



July 25, 2008

Dear Marje,

## **THE DICK VITALE CENTER COURT CLUB**

Hey there hoops fans, I certainly hope that everyone is enjoying all the fun that the summer offers. As we approach the 2008/09 college basketball season, I would like to share with you my First Team All Rolls-Royce Solid Gold All-Americans. They are:

### **First Team All Rolls-Royce Solid Gold All-Americans**

Power Forward	Luke Harangoody - Notre Dame
Center	Tyler Hansbrough - North Carolina
Small Forward	Chase Budinger - Arizona
Scoring Guard	Stephen Curry - Davidson
Point Guard	Darren Collison - UCLA

In my opinion, we are going to see many experienced players dominating the collegiate scene as opposed to the last two years when freshmen such as Greg Oden, Kevin Durant, Michael Beasley

and Derrick Rose were the stars of the court. It should be a refreshing change to see the more seasoned, experienced leadership shine on and off the court during the upcoming season.

### **Farewell to a Familiar Voice**

Recently, Billy Packer of CBS announced that his broadcasting career has come to a close. Packer, without a doubt, has been a Hall of Famer as he has tested time in serving over thirty years as the lead voice of NBC, and the, of course for the last twenty-seven years at CBS. Billy and I have had our share of differences in our basketball philosophy over the years, but the one constant has been that we both truly love the college game. I certainly wish Billy and his family much luck, health and happiness in his future as he will be truly missed by the basketball community.

### **BIG EAST = Big Year**

We now have a better feel for all of the players that most likely will compose the various rosters of college hoops this season. So, let me give you my feeling as to why the Big East will be the number one conference in the nation this year. Mike Tranghese, who announced his plans to step down as commissioner of the Big East at the conclusion of this year, will most likely have a great deal to smile about upon his departure. Heavyweights in hoops will come from Louisville, Connecticut, Notre Dame, Pittsburgh, Georgetown and Marquette. The most impressive part of that is the fact that I have not even mentioned solid teams such as Syracuse, West Virginia, Villanova, etc. Obviously, you get the picture, there will not be a cupcake available and competition will be as keen as ever in Big East play.

Speaking of Tranghese, he has done a superb job with integrity and class since he took over for the architect of the Big East, Hall of Famer, Dave Gavitt. Undoubtedly, Tranghese will be extremely tough to replace as he is well respected in all of intercollegiate athletics.

### **Hoosier Update**

At Indiana there are many frowns and certainly many disappointed fans over what transpired during the Kelvin Sampson era. Trust me, when it is all said and done, within three years, energetic and dynamic Tom Crean will have Hoosier basketball back among the elite. He is a winner whose personality and approach is very positive and will become contagious with all involved in Indiana basketball.

### **The Fight Against Cancer Continues**

I would like to send a big thank you to all of those who helped with my 2008 Dick Vitale Gala, as we were able to raise \$1.2 million for cancer research. The V Foundation staff did a fantastic job in coordinating the entire event and I cannot thank Bob Knight and Pat Summitt enough for their time and generosity. We had a "Who's Who" in the world of sports, as attending our event at the Ritz Carlton in Sarasota were coaching stars such as Knight, Summitt, Florida's Billy Donovan, Celtic's Hall of Famer John Havlicek, Tampa Bay Buccaneers Head Coach, Jon Gruden, Bill Self (Kansas), John Calipari (Memphis), Roy Williams (North Carolina), the Tennessee Vols Bruce Pearl and a host of others gathered to pay tribute to Knight and Summitt. Next year, we will honor Rick Pitino and Billy Donovan on May 15th at the Ritz and you can get more information by going to my website, dickvitaleonline.com, or by calling 1-800-4-JIMMYV.

### **New Book Will Be Available Soon**

I am so proud to have joined with Dick Weiss of the Daily News for a coffee table book that will be entitled "DICK VITALE'S FABULOUS 50 PLAYERS AND MOMENTS IN MY 30 YEARS OF SITTING IN THE BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE FOR ESPN'.

This was a fun project and purely subjective as I list in numerical order, 1 through 50, my choice as best players and special moments during my three decades with ESPN. Also, playing a vital role assisting Dick and I was ESPN research guru, Howie Schwab. Look for the book at your favorite bookstore or on my website the first week of October as it is being published by Ascend Media of Kansas City.

Here's to another exciting college basketball season ... I know I can't wait!

Be sure to visit my website <http://www.dickvitaleonline.com/>

**Happy Hoops!**

*Dick Vitale*