



Athletics Compliance Meeting

**Given by Mark B. Rosenberg
on September 14, 2010**



This speech was presented to attendees of the Athletics SunBelt Compliance Meeting on September 14, 2010.

Good morning! It's the start of a new semester and a new year. A new year brings renewal, brings hope. The privilege for me to be your president is to lead this great institution.

Our university is different from most institutions. We are dedicated to the life of the mind. We are dedicated to human performance. Athletics has a special place in the U.S. university, which is unique among universities globally.

Your mission statement is very clear: You have high standards of scholarship. You have high standards of sportsmanship. You have high standards of personal conduct. All within the highest levels of competition.

Your franchise is an institutional franchise – it derives from the legal authority given to our Board, and from the legal and moral authority given to me to represent the board and all members of the university community. I will never do anything to embarrass you and expect that you will never do anything to embarrass our institution.

On another note, I spent time in the Recreation Center. This center gives me many conflicting emotions. Since last Spring, every time I look at the entry way, I think of the Biblical saying, "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons of God (Mathew 5:9)."

The truth is when Jesus delivered this famous statement, he was speaking Hebrew. In Hebrew-peace is Shalom. Shalom also means to bring healing and wholeness, to lives, to people to the world. So when I hear blessed are the peacemakers, I hear blessed are those that bring healing and wholeness to a difficult world.

The sportsmanship conversation then is not just about managing your competitiveness and will to win, and doing it the right way, it is about the larger challenges that life brings – most of which have as much to do with healing and wholeness.

You as the leaders and managers of young people who put their trust and belief in you have an obligation to understand that wholeness demands that each of us have a little peacemaker in us. WE just needed one peacemaker last Spring. At this time of renewal, the new academic year, let's make sure that we remember this.