



In the 1920's, there was one family whose name was synonymous with CBA Athletics and that was Mesmer. From 1920 through 1932, at least one of the Mesmer brothers, Eddie, George, Freddy, John or Billy, was playing an important role in the success of a CBA athletic team.

Freddy Mesmer began his career at CBA in 1922. During his years at CBA he lettered in four sports: football, basketball, baseball and tennis. He achieved the greatest success in his favorite sport, basketball. In 1925, Freddy led the Golden Tornadoes to the Eastern States Championship. He was also selected to the all city all star team in each of his three years of varsity competition.

He continued his education and athletic career at Georgetown University where he was captain of the undefeated Freshman basketball team in 1927, and was touted as one of the greatest and most popular players in Georgetown history. Sportswriter Al Costello wrote in 1933, "Although small and hardly weighing 125 pounds, Mesmer was one of the greatest cage players ever produced at Georgetown and was rated as one of the best collegiate guards in the country." Freddy captained the Hoyas in 1929 and was known for his suffocating defense and keen court intelligence.

In 1931, Mesmer was selected to replace Johnny Colrick as head basketball coach at his college alma mater. His coaching style closely mirrored his playing style. His teams were known for their smart defensive play, seldom yielding a easy shot to the basket. He continued to coach the Hoyas from 1931 through 1938. He was responsible for bringing other CBA basketball players such as Don Dutton, Ed Hargaden and a young John Lynch to play for the Hoyas. During this time he also coached the Georgetown tennis team and produced several nationally ranked players, and found time to attend Georgetown Law School and work on his degree

Although Fred is this year's inductee, we would be remiss in not mentioning his

brothers and their accomplishments on this special night. Eddie was the oldest of the five brothers and was a captain of five sports during his years at CBA. At a time when there were no rules against playing more than one sport a season, Ed captained the football, basketball, baseball, tennis and track teams at different times in his high school career. Although he was a champion tennis player he was best known for his prowess on the hardwoods and once scored 58 points in a 100 - 7 romp over Fulton in 1922. He continued his education and athletic career at Hobart College.



Next in line was George who graduated a year after Fred in 1927. He also was a multi sport athlete competing in football, basketball, baseball and tennis. Following in his brothers footsteps, he was all city in basketball in 1924 and 1925, and was a member of the 1925 team that won the Eastern States Championship at Glens Falls. As a pitcher and shortstop he helped lead the Golden Tornado baseballers to an undefeated seasons in 1925 and 1926.

And last but not least, Billy was the youngest of the brothers who also played on football, basketball, baseball and tennis teams while in high school during the years of 1929 through 1933. A quarterback on the football team, a forward on the basketball team

and a second baseman in baseball, he found his greatest success on the tennis courts and was part of a doubles team that won the city tournament in 1931.

Unfortunately, none of the Mesmer Family is in attendance tonight. I am pleased on behalf of Fred Mesmer and his entire family to accept this award for them tonight. I was asked to convey their sincere thanks for this honor being bestowed on Fred this evening.