



The year was 1973 and although the people of the United States had just elected Richard Nixon to a landslide victory, their confidence in him was waning in light of the unraveling Watergate Scandal. In Eastwood, however, there was no hesitation on the part of the Murphy family as they sent their youngest son Patrick to follow in the footsteps of older brothers Dan and Dave and attend Christian Brothers Academy. Although like many of us, the youngest of the three boys was not enthralled with the idea of going to the all boys school on the east side. However, he understood there to be no choice in the matter and resigned himself to hopping on the Centro Bus each day to take the trip to CBA.

Pat was a gifted athlete who loved all sports. For his first two years he played the staples of the time, football, basketball and baseball. By his junior year he had decided to take the winter off and concentrate on football and baseball. On the gridiron he was a hard nosed lineman who loved to hit. He played through an injury during his senior year but was known

Now aside from being an athlete, Pat was also kind of an.... Well entertainer. He had an outgoing personality and a great sense of humor and was always willing to go to great lengths to make other people laugh. But as everyone knows especially with comedy, timing is everything and during the school day there are times when not everyone would think that something is funny. I have to relate a story from now I probably won't get completely correct but here goes. During Pat's senior year, Kevin Conroy was a first year teacher. One day, Pat was carried into his class and stood up in the back of the room. Apparently he had made a bet with a few of his buddies that he could make it at least through Conroy's class. So there was Pat, motionless in the back while Kevin virtually ignored that anything was wrong... after class, Murph's friends picked him up and they were on their way... Now how could a teacher let that happen... well I guess the rest of the story is that Conroy was just happy that Murph was quiet during the class so why would he

But Pats passion was baseball. As a junior Murph had a solid season, pitching and playing first base for Coach Tom Petroff. But it was a coaching change before his senior season that may have helped put Murph on the road to future success. Young Pete Birmingham replaced Petroff as head coach for the 1977 season. For the first time in Murphy's career he was given some responsibility. Birmingham told Pat that he needed him to be a leader on the team. And lead he did. That season the team had great success. The 1976 – 77 season was one of the most successful athletically in school history. CBA teams won 7 out of the ten championships that year and baseball was one of them. That year Pat pitched and played first base. Pats toughness showed in several



instances. Early in the season, Pat was on the mound against Bishop Ludden. The game went extra innings and I guess Murph was having a pretty good day so Birmingham so 14 innings and 17 strikeouts later Murph was still on the mound they lost that game 3 -2 on a squeeze play in the 14th.... But that wasn't the end of the day for Pat.. that was the night of the Kid gloves boxing competition at CBA, another passion of Murphs. So Murph hopped in the car with his dad.... Ate his dinner in the car (a nutritious butterfinger candy bar) and went to CBA where he took his 200 plus pitch weary arm and beat the heck out of his two opponents to win his second straight championship. He also got back at Ludden the second time around as he shut them out on a three hitter and drove in the only run the team needed to win. The team won the championship and Murph was chosen first team All City. A great way to end a career, but little did he know that his career was only beginning.

After a few stops, Pat arrived at Florida Atlantic University where he was an all American in 1982. He had dreams of playing professional ball and actually did in the minors for a few years. But he found out what he really was suited for. Coaching! After a couple of years at the D2 level and a few years coaching international ball, Pat was chosen as head coach of the University of Notre Dame. During his seven year stint, he led the Irish to a 318 – 116 -1 record Turning the program from a virtual unknown to a national power, he led the them to the NCAA tournament in only his second year, ending an 18 year stretch that saw Notre Dame fail to reach the post season tournament. His team averaged just over 45 wins a season and advanced the the NCAA regional finalist three different times.

In 1994 Pat was hired to be only the third baseball coach in Arizona State history. Murphy's 14-year tenure at the helm of the ASU program has been marked with great success. Since inheriting the Sun Devil program, Murphy has carefully nurtured the tradition of excellence in Tempe, at the same time establishing himself as one of the top collegiate head coaches in the nation. Seven times in the past 12 years, ASU has been ranked in the Top 12 in the country. Twice in that time, Murphy has had teams finish in the Top 3 in the country. Murphy's ASU squads are always present in the national Top 25, including a streak of 100 consecutive weeks in the polls that lasted from 2000 until the middle of 2005. In 14 seasons at the helm of the Sun Devil program, Murphy is 578-270-1 and has led the Devils to the NCAA Tournament in nine straight years and 11 of the last 12. The 578 wins as a Sun Devil are the second most in school history. His coaching accomplishments include becoming the youngest collegiate coach to reach 500 career victories (with 75 percent of the wins at the Division I level). In over 20 years of coaching at the collegiate level, Murphy owns a career 951-441-4 record. The 2007 and 2008 seasons were two of the best seasons ever in the history of Arizona State Baseball. The 98 – 28 record was good for back to back PAC 10 championships and earned Pat PAC 10 Coach of the year honors in each of the those seasons.

The list of his accomplishments in unbelievable... seven time league coach of the year, NCAA National Coach of the Year in 1998 .. He led his team to 14 NCAA Regional Tournaments garnering 4 regional titles and three College World Series Appearances. He is well known for his involvement community service and has started several projects in the Tempe area to benefit underprivileged youth. And for his constant community service and giving back to the Greater Phoenix area he was awarded the March of Dimes Leadership Award.

Pat, your accomplishments speak for themselves. Through your hard work, you have become one of the most well-respected and successful college baseball coaches in the country. But Pat, I hope you will excuse us for taking a bit of pride in your accomplishments also because we know that you have never forgotten your roots. So tonight, let us show you show you how proud and honored we are to call you a Brothers Boy. Welcome into the LaSallian Athletic Hall of Fame.

