In the fall of 1961, the nation was in a state of euphoria. John F. Kennedy was completing his first full year as President and there was a confidence in government not often seen in this century. The big war was over, but the cold war was in full swing. On the local front, there was tremendous excitement over the completion of the new Christian Brothers Academy on Randall Road in Dewitt. Although there was sadness in leaving the building on Willow Street and its rich tradition of academic and athletic excellence, one could only imagine how the new state of the art facility, with its expansive new gym and spacious athletic fields would affect the future of the institution in Syracuse.

Marty Domres began his CBA career just like many of us in those days full of anticipation and dreams. He had spent most of his formative years in the southern tier, often teaming up with future CBA football coach Bob Campbell, in youth leagues. When the family moved to Syracuse Marty quickly became a CBA fan, watching the dominant Golden Tornado football teams of the late 50’s. So it wasn’t a tough sell for family friend Coach Walt Ludivico, who was impressed by Marty in the Pop Warner leagues, to get him to travel across town to go to CBA.

Marty played football, basketball, and baseball at CBA. During that time he was a member of seven championship teams. Marty was member of the City Basketball Championship team of 1964, a team that included Kevin Harrigan, John DeFrancisco, Tom Niland, Joe Smith and others. As a member of the baseball team, he again helped lead the Brothers to several very successful campaigns. As a first baseman, he teamed with catcher Kevin Harrigan to form a combination that would pick off at least one runner a game by throwing behind him at first base. In fact, Marty excelled at baseball, driving in two runs in a key game in ‘65 to bring the Brothers into a tie for the league championship, and getting a key hit in the playoff game against Valley for the league championship. He was an honorable mention selection in his junior and senior years and capped off his CBA career by winning the All City title.
But Marty’s first love was football. As a sophomore, he spent most of his time at the end position. As a junior he and Ron Miller split time running the team. That year CBA won their first five games of the season and seemed to be on their way to their fourth consecutive league championship. Unfortunately, our boys lost the last two games of the season by a combined score of 13 - 6 and ended up finishing in third place in the City League. For his efforts, Domres was chosen as an honorable mention all city selection by the Herald Journal. At the start of his senior year, Marty was given the reins and became the starting quarterback for the 1964 edition of the CBA Golden Tornadoes. The preseason prognosis for the team was a good one with Coach Frank Cappelletti having a strong nucleus of returning veterans. That year the team regained its status as one of the top teams in the area. The only blemish on that seasons record was a 6 - 6 tie on a muddy field at the hands of Nottingham as the neighboring schools finished as league co champions. Domres had an outstanding year accounting for seven touchdowns, but he saved his best effort for the last game of the regular season. The team needed to defeat Central Tech to remain in a first place tie and claim the regular season championship. Amazingly that game took place exactly 40 years ago today. In the first half even though the team was able to move the ball on the ground, they were unable to get it into the end zone. So coach Cappelletti noticed the need to open up the offense. In an unprecedented aerial display, Domres threw for three touchdowns and completed half of his passes for 160 yards en route to a 21 - 0 victory and a share of the league championship. Yes indeed, Marty surely must have had to ice his arm after an outing like that where he was called upon to throw the ball (pause) eight times in a high school game. Those four completions were a season high.... tough to imagine when on our current team Greg Paulus will throw the ball eight times on the teams first possession!!!!! All in all Marty performed well enough to earn a second team All City berth.

For all of his efforts Marty caught the eye of the coaching staff at Columbia University. His academic success and unlimited potential made him a logical target for the Lions. After all, Columbia needed to replace all star quarterback Archie Roberts, who led the Ivy League in passing yardage in 1962 and 1964. When Roberts graduated in 1965 there was no heir apparent to the position so Domres was tapped to lead the charge. Back then the NCAA didn’t allow freshmen to compete on the varsity. So it wasn’t until the fall of 1966 that Domres took over as quarterback and promptly rewrote the Ivy League record books. Although the offense focused more on the run, the coaches couldn’t help but recognize Marty’s ability to move the team through the air. In fact, often at Marty’s prompting, the staff abandoned the running game completely and let Domres air it out on most every play. The results speak for themselves. During his career, Marty set fifteen Columbia University records and even set two national records for passing and total offense. For his efforts, he was chosen as first team all Ivy League quarterback and was selected as a third team All American

When it came time for the professional draft, it was assumed that Marty would be chosen, it was just a matter of how soon. That question was answered quickly as the San Diego Charger made him their first pick of the draft, ninth pick overall, one of the highest selections ever from the academically minded Ivy League. He was in impressive company: that year OJ Simpson was the first pick in the draft, Mean Joe Greene was fourth and Calvin Hill was chosen twenty fourth. Marty’s career in the NFL spanned nine years. During that time he
played behind and along side quarterbacks such as John Hadl, Johnny Unitas, Bert Jones, Jim Plunkett and Richard Todd. In fact, Marty replaced Unitas as quarterback of the Colts during the 1972 season when he had his best year statistically completing 115 - 222 passes for nearly 1400 yards and 11 touchdowns. For his career, which ended in 1977, he completed 399 passes for over 4900 yards and 27 touchdowns. As a result of his accomplishments, he was named to the Columbia All Century team and was inducted into the Greater Syracuse Hall of Fame in 1995.

Marty you have always represented yourself with class and made us all here at CBA very proud to be able to call you a “Brothers Boy.” Although you have been received many honors in your career none of them could have been given with as much sincere appreciation than the one that you are receiving here tonight. Marty, welcome into the LaSallian Athletic Hall Of Fame.