

Dedication of Canham Natatorium

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.

While 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...
and teach you as student-athletes some
of the most important lessons you will
learn at this University...lessons every bit
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 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
education, in the most complete sense of
the word.

Don Canham...

Just one final word...

During halftime of the Ohio State game, the
Michigan Marching Band spelled out on the
field a name that has come to symbolize
excellence in intercollegiate athletics:
Canham...

Through this dedication today, we are conveying both
congratulations for his extraordinary accomplishments
as athlete, coach, and athletic director at Michigan...
and to convey as well our immense pride in what
he has done both for Michigan athletics...and
for intercollegiate athletics across this nation.

If I had to use one word to describe the
Canham era at Michigan, it would be the word "class".

Don has set a standard for excellence
at Michigan that has rightfully earned the
respect of this nation.

The University owes him a deep debt of
gratitude and respect.