



## SIGN OF THE TIMES

MEGA-SAGA 'SAINT SEIYA' NOW 'KNIGHTS OF THE ZODIAC' THIS FALL

**S**ometimes, size does matter. Even the most casual anime fan is familiar with the long-running anime mega-sagas such as *Astro Boy*, *Dragon Ball Z* and *Sailor Moon*. But many haven't heard of the equally popular *Saint Seiya*, which premiered in Japan in 1986 and ran for a whopping 114 episodes. Based on a manga by Masami Kurumada that originally ran in *Shonen Jump*, *Saint Seiya* is considered one of the great anime classics and is a smash hit throughout most of Asia and South America—but it hasn't made it to the U.S. until now. Cartoon Network has acquired 40 episodes of this series, and will air it under the title *Knights of the Zodiac* during the Saturday Action Block.

"The success that *Knights of the Zodiac* has had internationally is phenomenal," says Andy Heyward, CEO and chairman of licensor DIC Entertainment. "Furthermore, there has never been a Japanese series that has been a mega-hit in Asia, Europe and South America that has failed to become a mega-hit in the U. S."

*Knights of the Zodiac* tells the story of the Bronze Knight Seiya, who leads the Knights of Athena in battle against Phoenix and the Knights of Aries. Seiya and his comrades must fight the most formidable warriors in the galaxy to make their way up the chain of precious metals to protect the golden armor of Sagittarius and return Athena, the Goddess of Wisdom, to her rightful throne. Of course, it wouldn't be good anime without tons of martial arts action, crazy plots, and enemies who just won't stay dead.

*Knights* premieres August 30 at 7p.m. ■ Caitlin Moriarty



**BOYS CLUB** Seiya (front and center) leads the hair-tastic *Knights* to TV.

## TUNE IN TOKYO

CHECK OUT THE LATEST ANIME THAT'S ONLY ON THE AIR IN JAPAN

### GADGUARD ▼

From Gonzo, the studio which created *Gatekeepers* and *Hellsing*, comes a new sci-fi anime about a resource-poor future Earth, the birth of new hope, and of course, giant mecha. In Night Town, where residents live in total darkness at night due to a lack of electricity, Hajiki Sanada scrapes by working part time at Hachisuka Transportation. One day, a client makes Hajiki an offer he can't refuse—transport the mysterious element

known as GAD for a generous price. Unbeknownst to Hajiki, the GAD bonds to him and responds to his thoughts, transmuting into a mecha called Lightning. Now Hajiki and Lightning must deal with his fellow mecha warriors Kanata, Aiko and Takumi, each with their own agendas. And in addition to the constant conflicts between mecha, Hajiki also has to evade powerful, shadowy figures with their own plans for the GAD technology. ■ CM

