Arledge, Roone (1931-) Encyclopedia Article

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Visionary producer Roone Arledge was instrumental in transforming network-televised sports and news into profitable ventures. Joining *ABC Sports* in 1960, he revolutionized broadcasts with his use of instant replay and slow motion, and his humanistic production sense brought the shows *Wide World of Sports, Monday Night Football,* and announcer Howard Cosell to national consciousness. A widely acclaimed and award winning broadcast of the terrorized 1972 Munich Olympics stirred wider ambitions, and in 1976 Arledge became president of *ABC News*. He soon pioneered ratings-savvy breakthroughs such as *Nightline* (1980) and the first television news magazine, *20/20* (1978). News, however, soon moved from being merely profitable to being profit-driven. Arledge was swallowed by the corporate establishment. Ted Turner's 24-hour *Cable News Network (CNN)* became the standard for network news coverage, and soon ABC was bought by Capital Cities Inc., which also owns the successful 24-hour sports network *ESPN.* Arledge stepped down in 1998.

Further Reading:

Gunther, Marc. *The House That Roone Built.* New York, Little, Brown, 1994.

Powers, Ron. *Supertube: The Rise Of Television Sports.* New York, Coward-McCann, 1984.