

KIRKBRIDE, BOESEL, FREASE & COLE

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

NINTH FLOOR SPITZER BLDG.

TOLEDO, OHIO

WALTER G. KIRKBRIDE  
MILTON C. BOESEL  
AUSTIN M. FREASE  
CHARLES J. COLE

BERT P. HEBENSTREIT  
NORMAN SOUTAR

October 11, 1934.

Board in Control of Athletics,  
University of Michigan,  
Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Gentlemen:

A Toledo newspaper carried an item today to the effect that the Ministerial Association of Ann Arbor, had, by resolution, suggested that in complying with Georgia Tech's request to keep Willis Ward from participating in the Georgia Tech football game would be "contrary to the finer principles of religion and democracy."

Briefly, I am not attempting to suggest any definite action to either your Board or to Harry Kipke, but as a Michigan alumnus I deemed it my privilege to comment upon such asinine and unnecessary interference in a matter which is none of their business.

I fail to see where any religious or democratic principles are involved in the real issue with which you are confronted.

To Georgia Tech, it is a racial question, but in making such a request they acted in a very frank and honest manner, in fact, in respect to Ward himself. I would much prefer to see Ward on the side lines than carried from the field.

I have too much respect for Willis Ward, as an individual and as an athlete to ask him to submit to any possible abuse which he might receive. Permitting him to play in the Georgia Tech game I feel would not only endanger his personal well-being, but the success of our entire football season.

But disregarding whatever material success we might achieve in protecting Ward for the rest of the season, it appears to me as though the "finer religious principles" would be observed in not asking or permitting Willis Ward to play in the Georgia Tech football game.

October 11, 1934.

Board in Control of Athletics -2-

As a Michigan alumnus, I am naturally proud of its achievements, and I glory in its victories, yet when it comes to the point that any group would rather endanger the health and well-being of any individual, to achieve victory or to support a principle which should be immaterial so far as a Michigan football team in the 1934 season is concerned, and which will undoubtedly still remain long after our ministerial friends have gone to their 'just reward' I would much prefer to have our team lose every game in which they play.

I trust that the unwarranted interference of the Ministerial Association will have no influence or effect upon whatever action your Board or Harry Kipke take in this matter.

Very truly yours,

*Chas. J. Cole*  
23-26L

CJC:MB