



Our next inductee route to CBA actually had its roots in a source that may still not realize that he had any influence on someone coming to CBA. Now I don't know how many of us in this room remember carrying our leather CBA book bag to school each day, standing on the bus stop in our suitcoat, shirt and tie.... Certainly standing out from our public school counterparts. Well that image actually so impressed Mr. McClure that he wanted his son Don to give the school on the other side of town a chance. So young Don agreed to leave Liverpool and try CBA as one-year experiment. And that boy, that at least to the McClure's was the poster child for CBA... Tom Harris... will you please stand up. I am not sure if it was you or John that Don remembers but let's say it was you to give John something else to be jealous about.

Don was always athletic and loved playing sports. He didn't really think about the term and how rare it would be eventually become but Don was a three sport athlete. So at CBA he started right away and joined the soccer team. Two days later, when that experiment failed miserably, he went out and played football. By the end of his first season, he was moved to quarterback where he would pay his dues behind Steve Locey and Matt Riordan, learn his craft and wait his turn until he could lead the team. In the winter he moved to the ice and hockey, probably his favorite sport. Although he wasn't chosen as a freshman, Don made the team the following year, which was quite an accomplishment back then. The team that he joined as a sophomore year repeated as sectional champions and again advanced to the state championship game. Don received valuable playing time that season and the next year helped anchor the defense. In the spring Donnie moved to the baseball field, where he played on the varsity for three years....the first of which was also first year for the then young and fiery coach Tom Dotterer

Now they say that we all mature at different times. For Don, for some reason, that big change took place sometime in the summer of 82, although if you ask Coach Dotterer it started that spring. While it was subtle and probably gradual, it was certainly noticeable.

In the fall of his senior year, Coach Campbell certainly recognized the difference. Campbell was quoted as saying that McClure "had a pretty good ability to throw that ball and read defenses" and he even promised to



“throw the ball some”. And he kept his promise. Despite having a one of the most dangerous backfields in the league, which included Billy Owens, McClure led the league in passing, completing 37 of 84 passes for 817 yards. For the sake of full disclosure (sorry Donnie) about half of those yards were accounted for on 11 passes to Owens who had a knack of turning a short screen pass into a huge gainer. Those 84 passes were nearly twice the number of passes thrown the previous season. Although an upset loss cost them a return to the playoffs, Captain McClure was included in the all-star selections at the end of the season.

Then it was on to the rink. Coach Gagliardi also noticed the growth in Donnie. Not only was he elected captain but again led the defense to be one of the most feared in the league. As in the fall, the opposing coaches took notice and Don was selected as a first team all-star at the end of the season. Now it was on to the baseball field where again Don would finish his career on a high note. Here he had his best year ever. After hitting .333 as a junior, Donnie hit an impressive .388, which was a top 10 in the league and he was chosen the all-star shortstop for the second year in a row.

After graduation, Don went to Cortland State to study physical education. He was also planning to continue his athletic career. Don did play football and a couple of years of hockey but before his junior season he decided that it time to trade in his skates for a lanyard and a whistle. So that year he reached out to Coach Gagliardi and began to give back to CBA as an assistant coach on the hockey team. That position eventually led to Brother Robert hiring Donnie full time, where he added football and softball to his coaching resume. While at CBA he guided the girls softball team to the programs first ever win, a feat that earned him OHSL Coach of the year honors. Quite an accomplishment considering that was the only win the team had that season.

Don was stolen away from us by Tully High School where he continued his involvement in coaching and athletics. It has been said that a good coach can be successful in any sport he chooses to get involved in. Don epitomizes that statement. In his career, he has coached 5 different sports and earned coach of the year honors in three of them. His teams have won over 100 games in three different sports.... He was a three-sport athlete, now he is a three (or more) sport coach.

Oh and by the way, we have been talking tonight about how a coach can really has an impact on our lives. Well that is really the case with Don. You see when he went to Cortland, Coach Dotterer’s niece happened to be attending there at the same time. Tom thought the two of them might just hit it off so he got them to connect and all these years later

Don you have always represented yourself in a very positive manner. It is my pleasure to welcome you into the LaSallian Athletic Hall of Fame

