

Football Bust

It is a great pleasure this evening to

convey on behalf of the University of Michigan our congratulations to the Michigan Football Team, for your Big Ten Championship.

This was an incredible season...

Starting off with spectacular, if frustrating, efforts against Notre Dame and Miami, now the number 1 and number 2 teams in the nation...

Bouncing back to win the Big Ten championship in the face of injury after injury...

And what can I say about your game down in Columbus... that gutsy performance late in the fourth quarter is what Michigan football is all about!!!

And now the Rose Bowl!!!

Return to Pasadena...

May amuse you to know that Bo and I came to Michigan the same year...in 1969...

Bo came from Ohio...

I came from Pasadena...

Actually, I thought at first there must have been some confusion... and our roles were accidentally switched...

I was supposed to be football coach...and Bo was supposed to be a professor of nuclear engineering!

After all, what school has played more games in the Rose Bowl than any other? Not Michigan or Ohio State or USC or UCLA ...but the Caltech Beavers!!!

(They used to play their home games there...against teams such as the LaVerne Junior College Junior Varsity...women's)

But Michigan must have known what they were doing...

For it took Bo only one year to get to Pasadena for the 1970 Rose Bowl...

And he has returned often...

It has taken me almost twenty years to get back to Pasadena...

and I look forward to watching Michigan bring home the Roses on January 2!

The University of Michigan has many

important traditions that make this institution the place it is...

and among the most visible and most important is the role of intercollegiate athletics at Michigan...

The University is extremely proud

of its athletic teams...

- i) As our Dean of Medicine puts it, he wants to build a Medical School our Football Team can be proud of...
- ii) 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.
- iii) Yet, as important as winning is, we are also proud of our programs for their integrity...their class.
- iv) And of course, we have long taken great pride in having the nation's leading football coach...
Bo Schembechler...and the superb coaching staff he leads...
- v) But perhaps of most importance of all is the way in which Bo and his coaches dedicate themselves 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

While it is customary to think of a college education in terms of classes and labs, we believe it goes beyond that.

The experiences encountered in athletics provide our students with marvelous opportunities to develop qualities so important later in life: dedication, commitment, integrity, leadership.

At Michigan, we always place primary emphasis on the first word in the term "student-athlete"

While Bo and his staff are outstanding coaches, to be sure, we view them as well as some of our most gifted educators, teaching our

student-athletes some of the most important lessons of life...lessons every bit as lasting 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 intercollegiate 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 athletes look back upon their experience at Michigan as providing an extraordinary education, in the most complete 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, you as student athletes may have a certain edge, since most of you are benefiting from a full-range of experiences on our campus, from the intellectual to the athletic to the cultural...

And the University is indeed proud

of the team and its coaches for the way in which they faced these challenges... and the way in which they continued the great tradition of Michigan Football.

In conclusion, just let me offer my

congratulations once again...to the players, coaches, trainers, and all of those who have made Michigan football the class act in intercollegiate athletics today.