angeles jury awarded actress Hunter Tylo—who asked for \$2.5 million—nearly \$5 million Monday after her attorneys argued she was wrongly fired from Aaron Spelling's *Melrose Place* for getting pregnant. Tylo, who was recruited from a daytime drama to play the character of Taylor McBride, claimed her pregnancy could have been masked by clothing or camera angles. A host of actresses in prime time have had babies during a show's run, including Julia Louis-Dreyfus on *Seinfeld* and Jane Seymour on *Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman*.

"We have a right to work," Tylo said after the verdict, as reported by UPI. Spelling Entertainment general counsel Sally Suchil issued this statement in response: "We completely disagree with the jury's verdict, which we believe is inconsistent with both the law and the evidence in this case. The award is not based on the evidence presented and is even more than the plaintiff asked. We will appeal the verdict and are confident that we will be vindicated at the Appellate Court level." Spelling had argued that Tylo's character on *Melrose Place* called for a specific body type, not that of a pregnant woman. The jury awarded the actress \$4 million for emotional distress and nearly \$900,000 for lost pay.

SYNDICATION MARKETPLACE

NBC at NATPE

NBC Enterprises has unveiled several new projects it will offer at NATPE next month, including a new miniseries. *The Mob*, based on former WNBC-TV crime reporter John Miller's coverage of New York crime families. The company is also producing, with Peter Engel Productions, a new comedy called, *Malibu, Ca.*, which is being sold to stations by Tribune Entertainment for fall 1998.

What, no rock and roll?

A new study by the Center for Media and Public Affairs revealed that stories about sex, drugs, crime and alcohol predominated the leading syndicated tabloid TV news programs. The center analyzed 333 reports that appeared during two weeks (Oct. 13-17 and Nov. 3-7) on *Inside Edition*, *Hard Copy*, *Extra*, *Entertainment Tonight*, *American Journal* and *Access Hollywood*. Of those, 24% of the stories deal with crime, 21% with sex, 17% with accidents and 10% with self-destructive behavior. Only 7% dealt with "uplifting" themes such as heroic acts.

Meshach out for now

There will be one less talk show at NATPE this season. MGM Domestic TV has pulled its proposed talk show with Meshach Taylor for the 1988-89 season. In a talk show field crowded

NSS POCKETPIECE

Top ranked syndicated shows for the week ending Dec. 14, as reported by Nielsen Media Research. Numbers represent average audience/stations/% coverage.

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Wheel of Fortune | 12.4/232/99 |
| 2. Jeopardy! | 10.2/223/99 |
| 3. Home Improvement | 9.2/232/99 |
| 4. Seinfeld | 7.7/223/97 |
| 5. Buena Vista I | 7.6/183/98 |
| 6. Oprah Winfrey Show | 7.5/237/99 |
| 7. The X-Files | 7.1/237/98 |
| 8. Buena Vista III | 7.0/190/95 |
| 9. Entertainment Tonight | 6.3/176/96 |
| 10. Simpsons | 6.0/166/87 |
| 11. ESPN NFL Football | 5.8/376 |
| 11. Jerry Springer | 5.8/160/91 |
| 13. Xena: Warrior Princess | 5.6/228/98 |
| 14. Frasier | 5.4/182/92 |
| 15. Action Pack Feature | 5.1/193/97 |
| 15. Hercules, Journeys of | 5.1/231/99 |

with celebrities like Roseanne and Howie Mandel. MGM was unable to secure enough time slots for the show. Taylor has co-starred on a number of sitcoms including *Designing Women* and *Dave's World*. MGM Domestic TV President Sid Cohen says the station environment "just isn't right for this show right now."

Saban putting product into Fox kids, family

Haim Saban is going to keep everything for the Kids and in the Family. Saban Entertainment announced that it will put its library of children's programming and original productions into the Fox Kids Network and the Fox Family Channel. Its eight-year-

old syndication unit, Saban Domestic Distribution, will now develop movies and long-term projects for distribution outside the Fox and Saban stations.

"With the creation of the Fox Kids Worldwide and the acquisition of The Family Channel, we have restructured our energies to support the company's broadcast and cable business," says Mel Woods, president of Saban Entertainment. Peter Schmid, executive VP of Saban Domestic Distribution, will continue with the company and is adding cable sales to his responsibilities. Saban currently distributes four syndicated series, including *The All New Captain Kangaroo*, which will become a part of the Fox Family Channel lineup when it debuts this summer. A decision is pending on whether the other three—*X-Men*, *Marvel Superheroes* and *DragonballZ*—will move to the Fox stations or remain in national syndication.

'MATHmatazz'

Children's Television Workshop is launching *MATHmatazz*, a television series designed to help children enjoy mathematics, for the international TV marketplace at NATPE. The series has long been part of the United States public school system's core curriculum for grades K-2. The series features four puppets who educate with shapes, counting and riddles.—Joe Schlosser