



To start the evening we will start with the adage the ladies first and jump to our youngest inductee, Courtney Palladino. The road to CBA is different for each of us. When Courtney was born in 1981, her, or anyone of her gender for that matter, attending CBA was not a even consideration. But when her brother Jay and then Mike joined her cousins Jeff and Steve at CBA... it was only natural that Courtney would follow suit and leave the valley to wear the purple and gold.

The Palladino household was a very athletic one. Her father John was an all league baseball player at Corcoran in '68 and both brothers were football / lacrosse players so it was no surprise that Courtney was always a very good athlete.

When she arrived at CBA in 1995, the CBA girls athletic programs were still in their infancy, In fact, up until 1994, we competed in the OHSL Metro Division, a league that contained schools several times our size. When you consider that at the time our ratio of males to females was about 3 -1, our girls teams were continually at a disadvantage and struggled to compete in most sports. In the 97 – 98 season, however, the basketball program was riding high, coming off of the first winning season in its 9 year history. Courtney was chosen for the varsity that year and made an immediate impact on the program. She was the teams' second leading scorer with 184 points and helped lead the team to its second consecutive winning season. Over the next three years, not only did her point total increase, but the team improved its record each season. By her senior year, the team even achieved a state ranking . For her career, Courtney scored 1128 points, making her the all time scoring leader in CBA girls basketball History at that time. Her hard-nosed style of play earned her the respect of opposing players and coaches alike and she was named an Onondaga High School League all league star in 1999 – 2001, and an all CNY selection in her junior and senior years.

But as adept as she was on the basketball court, she made her biggest impact on the lacrosse field. As seems to be the case with many female athletes, she fell in love with lacrosse. In 1993, CBA joined with Nottingham, to offer a JV lacrosse program for girls at both schools. Courtney's first year at CBA was the inaugural year a varsity program was offered. As an eighth grader the following year she was chosen to play on the varsity. Not surprisingly, Courtney was immediately counted upon to contribute. As with any program just starting out, the on field success was minimal, but the interest in the sport swelled. By her sophomore year, CBA was able to field its' own team and she was already considered one of the top players in the area.



And the team continued to improve. After winning only 14 games in its' first three seasons, the Brothers were poised to make a jump forward. However with Courtney leading the way, and that jump proved to be a giant leap! Palladino led her team to a League championship, undefeated in the league in which they struggled to even compete in the three previous years. Courtney was not only the leagues' leading scorer, but she scored the most goals of any girl in all of Central New York. Her 94 goals and 17 assists were tops in the area and the teams 15 wins exceeded the number achieved in the previous three years. Appropriately the accolades poured in.... All league and All CNY, She was selected to play on

the National Schoolgirls team, and in the Empire State games and was even honored as a first team All American. And why not, she was a two time team captain and MVP and scored 200 goals in her career...with her senior year still to play! So there was great anticipation for the 2001 season, when, the unthinkable happened. During a preseason practice Courtney tore her ACL and was lost for the season. Her high school career came to a grinding halt. It is said that "our most significant opportunities will be found in times of greatest difficulty." So she responded to the most challenging time of her life by seizing the opportunity to contribute in a different way. She remained part, actually a big part of the program. Although she could not play, she still could help... first she worked with the modified team, using her knowledge to help the next generation of CBA lacrosse players. In fact, coach Burrows recalled a seventh grade girl that wanted to be just like Courtney, high praise from a 12 year old. But she also remained a part of the varsity team, acting at times part assistant coach, part cheerleader. She helped to bring along Brittany Aungier, Courtney's heir apparent and worked with her so that she could gain confidence to help the team move forward. Now Courtney did get to play that year.... The final draw against Bishop Ludden to cap off the season... and, with Courtney as the teams spiritual leader, the team did win the programs first Sectional Championship.

Fortunately that was not the end of her lacrosse career. She was able to continue her lacrosse career at the next level.. At Syracuse University, she had a great career. Starting in 39 of the 55 games she played, Courtney scored 29 goals, 4 four assists, 33 points. She was third in the Nation in draw controls as a junior and helped lead the Orange to three straight NCAA Tournament appearances, a fitting end to a great athletic career.

Courtney, you always represented yourself and CBA in a positive manner. Your hard work and dedication to the CBA girls lacrosse program helped lay the ground work for the success that our team enjoys even today. Tonight, please accept this award and take your rightful place among CBA's top athletes.

