

Basketball Bust -- March 28, 1989

It is a great pleasure this evening to

convey on behalf of the University of Michigan our congratulations to the Michigan Basketball Team.

To the men who wear the maize and blue...

...to Steve Fisher who has earned the great respect and admiration not just of a University, but a state and a nation...
...to his fellow coaches and trainers and managers...
...to all who have given so much to make this a really incredible year!

This was an incredible year...

If ever a team demonstrated what Michigan athletics is all about, it is this team. Getting off to a spectacular start in Hawaii... Then fighting the Big Ten wars... clearly the toughest basketball conference in America...
And what can I say about the NCAAs that hasn't already been said...
This team is has faced the most difficult of challenges...
...a change at the helm...
...intense pressure from the media...
...a sequence of the toughest teams in America...
And you have come through it all not only as champions...
...but with a sense of class that is what makes Michigan athletics so special...

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...
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.
But even more important of all is the way our coaches dedicate themselves first and foremost to the education of the student-athletes who don the maize and blue.

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 athletics 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, 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...

A special word here...

This has indeed been a very special year for Michigan basketball...

Tonight we stand prepared to go to the summit...
...the Final Four in Seattle...

This is due to the efforts of many, many people...
The team itself...

...players such as
Glen Rice...
Rumeal Robinson...
Terry Mills...
Loy Vaught
Mark Hughes...
Sean Higgins...

and those others, who, while they may not have been in the limelight, were nevertheless critical to this team's success...

Coach Steve Fisher...and his coaches...
who stayed with this team through thick and thin...
...and who provided extraordinary leadership so critical to the team's success in the NCAAs...

The trainers and managers and staff that supported the team...

The fans...students, staff, friends...

And I believe it very important this evening that we also acknowledge the great commitment and effort of Bill Frieder to Michigan basketball over the years...

While I know many of us are disappointed that Bill was lured away from Michigan just prior to the start of the NCAAs, we must never forget all Bill has done for Michigan basketball...

Two Big Ten championships...

An incredible record as a coach...

Attracting to Michigan the great players that are now poised for the national championship...

Bill and Jan Frieder have been deeply committed to this University for almost two decades...they have both served us well.

On behalf of the University of Michigan, I would like to express our thanks and gratitude to the Frieders...and wish them the best as they head west to new challenges...

Bill and Jan are like all of us who have had something to do with this University over years...

...I expect that they will always have part of the hearts in Ann Arbor...

...and they will always be a part of this University who takes pride in their accomplishments for the maize and blue.

Pep Rally: January 1, 1988

But now on to Seattle...and the Final Four...

This weekend, the University of Michigan will be centerstage in the

greatest tradition of college football...the NCAA championship.
We in the University take enormous pride in what the
Michigan Basketball Team has accomplished...and we take
great pride in its players and coaches.
We look forward with eagerness and anticipation to the Final Four.

In conclusion, just let me offer my
contratulations once again...to the players,
coaches, trainers, and all of those who
have made Michigan basketball the class act
in intercollegiate athletics today.

Onward to Seattle...and let's go blue!!!