

## Coaches Talk

### Congratulations

Begin with congratulations...

You have had a spectacular year...

One that will be long remembered

A new team: Bo and Jack...

Athletic Accomplishments

Special

Rose Bowl Champion (Football)

NCAA Champion (Basketball)

Big Ten Champions

Men's Football

Men's Swimming and Diving

Women's Swimming and Diving

National (NCAA) Rankings

Men's Basketball: 1st (National Champion)

Men's Swimming and Diving: 3rd

Women's Swimming and Diving: 6th

Football: 4th

Wrestling: 5th

Individual National Champions (4)

Barrowman (Men's Swimming)

Lang (Men's Swimming)

Colloton (Women's Swimming)

Scherer (Men's Indoor Track)

All Americans (27)

Messner (Football)

Vitale (Football)

Rice (Basketball)

Barrowman (Men's Swimming)]

Lang (Men's Swimming)

Alvizuir (Men's Swimming)

Moran (Men's Swimming)

Namesnik (Men's Swimming)

Michaud (Men's Swimming)

Hayes (Men's Swimming)

Wunderluch (Men's Swimming)

Ryan (Men's Swimming)

Nygran (Men's Swimming)

Varnier (Men's Swimming)

Wilkening (Men's Swimming)

Mendenhall (Men's Swimming)

Trammel (Men's Swimming)

Colloton (Women's Swimming)

DeMaat (Women's Swimming)

Hansen (Women's Swimming)

Liebner (Women's Swimming)

Swix (Women's Swimming)

Fisher (Wrestling)

Gotcher (Wrestling)

Pantaleo (Wrestling)

Rowand (Women's Track)

Still to go...

Baseball

Softball

Men's Golf

Women's Golf

Men's Tennis

Women's Tennis

Academic Accomplishments

Michigan's reputation for integrity, class

## **Understanding of your challenges**

We realize that this success was not simply the result of good luck

It took extraordinary effort:

Understand well the rigors of:

recruiting

coaching

working with your student athletes

handling the enormous public attention...

particularly from the media

adhering to the complex rules governing intercollegiate athletics

Understand as well the commitments each of you has had to make...

...long hours of work

...extraordinary travel schedules

...frustrations, disappointments...

...but also rewards

...not simply in winning...

...but even more, in seeing the development and success

of the young men and women who wear the maize and blue

## **Importance of Intercollegiate Athletics**

Importance of Intercollegiate Athletics at Michigan

You know, intercollegiate athletics is one of the great traditions

that make our institution the place it is...

We are intensely proud of our athletic teams...

Michigan is unique in its combination of

world-class academic programs...and its

winning tradition in athletics...

...If you compare the two top ten lists...

the top ten universities in academic quality...

and the top ten athletic programs in football...

You will find only one name on both lists...Michigan.

Yet, as important as winning is, we are also

proud of our programs for their integrity...their class.

And of course, we have long taken great pride in

having many of the nation's leading coaches...

But perhaps of most importance of all is the way

in you as coaches dedicate yourselves

first and foremost to the education of the

student-athletes who don the maize and blue.

Michigan belief

Athletic competition can play an important role

in our fundamental mission: education

I suppose it is something in the very nature of a university

that causes us to continually ask the questions about

our values, our goals, our priorities...

What are we?...what do we strive to become?...

Interestingly enough, I suspect that if one were to go through

one of you talks to your teams with a highlighter, you would

get some pretty good ideas...

Words...

Pride...in institutions and in one's self

Sacrifice for others...for the team

Dedication to the achievement of excellence

A disdain for mediocrity

Courage, confidence,...

Leadership...

Integrity, honesty,

Quality, Class....

It is certainly true that intercollegiate athletics can provide

students with a marvelous opportunity to develop those

qualities so important in later life...particularly when led

by inspiring and enlightened coaches such as yourselves

But it can do more, for these programs also serve as models  
not simply for the university community, but for many others  
throughout their society...

How many youngsters dream of the day they could play in the  
Rose Bowl or the Final Four...and learn from others the qualities necessary  
to get there?

And how many of us as adults tend to identify with these teams  
...sharing their thrill in victory...and suffering with them  
through defeat.

