

Football Bust-92

Isn't it amazing how spoiled we have been with
Michigan athletics?

Tonight we are celebrating the fact that the

Michigan Wolverines have won their 5th
Big Ten Championship in a row...

...outright

...are going to the Rose Bowl for a rematch
against Washington

...have had an undefeated season

And yet we are still grouching a bit about the
last couple of games of the year.

Let there be no doubt about it...

...this is a great Michigan football team

...the players have played their hearts out

...in the face of considerable challenges

...the coaches have done a great job in
preparing and coaching the team

...the Band, the Cheeleaders, the managers,
the trainers...

...have done their share

All that remains is for us, as fans of the Maize and Blue,

to show our pride and our respect for the Michigan,

the Big Ten Champion, as they get ready for the Rose Bowl

Further, this is an opportunity to thank the seniors

for their leadership

their efforts

...and for being part of 5 Big Ten Championships!

The Special Nature of Michigan Football

Some of my colleagues at the private universities

have a hard time reconciling Michigan's

commitment to academic excellence

with our hard play/winning tradition in sports.

For me the two go together--

They both are about discipline, and character
dedication and plain hard work.

They are about working together as a team
setting high goals and going all out
to achieve them,
both call for an intensity
of spirit and concentration.

Our coaches are among our best teachers
and, of course, none better than Bo Schembechler,
who has for so long exemplified the best
of the Michigan tradition of excellence
that special spirit of going all out,
doing the best you can do...
...and doing it the right way... the Michigan way...

Of course, sports have always been an important
part of our civilization. Intercollegiate athletics continue
a tradition from ancient times, in which the games
allow athletes to test and develop their own abilities
in competition with one another.

They teach both the player and the spectator
some of the most enduring lessons of life:
the importance of discipline, perseverance, and teamwork.
And sports teach us all that the most important goals
are achieved only through effort and sacrifice
--and sometimes even these are not enough.
And they provide a sense of excitement, of pride,
and of involvement with our institutions.□

Importance of Rose Bowl

There is something very special about the Rose Bowl...
just as there is about Michigan football.
In places such as Michigan and Ohio, football fans
and players grow up watching the Rose Bowl

on television, on dark winter evenings, when it is frigid and windy and the streets and yards are covered with ice and snow.

From this perspective, the Rose Bowl sometimes seems almost surreal. It is played three time zones away in Pasadena on thick grass, usually before 100,000 fans who watch in their shirtsleeves.

As Bo put it...

“Kids growing up in the Midwest, playing football in the street, in the snow and the mud, dream of someday being good enough to play in the Rose Bowl.”

It is also fitting that we are playing Washington...a school with a competitive football tradition almost--but I hope not quite-- as strong as Michigan's.

One of the things you have that they don't is the Michigan family behind them--350k strong-- and every one a fanatic--It's got to be a help in the crunch.

Congratulations...

Let me conclude with a final note or congratulations...

The Rose Bowl is very special to us at the University since it allows us to recognize and take pride in the accomplishments of those who have brought us to Pasadena...

i) The Michigan Football Team, the players themselves who have met the challenge...both on the field and in the classroom.

Individual players have won awards and honors--

The Heisman stands out

but all the players have earned our gratitude and recognition for giving us

one of the great football seasons in Michigan history

And it is rally as a team that they have played

and we are proud of each and every one
--each is a star in his own right.

- ii) Gary Lewis and the women and men
of the Michigan Marching Band who have,
through long hours of practice and work,
continued the tradition of excellence in what is generally
regarded as the nation's leading college band.
- iii) All of the students, who participating as cheerleaders,
managers, or simply as loyal fans, have played important
roles in building a winning spirit at Michigan
- iv) To Gary Moeller, who is quickly earning his place
in Michigan football history-
- v) To his fellow football coaches, and the staff of the
Department of Athletics.
- v) And, of course, perhaps as much as any one else, let me
congratulate the families that stood behind these students
and gave them the support so critical to their achievements
on the field and in the classroom
...and as well to the wives and families of coaches and staff,
...and particularly to Ann Moeller...
since without your support and encouragement,
this season would simply not have been possible.

Concluding Remarks

A final word, then to the players, the coaches,
the band, the students, the families...
In a very real sense the Rose Bowl is your event!
The University of Michigan takes
great pride in your accomplishments.
And now we look forward with eager anticipation
to New Year's Day in Pasadena...
..a chance at the Roses again
We look forward with eager anticipation to New Year's Day
...to a meeting between two of the top

college football programs in America...Washington and Michigan...
in the "Granddaddy of them All" ...the 78th Annual Rose Bowl.
Go-Blue!