Clarence Thomas hearings helped NBC to its first win of the season. NBC was boosted by the season premiere of L.A. Law, which finished fourth, its highest-rated season premiere ever. But NBC's real claim to fame this season was the network's coverage of the sexual harassment charges leveled against Supreme Court nominee Thomas. When the hearings began on NBC, the network scrambled its programming lineup to accommodate the special event. NBC's coverage tied for 53rd; ABC's two-hour prime-time special was pre-empted.

On Sunday, CBS' baseball playoffs knocked top-10 perennial 60 Minutes off the air, and CBS fell from first place last week to third. The Thomas coverage, which ran in daytime Friday and Saturday, cost the networks a total of $18 million in lost ad revenue. It was the second major blow for the networks this year, already reeling from a soft economy and Gulf War pre-emptions.

NBC, whose daytime lineup is in third place anyway, was the only broadcast network to see its ratings fall this week.

Top 10
1. Roseanne (ABC) 13.2
2. Murphy Brown (CBS) 13.1
3. Cheers (NBC) 12.1
4. L.A. Law (NBC) 12.9
5. Designing Women (CBS) 12.3
6. Coach (ABC) 12.2
7. Major Dad (CBS) 11.6
8. Home Improvement (ABC) 11.1
9. Monday Night Football (ABC) 10.9
10. Evening Shade (CBS) 10.8

Network ratings
For the week:
Thomas Hearings (ABC) 13.8
America's Most Wanted (Fox) 10.2
Princes (CBS) 7.9
Ultimate Challenge (Fox) 7.4

Bottom 5
1. Baseball Playoffs Preliminary (Fox) 21.0
2. Bottom 5
3. Total Hidden Video (Fox) 17.5
4. Ultimate Challenge (Fox) 7.4
5. Ultimate Challenge (Fox) 7.4

Evening news
1. Baseball Playoffs Preliminary (Fox) 21.0
2. Bottom 5
3. Total Hidden Video (Fox) 17.5
4. Ultimate Challenge (Fox) 7.4
5. Ultimate Challenge (Fox) 7.4

Saturday, October 12, 1991

8:00 The Golden Girls (NBC) 19.3
9:30 Who's the Boss (ABC) 11.8
10:00 AL Playoff Game 4 (CBS) 9.5
11:00 AL Playoff Game 4 (CBS) 9.5
11:30 The Torkelsons (NBC) 9.1
12:30 Growing Pains (ABC) 8.3
1:00 Growing Pains (ABC) 8.3
2:00 Empty Nest (NBC) 9.5
2:30 Young Riders (ABC) 11.2
3:00 Totally Hidden Video (Fox) 7.5
3:30 Nurses (NBC) 19.3
4:00 Parker Lewis (NBC) 13.4
4:30 Sisters (NBC) 14.9
5:30 Commish (ABC) 13.7

Sunday, October 13, 1991

7:00 AL Playoff Game 5 (CBS) 20.6
10:00 Home Videos (ABC) 14.4
11:00 NFL Football (NBC) 12.9
12:30 True Colors (Fox) 8.5
2:00 Parker Lewis (Fox) 9.4
3:30 Married (Fox) 9.7
4:00 Xena the Warrior Princess (Fox) 7.9