
I found the book *Illinois football guide 89* in the Student Life and Culture Archives Research Center very interesting, so I would like to write an analysis essay about it. I picked this book because U of I’s famous name as a “Big Ten” school for a long time and my personal interest in school’s football history.

This book was published in 1989, for the purpose of attracting more potential students to apply, bringing the currents students a sense of honor about the school’s sport team and arousing their willingness and enthusiasm to join the game. The book was collected in spiral, and the cover is paintings of several football players with different postures like throwing the ball, defending and passing the ball in very intense ways while playing football. There is also a badge of Chief Illiniwek which represents the Illini tradition of traditional dance before the match.

There are 134 pages in the book, consisting of pictures during matches, images of schools, articles introducing school’s athletic teams, accomplishments, university presidents and even previous retired members.

The first part is not just about sports. The guide tried to give a comprehensive and inclusive image of the school in all aspects. It contains the introduction of school, the president, the student life on campus, academic and athletic side. The second part of the book specifies different positions in the game. Different paragraphs are listed for each position—the offense (said to be led by junior post-season honors candidates), the running backs, the receivers. Then
the guide book shifted to talk about their rich tradition. The articles introduce the Chief Illiniwek, his history, the history of Memorial Stadium. The article introduced that the tradition of Chief Illiniwek started in 1926 when a student performed a series of Indian dancing before the match. It became a tradition as this performance was well approved and liked, and till 1989, there had been 27 chiefs. The author attached a small list of the chief Illiniwek, which support the saying that U of I has a long tradition of football games. (Brown, 6)

The thesis of the first part is not stated, but I believe the school was trying to give an impression that U of I is good at multiple aspects, to give a fundamental base that the school is not just about athletes, but very inclusive and accepting students in all kinds. The first part of the book contains a lot of detail about the entire campus. The purpose for putting this much nonrelative material inside this book is to avoid the people’s misconception that the school only focuses on sports, so the school can attract students who also has good grades and diverse interests.

The first sentence of the book is “since its founding in 1867, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has earned a reputation as an institution of international stature,” (Brown, 2) which gives a support that the school has a long history and a good reputation.

The second paragraph of the first article gives several data, “the University enrolls some 9,000 graduate and professional students in more than 100 disciplines, and attracts ... $184 million a year in... more than $100 million for the National Center for Supercomputing Applications and...” (Brown, 2) which gives a solid evidence that people trust this university so they would love to donate money back to this school. This is a data support of the essay that says the university attracts a great amount of funds due to its reputation, social influence and high quality education. In the fourth paragraph, the author further stated that 30 percent graduate
student decided to stay in school and prepare for academic professional. (Brown, 3) This clearly shows that the school was very attractive in some way that students decide to continue staying in school due to the school’s atmosphere and culture. This shows on the other side that the school attracts academically successful student. This helped to support the claim that the school is not just attractive to athletes but is much focused on academic as well.

The qualifier is the comparison of athletes’ skill and accuracy of their move between each university. There is no clear backing, but as people might have the objection that athlete with good body condition may not be good at skills, there is also a quote from the coach on player, Lovelace that “Curt stepped into the starting center position last season and showed us he belongs there. He was really improved his quickness and technique and is an All-Big 10 candidate,” which rebuttal the possible objection of technique weakness. (Brown, 3)

The warrants for the book are the amount of investment can represent the reputation and alumni’s review about this school and the amount of organizations can represent the diversity of student life. The writer of the book value the school as a good organization that educates diverse groups of students, invests on researches and promotes students’ talents. The better quality of athlete body, the better the entire football team would perform on the game.

Another warrant is that the more chiefs U of I has had, the longer the history of football there is. Compare to the year the school was built (1867) and the year chief Illiniwek started to performance (and that is not even the date football games starts), it would be very obvious that the school has a long tradition of football games. (Brown, 86) The Memorial Stadium also gives support about the long tradition, that “the stadium was dedicated officially October 18, 1924, a day that Illinois not only defeated Michigan 39-14 for a Homecoming victory, but Harold ’Red’ Grange ran for a total of 265 yard and scores four times .”(Brown, 83) This clearly supports the
long history of the game, and it is a victory. The warrant is that the game cross more than half a century is a long tradition. As the people remember more about the older athlete in school, like Harold 'Red' Grange, there might be an objection that the tradition does not represent the current athlete’s quality, the author gives a backing by giving a list of Big-20 members in recent games to show that the wellness of football team is not just the past but the current as well. However, there is no very clear backing in the essay.

Though there is no clear backing or rebuttal in the first part of the book, the entire first part might be a very detailed rebuttal for the rest of the book. As the book introduces how good the school’s athlete team is, there might be objection that the school is only good at sports. The first part gives a rebuttal that they also do well in all other aspects.

The life on campus chapter further gave support which said that “more than 700 student organizations provide an outlet for every interest, from… to …There are more than 40 student organizations for minority interests,” which clearly supports that there is lots of different other activities despite football teams. (Brown, 6)

In the article 1989 prospectus, the author’s purpose is to bring courage to the entire school. He discussed “if the glass is half filled or half empty” to show two sides of opinion about year 1989’s game after comparing the good and bad in the 1988, then he talked about the Head Coach John’s opinion, “one can rest assure that the Illini team will testify that the glass is half-filled.” This gives a very positive opinion towards the game. The main coach’s word could be very powerful and persuasive, which gives support to the entire second part. (Brown, 71)

The qualifier is among the school history, as people compare the present to the past.
To sum up, I believe the book gives current and potential students a god sense that the school’s strength in sport, and more than just sport. The book is trying to advertise the school to attract more students to apply and more current students to join the sports team.
Citation


