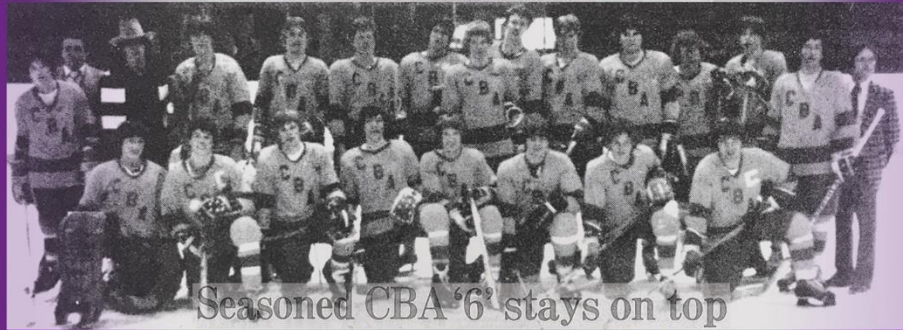


# LaSALLIAN HALL OF FAME

CBA '6' annexes first title ever *Inducted 2018*



Tom Brogan	Mike Caddy	Marty Griffin	Dave Lane	Mike Roehm	Head Coach Mike Gagliardi Assistant Coach Kevin Conroy Assistant Coach John Downes Trainer Randy Kinn
Dan Bronk	Tim Downes	Kent Hitchcock	Joe Lane	Scott Sayles	
Jeff Bronk	Tom Downes	Tom Keegan	Don McCarthy	Mark Schneid	
Don Burns	Bill Gleason	AJ Kelly	Matt O'Connor	Rick Syltster	
				Chris Wood	

Results (19 wins, 2 losses, 1 Tie) - League and Sectional Champions

CBA 10 Fulton 2	CBA 7 Bishop Ludden 2	CBA 5 New Hartford 3	CBA 6 Baldwinville 2	CBA over Cazenovia
CBA 6 Solway 0	CBA 7 Rome Catholic 2	CBA 11 Hamilton 2	CBA 4 Rome Catholic 3	CBA 6 Bishop Cunningham 4
CBA 10 Bishop Cunningham 1	CBA 9 Cazenovia 1	CBA 4 New Hartford 5	CBA 11 Bishop Cunningham 0	CBA 3 Rome Catholic 1
CBA 6 Baldwinville 4	CBA 9 Hamilton 2	CBA 5 Solway 3	CBA 10 Bishop Ludden 5	CBA 5 Cazenovia 5
CBA 3 Fulton 1				CBA 3 Salmon River 4

## CBA HOCKEY 1979 -1980

Up until 2012 the LaSallian Athletic Hall of Fame was open only to individuals. After much discussion and conversation (quite honestly a discussion that took place for several years) the selection committee decided, that by its nature Athletics is a team game. And while it is certainly appropriate to honor those individuals who have distinguished themselves as tremendous athletes, it is equally just to honor teams that have distinguished themselves, because some of most successful teams ever to wear the purple and gold achieved much more than their talent would dictate

As you could imagine, that task was more daunting that inducting individuals. Over the years we have had hundreds of teams that had reached the pinnacle of success. League championship teams, Diocesan championship team, sectional championship teams, state championship teams... you get the idea. It even came to a point that we could not even decide on one team to be our first team in.... we inducted two.... The 1952 and 1953 football teams .... And tonight, we will also induct two deserving teams, the 1980 Hockey team and the 1997 Boys Soccer team

For our first inductees tonight, we go back almost 40 years to 1979. Jimmy Carter was president and trying to manage the energy crisis, a major point of contention with Coach Felasco so that he could get elected to a second term. The country, especially New Yorkers, were anticipating the 1980 Olympics in Lake Placid. Actually, this story will eventually get to Lake Placid but first we need to go back about 4 years to get the backstory. Let's go back to 1976, Mike Smith had started a club hockey program at CBA two years before but was unable to continue on as coach for the 76-77 season. So, a young Mike Gagliardi, a never accused for lacking in confidence hockey coach, was hired to take over the program at CBA. He promised Gary Barnaba, AD at the time, that in four years he would bring home a championship. A pretty wild claim for a team just starting out but it made sense with the culture at the time. In the 76-77 school year, CBA varsity teams won 7 league championships in the 10 sports in which it competed including all three (basketball, swimming, wrestling) that competed in the winter. So Gagliardi was simply trying to keep up with the very successful Joneses! That first year the team was very young and over the next couple of seasons, there were growing pains.

