

UD VICE-PRESIDENT/DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS TED KISSELL'S REMARKS AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE  
ANNOUNCING HIS RETIREMENT

Thanks Dan and thank you to everyone here for attending. Let me begin by saying that there is not a single professional reason for me to step down - - - I love my job and have the same focus and enthusiasm I had 16 years ago. So it's not at all about what I'm doing, but about all the important things that there has been too little time for.

I've been very fortunate. The University of Dayton is a special place and has provided me with the opportunity to grow personally and professionally. I've done my best to be a good steward of the values and traditions of the institution and athletics.

The competitive success, the facilities, our academic performance are all matters of record and not something that I choose to talk about today. Instead I would like to take the opportunity to reflect on what has made my time at UD meaningful. But first I want to say thank you . . . to our coaches, staff, and student-athletes for representing the University of Dayton in a manner in which we all take great pride.

It's been a pleasure to work with Dan Curran. As busy as his schedule is, you can often find him at a soccer game or a volleyball match in jeans and a red UD shirt. That means a lot, Dan. My former boss Brother Ray Fitz has a special place in my heart. It was not easy at the start; it never is if your task is to change a culture. I was an outsider; a guy who didn't understand the UD way. Brother Ray never wavered. He is tough in the right way . . . a toughness based on principle and bedrock values.

I owe a lot to my former boss at Arizona, Cedric Dempsey. Ced hired me into athletics administration, mentored me, and was an exemplary role model. Dr Dempsey would go on to become the Executive Director of the NCAA, so I learned from the very best in the business.

I've greatly enjoyed my work as a vice president with my colleagues on the campus. It's very unusual for an Athletics Director to be a contributor to University-wide issues and strategy. It's one of the main reasons that I never looked to leave UD.

We have great people; I can't mention them all. Those who were here when I arrived like Margaret Gantt, Ken Keck, Gary McCans, Doug Hauschild, Joe Owens care deeply about UD and are perfectly comfortable out of the lime light. In selfless service they reflect the values of the institution every day. Our management team is comprised of people that I hired, solid professionals. With Tim O'Connell running the arena and Tim Wabler overseeing the sports programs, it was no longer necessary for me to be as involved in the day-to-day operation of the division.

This afforded me the time to work closely with our younger professionals, both coaches and staff. UD is not going to outbid Ohio State. To have a chance, we needed to identify talented young people - - - young people with good values; team players who are fiercely competitive - - - and coach them up. Give them leadership opportunities early on to spike the development curve. That's been the best part of my

job. I guess I'm still a coach at heart. Long talks with a Brian Gregory or a Jim Jabir . . . most often not about basketball, but about the dynamics of the profession or perhaps the challenge of creating some balance in our lives, I'm going to miss that. But we're in good shape. Can you imagine a better mentor for young coaches than Mike Kelly?

Many of those "young" professionals have gone on to outstanding careers. And now, as the years have passed, those "young professionals" who are still here like Dave Harper and James Brothers, have earned senior positions in the organization. Now they themselves are mentors. I hope they will continue to pay it forward.

There are two people that I have worked most closely with. My executive assistant Debbie Seaman has made my professional life easy. Thanks, Debbie.

The Athletics Division is in good hands. Tim Wabler knows this business inside-out. He has worked in every facet of the organization. As I've said on many occasions, I view him as a partner. Good luck, Tim.

I'm not someone who "leaves it at the office." My wife Deanna has been through every single crisis with me. When we hired Oliver Purnell, she worked the phones and arranged interviews while I visited with coaches. She is the best assistant athletics director in the country. She and I are looking forward to our next adventure.

Two things make UD very different. One is our great fans. The Flyer Faithful have been the economic engine that has fueled our across-the-board success. Thank you all. The second is the Marianist spirit. The vowed religious that without any fanfare have created a culture and a great university that never forgets to put people first. It's been an honor and a privilege to be associated with UD and to have had the chance to make a contribution, to be another link in a long and strong chain. Thank you. I've had a blast!