

Love or hate him, Vitale embodies college hoops

During the ESPN broadcast of North Carolina's victory against Maryland, viewers across the nation might have reached for the mute button.

The ones that didn't had to brace themselves for the ramblings of a 65-year-old bald man whose name has become synonymous with college basketball.

The man who has been known to spout such phrases as:

Everybody loves Raymond! Look at that kid dish the rock, he is a real PTP'er!

Check out diaper dandy Marvin Williams! That kid is going to be someone special, baby!

The always-enthusiastic Dick Vitale was in Chapel Hill this weekend, but many fans were glad to see him leave.

His style is often abrasive and annoying, and the schtick gets old fast, baby.

Vitale's web site features a dictionary to decipher his myriad of phrases. For example: "Dipsy-doo Dunk-a-roo: flashy slam dunk."

Another section is reserved for Vitale's teams such as the All-Alcatraz Team, for players poised to have breakout seasons.

But the insanity doesn't stop there.

Vitale is also a columnist for ESPN.com and Basketball Times, among other publications. His writing style maddeningly mimics his broadcasting. He even punctuates his sentences with "baby!"



DANIEL MALLOY
LONG SHOT

But worse than all of that, he's a Duke fan.

UNC backers have a special dislike for Vitale, often referring to him as "Dookie V," which evokes the broadcaster's love of that Gothic wonderland down the road.

Even when Vitale is broadcasting non-Duke games he will drop in Blue Devil praise that makes any UNC fan sick. Even marginal players such as former point guard Steve Wojciechowski, are lauded for such characteristics as slapping the floor on defense.

And Vitale loves the Cameron Crazies, the inane student section that has brought us such brilliant jokes as dressing up like Wizard of Oz character's for Roy Williams' visit to Durham last year. (Get it? You're not in Kansas anymore, ha ha ha.)

Vitale reserves his highest praise, of course, for Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski — a mortal sin in the eyes of any Tar Heel. Many students now even sport T-shirts that depict Vitale in bed with Coach K.

But the reality is that Vitale isn't just pro-Duke, he's pro-

everything. If you listen to him this year, he's fawning over UNC the way that he used to swoon over the Dookies in their heyday.

He's already picked the Tar Heels to win it all this year, and don't forget that Vitale calls Dean Smith "The Michaelangelo of college basketball."

And it's not just UNC and Duke — it's everyone. The man loves college basketball and everything about it. Every year in early March he sings the praises of so many teams, it seems like he picks 100 schools for the NCAA Tournament.

He is enthusiastic about everything basketball, and outside of the gym he is just as hyped about his numerous charitable causes. He raises thousands for the Boys and Girls Clubs, and personally gives the organization five college scholarships a year.

But Vitale does his most famous charity work on the board of The V Foundation, named for former N.C. State coach Jim Valvano. The foundation has raised millions for cancer research since its inception in 1993.

So next time you want to kill Dickie V, because he just called Sean Dockery one of the top point guards in the country, just relax, put the TV on mute and remember all of the good work he does. Because that's awesome, baby.

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PREPROPOSAL

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"We see this as a social and economic opportunity for downtown," said Council Committee Chairman Bill Strom. "We're looking for a visionary approach to this project."

During one portion of the conference, committee members relayed their personal concerns about the project to developers.

Fellow member Mark Kleinschmidt urged developers to consider all financial options, mentioning that tax increment

financing, which passed in Orange County by a narrow margin in November, could cause problems.

After the conference, Dave Colwell, director of marketing for The Resolute Building Company in Chapel Hill, said he was impressed with the committee's efforts.

"It was very informative," he said. "They did a thorough job."

The deadline for developers to submit responses to the request for qualifications document is Jan. 31.

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BALL KIDS

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as their uniform.

"It's a special shirt," Scroggs said. "It's not one that anyone else has."

The biggest perks stick with them for life.

"(They get) the ability to watch Carolina basketball up close for one, and the privilege of being a part of the game-day atmosphere," Scroggs said.

But that honor has risks.

"The first time I was a ball boy, (former UNC player) Kris Lang fell on me," said William Scroggs, Willie Scroggs' 14-year-old son. "I was sitting down, and he got hit from behind, and he just fell on top of me."

