



THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

William C. Martin, *Director of Athletics*

October 21, 2009

Mary Sue Coleman
Office of the President
2074 Fleming 1340

Dear Mary Sue,

I plan to retire from the University on September 4, 2010. We've discussed my retirement for a couple of years now, and I agreed to stay on to make sure the stadium project would be finished as planned. I look forward to September 4th as we celebrate the rededication of Michigan Stadium.

In the last few months I have had the chance to make significant progress on other issues that needed to be set on a firm foundation as well, including plans for the basketball practice facility, so I think it is now time to plan for the future. This gives us enough of a timeline to ensure the Athletic Department has a smooth transition.

When President Bollinger asked me to stay on beyond my tenure as interim athletic director, I made a commitment to remain in the role for 3 years. But with your support, the support of the Regents and a remarkable team in the Athletic Department, that original commitment has stretched into more than a decade. I want to thank you, and Lee, and all the Regents with whom I have worked for the vision and leadership which enables Michigan Athletics to accomplish so much.

Being the Michigan AD is not just a job, it's a way of life and one I have embraced full force. It's fair to say the role also can have its challenges, but our exceptional coaches, students, support staff, and administrators have made my job enjoyable every day. Most importantly, we have accomplished the goals I outlined when I first arrived: building a great team of coaches and staff, focusing on the academic progress of our student-athletes, establishing financial stability for the department, and rebuilding the athletic campus.

It is a privilege and an honor to serve as athletic director, and to be part of your leadership team. You have my pledge that I'll work with you to ensure an orderly transition next year. In the meantime, we still have a lot of work to do so the ship is ready to hand over when you complete your search for the next AD.

Best,

Bill