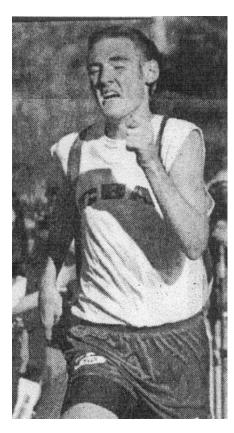


When Tom Harris graduated in '72, he and his 175 male classmates crossed the War Memorial stage on graduation day, white dinner jacket and all, proud to have finished their 4 year stint at the CBA ...Let's jump forward... a couple of decades or so.. as we heard earlier, with Courtney, The CBA of 1992 was a bit different than the one that the class of 72 left... make no mistake about it, the underlying values and the commitment of the Brothers to provide a human and Christian Education were still very much the same. However, **who** was being educated had dramatically changed. You see when Jason Meany entered CBA as a young 12 year old seventh grader, he and his 78 male and 44 FEMALE classmates were looking forward to their six years as Brothers boys(and girls).

When Jason came to CBA the last thing he thought he would be was a great distance runner. Just the year before at Long Branch Elementary, Jason finished near the bottom of his class, 34<sup>th</sup> out of 35 to be exact, in the timed mile run...he was clocked in 11 minutes give or take a few seconds... therefore basketball seemed to be his best alternative in the CBA Athletic Program. So he became a member of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade basketball team. In fact, even though he ran cross country that fall, he still saw himself someday representing CBA on the hardwoods - although his placement on the B team certainly wasn't very reassuring. All that changed, however, when he was asked to compete with the varsity cross country team the next year as an eighth grader. He began to realize that his true athletic calling probably had nothing to do with any kind of a ball. In fact it was Todd Marshall that actually convinced him to run more seriously. You see even as a eighth grader, it was becoming obvious that his performance in sixth grade was just a fluke, and that Jason had a special talent. Little did he know that at that time that he would end up being one of the most decorated runners in CBA History.

Jason became a three sport track athlete. The fall cross country season faded into the indoor season which then bloomed into the outdoor season. Then after that it was time to prepare for the upcoming fall season.... That was Jason's life for a whole lot of years.... The top CBA runner in eighth grade, by his sophomore year he was considered one of the top runners in the state. Over the next three years his accomplishments are awe inspiring. In 1996 he won his first state title in the 1600m. The following spring he again was tops in the state, but just for variety, this time in the 3200m. But he saved his best for his last year of competition. After struggling through a hamstring injury in the cross country season (and struggle is a relative term... he finished sixth the state championship meet.) He really hit his stride during the indoor season. First he won the 3200 m indoor state championship. Then he anchored the section III distance medley relay team... taking the baton trailing by over 100 meters going into the last leg Jason pulled out the victory, taking the lead with more than 300 meters



remaining and setting a new state record in the process. Also in the winter he won the prestigious Eastern States Championship and then finished second in the National Championships in Boston. Just for fun, he finished his high school career by winning fifth state championship... this time back in the 3200 in a time of 9:09.95. Think about that one.... In 6<sup>th</sup> grade, one mile in 11 minutes, as a senior, two miles in just over 9. Hard to imagine, but his career was only just beginning.

As could be expected from his performances, several schools were interested in having Jason continue running in their program. His decision to go to Clemson was one that worked out well for all involved. At Clemson he was again a three sport performer (and exceler if that's a word). After the career Jason had in high school, you would think it would be difficult to improve on his ... au contraire mon amis.... In cross country he was not only the Team MVP in three of his four years but was also the Southeast Regional Athlete of the Year in 2002. The indoor track team won the ACC championship all four years that he participated and he was chosen as team captain in each of those seasons. And finally in outdoor, he again captained the squad and leading them to ACC Championships in 2000 and 2001. To summarize, Jason was a seven time All ACC performer, a team captain in seven seasons and a member of six ACC Championship teams. Not bad for a boy from Liverpool!

After his stellar career he returned to his alma mater, to teach science. For six years he gave back to the school that meant so much to him. Jason, your accomplishments speak for themselves and now we are honored to have you take your rightful place in the CBA LaSallian Hall of Fame.

