

MISSOURI VALLEY CONFERENCE TELEVISION PLANS FOR 2016-17

ESPN

- The Missouri Valley Conference enters the third year of a 10-year agreement with ESPN that runs through the 2023-24 competition year.
- Currently, the league receives a rights fee for its linear telecasts and a digital rights fee to assist with institutional productions for *The Valley on ESPN3* – the league's co-branded digital initiative with ESPN.
- ESPN has sublicensed the rights to the semifinals and the title game of the State Farm MVC Men's Basketball Tournament to CBS Sports through the 2019-20 academic year.
- The league receives eight appearances on ESPN or ESPN2 – both seen in 99 million homes. For definition purposes, there are two appearances (each team is considered an appearance) per contest.
- This can be achieved with four Conference games or a combination of MVC and non-conference contests.
- The Valley also receives eight live events on ESPNU – now available in 75 million homes – with six of those being men's basketball telecasts.
- Each year, the league and its member institutions shall be responsible for producing a pre-determined number of exclusive live events (370 in 2015-16, 520 in 2016-17, 670 in 2017-18 and 820 in 2018-19 and for the remainder of the term of the contract) for ESPN3.
- ESPN3 – ESPN's multi-screen sports network – is available in 95 million homes at no additional cost to fans who receive their high-speed internet connection or video subscription from an affiliated service provider. It is also available at no cost to approximately 21 million U.S. college students and U.S.-based military personnel via computers.
- To clarify, the Missouri Valley Conference will produce 16 regular-season men's basketball games – which will include potentially a mix of non-conference and league contests – exclusively for ESPN3.
- In addition, all of the Conference's regionally syndicated productions for FOX Sports Net and Comcast SportsNet Chicago – a minimum of 16 regular-season men's basketball games and the first six contests from the State Farm MVC Tournament – will be distributed via ESPN3 outside the league's five-state footprint of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri.

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- All MVC games on ESPN, ESPN2, ESPNU and ESPN3 will be part of the WatchESPN app, which delivers these events on computers, smartphones, tablets, Amazon Fire TV, Apple TV, Chromecast, Roku, Xbox 360 and Xbox One.
- The 2016-17 plans for men's basketball will feature the commitment to produce all 90 league men's basketball games either for linear or digital distribution. The Conference accomplished that feat for the first time in 2015-16.
- At its annual meeting with ESPN during the Final Four in Houston, the Conference discussed consistent windows for men's basketball telecasts on ESPN2 on Saturdays in January and February and the continued use of the Netflix selection process for the six ESPNU contests on Sundays.
- For Netflix choices, ESPN will determine on which networks (ESPNU/ESPN3) two games on a particular date will be distributed about 7-10 days out from play.
- In terms of the league-produced ESPN3 package, there will be two Game-of-the-Week men's basketball scheduling windows for the Conference-produced lineup – a nine-week schedule on Wednesdays/Thursdays and a six-week schedule on Sundays as part of the Netflix selection process, while women's basketball will receive a nine-week, Game-of-the-Week package on Fridays.
- In addition to regular-season men's and women's basketball telecasts, the Conference would produce the following postseason championships exclusively for ESPN3 -- women's soccer (three matches), men's soccer (five matches), volleyball (five matches), indoor track and field (two days), women's basketball (nine games), softball (seven contests), outdoor track and field (three days) and baseball (either 13, 14 or 15 games depending on competition).
- From an institutional production perspective, all 10 schools will be required to produce all home regular-season non-conference games and MVC contests for volleyball, men's basketball and women's basketball which are not selected for linear distribution by ESPN, CBS Sports Network, the MVC TV Network and institutional media rights-holding partners for distribution on ESPN3.
- Those linear productions, with the exception of CBS Sports Network telecasts, will be made available for distribution on ESPN3.
- In 2016-17, each institution will be required to add 20 more exclusive productions, which will feature the sports of men's and women's soccer, softball and baseball.

