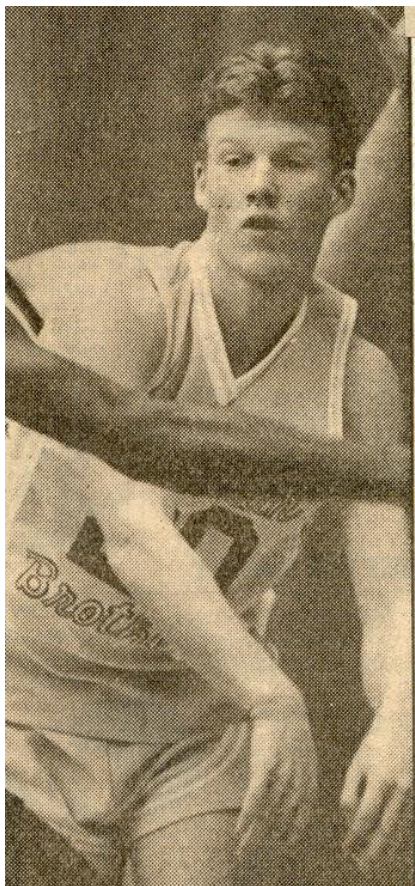


In the early 80's CBA was still an all male college prep school. Decreasing enrollment was becoming a concern although the addition the junior high had helped in that department. The only other option left to attempt to increase enrollment was to accept female students and it was understood by most CBA Alums that that they would be playing hockey in hell before the Brothers would ever allow that to happen.

When Mark started in the junior high he wanted to follow in the footsteps of another CBA standout, Marty Headd. It wouldn't take him long, however, to make his mark so that other future CBA stars dreamed to follow in his.

Mark had an immediate impact on the CBA Basketball program. As a freshman he was chosen as member of the varsity a feat that hadn't been accomplished since the 60's. The team had a young enthusiastic new coach who wanted to use Mark as a building block for the future and return the program to the glory days of the 70's. Mark had a solid year, the team did not! In fact the 4 – 16 record that year was the worst in school history (told you that new coach was young). In defense of that team and coach, the Central New York Cities league, of which CBA had been a member for over 20 years, had merged with the Onondaga High School League. New rivals like FM, and renewed rivalries with Cortland and JD made the league one of the toughest in the area. The lack of success that season was not due to Adams effort. Mark scored 141 points that season as a full time starter. The lessons learned from the experience, good and bad, would soon help shape the player that he would become.

When the 1985 -86 season began, the team was filled with optimism. Adams along with Carl Hummel, Neil Maurer, Thom Robb and Scott Laba returned to give the Brothers a seasoned lineup ready to improve on the previous years' debacle. The season started out on a high note with a win over title contender Corcoran. Although the Brothers showed improvement during the season, the final regular season record of 9-11 was not very impressive. Adams however was. He led the league in scoring, averaging nearly 18 ppg and had become one of the top players in Central New York. But it was the teams improbable run that put the CBA program back among the elite in Syracuse High School basketball. Led by Adams 24 points, on 12 for 17 shooting from the field, the Brothers opened sectional play by defeating top seeded New Hartford in overtime. A semifinal win over Corcoran and then a victory over Fowler gave the program its first sectional championship in six years.



As in the regular season, Adams was brilliant in the post season and for his efforts he became the first CBA basketball player chosen as an OHSL All Star.

The next two years the team showed continued improvement, finishing near the top of the OHSL Metro division in each of those seasons. Mark became one of the most prolific and efficient scorers in CBA history. In his last three seasons, a span of 64 games, Mark scored in double figures 58 times. During that time Mark shot nearly 52 percent from the field and 84 percent from the free throw line. For his career, Mark scored 1179 points and is currently fourth on the all time scoring list. And remember, that was with only one year with the three point rule. When the line was added in his senior year, Mark hit 45 3's and shot 47 percent from behind the arc. Since most of the shots in Marks career were taken from beyond the 20 feet, one could only imagine his scoring totals if the 3 point rule had been in effect during his entire career. In his senior season Mark was fourth in the league in scoring but two of the players ahead of him were Bernard Blunt and future NFL Star Dorsey Levens. The honors rolled in; he was named all league for the third consecutive season. He was chosen to the All CNY team and earned a berth on the All State team. All deserved honors for an outstanding young man and tremendous player

Mark continued his basketball and academic career at St. John Fisher University and his success and statistics are eerily similar to the ones he achieved at CBA. He proved to be the most prolific 3-point shooter in Fisher men's basketball history. Adams made 207 3-pointers during his four-year playing career -- 45 more than any other player in Fisher history. As a senior, Adams led Fisher to its first appearance in the NCAA Division III Championship and an overall record of 22-5, while shooting 46.2% from 3-point range. Adams, who was just the fourth player to play in over 100 games during his career, shot over 80% from the foul line and scored 1,069 points. For his efforts, Mark was inducted into the St John Fisher Hall of Fame in 2005.

For the past twelve years Mark has remained involved in the game he loved coaching high school basketball in North Carolina and Florida. He has led his teams to Conference, Tournament and District Championships, state rankings, and even a trip to the Final Four. Mark has been honored as Conference Coach of the Year and was also the Treasure Coast Scripps Newspaper Men's High School Basketball Coach of the Year 2007. In twelve years of coaching Mark has 189 career wins.

Oh, remember that never going coed part.... That ended in Marks' senior year and one of the first female student enrolled was Kara Colucci. In 1995, they became the first pair of CBA Graduates to marry.

Mark, I had the utmost respect for you and the way you conducted yourself when you a player and I have watched you grow into a fine young man. It is my great honor, as your teacher, coach and friend to welcome you into the Lasallian Athletic Hall of Fame.

