



In the winter of 1973, Most Holy Rosary had a pretty fair grammar school basketball team and leading the way was young boy named Marty Headd. Those who watched him play felt that he had the potential to become one of the best players in Central New York. When it came time to choose a high school, Marty wanted to get the best education possible and a chance to reach his potential as a basketball player. With legendary coach Bob Felasco returning to coach the Brothers that season, the decision was an easy one. So Paul and Joan were more than happy to sacrifice and pay the 685 dollar tuition to send their oldest son to CBA.

Marty's first year was spent on the JV's. In grammar school, because of his size, he was relegated to playing underneath the basket. The CBA coaches however knew that in order for Marty to reach his potential he would have to change positions and move to point guard. It was here that Jack Conroy worked with Marty and with his dry sense of humor help Marty to learn the ins and outs of running the point. As a sophomore Marty moved up to the varsity and spent most of the season coming off the bench to help the Tom Fletcher led Brothers win the schools' first ever sectional championship. But it would be the next two years that would define Marty's high school basketball career.

The 1975 – 76 season, was one of great expectations for the Brothers. Even with losing three starters to graduation, it looked like CBA would again be the team to beat in the City League. As stated earlier, this team could be one of the most talented teams in the schools' history. Marty took over at the point and for that matter took over the team. He had an unselfish nature and was equally contented getting an assist as he was a basket. It was this style of play that earned him the respect of coaches throughout the area. Now don't get me wrong, Marty could certainly score, as his 14.4 ppg average showed. But on a team that had so many offensive weapons, he knew that in order for the team to be successful it was his job to distribute the basketball. When the season ended, his importance to the team did not go unnoticed. He was selected first team all league (in both papers!) and was being courted by some of the best colleges in the country.

In his senior year, Marty's play exceeded all expectations. He became one of the most efficient offensive players in Central New York basketball history. In one game, Marty scored 20 and take only 7 shots (and remember that this was before the three point shot.) and had twelve assists. Marty worked to keep his teammates involved in the offense and double doubles in points and assists were we commonplace. In fact Marty averaged over 20 points per game, second in the league to Belcher and shot over sixty percent from the field. But for Marty, it was all about doing what was necessary to win. That years' team was undefeated in the



league, a feat that occurred only twice in the previous two decades. In the sectional championship game against Notre Dame Marty had one of his best games ever. He scored 32 points in a dramatic come from behind overtime win before a sellout crowd at Manley Field House. Marty scored the last four points in regulation and five in overtime to help lead the Brothers to their third straight Section III Class A championship. So the accolades came pouring in. First team all league and first team all upstate. He then became the first CBA player to be named first team all state. He was chosen to participate in the Seamco All star classic, a precursor to the McDonalds all American game.

In spite of all his individual success, he still remained concerned about his teammates and even after the season was accumulated one further assist. In a letter co authored by Earl Belcher, to the sports editor Bud Poloquin, he stated that the paper had “made a mistake in covering the CBA team that season” That although he and Earl were thankful for the personal media attention, they wanted to bring attention to some of the other less publicized members of the team. He went on to mention, Steve Barber, Bobby Romeo and Joe Fletcher and their importance to the team commenting that CBA was not a two man team as was sometimes portrayed in the local media.

Marty wanted to stay near his family when it came time to choose a college, so when second year coach Jim Boenheim offered Marty an opportunity to play on the hill he jumped at it. Boenheim characterized Marty as the best pure shooter

that he had seen since Jimmy Lee with a picture perfect jump shot. He also raved about Marty’s defensive ability and called him a pinpoint passer that very seldom missed an open man. While he was at Syracuse he became one of the most recognizable player ever to wear the Orange and Blue. His teams won over 70 percent of their games and qualified for the NCAA tournament three times. He also was a starting guard on the team that won the Big East Tournament in 1981. Individually he was considered one of best long range shooter in the country. He finished his career with 1159 points (remember this was before the three point shot) and still ranks seventh in all time on SU’s career free throw shooting percentage list.

In 1985, Marty returned to CBA to coach the JV basketball team led by Nelson Whitmore and John Haas. He wanted to give back something to the CBA Community which had been so giving to him. Well tonight, it is our turn to return the favor and deservedly give you something in return for all that you did for CBA ...

