

Schembechler Hall Dedication (5/29/91)

Welcome to all those champions

who made the Center of Champions possible--
faculty, staff and over 1600 donors.

What wonderful loyalty and generosity you have shown.

And isn't it appropriate that putting this center together

brought us together

--faculty, staff, friends and alumni?

It just shows what we can do,

on the football field or off,

when we work as a team.

And what a great tribute to Bo
and our student-athletes
that to honor them, we came together
as a team as never before.

So many new friends across the country,
contributed to the Center
and became part of the Michigan "family"
A special welcome and thanks to them.

Intercollegiate sports are so much
at the heart of Michigan.

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.

I don't have that problem.

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...

Introduction of President Ford

We have with us today someone
who also has come to represent
the very best of Michigan
both in the public mind and among
the Michigan family.

As a student, as a Congressman,
as President of the United States,
and as a faithful friend and supporter
of the University,
President Gerald R. Ford has been a "victor"
all his life.

He served as Honorary Chairman of the
campaign to build the Center of Champions
and helped put it over the top...
...or more appropriately, he helped take
the ball into the endzone.

It is with grateful thanks that I introduce
him to you now,
President Jerry Ford.