



I guess it is fitting that as we move through the fall season, we honor our next inductee. You see there is a saying about an apple not falling very far from the tree. Well our next inductee and his dad and brothers certainly epitomize that statement. Back in the fall of 1957, Dom Adornato captained the CBA footballers and was a first team all-league lineman and placekicker. He never hid his love for his alma mater but he offered a choice to his oldest son Dom, who came over from JD in 9th grade and followed exactly in his dad's footsteps... playing the line and kicking extra points. During that time, Michael, son number two, became the teams' biggest fan... even choosing to wear his purple and gold to school at JD middle school. So coming to CBA wasn't really a choice, it was merely the understood next step in his career.

From the minute he walked in the door in ninth grade he showed that he was a natural leader. Mike was poised to take advantage of all that CBA had to offer socially, academically and athletically. He took his education seriously and was active in student government, elected president of his class during his senior year. He was a two-year member of the National Honor Society and he was third had the third highest academic average in the Class of 1986.

But as hard as he worked in the classroom, he was equally as serious about his work on the athletic fields. In his freshman year he not only made the football and lacrosse teams, but he earned a starting position in both. On the lacrosse field Mike was a goalie. From the minute he stepped on the field, he earned the starting position he would hold for the next four year. At CBA, the lacrosse program was struggling for consistency at that time. Mike played for a different coach in each of his four years. In his sophomore year, under former SU star Art Lux, the team did make it to the sectional playoffs. In fact in his first two years the team achieved double digit wins, the only two times that happened in the 20 year stretch from 1978 – 1998 and Mike certainly did his part to make that happen. In his career he made over 700 saves. For his efforts, he was included in the all-league mentions right behind future Syracuse All American Matt Palumb,

In high school, however, Mike's passion was football. From his days as a pop Warner star, he loved the contact, hitting, blocking and tackling. As a freshman, Coach Bob Campbell chose Mike, Jim Corapi and Marc Jones as



members of the varsity team, not a common practice at the time. Adornato made his mark immediately and earned a spot in the starting lineup as a linebacker. By his junior year, he not only was chosen captain and started on defense, but just like his dad nearly thirty years earlier, took over the placekicking duties. That year Mike was a first team all-league selection on defense. While the team had some success during his first three years, expectations were high for the 1985. Those three freshman, tabbed as special, were now seniors. Add in many talented classmates and junior Marty Coyne and you have a group that had the potential for greatness. The 1985 team dominated the opposition. They outscored their opponents 223 – 46 in their 8 regular season games. They became the first CBA undefeated regular season football team in over 20 years. They also became the first CBA football team to qualify for the sectional playoffs and Mike certainly did his part to make it happen. Although his presence in the backfield on offense was mostly to open holes for all state back Marc Jones, he did at times show that he too could make plays.... a 70 yard touchdown run in the first game of the year and a 40 yarder against Bishop Ludden were his claims to fame. However, Mike was dominant on defense. He became one of the most feared linebackers in Central New York, anchoring that defense that gave up less than a touchdown a game. Their run to a sectional championship was cut short but 11 players from that team earned all-league honors. Mike himself was selected first team offense and defense and was also chosen to the all upstate team

Because of his academic achievement, Mike had many choices including some Ivy League schools that were recruiting him for either football or lacrosse. However, Mike was hoping to do both. When Coach Frank, a Princeton assistant coach took the job at Hamilton College, Mike decided to continue his academic and athletic career there. During his first two years, he played both sports. On the football field, he resumed his duties at linebacker. But for four years he toiled between the pipes on the lacrosse field. He was a starter from the moment he joined the team, just as he did at CBA years earlier. He had an illustrious career. Received the Coach's award (MVP) for Lacrosse. Selected a Div 3 All-American in lacrosse and was chosen to play in the North South College Lacrosse all-star Game. Although he graduated over 25 years ago, Mike still holds two all-time Hamilton college records for the goalie position. He is the career leader in saves with 716 saves and still holds the record for the best save percentage at .668.

Mike, you and your family have shown a great love for Christian Brothers Academy. We are honored tonight to be able show you how the feeling from us is mutual. Please accept your rightful place in the CBA Athletic Hall of Fame.

