

He was the sports editor for The Gazette for 24 years but, more importantly, Ralph Routon was a sports icon to the people of Colorado Springs. His passion for the community sports scene made him a local institution.

During his career at The Gazette, Routon covered five Olympic Games and 11 Super Bowls, but what distinguished him was his dedication to local sports. He knew the local sports scene so well, he often knew how the seasons would play out even before they started. His foresight was remarkable, but his passion was preeminent.

Routon's commitment to local sports reached far beyond his work at The Gazette. He led the effort to lure the Hawaii Islanders to Colorado Springs to become the Sky Sox in 1988, he was intimately involved in the long push for the new World Arena, which opened its doors in 1995 and, embracing the need to preserve Colorado Springs' truly rich sports heritage, Routon conceived the Colorado Springs Sports Hall of Fame.

Routon left Colorado Springs in 2001 and now lives in Texas where he is the executive editor of The Amarillo Globe-News.