

12-18-2006 Gerald R. Ford Award

1 (File: 20061218mwm Gerald Ford award)

2 JOSH CENTOR: Good morning. And welcome to "Mondays
3 With Myles".

4 We're gearing up for the annual NCAA Convention, where
5 Dr. Brand will deliver his annual State of the Association
6 address. We'll talk about that in a couple of weeks.

7 But first, I want to talk about some of the exciting
8 things we have planned for Orlando, Dr. Brand.

9 DR. MYLES BRAND: One of the things we don't do enough
10 sometimes is honor those who have had great accomplishments,
11 take a moment out and celebrate those wonderful people,
12 whether for the year or -- and sometimes lifetime awards.

13 One good example is the Gerald R. Ford Award which we
14 started giving a few years ago for lifetime achievement in
15 intercollegiate athletics. And this year, the award winner
16 will be Christine Grant from the University of Iowa, who has
17 been very influential for a very long time. She's retired now
18 in women's sports. In fact, she was there, helped see through
19 Title IX acceptance, and all these years has been just a
20 stalwart and a great advocate for women's sports. And we're
21 going to get a chance to recognize her great, great
22 accomplishments over the years.

23 JOSH CENTOR: That's really exciting because she gets
24 to be honored. More importantly, we get to see her honored.
25 All three divisions are taking part in this convention.

1 DR. MYLES BRAND: Absolutely right. And we do it at
2 the time that I give my State of the Association address.

3 Last year, we honored John Wooden, for example, as
4 well as Birch Bayh, who initiated Title IX. And so it's an
5 opportunity, I think, to take those sterling individuals and
6 really put them up on the platform that they deserve.

7 JOSH CENTOR: Christine Grant is one of the few who
8 will be honored at the convention, including NFL -- former NFL
9 Commissioner Paul Tagliabue.

10 DR. MYLES BRAND: Yes. We're going to honor
11 Commissioner Paul Tagliabue. And we're going to give him what
12 we call the Teddy, the Theodore Roosevelt Honoree Award which
13 is one of the highest awards we can give in the NCAA.

14 We'll award what we call the Top Eight. We'll have a
15 silver anniversary returning group. We'll offer a valor
16 award, as well as an inspirational honoree.

17 And it's again very important for us to celebrate the
18 accomplishments of these individuals. I think sometimes in
19 our culture and our society, we don't stop enough to celebrate
20 and to give homage and honor to those who have really done
21 very well.

22 JOSH CENTOR: I think you're right. And one of the
23 things -- I had an opportunity to go a few conventions, and I
24 really love hearing the stories from some of our Top Eight and
25 our Inspiration Award winners. They're just remarkable

1 student athletes and former student athletes, and we get to
2 learn just little vignettes from their lives. And I think
3 it's really quite special.

4 DR. MYLES BRAND: Oh, I agree very much. And they can
5 be great athletes in college. And what's happened to them
6 over the last 25 years? What have they done with their lives?
7 And they have great stories to tell. I couldn't agree with
8 you more. And we have to stop again and acknowledge and
9 recognize them.

10 JOSH CENTOR: Talk a little bit about something that's
11 been going on for the past few years is career connections.
12 The NCAA has a job fair. And it's really blossomed into a
13 wonderful event at the convention.

14 DR. MYLES BRAND: This isn't something new. We've
15 been doing it for the last several years, and it's been very
16 popular. A lot of people like to come to work in college
17 sports. It's a terrific place to work, as I hope you would
18 agree.

19 JOSH CENTOR: I do.

20 DR. MYLES BRAND: Good. And many people ask, Well,
21 how can I break in? I'm about to graduate from college. I
22 have a degree in management or in some other relevant area.
23 How do I break in?

24 Well, one way is to go where the jobs are being
25 offered, and it's the NCAA Job Fair. And we're seeing more

1 and more employers, as well as potential employees there. So
2 it's been popular and been very successful.

3 JOSH CENTOR: I think, also, you have folks from the
4 membership coming -- maybe even if they don't have a job to
5 offer, they come to meet some of the folks that, you know,
6 might be available for jobs down the road.

7 DR. MYLES BRAND: That's right. There's a lot of
8 networking that goes on. And frankly, there are more people
9 who want jobs in this area than there are jobs. So networking
10 becomes very important.

11 Obviously, the schools, our members, are there. But
12 sometimes, people who put on games in the business world, who
13 are engaged in college sports, are also on-site and
14 interviewing or at least beginning to talk to people who,
15 later on, there are some opportunities. We have internships
16 that are available there as well.

17 JOSH CENTOR: Last year was the kickoff of our
18 Centennial celebration. What are we doing to mark the
19 transition?

20 DR. MYLES BRAND: We're going to continue to work on
21 our goals. We're going to continue to see how far we've gone,
22 count our successes. I think it's important that we say we
23 had a very successful 100 year anniversary, 25 years of
24 women's sports. That was a great confluence of dates.

25 And now we need to move on to the next century, and

1 that's what we're going to do. We're going to look ahead.

2 JOSH CENTOR: All right. Well, convention is coming
3 up. There are a lot of great events, as you've now heard,
4 surrounding the event.

5 And we will touch base from the convention, where we
6 will discuss Dr. Brand's State of the Association address in a
7 few weeks.

8 Have a great holidays.

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