

5-12-2008 DIII National Championships Festival

1 (File: 20080512mwm)

2 JOSH CENTOR: Well, it's finally time, Dr. Brand. I
3 am ecstatic, excited -- I can't think of any other
4 enthusiastic words. But I'm pumped because the Division II
5 Festival is here. This is one of my favorite events. I think
6 it rivals anything that we've got.

7 Tell me your impressions of the Division II National
8 Championships Festival.

9 DR. MYLES BRAND: You know, I couldn't agree with you
10 more, Josh. I am as excited as you possibly can be, and I am
11 too. I think this is just a great event. It's lots of
12 student-athletes, sort of Olympic-style, if you like -- many
13 sports, many schools. What a great event.

14 Houston is a terrific place to hold the event. I
15 think it's terrific for the student-athletes, great for the
16 schools. And I look forward to these events each year.

17 JOSH CENTOR: This is the third one. We had a fall
18 festival last fall in Pensacola. Why is this important for
19 Division II? And I'll note, a division that has really
20 concentrated on establishing its identity.

21 DR. MYLES BRAND: It's a signature athletic event.
22 It's the only division that can do this and has been able to
23 do it, bringing together multiple sports championships in one
24 place so the student-athletes can interact, to change the
25 environment in a very favorable way for the fans and for the

1 athletes and for the schools and their officials and the
2 traveling parties. It's an opportunity, I think, for Division
3 II to strut its stuff, and it does it really well.

4 JOSH CENTOR: It definitely does do it very well. And
5 what was the rationale a few years ago, as Mike Racy,
6 yourself, and others in Division II, were starting to have
7 discussions about this type of an event?

8 DR. MYLES BRAND: It was just what we were talking
9 about -- namely to have a signature event that's special for
10 Division II. Championships are great fun for the
11 student-athletes and for the fans. But how can we make it
12 even better in Division II? What is special about Division
13 II?

14 And we hit upon this idea of having championships
15 together. We've had them for the fall and the spring. Soon,
16 we're going to have one for the winter. These are just great
17 opportunities for those student-athletes.

18 Now, you won't have the spring one every year. We'll
19 vary them. But every couple of years, a team or individuals
20 will get a chance to participate, almost like the Olympics, in
21 such a festival. And that's great. It shows that Division II
22 really cares about its student-athletes.

23 JOSH CENTOR: For those of our listeners who don't
24 know that much about the event, first of all, I want to let
25 everyone know that I will be traveling to Houston in the

1 morning, and you can follow all of the festivities and
2 competition on The DoubleAZone throughout the week.

3 We will see national championships decided in men's
4 and women's golf, men's and women's tennis, women's lacrosse
5 and softball while we're in Houston.

6 And, Dr. Brand, the exciting part of this, you said it
7 yourself, the Olympic-style event. This is all in Memorial
8 Park in Houston -- five-minute walk from golf to softball to
9 lacrosse, everything, all on one site.

10 DR. MYLES BRAND: That's what I like about it. I
11 remember the last time this event took place. I was watching
12 great softball, and then I went over and I watched women's
13 lacrosse. It was terrific. Oh, by the way, I also caught the
14 track meet.

15 JOSH CENTOR: It was right there.

16 DR. MYLES BRAND: And so you saw many things at once.
17 For the fans, it was truly outstanding. And the
18 student-athletes would go from event to event that they
19 weren't participating in. So the tennis players would go over
20 and watch a different event, which was terrific. So they got
21 a chance to be both participants and fans, and that doesn't
22 happen anywhere else.

23 JOSH CENTOR: We've got almost 400,000
24 student-athletes in the NCAA. And everybody wants to win a
25 national championship. That's a really special thing. But at

1 this festival, it's so much about the experience. They have
2 nightly events for the student-athletes to mix and mingle, to
3 meet one another, as you just said; to see themselves compete,
4 but also to socialize after. It's about the entire experience
5 for the student-athletes, isn't it?

6 DR. MYLES BRAND: Absolutely. And that's a really
7 good point. You know, participating in a championship is a
8 lifetime of memories. You want to make sure that that
9 participation is complemented by some social activities, a
10 really good sense of feeling good that you're participating,
11 you're working with your fellow athletes in terms of an
12 environment in which what you're doing is watched by many. We
13 get good TV coverage as a result of this. And it makes it for
14 an event that's really memorable. So I think it's terrific
15 for the student-athlete experience. And frankly, it's fun for
16 the fans to go to the evening events and so on too.

17 JOSH CENTOR: It's a lot of fun. And I'm really
18 excited to leave for Houston in the morning. And I will see
19 you do down there.

20 DR. MYLES BRAND: Look forward to it, Josh.

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