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## Doing What He Loves

FOR **SPORTSCASTER** AND LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER FRED ROGGIN, THERE'S AI WAYS SOMETHING NEW

> BY MARIA ARMOUDIAN

RED ROGGIN'S LONG, award-winning career began in 1976. Though just 19, he earned a job as a play-by-play sports announcer, reporter and anchor for KIKO radio in Globe, Arizona, the state where he was raised.

His ascent was quick, and four years later, following radio and TV stints in Yuma, Arizona, Austin, Texas and Phoenix, Roggin joined NBC4 Southern California. That's where the merry-

go-round of jobs stopped, and 33 years later he is recognized across Southern California. The station's primary sports anchor and reporter is the recipient of the Los Angeles Press Club's 2013 Joseph M. Ouinn Award for Lifetime Achievement.

For Roggin, it's all about doing what he loves.

"I loved sports, and I could talk and tell stories. and people would listen to my stories," he said. "I

loved the idea of getting paid to tell stories about sports."

Since joining the team at NBC4, Roggin has developed a series of programs and segments. He considers that to be one of the hallmarks of his career.

"I'm a producer at heart who gets to be on the air," said Roggin, who attributes his longevity to his creativity and unconventional approach to reporting and production. Without these qualities, he suggests, "I would become like everyone else, and that person is easily replaced."

In 1980, Roggin created, hosted and executive-produced the weekly show "Sunday Night Sports." Shortly after, he created the humorous

specials and series.

segment "Hall of Shame," a roundup of sports bloopers, errors and other amusing sports moments.

"I always believed that humor was one way to attract an audience," said Roggin. "I'm generally goofy, and at times people find what I do amusing. But at other times, people may want to hit me with a right hook."

In 1990, his own "Roggin's Heroes," which highlighted extraordinary sports plays, was developed into a nationally syndicated weekly program. Earlier this year, NBC4 launched the Sunday midnight sports commentary show "Going Roggin." The 30-minute program features a series of segments such as "Freducation," Roggin's commentary on the week's top





sporting events and a dialogue with professional athletes, experts and viewers about a variety of issues in sports.

Then there's Roggin's "The Challenge," a multi-platform, post-game discussion show airing after NBC's "Sunday Night Football." It includes NFL analysis, interviews and a contest in which viewers compete to win prizes.

In addition to his work in Los Angeles, Roggin's broadcasts have appeared on national networks and cable television. After reporting on the Olympic Games in Sydney and Salt Lake City for NBC, Roggin advanced to host the games in Turin, Athens, Beijing, Vancouver and London. His sports segments appear regularly on NBC's "Early Today" program and on two MSNBC shows, "First Look" and "Morning Joe."

Running down his industry accolades is a breathtaking task. Roggin has earned 30 local

Roggin interviews Kobe Bryant and Ron Harper of the Lakers; his mementoes include media badges from several Olympics and the Centennial Playoffs of the Stanley Cup Finals; his childhood photos already show his engaging personality.

## JOSEPH M. QUINN AWARD FRED ROGGIN

Emmy Awards, 23 Golden Mikes, three Associated Press prizes and numerous Press Club awards in categories including Best Sports Series, Best Sports Special, Best Sports Segment and Best Sports Reporting. His honors include being named California Sportscaster of the Year in 1990 by the National Association of Sports Broadcasters and being voted Best Sportscaster in a *Los Angeles Daily News* readers' survey.

Although Roggin loves sports so much that he considered pursuing a career as either a major league umpire or an NBA referee, he has also been involved with other entertainment programs. In 1994 he produced and hosted

three one-hour, primetime specials called "Top Secret Television." In 1997 he teamed up with Arthel Neville on the daytime talk show "The Arthel & Fred Show." More recently, Roggin hosted two Game Show Network shows, "GSN Live" and "The Money List," the latter based on the UK program "Who Dares Wins." The former lasted for two years, the latter for one.





Roggin interviews the Angels' Rod Carew, above, and Tommy Lasorda of the Dodgers, at left.

Roggin was born in Detroit, grew up in Arizona, where he studied broadcasting at Phoenix College, and now lives in Calabasas with his wife Richel and his five children, Haylee, Jack, Josh, Jeff and Shannon.

