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Awesome, baby! Dickie V visits

Pushing new book

Daniel Williams, DDN Staff Writer

Wednesday, January 7, 2009



Dick Vitale, center, holding his book, poses with patrons where he signed his book, **Dick Vitale's Fabulous 50 Players & Moments in College Basketball: From the Best Seat in the House During My 30 Years at ESPN**, at the Tattered Cover Book Store in LoDo y

Only one man in sports is **AWESOME, BABY, WITH A CAPITOL A**, and that man is Dick Vitale. And the iconic college basketball analyst and basketball Hall of Famer was at a book-signing yesterday at Tattered Cover Book Store. And tonight he will call the Denver Nuggets-Miami Heat game at Pepsi Center. Vitale was surprised when ESPN executives told him they wanted him and NBA lead analysts Jeff Van Gundy and Mark Jackson to switch jobs for one night. It will be the first NBA game Vitale has called in 25 years, and he told the *Denver Daily News* he is excited about doing my first pro game in over two decades.

Hoops players are tops?

I think that NBA players are the best athletes in the world sorry Denver Broncos, Vitale told the *DDN*. High-flyers like Carmelo [Anthony], Nene and Chauncey [Billips], they are they best in the world. The always-dapper Vitale sat relaxed in the second floor of the Tattered Cover in LoDo yesterday and was gracious enough to sign countless copies of his new book, **Dick Vitale's Fabulous 50 Players & Moments in College Basketball**, which covers his 30 years at ESPN. The face of college basketball, Vitale is truly one of a kind and the most popular sportscaster since Howard Cosell. Vitale is beloved by college students across the country. He is known for such terms as **diaper dandies**, **super scintillating sensational** and **the chief cause he's on fire**. Vitale himself coached the NBA's Detroit Pistons in 1978-1979, and he coached a little known but outstanding University of Detroit Titan team, which included a 21-game winning streak during the 1977 season. During that streak his Titans defeated the eventual champion Marquette on the road in Milwaukee.

Players

When the *DDN* asked Vitale how the Colorado Buffaloes men's basketball team can become more competitive, he said it's all about recruiting. **Players, its all about the players**, Vitale said. **You got get out there and recruit the best if you want to compete with the Kansases and North Carolinas.** Boulder is a beautiful place that student athletes would love to be at. They need to figure out a way to recruit themselves some blue-chippers.

Loves Colorado

Vitale said he has always loved visiting Colorado because of the weather and the people, and his sister, Terry Vitale, is a book publisher for Colorado Expressions. In December of 2007, Vitale was diagnosed with lesions on his vocal cords. He underwent successful surgery and returned to announcing in February. Vitale said he is nearly back to 100 percent, and when you hear him on TV his big voice sounds better than ever. However, off the camera Vitale is now forced to save his voice, as he did throughout the book-signing and our interview. Vitale added that he is pushing his book hard because all proceeds of his book benefit The V Foundation, founded to fight cancer after the death of friend and former NCAA Championship-winning coach Jim Valvano. Vitale said that Nuggets head coach George Karl is a board member of The V Foundation and has donated over \$50,000.

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