In the 1978-79 season, the team almost made their coaches prediction come true a year early. Only heartbreaking last second losses to Solvay and Ludden at the end of the season cost them their chance at league and sectional titles. So that brings us back to the 79 – 80 season. The league had realigned into two divisions and CBA was placed in Division 2 with its entire schedule made up of 18 league games. The team was loaded, six of the seniors had been on the team for the previous four years. Coach Gagliardi was very confident in the



teams three lines and felt the team's depth was one of its biggest strengths. That year the team featured three sets of Brothers; Joe and Dave Lane, Dan and Jeff Bronk, and Tim and Tom Downes. Add in a seasoned group of non-siblings and it looked like the team was poised for success. In the opening game of the season they annihilated Fulton, which was only a glimpse of what was to come. Next was a 6-0 whitewashing of Solvay, the team that kept them from winning a league championship the year They jumped out to a 6 – 1 lead over Baldwinsville, who was predicted to be the biggest challenge to the Brothers. When the Bees came back but could not overtake the team, sportswriter Jeff Stage wrote “even when faced with a letup and storming effort from the opponent, the Brothers refused to concede the match. A sign of growth, maturity and possible future champion.” They continued to blaze through the league and by the end of the year ran their record to 7 – 0, which included another revenge victory over John Katko led Bishop Ludden. So formidable was the offense that in many instances the coaches tried to hold down the score so as not to embarrass their opposition, often allowing only one person on a line to shoot or trying not to score double figure goals. Needless to say, the first 11 games went as planned.

Actually, the first 11 games and one period. You see the Brothers faced New Hartford in the middle of midterm exam week. And the good and conscientious students that our team was they were distracted in the game. After jumping out to a 3 – 1 first period lead there was a letdown and the Spartans took advantage, outscoring the good guys 4 – 1 in the second. To their credit, the team outshot NH 23 – 3 in the final period but couldn't find the net, so the dream of an undefeated season was dashed. Shortly after the game, senior Scott Sayles handed Coach a note (which he still has today), it read, “to be good is not enough when you dream of being great”. The players were ready to go. They went through the rest of the league season without a loss, clinching the programs first ever championship with a win over Bishop Ludden, the team that eliminated them from post-season play the year before.

Prior to the sectionals Gagliardi commented, “...the last five games we have played the way we started the season. The intensity was there”, so were the statistics. The team dominated play during the season with most of the games played in the opponents end. They outshot their opponents by an average of 49 – 15 per game and outscoring them 7.5 – 2. And it wasn't one person doing the scoring, Tom Keegan, Joe Lane, Dave Lane and Don McCarthy led the scoring barrage but Gagliardi was always quick to mention the defenders Dan Bronk, Scott Sayles and Don Burns as being equally as valuable to the team's success.

For the first game in the sectionals the team was rewarded with new jerseys to take them through the post season. As Karma would have it, the Brothers played their two worst period of hockey all season. So Gagliardi did what any superstitious coach would do, told them to put on the old jerseys. The players disagreed; they told the coach it was their fault not the jerseys. Now it was a simpler time in 1980 and that same Scott Sayles asked the coaches to leave the locker room. No one has admitted to what was said, but the Brothers came out and



dominated the rest of the game and came away with a 6-4 win. A similarly dominating performance in the semis against Rome Catholic and our boys advanced to play Cazenovia for the programs first sectional championship. Both teams battled hard and played well forcing the game into overtime. Then a second overtime. Since the winner of this game would qualify for the first regional championship, the precursor of the current state tournament, it was decided that if there was no winner after the second overtime, the team that had the most shots on goal would advance. Coach Gagliardi implored his team to take as many shots on goal as it could in the final stanza and it paid off because the Brothers outshot Caz 5-3 in the last seven and a half minutes to move on to the state tourney.

The Brothers would face Salmon River at the Olympic arena in Lake Placid, the site of the US gold medal win over the Russians, and fate was not on their side, even from the beginning. You see a week or so earlier, in the same arena, the US Hockey team pulled probably the greatest upset in Olympic history when they pulled the “Miracle on Ice” and defeated the USSR for the gold medal. When the locker rooms were assigned, Salmon River had the US locker room; we had the USSR locker room. The US defeated the USSR 4 – 3 and yes, you guessed it, Salmon River defeated us 4 – 3. While the game did not turn out the way that we would have liked, it did not take away from the great season that the team had. The team won the program’s first league and sectional championship, just like Coach Gagliardi had promised four years earlier.

The whole week leading up to the game Coaches’ Gagliardi and Conroy continually stressed to the team that the experience that were enjoying would be something they would never forget. While I am not sure how long forever is, we certainly are remembering that championship season tonight, some 38 years later. And by your team’s induction into the LaSallian Athletic Hall of Fame, we are insuring that your accomplishments will never be forgotten.

