



When Dick Storto began his time at CBA in 1963, the CBA was still adjusting to the new Randall Road Campus. After moving from Willow Street just two years earlier enrollment was reaching never before imagined numbers and the nearly 160 members of the class of 1967 were welcomed with open arms. JFK and the policies of the New Frontier also helped the Brothers Cause because the minimum wage increase to 1.25 made the 250 tuition bill a little bit easier for families to manage

Over the years, CBA has been fortunate to attract some of the finest young student athletes from the parochial grammar schools. But few came with a finer pedigree than Rich Storto. Storto's exploits in the youth athletic arena were legendary. In the Parochial Grammar Leagues championship basketball game, he scored all but one of his St. Daniels teams 20 points. He once hit four home runs in a youth league baseball game and was unstoppable on the LeMoyne youth football field. The question of where he would go to high school was decided years before the decision had to be made, He became a brothers boy the moment his father took him to see a CBA football game at Roosevelt field. Watching the Tornadoes play that day, he knew that CBA was the place for him and that one day he would don the Gold uniforms and proudly represent the Academy.

At CBA, Storto earned an amazing 9 varsity letters. On the baseball diamond he earned a starting spot in his sophomore season. That year he drove in five runs, including a two run homer, in the All City Championship game as CBA defeated Sacred Heart 15 – 1 at MacArthur Stadium. For his efforts Rich was named to the All City all star team a feat he would repeat in his junior and senior years. His last year in a CBA uniform was even better. Again the team had tremendous success, winning the league and all City Championship. Storto homered in the Championship game, this time the inside the park variety, on a ball hit to the centerfield ravine of MacArthur Stadium. Not bad for a football player.

You see Rich's true love was football. He loved the contact and intensity of the game. Coach Cappelletti recognized his potential and found a spot for him on the varsity in each of his four years of high school. He was part of the '64 team led by future NFL Star Marty Domres that won the City League title. In his senior year, Storo was in the starting backfield of the very talented 1966 version of the Golden Tornadoes. Led by future division one lineman Jay Sacco, Orrie Scarminach, Joe Riccardi, Ken Osier and Walt Patulski and skilled backfield men like Dan Santola, Bart Carrigan, Dave Delucia (brother of Mike) and Brian DeJoseph, The team on paper looked to be one of the most talented teams produced at CBA since the glory days of the 50's. However, like this years 2008 team, it was small in numbers. Only 34 players were suited up that year and



Cappelletti was concerned that injuries and late game fatigue would be a problem during the season. Storto, a running back and place kicker, started the season in a blaze of glory, at least for a half of a game. Late in the first half in the season opener vs. Henninger, Rick injured his Achilles tendon, an injury that would plague him the rest of the season. As Cappy feared the Black Knights wore the Brothers down and came away with a 31 – 19 win. That injury would slow him down for most of the year although he still finished second in the league in scoring. He showed a glimpse of his former self in a win over Nottingham a game played almost 42 years to the day. That night, he touched the ball eight times and scored every time he touched the ball. He kicked five extra points. He scored touchdowns on his only two carries of the day, a nine yard run and a 30 yard run on a double reverse. But from the "you know you are having a good day when" category on his last extra point attempt, here is the post standards account of the play..."Storto proved his versatility ... when a bad snap from center was short. Storto picked up the bouncing pigskin, ran back to the 25 yard line eluding the oncoming Bulldogs and fired a pass to the end zone. Spectators gasped when the ball bounced off several helmets and into the arms of Walt Patulski". If I had a day like that today, I would probably make sure I bought a few lottery tickets...

Dick decided to continue his athletic and academic career at Cornell University where as a freshman he tried to play both of his passions. It

was early in his first year of baseball that he realized he needed to put his full effort into football if he was to have any chance. As fate would have it, Rick broke his hand just before the 1968 season which caused him to miss his the entire season. Although that year was a washout, his enthusiasm and desire to compete on the Varsity was not dampened. In his final two seasons he did break into the starting backfield. For those two seasons he was the blocking back for one of the most prolific runners of all time Ed Marinaro. He was honored by the Cornell coaching staff when he earned team MVP honors after his senior season. Not a bad way to end your playing career.

Rick, we are very proud of your accomplishments and on and off the field. On this night when we are honor some of our best and brightest, we are pleased to include you in this year's class of the LaSallian Athletic Hall of Fame.

