

Bo's Farewells

Introduction

JJD Roots

It might amuse you to note that both Bo Schembechler and I came to Michigan the same year...in 1969...Bo from Miami of Ohio and I from Caltech...

Actually, at first I thought there must have been some confusion... that the Personnel Department at Michigan had somehow got our papers...and hence our roles...confused.

I thought I was hired at Michigan to be the football coach...(and hence, I guess, 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 USC!

But rather the Caltech Beavers!!! Indeed, they used to play their homes games there...against powerhouses such as the LaVerne Junior College Junior Varsity...

But Michigan must have known what it was doing...it took Bo only one year to get to Pasadena for the 1970 Rose Bowl...and he has made this pilgrimmage a regular event.

By way of contrast, it has taken me almost 20 years to get back to Pasadena...at least in this official capacity.

A special comment about Bo:

Of course, this is also a very special occasion since it will be Bo's last Rose Bowl as coach of the Michigan Wolverines.

I know Bo's decision to pass on the reigns as Michigan football coach at this point was not an easy one. I can tell you that it is not an easy one for me--for any of us--to accept, either.

But I also know that he has approached this decision with the same of integrity, class, courage, and loyalty that characterizes his entire career at the University.

Bo is retiring at the top of his form, widely acknowledged to be the top intercollegiate football coach in America.

But Bo is more than just a winning coach, though he is that.

In his years at Michigan, Bo has come to symbolize the integrity, pride, dedication to excellence, sacrifice for others, and leadership that characterize the best traditions of intercollegiate athletics .

While Bo insists that he does not want this game viewed as a massive retirement party...

It is also clear that Bo Schembechler has had a great impact on the Rose Bowl, just as he has had on sports in America.

Hence, regardless of its outcome, the 1990 Rose Bowl will have a special significance for the University of Michigan... as I suspect it will for the great tradition of the Rose Bowl itself.

We all owe Bo Schembechler a great debt of gratitude.

Center of Champions Brochure

Importance of Intercollegiate Athletics

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...

In recent years there has been a continual stream of concerns about intercollegiate athletics... ...quasi "professional" athletic programs on our

campuses--inconsistent with our academic
responsibilities
...taking advantage of our student athletics
...pressure to win at all costs which causes
cheating...
...drugs, crime,

And this is extremely important to us at Michigan because of the
belief that athletic competition can play such 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 provided by athletics provide our students with
marvelous opportunities to develop qualities so important
later in life...

...dedication
...commitment
...integrity
...leadership

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 University is extremely proud of its athletics
program...

...oh, certainly for its success, its winning tradition...
...perhaps even more for its integrity...
...but most of all for the way in which those who lead it...
Bo Schembechler, Steve Fisher, Jack Weidenbach...
and all of our coaches dedicate themselves first
and foremost to the education of the young men and
women who don the maize and blue.

Images

Bo and Millie at MacDonalds before NCAA
Watching Bo on the sidelines...while reading his book
Last Pep Rally...Bo leading the Band in the Victors
Last Big Ten Dinner of Champions
Always a Michigan Man!!!

Presidential Medal