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CBS SPORTS / CBS SPORTS NETWORK

- In the summer of 2015, CBS Sports reached a sublicense agreement with ESPN, where CBS receives the rights to a package of eight regular-season MVC men's basketball games and the semifinals from the State Farm MVC Men's Basketball Tournament for clearance on CBS Sports Network.
- CBS also extended the rights agreement to carry the title game from Arch Madness through the 2020 tournament.
- The Conference does not receive a rights fee from CBS Sports, since CBS sublicenses this package of games directly from ESPN.
- During the 2015-16 academic year, CBS Sports Network aired men's basketball games on Tuesday (1), Wednesday (1), Thursday (2) and Saturday (4), with the final Saturday (Feb. 27) utilizing a Wildcard selection process to determine the telecast shown.
- At Arch Madness 2016, CBS Sports Network distributed both semifinals, which were shown an hour later – 2:30 and 5 p.m. Central, respectively – than previous clearances on FOX Sports Midwest and Comcast SportsNet Chicago.
- During the league's April 1, 2016 meeting with the network in Houston, CBS Sports talked about development of a consistent window for the 2016-17 regular-season package on Thursday nights and a possible start time change for the 2017 championship contest at Arch Madness from 1 p.m. to either noon or 2 p.m. Central.
- At the same meeting, the league discussed timeline for the digital distribution of this package of games on CBSsports.com, CBSsportsline.com or another platform.

FOX SPORTS NET

- The league will be in year three of a three-year term – 2014-15 through 2016-17 – with FOX Sports Net. The parties also hold a mutual three-year option – 2017-18 through 2019-20.
- The Valley does not receive a rights fee from FOX Sports, but retains 75 percent of the commercial inventory (45 30-second spots) and all in-telecast elements, ie. billboards, live-reads and branded-features, for MVC Sports Properties to sell.
- FOX Sports Net, comprised on FOX Sports Midwest (3.2 million homes), FOX Sports Indiana (1.2 million homes) and FOX Sports Kansas City (1.6 million homes), clears a package of men's basketball regular-season and tournament (minimum opening round and quarterfinal) games.

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- At the same time, ESPN is permitted to clear all Missouri Valley Conference productions for FOX Sports on ESPN3 – provided that ESPN blacks out the league's five-state footprint of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri to protect FOX's rights.
- All of the Conference productions for FOX Sports Net can also be seen on FOX Sports GO – a digital app similar to WatchESPN. Depending on the television provider, MVC games along with programming on FOX Sports, FS1, FS2, FOX Soccer Plus, FOX College Sports and FOX Deportes can be viewed on mobile devices through FOX Sports GO.
- FOX Sports Net cleared two institutional men's basketball productions – Wichita State at Missouri State on Jan. 13 and Southern Illinois at Wichita State on Feb. 3 – in 2015-16 and would entertain additional clearances provided that productions meet its criteria – high definition, minimum four cameras, 18 megahertz transmission and utilize the FOX Sports Net graphics package.
- In 2016-17, FOX Sports Net will distribute a men's basketball schedule featuring a minimum seven-week package of either Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday games, nine regular-season men's basketball games on Saturday in a consistent window and a minimum of six men's basketball tournament contests.

COMCAST SPORTSNET CHICAGO

- The league enters year three of a three-year term – 2014-15 through 2016-17 – with Comcast SportsNet Chicago.
- The Valley does not receive a rights fee from Comcast SportsNet Chicago, but retains 65 percent of the commercial inventory and all in-telecast elements, ie. billboards, live-reads and branded-features, for MVC Sports Properties to sell.
- Comcast SportsNet Chicago, which is seen in the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa and Wisconsin, reaches 4.9 million homes, and clears a package of men's basketball regular-season and tournament (minimum opening round and quarterfinal) games.
- At the same time, ESPN is permitted to clear all Missouri Valley Conference productions for Comcast SportsNet Chicago on ESPN3 – provided that ESPN blacks out Comcast's four-state footprint of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa and Wisconsin to protect its rights.
- Comcast SportsNet Chicago cleared institutional men's basketball productions for Loyola, UNI and Wichita State in 2015-16 and would entertain additional clearances provided that productions meet its criteria – high definition, minimum four cameras and 18 megahertz transmission.

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- In 2016-17, Comcast SportsNet Chicago will distribute a men's basketball schedule featuring a minimum seven-week package of either Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday games, nine regular-season men's basketball games on Saturday in a consistent window and a minimum of six men's basketball tournament contests.

NILES MEDIA GROUP

- The Conference will be in year three of a three-year agreement – concluding on June 30, 2017 – of its linear production contract with Kansas City-based Niles Media Group.
- Niles Media Group is slated to produce all of the men's basketball linear telecasts – regular season and tournament – for regional syndication on FOX Sports Net, Comcast SportsNet Chicago and ESPN3.

WEBSTREAM SPORTS

- The Conference will be in year three of a three-year agreement – concluding on June 30, 2017 – of its digital production contract with Indianapolis-based WebStream Sports.
- WebStream Sports is slated to produce all men's and women's basketball regular-season telecasts plus postseason championships and basketball media day for distribution on ESPN3.