

The A-Team Encyclopedia Article

The A-Team

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The A-Team television series capitalized on the flamboyant personality of Mr. T, a well-known wrestler and bodyguard to the stars. A kind-hearted tough guy with a dramatic mohawk hairstyle and gaudy jewelry, Mr. T helped win the show a strong fan following and reversed NBC's ratings tailspin in 1983. *The A-Team* saved NBC from critic Tony Schwartz's earlier prediction that the network would "die, or shrink severely, within the next decade."

Veteran producer Stephen J. Cannell created this mid-season replacement series as an action adventure comedy. The members of the A-Team were soldiers of fortune running from the government. Cannell shaped the show around the real-life personality of Mr. T as the character Sergeant Bosco "Bad Attitude" Baracus. The show's four-year run produced the catch-phrase "I love it when a plan comes together," uttered by George Peppard's character, Colonel John "Hannibal" Smith, at the end of an episode, as well as a change in the dress of some of Mr. T's fans.

Further Reading:

Christensen, Mark, and Cameron Stauth. *The Sweeps: Behind the Scenes in Network TV*. New York, William Morrow, 1992.

Pellegrini, N.N., compiler. "The A-Team Most FAQ."
http://www.seas.upenn.edu/~pellegrini/AFA_Q.html. November 1998.