Athletes Reception
Welcome
Anne and I would like to welcome you...
as student athletes
coaches, trainers, cheerleaders
as faculty mentors, counselors, staff
and all of the others who work so
hard to sustain the Michigan
tradition of excellence in
athletics
Let me also express our welcome and
appreciation to the Regents,
Executive Officer, Deans, and other
faculty and administrators who have
joined us this afternoon...
We tried our best to avoid scheduling
conflicts...but Michigan athletes
are involved in so many activities,
that this was impossible.
However, we did rearrange times a bit
to allow those of you with tickets
plenty of time to make it down to
Chrysler Arena...
Explanation
Anne and I thought it would be appropriate
to host such an event for two
principal reasons:

i) First, to honor the student-athletes
of the University...for your
remarkable dedication and
achievements, both on the field
and in the classroom...
(for at Michigan, we always place
the emphasis on the first word
in the term student-athlete)

ii) Second, to use this as an opportunity
to stress in a highly visible manner
that we view all of you, your teams,
and your efforts as a very important part
of this exciting academic community
that comprises the University of
Michigan.

Let me comment briefly on each of these
points...
Theme 1: Pride...
The University is extremely proud
of its intercollegiate athletic 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
participate in intercollegiate athletics, the
student-athletes, the coaches and staff,
dedicate themselves
first and foremost to the education of the young
men and women 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.
we certainly have some of the nation’s finest coaches, we also believe that many of our coaches also happen to be some of the most gifted educators on our campus.Ó.
I teach you as students-athletes some of the most important lessons you will learn at this University... lessons every bit...
head 4 - as lasting as those our other faculty members teach in the classroom or laboratory.

We understand the dedication and commitment required to balance the demands of intercollegiate athletes with the demands of a Michigan education.

But, I suspect that later in life most of you will look back upon your experience at Michigan as providing you with an extraordinary education.
the most sompete sense of he`d 3 - the word.

It has sometimes been s`id that the purpose
of a college education is to learn the art of life...
And, in this, you as student chletes may hav=
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...

Theme 2: A Sense of Community
Academic institutions are prof_m_nldy people-dependent.
Hence, the key to excellence -- whether in
the classroom, the Ááb, or on the field, is to attract
and retain the most outstanding students, faculty,
and staff, and then provide them with the
environment and encouragement to push to
the limits of their c_ilities...and then get out
of the way!

We strive to build a culture
Which stresses exceexlence, achievement, and
excxtement...which removes constraints from
talented people and encourages them to
"go for it"!

But you as athletes know that something more is
needed...for individual achievement will never,
by itself, produce a winner.
Ex{ellence rquires coming together as a team...
or in a more general sense, as a community.
This is js true in u_e classroom or laboratory as
it is on th! field.

It is both a challenge...yet also an important theme
of the!
donern university to search for ways to
unite us through shared values and!_oals _his institution.

G_r that reason, we are convinced that we must
hec_ 3 - look for experk_nces beyond the!_cademic
process to bring people together...to establish
new bonds of friendship and understanding.

Today's reception is an important part of our
efforts to bring us together...

We hope that you have a chance to meet other
student-athletes and coaches this afternoon...

Concluding Points
Introductions
In keeping with this theme of coming together
and getting to know one another better,
we have been joined this afternoon by
many of the leaders of the University
Rend Anne is an ex-cheerleader...
Some of us even continue to participate
in one way or another in some form
of athletics...whether jogging or
tennis or skiiing or golf...
And, while we certainly don't have the
ability or skills of most of you students,
I think it fair to say that we certainly
understand and appreciate the effort
and dedication it takes to achieve
excellence on the field...just as we
admire your ability to also achieve
excellence in the classroom and
Thanks...
Also thank Music School...and note
Dance Department
Thank Housing Division...
Most important of all, I would like
to thank my wife, Anne, who
not only had the original idea
for this event, but who also
designed and managed the
incredible logistics to bring it
off...

Final Remarks
In conclusion, just us offer our
contratulations once again...to the players,
coaches, trainers, and all of those who
have made Michigan the class act
in intercollegiate athletics today.