

What:           Dedication of Sports Heritage Museum

Good afternoon. It is with great pleasure that I participate in this dedication of the George W. Mathews Jr. Sports Heritage Museum. It is entirely appropriate that Georgia Tech possess such a facility as our sports tradition is both a proud and winning one.

Also appropriate is that it be named after George Mathews, a scholar-athlete who excelled in academics as well as the football field—and who—through the years following his graduation has continued to serve his alma mater.

As we dedicate this new Center, I would like to read to you the words that will appear on the plaque honoring George Mathews Jr.

The plaque states:

George W. Mathews Jr. graduated from Georgia Tech in 1948 with a degree in industrial management, then received his MBA from Harvard Business School in 1950. As executive vice president of Columbus Iron Works, Mathews gained insight into the iron foundry industry and purchased that company in 1971. By 1984, he and his management team had transformed this single foundry in Columbus, Georgia into Intermet Corporation, the largest independent foundry company in North America. Today, Intermet is a leading manufacturer of castings for a variety of industries, including more than 20 automobile manufacturers worldwide.

Mathews' athletic background taught him the necessity of



teamwork and commitment. He was a member of William Alexander's last Tech team that won the 1994 SEC title and faced Tulsa in the Orange Bowl. Then Backfield Coach Bobby Dodd placed him as the starting wingback that season. Then, as Alternate Captain in 1946, Dodd's second year as head coach, Mathews helped Tech to a 9-2 record including a season-ending win over St. Mary's in the Oil Bowl. Again, in 1947 as a running back, Mathews helped the team to a 10-1 record, culminating in a victory over Kansas in the Orange Bowl. Coach Dodd spoke often of this team and characterized it as one of Tech's very best during his 22 years as head coach.

Mathews takes great pride in his Tech degree. Quality academics and the learning opportunities afforded by campus life, together with athletic experiences have shaped George Mathews' character and integrity and played a significant role in his success.