

I would like to offer some comments and observations about the recently disclosed Strategic Plan put forth by the Department of Athletics and Physical Education.

First, why my interest? I was a Cornell Fencer from 1952-56 and earned both a major and a minor "C". For the past 35 years, I have been an avid recreational squash player. I believe therefore that I have an appreciation for the role of both competitive and recreational athletics. I also believe that the Cornell program is very broad and generally excellent.

I would like to suggest that a Plan must have at least three components:

- 1) A report on the current status or situation.
- 2) A set of goals and objectives designed to improve the status quo.
- 3) A Set of steps with which one would achieve those goals
- 4) A discussion of resources necessary to accomplish the above if appropriate.

This document and the oral presentation last Wednesday do a good job with the first. There are some goals and objectives -- more about that later. And there are statements that there are more resources needed but they are not specific. What is missing is any sort of description as to how the Department would get to the objectives, i.e. Improve our Ivy win record.

I also believe that the major emphasis is wrong. I think that the focus should be more on Intramural and recreational sports. These are the things that affect more students, faculty and staff. I am not suggesting that we shouldn't try to win more Ivy contests but I believe that there is greater gain for more people in other areas. The notion that a few more Ivy wins will create a better climate for individual Alumni giving bothers me. I would suggest that if more students were involved in the experience and left Cornell feeling that they were not nickled and dimed to death while they were here, they might be more inclined to be loyal alumni. I am wondering if the students of today will have the same attitude about their undergraduate experience as those of 20-40 years ago. The days of Ra Ra Cornell football may be gone forever.