

## **Football Bust**

### **It gives me great pleasure to convey**

on behalf of the University of Michigan...  
...its Board of Regents  
...its students, faculty, and staff  
...and over 350,000 alumni throughout  
the nation and around the world  
our congratulations to  
the Michigan Football Team...  
...for a spectacular season  
...for becoming the first team  
in over two decades to win outright  
two Big Ten championships back-to-back  
...and for being poised to make history...  
...to win two Rose Bowls back-to-back  
...and if Notre Dame and Miami can help  
out a bit on New Year's Day, even a  
shot at the national title.

### **This has been an incredible season...**

Of course we all remember that frustrating  
start in the rain against Notre Dame  
But then that incredible come-back against  
UCLA out in Pasadena  
(I want you to know that UCLA stuck  
the Michigan delegation in the far end zone...  
...and while we couldn't really see much of  
the drive that Elvis was engineering...  
we had a great shot of J. D. Carlson's field goal  
that won the game.)  
This team then marched through an obstacle  
course of one big game after another...  
...knowing that it had to win each one in  
order to repeat as Big Ten Champion  
...facing the toughest teams in the Big Ten  
on the road...  
...Michigan State  
...Iowa  
...Illinois  
...uniting as a true team to overcome  
injuries that would have decimate and  
demoralized most teams...  
...and, in this past weekend, beating a  
fired-up Ohio State team in one of  
the most physical games I've ever seen.  
If ever a team truly deserved to be Big Ten Champion  
it was this team...  
And if ever a Michigan team had what it takes to  
make history, it is this team!

### **Importance of Football at Michigan**

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...  
We are intensely proud of our athletic teams...  
Michigan is unique in its combination of  
world-class academic programs...and its  
winning tradition in athletics...  
...If you compare the two top ten lists...  
the top ten universities in academic quality...  
and the top ten athletic programs in football...

You will find only one name on both lists...Michigan.  
Yet, as important as winning is, we are also  
proud of our programs for their integrity...their class.  
And of course, we have long taken great pride in  
having many of the nation's leading coaches...  
including its leading football coach...  
But perhaps of most importance of all is the way  
in which Bo and his coaches dedicate themselves  
first and foremost to the education of the  
student-athletes who don the maize and blue.

#### **Michigan belief**

At Michigan, we believe that 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.  
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.  
In fact, Professor Schembechler has now moved  
beyond the role as teacher and become a  
scholar as well with his first textbook!  
(Actually, I was thinking about using his book  
as a required text if I ever go back and teach  
nuclear reactor theory again...  
Imagine how one could emphasize the way that  
nuclear radiation can penetrate through  
lead shielding  
Through the analogy of Woody Hayes putting  
his fist through a blackboard during a  
half-time pep talk!)

#### **The role of intercollegiate athletics**

We understand the dedication and commitment  
required to balance the demands of inter-  
collegiate athletics with the demands of a  
Michigan education.  
A Michigan education is challenging enough,  
without the additional pressures of participation  
in one of the nation's leading athletic programs.  
But, I suspect that later in life most of our athletics  
look back upon their experience at Michigan  
as providing an extraordinary  
education, in the most complete sense of  
the word.  
The experiences encountered in athletics  
provide our students with marvelous  
opportunities to develop qualities so  
important later in life: dedication,  
commitment, integrity, leadership.  
The value of athletics--when combined with a  
Michigan education--becomes all the more  
apparent when meeting former Michigan  
athletes who have gone on to great success--  
indeed, leadership--in their careers as

business executives, doctors, lawyers,  
engineers--even Presidents!

**And now on to the Rose Bowl...**

A chance to make history  
...not only a chance for the big double...  
...two Rose Bowl victories back to back  
...not only a shot at the national title  
...if Notre Dame and Miami can do their part  
...but beyond that...a chance to become the  
first--and probably last--Big Ten team  
to win three games in the Rose Bowl in  
one year  
...Last January 2nd against USC  
...In September against UCLA  
...And this January 1st against USC  
(get it...)  
Heck, you guys have played so many games  
in the Rose Bowl this year it should feel  
like your home turf!

**Let me make one final comment...**

Among the many lessons that football is able  
to teach, perhaps none is as important as  
the importance of working together as a  
team...  
But individual commitment and achievement,  
while essential, cannot in itself, produce  
a winner.  
Your success this past fall was due to an  
extraordinary team effort.  
A team that includes the players, coaches,  
managers, trainers...and many others.  
Hence, in closing, let me convey congratulations  
once more...

**Congratulations...**

- i) To the Michigan Football Team, the players themselves  
who have the challenge  
...both on the field and in the classroom
- ii) To ??? 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) To 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 Bo Schembechler, not only the greatest coach  
in Michigan football history--but the greatest coach  
in America--and one of the greatest teachers as well.
- 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.

**You all have made the University very proud**

and we salute you and your accomplishments

**Hail, hail to Michigan, the Champions of the West!!!**