



The close bond between Christian Brothers Academy and John F. Lynch dates back to 1926, when the lanky likeable son of Owen and Julia Lynch enrolled in CBA on Willow Street. The young Northsider promptly established a city wide reputation as an exceptional athlete and an exceptionally fine young man. John always loved athletics. While at CBA he was a member of both the baseball and basketball teams, the latter being his first love. During his two years on the varsity, coached by legend Jim Pelcher, the Brothers amassed a 35 - 5 record which includes a Eastern States Championship and an overall city championship

Upon graduation from CBA, John attended Georgetown University and then later Syracuse University. Although he didn't compete in intercollegiate athletics at those institutions he still harbored a love of athletics and entered into the coaching ranks to stay involved. He coached teams at the Central City Business Institute and the Powelson Institute before moving to St. John the Baptist where his teams won both the Parochial League and Diocesan Championship. In 1937, John was lured back to his alma mater where he replaced Eddie Ryan and directed the program he had played for just seven years before. At the time he became the youngest basketball coach in CBA history and immediately made an impact on the program. During his tenure, John's teams won over 70 percent of the games they played. He coached such great athletes such as Chick Meehan and Al DiStaola and was able to continue the strong tradition of success by winning the City Championship in 1938. John is also quick to point out, that he held a rather dubious coaching distinction at that time. In 1938, the Golden Tornadoes were again invited to the prestigious Eastern States Tournament in Newport Rhode Island. Unfortunately, for the first time in school



history, the Brothers Boys did not come back with the Championship Trophy. That marked the first time that a CBA team participated in that tournament and wasn't crowned a champion....hey John, I think I'll speak on behalf of everyone here in saying that you're forgiven...just don't let it happen again! John ended his CBA coaching career in 1940 but continued his career at St. Anthony's and St Vincent's before coaching the Santa Ana Army basketball team from 1943 - 1946, a team that was ranked second in collegiate basketball.

In business as well as athletics, John was congenial ambitious and always fair. He was soon regarded as the area's premier authority on commercial real estate. As the years passed, his career flourished and his coaching and officiating duties took the back seat to his professional and civic commitments. Still, the bond between John Lynch and CBA remained. In 1960, he led the drive to build a new campus and was recruited to serve on the Board of Trustees and appointed its' chairman. But still he looked to help his first love, athletics. John sponsors an annual award in his name given to

the unsung hero of the boys basketball team. The player who works hard, plays an important role on the team, but whose achievement goes unnoticed. If that award was given back in 1930, I'm sure that the recipient would have been John Lynch.

John, I am confident that CBA occupies a special place in your heart. Certainly, you hold a special place in our hearts and our history. For all of your life you have been nothing but supportive of CBA and all of our athletic programs. You have been more than generous with your time and energies and expected nothing in return. Tonight, it is with great pleasure that we can finally give you something in return.