All of intercollegiate athletics...is a game, to be sure...  
but it is also a remarkable model of life...and those factors which  
lead to a program's long term success are also the factors which  
prepare young men and women for life itself!

While it is important that we always keep it in perspective...that we  
always place primary emphasis on the first word in "student-athlete"...  
it is also important that we acknowledge that the lessons that you  
as coaches teach to the young men and women who don  
the maize and blue of Michigan are some of the most important lessons  
of life...lessons everything bit as important as those we teach in the  
classroom or laboratory...

The role of intercollegiate athletics

We understand the dedication and commitment  
required to balance the demands of inter-  
collegiate athletics with the demands of a  
Michigan education.

A Michigan education is challenging enough,  
without the additional pressures of participation  
in one of the nation's leading athletic programs.

But, I suspect that later in life most of our athletics  
look back upon their experience at Michigan  
as providing an extraordinary  
education, in the most compete sense of  
the word.

It has sometimes been said that the purpose  
of a college education is to learn the art of life...  
And in this, we believe our student athletes have  
a certain edge, since they benefit  
from a full-range of experiences on our campus,  
from the intellectual to the athletic to the cultural...

### **Concerns**

Higher education is under a great deal of public scrutiny these days...

Costs of education  
Student behavior (particularly substance abuse)  
Academic integrity  
Intercollegiate Athletics

### **Michigan's Role**

UM has particular challenges:

- i) One of most successful and visible programs
- ii) A long tradition of playing strictly by the rules
- iii) Really the envy of America

UM has particular responsibilities:

- i) We stand for all that is good in intercollegiate athletics
- ii) Michigan = Integrity, quality, class

UM has important opportunities

- i) We really set the pace, provide the leadership
- ii) UM, perhaps more than any other institution in America  
has the capacity to address many of the problems in  
intercollegiate athletics today...  
...substance abuse  
...academic performance of athletes  
...regaining control of programs from television

## **Our Priorities**

1. Integrity -- always playing by the rules  
The right way is the Michigan way!  
What is best for the student-athlete  
In admissions, for example, the key questions are:  
Does the student have the capacity to benefit from a Michigan education?  
Do we have confidence that with sufficient support, the student has the ability to pursue meaningful studies at Michigan and graduate?  
We must be able to come to a shared understanding of what is good for the student.  
We must be able to jointly consider and discuss each of these "at risk" cases on an open, cooperative basis.

### Quality and class

- Michigan is not only one of the most visible, but also one of the most highly competitive institution in the nation.
- We must be sensitive to the public reaction to our standards
  - ...to our admissions policies
  - ...to the academic performance of our student athletes
  - ...to the conduct of our coaches and teams and fans

### Successful teams

- We aspire to excellence in intercollegiate athletics, just as we do in every endeavor in this institution.
- Just as we seek to have the #1 programs in the nation in psychology or classical studies or engineering or law, we also aspire to leadership in football or swimming or softball.
- But, as important as success is, it is not the most important goal that we have.
- Winning must not come at the expense of other more important values such as integrity and the academic success of our student-athletes.

## **Concluding Remarks**

- The University takes great pride in your programs.
- We view you as a very important component of the University...
  - ...and we view as important members of the Michigan family
  - ...as coaches, to be sure, but even more as teachers.
- While we take great pride in your success, we taken even more pride in:
  - i) the integrity of your programs
  - ii) your concern for the well-being and academic success of your student-athletes
- In the past there has been a sense of isolation from the mainstream activities of the University...
  - a separation between those of you on the athletic campus working hard to build successful programs within the rules and those of us "up on the Hill" who frequently didn't understand the challenges you faced.
- Over the past couple of years we have tried to break down that isolation, and to draw you, your student-athletes, and your programs more fully into the life of the University, since we believe that you are very important parts of this institution.
  - ...Anne and I have arrange receptions for your students and coaches
  - ...more visible participation by leadership of University
  - ...more open dialog...
  - ...a spirit of cooperation, not confrontation and control
- Those of us up on the Hill are committed to working with you to uphold the great Michigan tradition of integrity

quality and class  
excellence  
in intercollegiate athletics!