

# LaSALLIAN HALL OF FAME

Dominates Track Scene 36 Straight Wins for CBA Inducted 2014



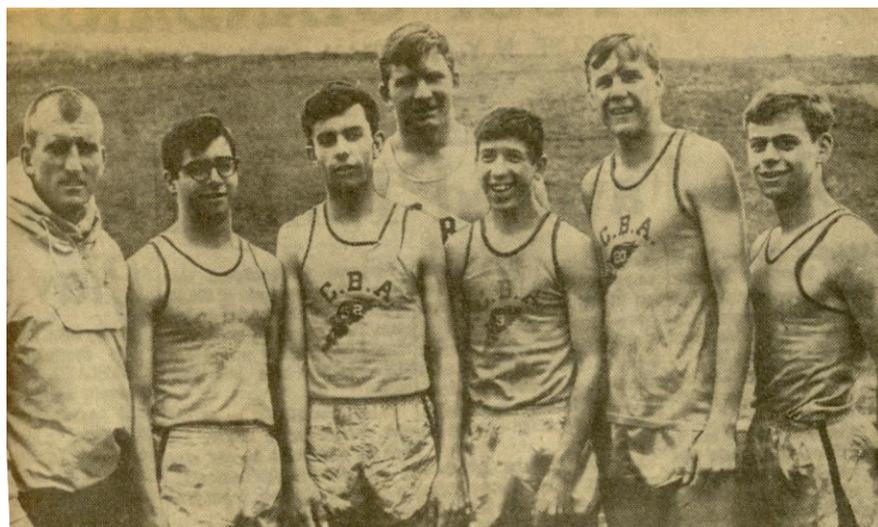
Allen Bilofsky	Peter Gate	Dennis Grover	Terrance Kennedy	Robert Lowery	Charles Parkert	Mike Serino
Richard Britton	Eric Caylo	Tom Grover	Tom Kianka	Mark Ludington	Walt Patulski	Charles Shank
Don Brown	Richard Davenport	John Hanley	Wesley Kribacka	Kevin McAuliffe	Tom Pitonak	Edward Spencer
Peter Budzilek	Michael DeGarcie	Bill Hanley	Jeff Lange	Will McCarthy	Stephen Ploneta	Dan Sudillo
Charles Burzolek	Charles Driscoll	Brian Hayes	Nicholas Langan	Dave Morseburg	Lawrence Porter	Gerald Tuori
Thomas Butler	Gregory Gardner	Robert Hennessy	Tom Lau	Al Mydlinski	Robert Quinnan	Michael Walker
Michael Carroll	Gary Giamartino	James Hettler	Leo Lawless	Patrick Neary	James Rodema	Mark Wickes
Ron Casciano	Robert Gray	Michael Homeyer	William Lent	Ken Osier	Dave Schardt	Head Coach Jerry Riordan

CNYCL Champions		Results (9 wins, 0 losses)		Diocesan Champions	
CBA 73	McQuaid 63	CBA 106½	Central Tech 23½	CBA 98	Auburn 33
CBA 102	Nottingham 47	CBA 96	Fulton 35	CBA 82	Ludden 49
CBA 110	Henninger 21	CBA 91½	Oswego 39½	CBA 92	Cortland 39

## CBA TRACK 1968

Up until 2012, the LaSallian Athletic Hall of Fame was open only to individuals and in the first 12 years of its existence welcomed nearly 60 of the finest athletes ever to have competed interscholastically for CBA. 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. Those teams usually develop a bond where the players not only play to win but they play for each other. When you get that camaraderie mixed with a little bit of talent and a coach who understands how to motivate...you have something special. Therefore it was only fitting that the Hall open its' doors to teams that embody that spirit.

As you could imagine, that task was more daunting than 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 .... Those teams represented a time when our football program dominated the Syracuse high school sports scene and in the 50's you could not talk about CBA without mentioning the success of the football teams.



Well this year when it came time to analyze and try to choose a second team (ok, third team) to be honored, we ran into a similar situation. As dominant as the football program was in the 50's, that is how dominant the track programs were in the 60's and 70's. A legendary coach, dedicated, hardworking athletes whose unparalleled success was a source of pride for CBA for two decades. So this year our first team to be inducted is the outdoor track team from 1968.

Now since we have an abundance of attorneys in attendance tonight I must have full disclosure here. The true story of our program started about 10 years earlier when Brother C James resurrected the track program. From what I gather, he was a very persuasive man and was the first in a long line of in-house recruiters that came synonymous with our track program. It seemed that he was able to get any athlete not playing baseball, and as we saw in Alex Delucia's case some that did, to participate in track. That continued with Coach Riordan and Brother Basillian. In fact if you noticed all four of our male inductees so far this evening participated in track. And they did win championships, the last few years at Willow Street and a few in the early 60's, but the committee felt that the 68 team was the team that was most deserving of this special honor.

Actually, the 1968 team had many returnees from the previous year's team. Gone were Sacco, DeJoseph, Santola and Myers, but the rest of the team was pretty much intact. In the preseason outlook, Neil Kerr pretty much handed the championship over to the Brothers reporting they were strong in all events (except the pole vault). He singled out several athletes. Sophomore Will McCarthy in the sprints, Mike DeGard and Pat Neery in the hurdles; the middle distance men of Leo Lawless, Doug Morseburg and Tom Grover a 5'9 high jumper. The expectations were high, but the team still had to perform.... and boy they did. In the opening meet, the team travelled to Rochester and defeated perennial power McQuaid. 73 – 63. After that, not to be smug, but the dual meet scores were almost comical... 102- 47 over Nottingham, 110 – 21 over Henninger, 106 ½ - 23 ½ over Central Tech. The team scored over 90 points in every meet except when they were merciful to Bishop Ludden (Although I don't understand why) and only scored 82. Quite honestly, Coach Riordan could have named the score in any of those meets. He was masterful at putting a lineup together and utilizing the talent that he had. He found ways to best use the upperclassmen like Tom Kianka, Tom Grover and even the underclassmen, sophomores like Dennis Grover, Will McCarthy, Dave Schardt, Al Mydlinski and freshmen Don Brown and Ron Casciano all future stars who would continue the dominance of the program for the next several years.

The success didn't stop with the duals. In addition to those, the team won the Diocesan and City league meets, the diocesan and City league relay carnivals, the Auburn relays, the New Harford, Utica Proctor and Union Endicott Invitationals. What I found remarkable was that in these competitions it was common for the team to



win all but an event or two. Moreover, it wasn't the same few athletes winning all of the events. In reviewing the box scores from the meets that year, over 40 different runners scored points for the Brothers that year Riordan summed up the season saying "CBA's success is due primarily to our great team balance. We had great depth. I don't think we ever had a team here at CBA that dominated like we did this year." And now with almost 50 more track teams to compare them to, I can honestly say that we haven't had a track team that has ever dominated like that since. So on a night like tonight, when we honor CBA's finest, it is only fitting that this team take its rightful place in the CBA Athletic Hall of Fame.