



One of the first stars in football in CBA history was a player named Dennis McCarthy class of 1922. In fact when an all time CBA football team was chosen by Dr. Sarsfield O'Connor for the Purple and Gold in 1927, McCarthy was chosen a member. So it was no surprise when Dennis's son, Dennis McCarthy Jr. entered CBA on Willow Street in 1943, the younger McCarthy however physically looked like anything but a dynamic athlete. Weighing all of 110 pounds, it was hard to imagine him instilling fear into the hearts of the opposition on the gridiron. Be that as it may, this young man made an immediate impact on the team during his freshman year. Even before ever taking a class, he made his mark by becoming a starting running back on the 1943 edition of the Golden Tornado football team. Even with players such as Joe Grady, Bill Sullivan and Denny Owen, this team was called one of the greenest teams in the history of the Willow St. School. Even with Dennis's adept running and hard nosed style of play, the team did not fare very well. In fact, a 6 - 0 victory over North was their only win that season., .

During McCarthy's second year for the Brothers the season was anything but memorable. Coach Batcharie was optimistic that his squad would improve upon the previous year's one win campaign. In fact, after first game, a 12 - 0 loss to Vocational, the Brothers bounced back to gain a scoreless tie against Nottingham. It was a costly outing however, as what was originally thought to be a bruise, turned out to be a broken right thumb for McCarthy and cost him 2 weeks of the season. Jack Andrews wrote "the Christian Brothers Academy footballers will be without the use of their most effective weapon, Dennis McCarthy's passing. He missed his next two games and returned to finish the season but struggled to regain his effectiveness. The season ended without a win and the Brothers never even scored a touchdown

The teams' fortunes began to change in the 1945 season. Matty Hoysak a Nottingham schoolboy standout and a Brothers boy from Manhattan College took over the reins of the football team that had only won one game in the previous two years. The young coach brought a new energy and enthusiasm to the program. As he evaluated his returning lettermen one thing seemed to be quite evident, the fortunes of the Tornadoes rested squarely on the shoulders of the



now junior quarterback Dennis McCarthy. McCarthy thrived under his leadership and led the Golden Tornadoes to a 18 - 0 victory in the first game of that season. Just when it seemed the Brothers had turned the corner, young Denny was injured during the game against North, missed that and the next two games, all ending in losses. He returned against perennial power Vocational and led the Tornadoes to a 0 - 0 tie. The final game of the season was against the perennial power of the time Central. The Scarlet Lancers needed only to defeat the lowly Willow Streeters to capture yet another City League crown, but Central's title hopes were dashed by a determined McCarthy, who was involved in both scores in the 14 - 13

upset in a game played at Archbold Stadium. A sidelight to that game was that CBA player Danny Brown came down with polio earlier that week and it was said that he could tell that his boys were doing well by the yells of the crowd which could be heard through the open window in his hospital room. In that game, McCarthy was on the receiving end of a Harrington pass which covered 37yds for the first score and he completed a 26yard pass to O'Leary for the game winner. Despite missing one third of the season Dennis was still named to the all City team in 1945

The 1946 season brought another new coach, Jack Gannon, and a quiet confidence with the Golden Tornadoes. After all a healthy Dennis McCarthy was coming back to his fourth year at the helm and with a strong returning cast it seemed that the Brothers would be well on their way to the most successful season in years. And what a year it was. "Dangerous Denny", as he was dubbed by sportswriter Jack Durkin, led the Golden Tornadoes to wins in their first four league contests. He was leading the league in scoring and completing nearly 75 percent of his passes. Although his squad was defeated in the last two games of the season, CBA finished in third place in the league but McCarthy stood out when it came to end of the season laurels. Dennis, said to be a versatile triple threat player, was a unanimous pick to the mythical all city team and was named co captain of that outfit.

Although he had gained much personal success on the gridiron, Dennis still longed to help the Brother to a league championship. In the spring of his senior year he was convinced to play baseball. The athletic McCarthy immediately made an impact in his new sport by earning a starting berth at first base for the Tornadoes. He also became the teams second pitcher, although with the legendary Regis King as the main starter, he was not needed very often in that capacity. Dennis had an amazing year on the diamond. Not only did he play nearly flawless defense, he contributed offensively throughout the



year. His season and career culminated with Dennis getting four hits and a walk in six at bats in the city parochial championship game against St. Anthony's.

Dennis was courted by several colleges upon his graduation from CBA but like many of the finer athletes of the times, McCarthy accepted an athletic scholarship Manlius Military Academy. There, he went on to star in football, basketball and hockey. After completing his year at Manlius, he was courted by schools like Notre Dame, Penn State and Wake Forest. After careful consideration of all of his options, he chose to enroll at Boston College. It was written that Denny "blazed a brilliant trail across the local sports picture for several years. He was such an outstanding quarterback specializing not only in expert selection of plays, but forward passing and toting the pigskin when a few precious yards were needed and is regarded as one of Central New York's best prospects for the college football field."

When his playing days were over he joined his brother Patrick and for nearly fifty years he has continued his success, but this time in the automobile business. Patrick told us that if you were going to war you would want Dennis. Well, although we may not be going to war, we still have chosen Dennis. For all that you have accomplished and the glory that you have brought to your alma mater, please accept this most deserved honor.