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1947 High School Football State Championship Speech

Louis-Philippe Gagné

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LOUIS P. GAGNE

LEWISTON, MAINE

Dec.11,1947--Lewiston Armory

I am certainly proud tonight to be Mayor of a City that has produced a football team with a State championship. I take this occasion, on behalf of all our citizens, to congratulate the Lewiston High School players for their wonderful achievement, and their ~~assistant~~-coach~~es~~, Mr. Nanigian, and his assistant-coaches for their success. The State champions have won fame not only to themselves, but also to their school and their community.

Lewiston is proud of you, young men. You have won through determination and your great spirit of sportsmanship has been most remarkable. You have won victories in spite of a very serious condition of your own field.

Those of you who will stay on the team next year might be more fortunate. Not that they might win more victories, but at least they will have more enjoyment in their games. At this very moment, next to this very building, men of good will, sportsmen in the true sense of the word, are donating their time, their work and the use of their equipment, in all kinds of weather, to make good a promise that has been made to you by the War Memorial Committee.

Yes, Lewiston WILL have ready next fall a football field second to none in New England. The War Memorial Committee will have the best or nothing at all. I am pleased to report that if the present weather condition keeps up, the grading of the entire new football and baseball fields will be over, this week-end. As I said on previous occasions, this is no pipe-dream, but a reality. The same statement applies to the Memorial Arena. Nothing is impossible where there is good-will and cooperation, and, of course, a little money. That's why I appeal to everyone of you, ladies and gentlemen, and you, High School students, to give a little something when the drive gets

(over)

officially underway, in a very few days.

Let us look together to that day, next Fall, when your own team will inaugurate that new gridiron that is being built for you and all future football players.

Until then, good luck to you all and thank you for your splendid cooperation.