COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS
"WOODY" HAYES
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Graduates, Mr. President, faculty members, friends and families of the graduates who have done so much of sacrifice, so much to make this possible.

Today is the greatest day of my life.

And, Mr. President, you have certainly helped to make it that way. I appreciate it so much to get to come here and get to talk to a graduating class at the Ohio State University, the great, great university that you and I have. And if I don't do a good job today it'll be because I clutched and you don't very often do that in a contest. But I am so grateful and so appreciative to be here today I can't tell you how much.

I would like to start out with something I have used with almost every speech and that is, paying forward, paying forward. And that is the thing that you folks with your great education from here can do for the rest of your life.

I was so happy the other day when I saw in the paper about Jim Lachey who played here a year ago and comes back after one year of professional football to give a gift to the university in six figures, in six figures. And what he said was, "I received a great education here and I got to play great football under Coach Bruce and under a great football system here," and he said, "I want to help some other youngster to do the same thing." If you take that attitude toward life, that you're going to pay forward, because so seldom can we pay back because those, your parents and

those people will be gone, but you do want to pay. Emerson had something to say about that. He said," You can pay back only seldom." But he said, "You can always pay forward and you must pay line for line, deed for deed, and cent for cent." He said, "Beware of too much good accumulating in your palm or it will fast corrupt." That was Emerson's attitude and no one put it better than he did.

And I might mention a couple of people, Jim Lachey is one, who are already paying forward. Two weeks ago in Michigan a former football player of ours from New Philadelphia passed away in his 60s. He had been in the Marine Corps during the war and on Okinawa there were only 30 from his outfit that survived. And actually that made a difference on him. Because he came back to coaching--he was a great coach--his name was Jack Castignola. He sent his son here as one of our quarterbacks. An Jack Castignola won nine championship undefeated seasons. But he did something bigger. Of the hundreds he had on his squads of football players, 126 went on to college. 126 players went on to college and that was his way of paying forward.

We had a great dean of agriculture here by the name of Roy Kottmann, who retired a couple of years ago. And at his retirement, he and I were having lunch one day in the Faculty Club and I said, "Roy, how did you happen to go to Iowa State?" "Oh," he said, "I was working back in the depression for $1.50 a day pumping gas and I couldn't save any money." But he said an old man in that community in Iowa came to him and said, "Roy, if you will go to Iowa State, I'll pay your tuition." So he said,

"I went to Iowa State, worked for my room and board and graduated, went into service, came back, got my masters and my doctors, went to West Virginia as dean of their ag college," and then he said he came to Ohio State. And he was here 23 years. In those 23 years he virtually doubled food production in Ohio. On top of that he graduated thousands of youngsters. On top of that he helped to feed hungry mouths all over the world. All because that old man back in Iowa said, "Roy, if you'll go to Iowa State, I'll pay your tuition." That's paying forward.

You know, I might give you a little advice today. I'll try not to give too much, just a little bit. One thing you cannot afford to ever do--that's to feel sorry for yourself. You can't do it. You cannot feel sorry for yourself because that's what leads to drugs, what leads to alcohol, to those things that tear you apart. And in football we always said that, "Hell, that other team can't beat us. We have to be sure that we don't beat ourselves." And that's what a person has to do, too--make sure they don't beat themselves. And it takes an awful big man to beat you.

So many times you have found here at the university (I've found it all the way through college and everything else), I've found people smarter than I was. I found them in football bigger, that could run faster, could block harder. They were smarter people than I. But you know what they couldn't do? They couldn't out-work me. They couldn't out-work me. And I ran into coaches I coached against who had a much better background than I did, knew a lot more football than I did, but they couldn't work

as long as I could. They couldn't stick in there as long as I could. Because my health was good. I was given good health. I had a wonderful wife who would put up with that. She allowed me to stay and work.

And I had a great, great association with my coaches. There was no one who ever had better people than I did. Or better football players and we out-worked them. The only way we would get beat was if we got a little fatheaded, if we didn't train right, if we had dissention on the squad, if we didn't recognize our purpose in life. Those are the people you win with.

Now, Mr. Barthalow, excuse me for ending that sentence with a preposition.

