Rounding up the ratings for 'the season'

September-through-April tallies rank all the series and specials that ran on the networks; ABC bests other two in both categories

Comedies led the regular series, and sports topped the specials, in the seven-month period—September 11, 1978, to April 15—that is loosely regarded as the 1978-79 prime-time television season.

The Nielsen rating averages for the period, compiled by ABC-TV researchers, put Laverne and Shirley at the top of the regular series, followed by Three's Company and Happy Days. All three are ABC shows—as are those in fourth, fifth and sixth places: Mork and Mindy, introduced last fall, and Angie and The Ropers, which came in closer to midseason.

The world heavyweight championship fight between Muhammad Ali and Leon Spinks was the top-ranked special.

Among the regular series, ABC had seven of the top 10, 13 of the top 20 and 24 of the top 50. CBS had three of the top 10, six of the top 20 and 19 of the top 50. NBC had one in the top 20 and seven in the top 50.

Among specials, counting ties, ABC and NBC each had five in the top 10 while CBS had one. In the top 20, ABC had 11, NBC seven and CBS two. In the top 50, ABC was ahead with 27 to CBS's 17 and NBC's eight.

The series

\[
\text{Rank} \quad \text{Rating/Share}
\]

1. Laverne and Shirley (ABC) 30.6 46
2. Three's Company (ABC) 30.2 45
3. Happy Days (ABC) 29.1 46
4. Mork & Mindy (ABC) 28.5 46
5. Angie (ABC) 27.1 46
6. Ropers (ABC) 26.5 46
7. L.A.P.D. (CBS) 25.4 46
8. 60 Minutes (CBS) 25.4 41
9. All in the Family (CBS) 25.2 38
10. Charlie's Angels (ABC) 25.0 38
11. Taxi (ABC) 24.9 39
12. Eight is Enough (ABC) 24.9 39
13. Alice (CBS) 23.6 36
14. Little House on the Prairie (NBC) 23.3 35
15. Barny Miller (ABC) 22.8 36
16. ABC Sunday Night Movie 22.7 36
17. Love Boat (ABC) 22.1 36
18. One Day at a Time (CBS) 21.8 32
19. Soap (ABC) 21.3 34
20. Dukes of Hazzard (CBS) 21.1 35

The specials

\[
\text{Rank} \quad \text{Rating/Share}
\]

1. All-Sparks night (ABC) 37.2 61
2. Rocky (CBS) 36.9 62
3. World Series Game Six (NBC) 35.9 54
4. Academy Awards (ABC) 34.6 63
5. World Series Game Nine (NBC) 33.1 50
6. World Series Game II (NBC) 32.9 50
7. Roots: Next Generations (ABC) 32.7 50
8. World Series Game II (NBC) 32.2 50
9. Roots: Next Generations (ABC) 31.8 48
10. Silver Anniversary (CBS) 31.7 48
11. Highcliff Manor (NBC) 31.6 48
12. Theie's Company (ABC) 30.9 49
13. Rescue from Gilligan's Island (NBC) 30.2 52
14. Roots: Next Generations (ABC) 29.5 48
15. Pearl (ABC) 29.4 47
16. MacKenzies-Paradise Cove (ABC) 29.4 47
17. Bob Hope: Salute/World Series (NBC) 29.1 47
18. Roots: Next Generations (ABC) 28.9 47
19. Gone With the Wind Part II (CBS) 28.8 40
20. Roots: Next Generations (ABC) 28.6 40
21. Delta House (ABC) 28.3 41
22. There's Company Special (ABC) 28.2 40
23. Circus of the Stars (CBS) 28.0 42

About the Duke. With the death of actor John Wayne last week, all three commercial networks Tuesday, June 12, offered half-hour news specials. CBS News cut into prime-time at 8:30 with Charles Kuralt anchoring. ABC News and NBC News went at 11:30 p.m. with Barbara Walters and Jack Perkins, respectively.

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