

MEMORANDUM

September 12, 2010

Dear members of the university community:

I want to thank all those who helped to make our gathering at FIU Stadium a success on Saturday night September 11, 2010. It was a world's ahead event!

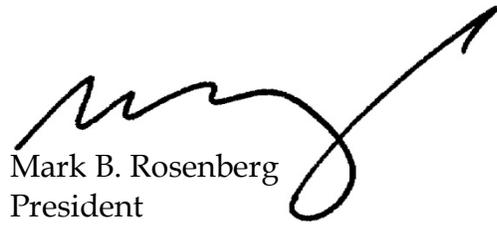
In recognition of the tragic events of 9-11-2001, we honored first responders in our community by welcoming them to our FIU-Rutgers football game. The National Anthem was played by our new marching band, as a football field-size American flag was unfurled by first responder volunteers to commemorate the ninth anniversary of that sad day. (See the attached photo by alum Alfie Mesa.) Helicopters from first responder agencies throughout Miami Dade County saluted their fallen 9-11 comrades with a stadium fly over. This was followed by a first-ever ceremony at FIU: new recruits for the US Army were sworn in.

Although our football team fell to Rutgers, 19-14, a record crowd of students, community supporters, families and first responders attended the event. What an evening! Our team played well and gave Rutgers everything it could handle. This game also marked the debut of our new marching band led by director Barry Bernhardt! The band led us in remembrance and celebration, with a rousing halftime performance, culminating in a marching F-I-U formation to exit the field.

An energized Tailgate Village vibrated with Panther spirit. It featured the work of many amateur chefs – including some of the tastiest Southern-style grilled corn on the cob that has ever been prepared! During the game, you, our fans showed an enthusiasm and pride in FIU and contributed to a splendid game-day experience through your cheering (and some perhaps justified jeering at the officiating crew). New traditions were started – we certainly would have preferred to fire the cannon more times in celebration of additional scoring, but the solidarity of the team with the students, our new marching band, and the audience, was indicative of a very special night. If our FIU is to be emotionally exciting, this university event must provide value and fun for all.

So I would like to express special appreciation to our faculty and staff for their work and dedication to FIU. I saw so many of you and your families and friends there decked out in blue and gold last night. A special thank you goes to our alumni, and business services staffs as well.

A packed stadium full of enthusiastic fans who sweat blue and gold is absolutely the way to start a new season! Let's keep it up: Our next home game is October 9th against Western Kentucky. I look forward to seeing you there.


Mark B. Rosenberg
President

