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Warren Reynolds Lifetime Achievement Award Speech, delivered on September 6, 2001

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Warren Reynolds Lifetime Achievement Award

September 6, 2001

I accept the Warren Reynolds Award not so much for what I have done, but rather for being associated with the high ethical standards Warren represented in his profession, in his approach to athletics at all levels, and in his personal life. He was and remains through this award and his friends and family, a positive influence in our community. There is a proverb, “True praise takes root and spreads.” Praise of Warren has taken root and spread.

For me, being inducted into the Grand Rapids Sports Hall of Fame by virtue of the Warren Reynolds Lifetime Achievement Award is especially meaningful since I am the first to follow the initial recipient, Warren himself. I will cherish for the rest of my life this relationship to Warren as I cherished his friendship. I will always be grateful to the Directors of the Sports Hall of Fame for giving me this privilege.

I am the first person, I believe, without athletic ability or a profession devoted specifically to sports to be honored. But my love of sports, the value I see in athletic participation and programs, led me to support that participation and those programs at a new state University, making Grand Valley, I believe, a model for what university athletics should be. I carried my views to the NCAA Presidents Council and Executive Committee when
it was my privilege to serve on those two bodies. Yes, athletics are important in my life, and I am proud of the way women’s and men’s sports are supported and played in our west Michigan community. Thank you for recognizing my contributions and placing me in a Hall of Famous sports achievers whom I admire.