



In 1949, Frank Cappelletti came to Willow street and little did he know that over the next 20 years he would become part of it's folklore. During his career at CBA he amassed eleven Varsity letters, four in football and Basketball, two in baseball and one in track. He was one of the best athletes of his time and considered by many to be the best football player ever to play in Central New York.

As a basketball player, Cappy was considered a strong driving player who was known for his aggressiveness. A City league all star pick in 1953, although he was not considered a top scorer, he still achieved double figures in 10 of the 14 games he played as a senior.



Frank's main achievement came on the gridiron. He was a main part of the juggernaut coached by Walt Ludovico that ended up winning an astounding 37 games in a row over a six-year stretch. Frank became a regular on the football team in 1950. During his three years as a starter, the Brothers won 20 straight games and won three consecutive City League and All City championships. During this stretch, they outscored their opponents 521 - 75, with the 1952 team outscoring their foes 230 - 6! Frank was a standout both offensively and defensively during this time frame. He accounted for 101 points himself during his junior and senior years. His dominance was rewarded by being chosen as a unanimous selection for all city in 1951 and 1952. It was said of Cappy in 1952, "Cappellettis' part in the Purple and Gold's success to date has made the battering fullback one of the

most feared backs in the City league in many years. Handling all the kicking chores, more than his share of

running and when needed, taking his turn at passing, Cappy's all around ability is nothing short of amazing. His alertness and determination have highlighted his play all season long."

When Frank graduated in 1953 he accepted a football scholarship to Fordham University with the intention of continuing his storied career. However, Uncle Sam had a different idea. From 1953 to 1955, Frank served his country and was a member of the 21st signal company of the United States Army. When he returned, he decided to resume his career at Villanova University. During that time, he played guard, linebacker and fullback (not necessarily at the same time) from 1956 - 1959. During his senior year he was named captain of the team and was chosen as a UPI honorable mention All American.

In 1961, Frank returned to CBA as the director of physical education, head basketball coach and assistant varsity football coach. In 1962, he succeeded his former coach, Walt Ludovico, as head coach of the Brothers varsity football team. During his tenure, his teams won 3 city championships. Under his tutelage, future NFL stars Walt Patulski and Marty Domres learned their craft. By the end of the 1960's, Franks first crop of football players were playing at Yale, Dartmouth, Columbia, Cornell, Notre Dame and Holy Cross.

In 1968, Frank was appointed Director of Athletics replacing Brother Basilian O'Connell. In making the announcement, Brother David said, "Frank's dynamic and successful coaching in both basketball and football and his intimate knowledge of CBA's total athletic program made him the best candidate for the job.

While Brother Basilian leaves behind impressive achievements, I am convinced that Frank will give CBA a new look in high school athletics.

Business interests took Frank away from CBA in 1969, but the legacy he left behind is still with us today. He touched the lives of so many of us, as a respected teacher, beloved coach and loyal friend. It is fitting that on this night of honoring CBA's finest, that Frank Cappelletti be included.

