



In the fall of 1971, CBA opened its arms to the silver jubilee class of 1975. 178 freshmen began their high school careers at that time and looked forward to continuing in the tradition of the CBA Brothers. They entered proudly wearing the suit coat and tie that was required by the dress code and wondered if the stories of corporal punishment were true or exaggerated. The ten year old building with the large new gym and athletic fields was taken for granted and for most of the students the Willow Street school was nothing more than a fond memory. Although the cost of education was growing, parents were willing to make the sacrifice to pay the tuition of just over 500 dollars

As with most of the grammar school students in the area, Buddy had to decide where to go to high school. His choices were simple remain at Sacred Heart, his current school and parish or attend Bishop Ludden or CBA. While Buddy was leaning toward staying on the west side with his friends, as with many of us his parents had different ideas. So in September of '71 Buddy put his tokens in the Centro Bus and headed to the east side and CBA, a decision that would change his life forever.



His athletic career was less than Hall of Famish. While in high school, he ran track his sophomore year and played two years of varsity baseball and basketball. As a junior in baseball Buddy saw limited action on a .500 team. When he returned for his senior year his fortunes and those of his teammates improved dramatically. Behind the pitching of future LeMoyne star Tommy Fletcher, the Brothers went through the entire CNYCL campaign without a loss. As the starting shortstop, Wleklinski had the season of a lifetime. He led the league in batting with a .450 batting average and was stellar in the field anchoring the infamous Polish Infield. For his efforts, Buddy was named as a first team, all City selection.

On the basketball court, the team had always had great success. When Buddy made the varsity in his junior year, he was one of the backups to the tandem of Ed Leone and John Niland. That year the team tied for the league championship and Buddy looked forward to his senior year when he could become more of a contributor. And contribute he did spending most of the season starting at the point on the CNYCL champions. That year the team won the first Sectional Basketball championship in school history as they defeated Central Tech in the War Memorial. In that game, Buddy scored 12 points and played his usual solid game on defense.

He continued his career at the University at Albany where he spent three years on the varsity the last two of which were spent as the starting point guard. Buddy, as he was in high school was a hard nosed player, coach



on the floor type, who set the school record for drawing charges (remember when players used to do that?) But when he graduated in 1979 from the School of Business, it seemed that his involvement in athletics had ended. Little did he know that the best part of his athletic career was just beginning.

When he came back to Syracuse, Buddy was hoping to stay involved with athletics. As fate would have it, in 1980, CBA was looking for a new JV Basketball coach. Gary Barnaba hired him for that job and for Buddy it was a dream come true, coaching the sport he loved at the school he loved. The next year, Buddy convinced Brother Robert that the school would be well served to add business and accounting courses to its curriculum, and he was hired as a full time teacher. In 1984, Buddy took over as varsity coach and it didn't take long for him to bring the program back to prominence. In his second year as coach, the Brothers, led by Mark Adams and Carl Hummel, won the Section III Class B Championship. Since that time his record has become even more impressive. Overall his teams have won 286 games, the most by any coach in the program's 102-year history. They have won seven consecutive league championships and advanced to the sectional finals nine times, winning five and won the Class C New York State

Championship in 1997. He has earned numerous individual honors, being named Coach of the Year in Central New York in 1997, in all of New York State in 1998 and in Section III in 2003. His teams are known for their disciplined, hard nosed style of play and his program is well respected throughout the state. He also guided the Central Region scholastic basketball team to back to back gold medals in 1996 and 1997 in the Empire State Games and is currently the Games state basketball chairman.

In 1989, Buddy's duties at the school changed when he took over the job as Athletic Director. At that time, CBA had been co-ed for only two years and the athletic programs offered were limited. During that last sixteen years under his guidance, the athletic program not only grown but it has thrived. He has masterfully orchestrated the addition of programs to meet the ever-changing needs of the student body while fostering a sense of community among everyone involved. But what he has done is not as impressive as the manner in which it been accomplished. It is evident that he has a passion for his job and his positive attitude seems to bring out the best in our coaches and athletes. He takes an interest in each and every program as is evidenced at our annual awards ceremonies where he knows each and every athlete by name. He is concerned about getting as many student involved in our programs as possible and does his best to ensure that they get the most out of our programs. He has always represented CBA in a positive manner and is well respected by his peers. This was evidenced by his being elected as the President of the Onondaga High School League, the only non public school administrator ever selected to that post.



Buddy, you have devoted most of your life to CBA. You continually show your commitment and dedication to our athletes and have touched the lives of so many as a devoted coach and a respected administrator. We are

honored tonight to show our deep appreciation and gratitude for all that you have done for our athletes and programs by awarding you your rightful place in the LaSallian Athletic Hall of Fame.