

# LaSALLIAN HALL OF FAME

*Eastern States Champs* Inducted 2014



|              |                 |               |               |             |               |                          |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Rob Anderson | Tom Coulter     | Dick Driscoll | Kevin Hishita | Mike Meath  | Pete Rickert  | Bob Walker               |
| Bill Boyle   | John Curry      | Bob Glisson   | Joe Kearney   | Tim Owen    | Brian Rodems  | Wade Wessels             |
| Dan Brownell | Tom Dalton      | Joe Glisson   | Jim Kinsella  | T. O'Hara   | Greg Romeo    | Gary White               |
| Ed Capone    | Dave Dobrzynski | Sean Hanlon   | Larry Luke    | Pete Quilty | Tom Scigliuto | Head Coach Jerry Riordan |

### Results (7 wins, 0 losses)

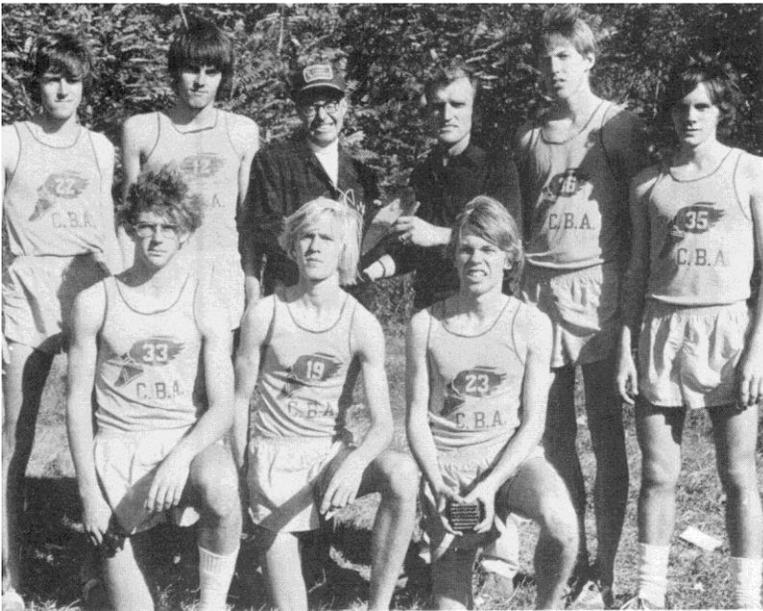
|                        |                               |                          |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| NYCCL Champions        | Section III Class A Champions | Eastern States Champions |
| CBA19 Bishop Ludden 40 | CBA17 Nottingham 42           | CBA 15 Watertown 40      |
| CBA17 Henninger 42     | CBA 15 Auburn 45              | CBA 26 Bishop Grimes 30  |
|                        | CBA 16 Corcoran 43            |                          |

## CBA CROSS COUNTRY 1973

Now lets move forward a few years and up a few of months in the calendar. As successful as the track program that the previous group had been a part of was, the cross country program it could be argued was even a bit more successful. There was one constant... and that was Jerry Riordan. He was the mastermind behind one of the most dominant running programs in the history of Syracuse high school sports. As with the track team, let's go back a bit to see where this program started. There was a cross country team in the pre Riordan era, in fact in the last year on Willow Street the team did win the city championship. But that team was a tough sell... in fact before the 1962 season, CBA added a couple of football coaches, Pete Vercillo being one of them, because at tryouts it was written that there were 90 boys trying out for the varsity and 106 for the junior varsity. So not much left for cross country. But Coach Riordan learned from Brother C James and became that great in-house recruiter we all know and love. He took young men who entered CBA aspiring to be football or basketball or baseball players and turned them into Championship runners. From 1961 when Jerry took over, through 1978, our cross country teams had won 9 diocesan championships, 5 sectional Championships and 17 out of 18 league championships.

The task of choosing the best team one was not easy. There were several great teams during that time. In the '68 season, the only meet they lost was when the varsity participated in an invitational and they sent the JV team to Auburn and lost 28 – 29. In 1969, the Dave Schardt and Greg Gardener led Brothers were an injury away from being Eastern States Champions and the 1972 team led by Ken Moliski and Bob Carsky was the first to win a sectional title. However, the team that distinguished itself the most in that era was the 1973 Eastern States Championship team.

At the beginning of that season, this team was touted (or saddled) with the title of being the team that would bring CBA back to the pack in Central New York cross country. Weinheimer, Moliski and Carsky were gone. There were several returnees. Seniors Dan Brownell, Joe Kearney, Bill Boyle, Tim Owen, Brian Rodems, Dick Driscoll and Sean Hanlon and some talented underclassmen like Dave Dobrynski, Mike Meath, Bob Walker and Joe Glisson, but even coach Riordan was guarded about his team's chances. He was quoted as saying "...in the past everyone had a pretty definite idea about how good we'd be. This year it's a bit uncertain. I hope we improve as the season progresses." In fact, CBA wasn't even picked to win the league championship, the Jim



Glisson '67 coached Grimes team that was the preseason favorite. Well, our team must not have had a subscription to the paper because from the opening week of the season the team looked like a champion. They went undefeated in dual meets, consistently breaking course records. Each meet it seemed another one of those fine runners would take the top honors. In the league championship meet against Grimes, even with a flu stricken Kearney, the Brothers again prevailed. They defeated Bishop Grimes, the overwhelming preseason favorite by a 26 – 30 margin, keeping the title on Randall Road where it had found an almost permanent home. That was followed up with their second consecutive

Class A Sectional Championship.

However, what sets this team apart was what happened on October 27, 1973, almost 41 years to the day.

For the five previous years, CBA competed in the most important Cross Country meet in the Eastern United States, the prestigious Eastern States invitational held annually in New York City.

Despite finishing in the top 10 four out of the last 5 years, including two second place finishes, Coach Riordan was not satisfied. He wanted to prove that his team was the best in the East. Well on that crisp October day, the CBA Cross Country team fulfilled their coach's cherished dream. Competing against the best high school teams in the East, they finished first by a convincing margin of 60 points and became the first team from Upstate New York ever to win that title. After the meet, Coach Riordan was quoted by the Post Standard as saying "this is by far my greatest thrill," and in his usual understatement "we could always say that we were consistent, now we can say we are good." I beg to disagree with you Coach, Not just good, the best.

So tonight, we honor this team that accomplished a feat that has not been accomplished before or duplicated since by another CBA Cross Country team. A team that took a mix of great athletes and hardworking over

achievers who accomplished more than could ever have been expected of them. In fact, the 1973 team is truly an example why it is necessary that we induct teams into the LaSallian Athletic Hall of Fame.