Hall has also had a run-in with

a falling Tar Heel. "It was kind of freaky. I kind of jumped back."

One of the most rewarding parts of being a ball kid, Scroggs said, is the relationships built with players.

"Before the game, they're out there shagging balls with the managers, and over the years, the players will recognize the kids," he said. "That's also a treat."

The ball kids are often the envy of their school peers.

"Some of them will come to school the next day, and they'll be like, 'Oh, I saw you on TV!'" Hall said.

And the ball kids have high hopes for the team this season.

"After the first game, I think we're going to do really well," Hall said.

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DOWNLOADING

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While cost is an important factor, individual choice is the true focus of the pilot programs, Warner said.

Representatives from each of the services will be available on campus Wednesday to answer questions and concerns.

"Each of the four services has prepared their own materials," said Jeanne Smythe, director of ITS computing policy.

After the pilot ends, students will be able to make CDs of the music they would like to purchase and keep beyond the allotted time period.

The future of music downloading will require further trial and error. A choice will have to be made in the near future as to full implementation of a campuswide system that would be added to student fees.

"The market has been changing so analytically," said Warner. "What we want to look at is whether the demand is there and what kind of business model students will like."

Despite the uncertainty of future

use, the current setup allows for open questions and change.

"This is a pilot, and we're trying to learn from this," Smythe said. "It's an opportunity for all of us."

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TSUNAMI RELIEF

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helped to relieve the absence of adequate medical supplies by sending 30 boxes of medical equipment to Sri Lanka last week.

Heading the efforts were Aravinda de Silva, a native of Sri Lanka, and Georgine Lamvu — both assistant professors at the school.

"It's going to take years for the country to rebuild," de Silva said. "What we are planning to do is not to make this a one-time shipment, but to make this a long-term program. ... I think it's a wonderful example about how we can help out in developing countries."

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ARTSCENTER

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of the Weaver Street area," he said.

Maintaining the integrity of the downtown was an oft-cited concern of the aldermen.

"The community is deeply concerned with how things will look, how they feel when they walk by," Nelson said.

Van Sant said the design of the space and the promotion of local businesses should address the community's concerns. "We don't want this to be Disneyland or the mall."

Spencer added that developers are taking the community input they have received very seriously.

Van Sant said that input has been overwhelmingly positive.

"This is a project everyone in town is talking about," Nelson said.

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UNC wrestlers top Maryland

FROM WIRE REPORTS

The North Carolina wrestling team (1-0, 1-0 ACC) captured nine of a possible 10 bouts and cruised to a 36-3 victory against Maryland (2-4, 0-1 ACC) in its Atlantic Coast Conference opener Saturday at Carmichael Auditorium. The Tar Heels have now won five straight matches against the Terps.

Junior All-American Evan Sola, now 14-3 on the season, opened the match with a 30-second pin of Sean Carr at 133 pounds, and the Tar Heels never looked back.

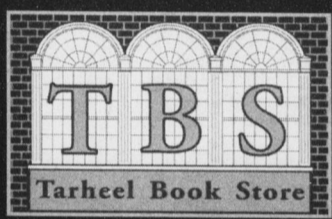
Following an 11-8 decision by freshman Isaiah Britton at 141 and an 11-0 major decision win by Chris Ramos at 149, Maryland cut the lead to 13-3 with a 7-6 decision by Adam James against UNC's Kyle Shelton at 157.

Junior Garrett Atkinson got UNC back on track at 165 pounds, posting a 3-1 victory against Jason Kiessling. Atkinson improved to 11-10 on the season. Tar Heel Freshman Alex Maciag then posted an 11-7 decision at 174 pounds, and classmate Justin Dobies added a 4-1 decision at 184

before David Dashiell recorded UNC's first major decision win of the afternoon, a 10-2 win against Maryland's Jerry Afari that pushed the lead to 26-3.

Maryland then forfeited Tar Heel Spencer Nadolsky at heavyweight before Bobby Shaw recorded a 10-2 major decision against Kevin Vinh at 125 pounds to end the match and wrap up the 36-3 UNC victory.

The Tar Heels return to action at next weekend's Virginia Duals, set for January 14-15 in Hampton, Va.



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