

Marching Band Rehearsal: December 31, 1989

Introduction

As Casey Stengel said,

“It seems like déjà vu...all over again.”

Here we are, back in southern California...

...getting ready to play USC in the Rose Bowl.

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!

Michigan Memories:

You know, thus far in 1989 Michigan athletics has created
some truly great memories...

...Leroy Hoard's breakaway run late in the 4th
quarter that sealed the come-from behind victory
against USC in last year's Rose Bowl

...Rumeal Robinson stepping to the line with 3 seconds
left in overtime and canning those free throws
to win the NCAA championship

...The Cinderella story of Steve Fisher

It was an incredible year...in fact, UM finished 2nd
in the nation in performance in all sports.

Guess who finished #1: UCLA

Well, we got even this fall...

...that incredible onside kick against UCLA and then
J. D. Carlson's last second field goal that
started Michigan on its string of victories

...those heartstopping victories against Michigan State,
Iowa, Illinois, and finally, Ohio State that won
the Big Ten Championship

...and...while we were resting up for the Rose Bowl...

... the basketball team coming back on board
with those incredible victories over Duke and
Seton Hall...

...and, of course, the bombshell that Bo dropped

a couple of weeks ago when he announced that this Rose Bowl would be his last game as coach at Michigan...

...the retirement of the greatest coach in America!

Role of the Michigan Marching Band

Of course, the Wolverines are only one of many great Michigan traditions.

There is another just as distinguished...and requiring just as much talent, dedication, and commitment...

The University of Michigan Marching Band... long known as the finest college marching band in the nation.

Indeed, it was Michigan that essentially invented the college marching band...

...and through leaders such as

...William Revelli

...George Cavendar

...and now Jerry Luchenbach

...have provided the standard against which all other bands are measured.

A word, then, to the members of the Band, to the cheerleaders, and to all of those other students who participate as part of the Michigan tradition...

While much of the national attention is on our varsity teams, it is clear that you have contributed just as much in the way of time, effort, and talent to building and sustaining the Michigan tradition.

Indeed, I would venture to say that there are probably as many folks who come to Michigan Stadium to see the Band as to see the Team.

Quite frankly, there is nothing quite like the thrill that runs through the crowd when you high-step onto the field just before kickoff.

Being a member of the Band or the Cheerleaders

is not easy...

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 the nation's leading athletic programs.

But, I suspect that later in life most of our students look back upon their experience at Michigan as providing an extraordinary education, in the most complete sense of the word.

The experiences encountered in participation provide our students with marvelous opportunities to develop qualities so important later in life: dedication, commitment, integrity, leadership.

If, indeed, the purpose of a college education is to learn the art of life...then it is clear that your experiences in the Band have given you a far richer experience than your classroom activities alone.

The Importance of Excellence

Further, your dedication, talent, and ability have great impact on this University.

The key to our University--your University--is its
determination to achieve excellence--indeed,
leadership--in academics, in teaching and research.
Michigan has always been the flagship of public higher
education in America.

UM is a very, very special place.

It is one of only a handful of universities that can truly
change not only this nation, but indeed, the
world.

It was Michigan that, over a century ago, invented
the university that has served America so well.

And we believe it should be Michigan, once again,
that now re-invents a new type of university
capable of serving an America of the 21st Century.

Leadership and excellence...

...those are Michigan's heritage

...and these are Michigan's destiny...

And what makes all of this possible is you--the

army of maize and blue alumni, 350,000 strong.

Today, just before the Michigan Wolverines take the field,

I want to take this opportunity to ask you a favor.

Because it is your help and support which has

made Michigan great.

Today, more than ever, we need

...your support

...your commitment

...your involvement

...and, most of all, your loyalty.

We're proud of you as our alumni

...we're proud of our teams

...but most of all, we're proud of our university!

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 Alabama 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, we've played so many games

in the Rose Bowl this year it should feel

like our home turf!

Now let's go get 'em...

...and let's GO-BLUE!!!