

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!_o_e_velop qualities so important later in life: dedication, commitment, integrity, leadership.

Whk

e 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.
c

d teach you as`su_dent-athletes some
of the most important lessons you whll
learn at this University...lessons every bit_

head 4 - as lasting as those our other faculty members
teach in the classroom or laboratory.

head 2 + We understand the dedication and commitment

required to balance the demands of inter-
collegiate athletics 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

head 3 - education, k

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...

Theme 2: A Sense of Community

Academic institutions are profoundly people-dependent

And hence, the key to excellence -- whether in

the classroom, the lab, 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 abilities...and then get out
of the way!

We strive to build a culture

Which stresses excellence, achievement, and
excitement...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.

Excellence requires coming together as a team...

or in a more general sense, as a community.

This is true in the classroom or laboratory as

it is on the field.

It is both a challenge...yet also an important theme

of the

modern university to search for ways to

unite us through shared values and goals
of this institution.

For that reason, we are convinced that we must

begin to look for experiences beyond the academic

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 skiing 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

laboratory.

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 jthletics today.