Mr. Barthalow, in junior high, was my history and English teacher. Guess what I majored in when I went to college. History and English. He was the best teacher I ever had and I am so honored to have him here today. And to have my sister and my wife and those people here just the same as you're happy to have your parents here today who have meant so much to you because a family life is unbelievable. It's unbelievable.

Last summer I was up at Worthington Steel at a big party and they got me a chair and they set me down and here eleven of our former football players lined up there and I took a look at all of them. And do you know what they all had in common? They had all been married <u>once</u>. Once. And they all had children by that wife. And do you know where most of those wives came from? Right here at this great university. Right here. But that is so important. You will find men who are successful. Get married

and stay married to that lady. I worry about people getting married later. And I talk to girls and they say, "Well, I don't think I want to have children." You know what I say to them? "How did you get here?" But that family is so enormously important.

I'm going to tell a story I shouldn't tell. But I'm going to tell it about the greatest graduate in your university right now. Right now. About a Rhodes Scholar winner, Mike Lanese. I asked his mother over a week ago, I said, "When did you realize this young man was going to be outstanding?" She said, "When I was carrying him." And she said, "When I would tell people that when I was carrying him, they would laugh." They don't laugh now. They don't laugh now. I talked to his dad. I said, "When did you know he was going to be a great athlete?" He said, "Well, by the time he was in the seventh grade he was coming along physically. You could tell he was going to be a good one. But," he said, "I found out something else when he was in the seventh grade." He said, "I found out he was listening to his coaching instruction and the instruction we gave him." There's your good family. As I say, with good people, and this goes all the way back to my grandmother and all the way down the line, she didn't tell my dad, "Now you go to the study table." No, no. She said, "I'll meet you at the study table." And that's where your good parents and your good teachers are. Hell, they're talking now about all of this tutoring you need for athletes. We were doing that 35 years ago. Sure, because I didn't send those football players to the study table. I met them at the study

table. And I could tutor history as well as anybody, thanks to that man up there. Yeh. But I could.

But when you deal with youngsters, when you get into jobs of any kind, don't send people to do it. Meet them there and help them do it. And you'll be amazed how it works. Yeh.

And the other thing I mentioned. You can out-work anybody. Try it and you'll find out you can do it.

You know, in football we do learn some wonderful, wonderful things. And one of them is this. When you get knocked down, which is plenty often, you get right up in a hurry, just as quickly as you can. Then, number two, do you know what to do? You probably need more strength. Do you know where you get it? You get it in the huddle. You get it by going back and getting a new play and running that same play together. That "together" is the thing that gives you the buildup to get ready to go again.

And in your lifetimes how well you can work with people will depend on how quickly you get back to 'em and get together.

And number three in football, you'll find out, there's nothing that comes easy that's worth a dime. There'e nothing that comes easy that's worth a dime. As a matter of fact, I never saw a football player make a tackle with a smile on his face. Never.

All right, there's one more thing I want to get into and then I will let you get graduated. I know you want to do that. That's what you came to college for. That's what you parents sent you to college for--Oh, excuse me, Mr. Barthalow, again, for that dangling preposition.

But we've had a great, great heritage. And so many times we've been so lucky you can't believe it. The odds against us were unbelievable. The battle of Salamis five hundred years before the birth of Christ back in Greece in which the Persians were there to conquer Greece and burned Athens down. The old men and old women and the children were over on the beachhead at Salamis. And the Persians came in to whip them. But the Greeks had been getting ready for ten years. They had discovered silver on Mt. Laurium. And they had taken that silver to help them make good ships small, ships that could move. And they coaxed, they mousetrapped those Persians into the Bay of Salamis. And then they attacked them with their metal prows on their ships. They busted into 'em. Th Persians couldn't get out of the way. They were too awkward in their big troop-carrying ships and in one day, they sank the Persian fleet and drove them out of the gulf and all the way back to Persia. They drove them back.

And then the Greeks got busy. And you know what they did? They went over and rebuilt their city and decided they needed a new type of government. They even had a name for it. De-mo-cra-tos. Did you ever hear of dem-mo-cra-tos? People rule. People rule. That was the beginning of democracy. Right there on the Bay of Salamis is where we got this great thing we have today.

To give you an appreciation of this de-mo-cra-tus here, a few years ago the mayor of Stuttgart, Germany was here and I interviewed him on television down here. He was the son of the great general during the war—Rommel. And I said to him. I