



The reasons that a boy, or now girl, chooses to come to CBA can be as interesting and as unique as each individual. I'm sure some of us here tonight were not really given an option but Lou Pascarella, he actually wanted to go to CBA. Even though he attended Delaware School on the other side of town, he told his parents that he wanted to be a Brothers Boy. Why? It wasn't because he read about CBA on billboards on 690 (come to think of it there actually was no 690), he didn't see an advertisement on the internet (the what?). So how did he become obsessed with coming to CBA? A picture he saw in the newspaper (for the younger members of the audience of Tom Racciatti. That photo made him want to play football for the Brothers. So it was, Lou's parents would make the sacrifice of 25 dollar per quarter tuition and Lou and his Dad would make the mile and a half walk to CBA each morning for most of his freshman year.

Lou was always considered a good athlete. And when he didn't play a sport during a season, he wanted to stay involved in some way. Although admittedly not much of a basketball player, he worked s a manager with the team and in fact was even a cheerleader to show his support for the school he grew to love. On the baseball diamond, he was more accomplished. During those years, Lou played the same position as arguably the best high school pitcher in Syracuse history, Regis King. Led by King, the Brothers teams of that time were VERY GOOD winning four consecutive city championships. So although Lou's time on the mound was short, his attitude and work ethic certainly contributed to the teams' success.

Where Lou made his mark was on the football field. Now you have to understand however, that although we all remember the good days of CBA football, there were some years that were not so good... Well, Lou played through a couple of those. In his first two years on the varsity the Brothers were a 500 team... respected by the athletic Community, but struggling to get wins. The 47 team showed great promise and when they returned from their preseason at Lourdes Camp, the 25 member Golden Tornado varsity squad looked to be a title contender. Unfortunately, the opening game was against Aquinas, a powerhouse at the time. So the off they went to Rochester, playing in front of over 13,600 fans at Redwing Stadium. Awesome right?... welllllll, here is an excerpt from the newspaper account of the game "hard hitting Aquinas linemen time and again dumped their opponents too effectively, and at least 10 of the Syracusans left the field=== many under their own power. No serious injuries were reported by CBA." Needless to say that took a lot out of the team, in fact they ended up with a 2 – 5 but that was through no fault of Lou. He was one of the bright



spots on the team. A strong two way performer he was a center and linebacker on a hard luck team that lost by less than a touchdown in three of their five losses. Despite the 4<sup>th</sup> place finish, Lou was chosen as a first team all star, the only CBA player recognized that year. In 1948 however the fortunes of Lou and the other Willow Streeters took a turn for the better. Jack Gannon stepped down as coach and a young innovative CBA Graduate took over the team. Bringing in a Winged T offense, Walt Ludovico came back to his Alma Mater to rejuvenate the program. And Lou was an integral part of his plans. He became the backbone of the team, and his hard work and leadership helped to propel the Brothers to an undefeated 8 – 0 season and their first City League championship in more than a decade. Again the honors were bestowed upon him.... all city for a second consecutive year, All upstate (the precursor to the all state of today) and Lou was even selected to an area all star team that played the Manlius Prep Cadets at Archibold Stadium.

Although his playing days were over, his contribution to the CBA Football program would continue. Coach Ludovico, who was so impressed with Lou’s leadership, work ethic and ability to learn offense. So in 1950 he was asked by his former mentor to come back and help coach. During the seven years that he assisted Coaches Ludovico and Sylvester, he not only helped the program achieve unparalleled success, but turned out to be much more than just a coach to the players, According to Hall of Famer Mike Delucia “Lou was one of the major influences in his life during those years. And many former players, including Benny Alibrandi and John Lischak echo that sentiment. By the way he lived his life, he taught them the importance of honesty and high moral values. He truly helped them to become better people, on and off the field.

Lou Pascarella is a true Brothers Boy and throughout his life he has always done all he could to support the Academy. When he left CBA after the 1957 season, although he was truly missed, the impression he left on the program and especially on his players lived on. Now, by being inducted into the LaSallian Athletic Hall of Fame you can be assured that your legacy will live on....

