

LaSALLIAN HALL OF FAME

Inducted 2018

Brothers
battle for
soccer title



CBA's victory
perfect ending

Adam Andrusyszyn
John Ascenzo
Andrew Barno
Kevin Boyle
Ross D'Eredita

Ramez Ghaly
Conor Gillen
Jamie Goggi
Bobby Hammer
Ashtian Holmes

John Kluczik
Tony Matrone
Craig Overton
Jarett Park

Brian Pilger
Eric Rinella
Francesco Rivero
Jim Rivero

Greg Tait
David Vacco
Paul Walsh
Joe Wiertelbach

Head Coach Joe Papaleo
Assistant Coach Marcello Vitale
Assistant Coach John Rachetta
Assistant Coach Tony Rivero
Trainer Randy Kinn

Results (23 wins, 0 losses) - Undefeated State Champions

CBA 7 Faith Heritage 0
CBA 2 Nottingham 0
CBA 1 FM 0 (ZOT)
CBA 9 Lafayette 0
CBA 6 Fabius Pompey 1
CBA 8 Bishop Grimes 0

CBA 4 Tully 0
CBA 6 LaSalle Troy 0
CBA 4 St Joseph's Buffalo 0
CBA 3 Bishop Ludden 1
CBA 7 Faith Heritage 1
CBA 8 Bishop Grimes 1

CBA 2 Hamilton 0
CBA 6 Lafayette 0
CBA 5 Fabius Pompey 0
CBA 6 Tully 0
CBA 3 Bishop Ludden 0

Sectionals
CBA 7 Morrisville Eaton 0
CBA 7 Bishop Ludden 0
CBA 5 Watertown IHC 1

State Tournament
CBA 7 Seton Catholic 0
CBA 4 Maple Hill 0
CBA 4 Cold Spring Harbor 1

CBA SOCCER 1997

Our second team to be honored is the 1997 state champion soccer team. Although they were not the first team to win a state championship at CBA they were the first UNDEFEATED state championship team. And as so often the case, there is a back story. In 1995, when CBA Alum Joe Papaleo took over as head coach the team was coming off a Final Four appearance. In his first season he led the team to another Final Four appearance, only to have the teams run end by losing a shootout heartbreaker in Buffalo. The 1996 team was not to be denied, winning their last 10 games of the season to capture CBA's first soccer state championship.

So now on to this team, gone were Mike McQuatters, Mike Kuznia and Sean Boyle, but the returnees were ready to step in and take more active roles. Francesco Rivero, state tournament MVP was back, brother Jim would anchor the defense in front of Greg Tait along with Kevin Boyle and Paul Walsh. Bobby Hammer relished being the captain of the team. Leading scorer of the '96 team, he was quoted as saying "we have a lot to live up to" and that was an understatement. At the time because of the success of most of our sports, the CBA teams had targets on their backs. Every opponent wanted to take down CBA and now that the soccer team were state champs, they had the added self-imposed pressure of wanting to repeat. Early on, Papalo felt that one of the teams strengths was its depth in the end it was probably its **biggest** strength.

The Brothers would be tested early, opening the season against defending Sectional Champion Faith Heritage, a team that had beaten them the year before. The team came out on a mission, scoring seven goals by 5 different players avenging the previous years defeat with a 7-0 win. After defeating Nottingham, they faced traditional rival FM, a team that would later win the Class A sectional championship. In an outstanding game between two great programs, CBA prevailed in double overtime on a Bobby Hammer goal 1 – 0 Greg Tait came up big, saving a penalty kick and the rest of the defense played outstanding, not giving the powerful FM offence and good scoring chances. What a great start to the season. After the FM game, Coach Papeleo knew that this team could be something special but at the time I don't think that even he recognized just how special they would be. What ensued over the next two months was one of the most dominant performances by any soccer team in New York State history. In its 17 game regular season season, CBA outscored its opponents an astounding 87 to 4! Tait and the defense registered thirteen shutouts. The outcome of most games was determined by halftime and

Coach Papaleo, like Coach Gagliardi with the 1980 hockey team looked for ways to keep the score down and not embarrass their opponents.

But now it was on to the playoffs. Even Captain Bobby Hammer was a little nervous going in, understanding that at this point, one loss and the season was over. But the sectionals proved no different, in fact, maybe worse. Back to back 7-0 victories the second over Ludden, who was led by current county executive Ryan McMahon, put the team back in the sectional finals in the dome against Watertown IHC. IHC actually scored first in the game, one of the few times all year the the team had to play from behind. But it didn't take long for the Brothers to dominate the contest, winning their fourth straight sectional championship by a 5 – 1 score. While they were excited, they were not satisfied, as Hammer was quoted after the game “fourth in four years,



Can't beat that but we're not done yet". And they weren't. They defeated Binghamton champion Seton Catholic by that same 7 – 0 score after which Tait commented "this is a very special team, we are all really close and we want to show everyone at states why we were ranked number one."

So on to the final four, in a snow storm. The feel was eerily similar to that of 95 when the games were shortened and the Brothers lost in a shootout in the semifinals. It concerned Papaleo when due to the weather, the games were shortened again. But this time it didn't matter. The Brothers rolled through the Final Four,

shutting out Maple Hill 4 – 0 and then winning the Championship finally breaking through a tough defense in the second half by defeating Cold Spring Harbor 4 – 1. “It doesn't get better than this”, was written in the post standard, “an undefeated season, a state championship, winning your last game and holding aloft the state title plaque”. The final stats are staggering. The Brothers outscored their opponents 121 – 6, not giving up more than one goal in any single game and recording seventeen shutouts. But as Paul Harvey would say, for those of us old enough to remember Paul Harvey, now for the rest of the story. This team was very talented, but talent isn't all it takes to be a great team. It takes much, much more. It's the intangibles that take a team to the next level. Papaleo saw it in his leader. “He's the most unselfish, dominant player I had here at CBA,” coach said of Hammer. “He's why we are a total team, the top player is a team player”. And to confirm his coaches praise, Bobby was quoted as saying “we're solid as a whole team. Our outside midfielders Ashtain Holmes and Jamie Goggi would be stars on any other team.” So talent, care for each other and selflessness... I guess that's what they had and why they are back here today. After the state championship game the article read like this...”Papeos eyes got misty discussing Hammer and the other seniors who got to go out on top. This is a very special group, Papaleo said, they've been unselfish and never ever complained”.

It is with great pleasure that we bring them back today to honor them by inducting the team into the LaSallian Athletic Hall of Fame

