

The original documents are located in Box 14, “8/27/75 - Remarks for Woody Hayes Taping” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

REMARKS FOR WOODY HAYES TAPING

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 1975

HONORED GUESTS, MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE

ERNIE GODFREY CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION

AND HALL OF FAME.

2 deeply regret - 2 -

~~I AM SORRY~~ THAT I CAN'T PERSONALLY BE WITH YOU THIS

EVENING TO PAY WELL-DESERVED TRIBUTE TO A GOOD FRIEND AND ONE

OF THE MOST TALENTED AND ACCOMPLISHED SPORTS FIGURES OF

OUR TIME --- WOODY HAYES. / AND AS AN OLD ~~WOLVERINE~~

WOLVERINE, I THINK THAT'S ABOUT AS FAR AS I SHOULD GO. /

I STILL HAVE RELATIVES LIVING IN GRAND RAPIDS,

Michigan //

WOODY, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT WHENEVER I START
TO FEEL MY JOB CLOSING IN ON ME -- I DRAW SOLACE FROM THE
MEMORY THAT I ONCE CONSIDERED A CAREER AS A FOOTBALL COACH --
BUT DECIDED AGAINST IT. AND THAT MAY HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE
MOST ASTUTE DECISIONS OF MY LIFE.

IN POLITICS, ALL I HAVE TO DO IS WIN HALF OF THE VOTES, AND

I GET TO RIDE DOWN PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE IN A LIMOUSINE.

WOODY, IF YOU WIN ONLY HALF OF YOUR GAMES -- YOU COULD

DEPART COLUMBUS ON A RAIL!

//

WELL, 25 YEARS OF FOOTBALL ARTISTRY AT OHIO STATE,
IS PROOF POSITIVE THAT SUCH A TRIP IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY.
I'M JUST GLAD I PLAYED FOR MICHIGAN WHEN I DID -- LONG BEFORE
WOODY HAYES CAME TO COLUMBUS. WE BEAT THE BUCKEYES
TWICE IN A ROW, BUT WOODY HASN'T LET THAT HAPPEN SINCE 1951.

THE BASIC FORMULA FOR WOODY'S GREAT SUCCESS HAS BEEN

AN UNLIMITED CAPACITY FOR HARD WORK AND ^{plus} AN INSPIRED GRASP

OF THE GAME OF FOOTBALL. WOODY HAYES IS A TEACHER IN THE

FINEST TRADITION OF THAT PROFESSION.

Woody, you have a wonderful capability to develop physical talent but more importantly you inspire young men to achieve ^{to the best of our ability} perfection, on the gridiron and that goal is ~~that is~~ what we all must seek as good citizens of this great Nation.

Woody

NOT ONLY DOES ~~HE~~ PREPARE TOP-NOTCH PLAYERS FOR THE FIELD --

THEM

BUT HE ALSO PREPARES ~~THEM~~ TO COPE WITH LIFE, TO DO

THEIR BEST IN A MULTITUDE OF PROFESSIONS AND CALLINGS.

HE TEACHES THEM HOW TO GO THAT EXTRA FEW YARDS IN ANY TASK

OR CHALLENGE THEY FACE.

WOODY, MY ESTEEM AND GOOD WISHES ARE WITH YOU ON
THIS SPECIAL OCCASION AND ALWAYS. MAY YOU HAVE A
MEMORABLE EVENING TONIGHT AND MANY, MANY MORE GREAT SEASONS
--- WITH JUST AN OCCASIONAL BAD SATURDAY IN ANN ARBOR.
THANK YOU AND GOOD NIGHT.

END OF TEXT