

**Dr. Ramsey remarks for Cardinal Caravan
Captain's Quarters
June 7, 2006
6 p.m.**

Thanks for coming out today to support Cardinal athletics. I know you're really here to see our coaches, but I hope you'll allow me to brag for just a minute about the academic side of our institution.

The University of Louisville is a university on the move. That's true when it comes to athletics -- and it's true when it comes to academics.

We are rapidly becoming just as competitive in the academic arena as we are on the football field and the basketball court.

In 1999, the year we launched our Challenge for Excellence strategic plan to become one of the nation's pre-eminent metropolitan research and teaching universities, the average ACT score of our incoming freshmen was 21.5. Last year, it was 23.9. I'm told it will be even higher this fall.

For the first time, our average gpa for incoming freshmen will be over 3.5.

Our students' retention and graduation rates continue to improve, and far more of them are receiving top national and international scholarships.

This spring, two of our students were named Goldwater Scholars, the top undergraduate award of its kind in mathematics, natural sciences and engineering. Another U of L student just received a Fulbright award to work and study in Malaysia, and nine others earned top awards allowing them to study in places such as China, Turkey and Japan.

We also have the fastest growing research program of all Division I schools. Over the past six years, the volume of our federally funded research has increased more than fourfold.

Last year, we obtained a \$22 million National Institutes Health grant in a competitive process for a regional biosafety lab, the largest federal

grant in the university's history. We also beat out other universities across the nation for multimillion-dollar program project grants to tackle heart diseases -- the No. 1 killer in Kentucky and the nation.

Our commitment to research is starting to pay off in a big way. This week, the FDA is expected to approve a new vaccine for cervical cancer. Two of our scientists did most of the research leading to that vaccine.

Other U of L scientists are coming up with new and promising treatments for some of the hardest-hitting diseases and disorders, including cancer, paralysis and autism.

I promised I would only take a moment, so let me stop here and say "thank you" to all of you for coming and for continuing to support not only our outstanding sports program, but also our outstanding university.

Go Cards!

