

LaSALLIAN HALL OF FAME

Inducted 2012

Brothers' Team Chalks Up 20th Straight Win • Title Crew Ranks Among Best In City's History



Len Basile	Bob Congel	Ed Ferrante	Edgar Kenna	Pete Onofri	Jim Traynor
Ed Bonacci	Carmen Daino	Jim Fitzgerald	John Kidd	John Paditto	Jim Vacco
Bobby Bracci	Mike DeLucia	Ray Guido	Phil LaHart	Joe Pirro	Frank Visconti
Dick Capone	Dan Delaney	Steve Hoey	Tom McPherson	Joe Rodriguez	Ned Weinheimer
Frank Cappelletti	Tom Dotterer	Dave Jones	Pete Monteleone	Joe Scuderi	Chuck Zimmerman
Tommy Cella	Jim Eagan	Bill Kelly	Bob Moses	Joe Tone	

Results (7 wins, 0 losses)

CBA 39 Central 0	CBA 40 North 0
CBA 45 Nottingham 0	CBA 45 Vocational 0
CBA 36 Fulton 0 (non-league)	CBA 27 Eastwood 0
CBA 34 Valley 6	

CBA FOOTBALL 1952

Up until this year the LaSallian athletic Hall of Fame was open only to individuals. And in the first 12 years of its existence has welcomed 80 of the finest athletes ever to have competed interscholastically for CBA. This year, however, the committee decided, by its nature Athletics is a team game. And while it is certainly appropriate to honor those individuals who have distinguished themselves as tremendous athletes, it is equally just to honor **teams** that distinguished **themselves**, because some of most successful teams ever to wear the purple and gold achieved much more than its' talent would dictate. Those teams usually develop a bond where the players not only play to win but they play for each other. And when you get that camaraderie, mixed with a little bit of talent and a coach who understands how to motivate... you have something special. Therefore it was only fitting that the Hall open its' doors to teams that embody that spirit.

The task of choosing the first team to enter the hall was a very difficult task. Through our over 100 year history we have been blessed with undefeated teams that have won League, Sectional, Regional and even state championships. In fact, the decision was so difficult that we could not decide on just one team... So for our first team induction we will honor the 1952 and the 1953 football teams.

As you just heard the fortunes of CBA football took a turn in the right direction with the hiring of Walt Ludovico. In fact, the 1950 team led by Roy Spadafora and the 1951 team led by Dean Bettinger were both undefeated league champions. So the 1952 edition of the Brothers was already riding the crest of a 14 game win streak. It was a veteran team with several returning players including 1951 all City Selections Cappelletti, Zimmerman, DeLaney, Delucia, Scuderi, Fitzgrerald, Tone, and Bracci. So it was no surprise that the Brothers were again chosen as favorites to repeat as city league champions... The manner in which they accomplished that task, however, was extrodinary.



Right from the first game of the season, a 39 – 0 drubbing of Central, you could sense that this particular team was something special. The wins continued to pile up when the regular season ended, Valley was the only team to put points on the board against the Brothers (or Golden Tornados depending on who was writing the article). Only a 58 yard scoring pass play where Dick Corthell took a pass from Bob McClary during the Valley was the only scoring play the against them the entire season. They had a margin of victory of just under 38 points a game. So they were getting ready to play the City County game to determine the area championship against Baldwinsville,, yes the same Baldwinsville that we beat for the Championship today.. only this time, Baldwinsville chose not to play!! Not sure how that worked but if what I heard was correct, earlier in the season CBA and B'ville scrimmaged and I guess it didn't go so well for the Bees..... soooooo, they got ready for basketball.

Now came the accolades. When the all star selections came out DeLany was a unanimous first team pick - Frank Cappelletti was touted as one of the Top Notchers in Central New York scholastic grid history. Coach Ludovico cited Joe Scuderi as the best blocking back seen in the city in the last five years and Called seniors Cappelletti, Pirro, Vacco , Visconti, Delany, Scuderi and Fitzgerald as excellent prospects for continued stardom in collegiate play.

He called the 52 team the best all around aggregation he's ever coached and Cappelletti the finest gridder he ever had at CBA.

At the end of the year he gave a little insight into his philosophy. He said that at CBA they wanted every boy in school play a sport and for this particular year, 76 boys fully equipped playing football (which made up about about 1/3 of the student body.) That sounds like something our current coach Casamento would say. When asked about the complexity of his offense he offered this simple response. We work on the basics of Blocking and tackling.. without good blocking you can't have a good offense, without good tackling you can't have any kind of defense. From this group, he said that at least 10 of these players played together as Freshman and JV's before advancing to the varsity, so that by the time they were seniors they were fully in command of the CBA system Genius!

So that was the best team ever, right... how do you top that?.... Well, lets not jump to conclusions just yet



In 1953... Cappelletti, Scuderi, Delany, Moses and Dotterer all graduated.... But... Zimmerman, DeLucia, Basile, Moneleone, Congel, Rodriguez and Capone were still there... And any doubt about what kind of team that 53 group would be was answered in the first quarter of the first game when Zimmerman ran 95 yards from scrimmage for a touchdown and then Ed Bonacci scored on a 76 yard run in the Brothers rout of North....

And so it continued and as the season rolled along you could see that this team was also something special. Offensively they continued to thrive: 34 against North, 26 against Valley, similar scores against Eastwood and Central. So when they got down to the last game against VO there was one main difference from the year before....they hadn't given up a point...

When they shut out Vocational 40 – 0 almost 39 years ago to this day, the team etched its' name in the history books... the only undefeated, UNSCORED upon team in City History. This time there wasn't even talk of a city county game, the six and o record was it. The individual honors came in yet again. Zimmerman set a record for scoring the most points and Pete Monteleone set a record for conversions in a season. Then the all star teams... Zimmerman and Delucia for a third time, Basile, Monteleone, Weinheimer, Congel, Rodriguez, add Ferrante, Capone, Bonacci all in all 13 players chosen as all league selections. The team even received National attention when Coach Ludovico was named National Catholic Coach of the year.

It has been six decades since these men represented CBA and the rigors they were put through paid dividend that were collected long after their time spent on the gridiron. These men took the discipline that was instilled in them by the Brothers and Coach Ludovico and became pillars of our society, excelling in all walks of life. And all of them have remembered their roots and have been loyal supporters of CBA, the school that we all have grown to love. The CBA Community is indebted to these men and is very proud for they have accomplished after leaving CBA.... But back to football....



So if you put the two years together, the Golden Tornadoes had a record of 13 – 0 and outscored their opponents a whopping 462 – 6. This goes down as what we believe is the greatest display of dominance in any sport, during any time period. Which team was better? We couldn't decide nor is it worth trying to figure out. That is why on this glorious night, where we honor CBA's finest, we are celebrating the 1952 and the 1953 Football teams and making both of them the inaugural teams to be inducted into the LaSallian Athletic Hall of Fame.

