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Baseball...

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 Meyers, a highly touted outfielder from Omaha Westside, is expected to fill one of the starting spots.

Junior Mark Davis started for Nebraska early last year, but was sidelined with an arm injury. Davis is coming back from sur-

gery and will compete with sophomore Rich King and junior college transfer David Turney for the other starting role.

Sophomore Bill McGuire and Craig Radcliffe will handle the catching duties for the Huskers this year.

McGuire will catch the majority of the time, Sanders said. The 6-3, 210-pound sophomore from Omaha hit .322 last year and was named to the *Baseball News* freshman All-American team. Radcliffe will assume the catching duties when McGuire

pitches for Nebraska.

The Husker's pitching staff is anchored by senior tri-captain Jeff Anderson. Right-handers Anderson and sophomore Mike Dobbs look to be early candidates for starting roles. Lefties Jeff Koeningsman and Mark Honor also appear to be likely possibilities.

Nebraska's bullpen will consist of McGuire from the right side and freshman Phil Harrison from the left.

The Huskers start their non-conference season March 1, against Wayne State. Nebraska's non-

conference schedule includes perennial powers USC, California State-Fullerton, Hawaii, and Pepperdine. Sanders said the toughness of the schedule should prepare Nebraska for the competitiveness of the Big Eight.

"We try to have a tough schedule every year. We think it puts Nebraska and the Big Eight Conference in a position to get some recognition," Sanders said. "We think that we'll be ready for the Big Eight when the conference schedule rolls around. We could be a very good team."

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Loud, overbearing, insightful: Premier commentator Vitale

He calls himself "coach" yet he hasn't been one in more than five years. He has, in my opinion, overtaken Al McGuire to become the premier color commentator of college basketball. At times he is loud and overbearing but most times he is insightful and entertaining. He is the man who tells us all about the exploits of No. 23 Michael Jordan of North Carolina. His name is Dick Vitale.

"You don't become a great coach when they tip up the ball in December," Vitale said. "You become a great coach in June, July and August when you're out recruiting. You feel like you're lowering yourself when you have to beg those 17- and 18-year-old kids to come play for your school."

The pressure not only to recruit, but to win all the time, was another reason he left the bench for the broadcast booth, he said.

"Today if you win 20 games the next year you have to win 21 or they're ready to hang you," Vitale said. "It's what you're doing now, not what you did yesterday."

He has a quick answer to any criticism leveled at Nebraska basketball Coach Moe Iba.

"I can't see how the fans at Nebraska could be disappointed because they have one helluva basketball coach in Moe Iba," Vitale said. "Moe Iba has forgotten more basketball than he learned sitting at the dinner table with his dad Hank than I've learned in my whole life."

"I loved coaching but it would have to be an unbelievable Rolls Royce offer for me to come back," Vitale said. "I'm in a great situation right now. I coach a game every night and I go back to the hotel with a W (win) every night. I don't have to look at 12 angry players after the game. As long as they want me on TV, I'll want to stay."

Vitale has been a big critic of the basketball played in Big Eight Conference. Two seasons ago when Missouri was ranked No. 1, Vitale said they wouldn't even make it to the Final Four, which turned out to be prophetic. But Vitale's opinion of the conference has improved, thanks to Oklahoma's Wayman Tisdale.

"The Big Eight is coming on like gangbusters," Vitale said. "The Big Eight champ is no longer an automatic. Every team in the Big Eight is getting better. They have better facilities, better coaches and most importantly, better recruiting. People with household names are starting to sign with the Big Eight."

Vitale has his own personal All-American team. Sure enough, one of the players on the team is Tisdale. The other four players on the team are Jordan, Georgetown's Pat Ewing, North Carolina's Sam Perkins and Cal State-Fullerton's Leon Wood.

"Jordan, he's the best, the player of the year," Vitale said. "But I'll tell you what, Michael better look out because Wayman Tisdale is breathing down his neck for player of the year honors."

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Bob Asmussen

Vitale is a former coach of the Detroit Pistons and the University of Detroit who describes himself as a "basketball junkie" who "eats, drinks and sleeps" the game. He is analytical but not to a point where he out-thinks his audience. He is to basketball what John Madden is to football, a man who describes "why" rather than "what."

"When you're talking color commenting you're talking pilot and co-pilot," Vitale said. "The pilot is the play-by-play man, the pro. I'm the co-pilot, I'm along for the ride."

Vitale is currently the No. 1 color commentator for ESPN's basketball coverage. He works both pro and college games as well as the weekly *Prudential College Basketball Report*.

While Vitale may not know as much about the game as some of his peers, he has used his own knowledge of the game and his own special way of relating that knowledge to become the best in the business. Some recent Vitale gems include:

His comments after North Carolina lost guard Kenny Smith for four weeks because of a broken wrist: "I'm very disappointed, Dean Smith didn't even give me a call to play the point."

Vitale's thoughts on the art of rebounding: "You really rebound a ball with timing and positioning because 80 percent of your rebounds are below the rim."

Vitale after Detroit Piston Coach Chuck Daley was given a technical in the Boston game Feb. 5: "Hey Chuck, you keep spending money like that you're not going to be able to buy those kind of suits anymore."

Vitale said that despite the amount of time he is working as a commentator, he is still able to spend more time with his family than he was when he was a coach. The constant pressures of recruiting were one of the reasons Vitale said he left the game.

Sports Shorts

Nebraska's women's track and field team will shoot for its fifth consecutive Big Eight indoor championship this weekend at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Nebraska is a heavy favorite to win the meet.

The meet will be the final appearance in a Nebraska uniform by senior Merlene Ottey. Ottey, an All-American from Jamaica, sat out last year's indoor meet. She competed in the outdoor meet last year to use up her eligi-

bility in that sport.

Mark Ebel of the Office of Campus recreation extended the deadline for the office's trip to Mayan Mexico over spring break. The deadline has been moved back to Feb. 29. A \$250 deposit is required at the time of registration. The trip costs \$500.

Season tickets for Nebraska's baseball team are on sale at the ticket office. The cost is \$3.