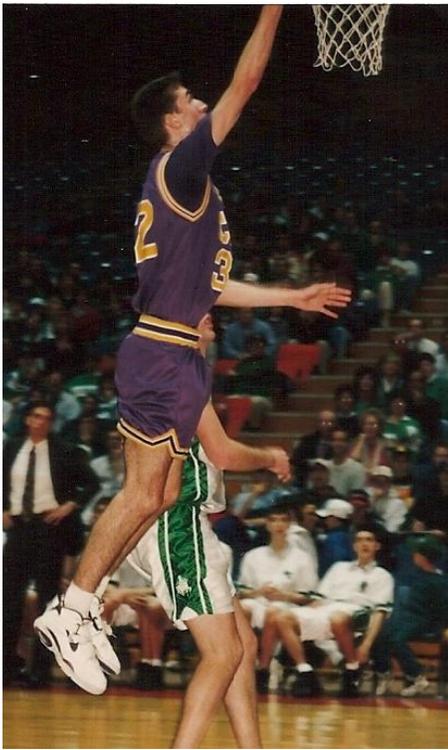


CBA is fortunate to have many families whose CBA tradition spans generations. Parents sacrifice to send their sons and daughters to CBA to give them what they feel is the best education possible. Then, when these CBA Alumni have children of their own, they look forward to the day that they can provide that same opportunity to their children. The Leone family is a great example of this. Although Manny was not able to attend the school, he sent two of his boys, Joe and Eddie to CBA. (Sorry John, I guess he didn't like you as much) The Academy had such an impact on them that it was really a foregone conclusion that when Joe's oldest child Jason was of age that he would follow in his fathers footsteps and don the purple and gold although like many of our parents, he let Jason think Jason's idea.

Even at a young age Jason showed a great talent in the sport of basketball. Through the days at the Hamilton Street Boys Club, Jason honed and perfected his craft. By the time that he entered CBA in ninth grade he had already proven himself to be a solid player.

When Jason started at CBA it was in the midst of change. The school had abandoned its 87 year tradition and accepted females just three years earlier. The athletic teams were trying to compete against schools three and four times their size (wait, we still do that) in the OHSL Metro Division and the basketball team was still enjoying reasonable success. Current Hall of Famers Mark Adams and John Haas had been able to keep the team competitive. In fact, Jason's freshman year when he was playing on the JV's, the varsity won the Section iii Class C2 championship. However, that team graduated eight seniors so the following year, his first year on the varsity, the team had six sophomores, a very unusual combination for any varsity team. And accordingly, the Brothers struggled, finishing with a 6 – 14 record and did not qualify for the sectional tournament. One bright spot though was the offense of Leone. He was the teams' second leading scorer averaging just over 12 points per game and was known for his deadly outside shot.

In his second year, the team's struggles continued, but not because of Jason. He had worked hard in the offseason to become more of a complete player, adding a knack of being able to get to the basket to his offensive repertoire. It certainly paid dividends as he had become one of the premier scorers in Central New York. He showed his new offensive weapon, in an early season shootout at West Genesee. The team fell short



in double overtime that night, but Jason led the way with 34 points including a 15 for 17 effort from the foul line. During the rest of the season, Jason was outstanding. He averaged nearly twenty points per game, but the teams post season hopes all came down to the last game of the season. In a back and forth contest at Fulton, the Red Raiders worked to shut down Jason and keep CBA out of the playoffs. It worked..... Jason was held to a season low 8 points and even missed a desperation shot at the buzzer. Again, the team failed to qualify for the post season.

His senior year would be different..so he thought. But a season ending football injury to JP Pallone put the Brothers again in the role of underdog, especially since we played in a league that had produced four consecutive state champions. Jason again excelled, leading the Metro Division in scoring averaging nearly 25 points per game. However, with seven games left in the season, the Brothers record stood at 3 – 10 and they needed to win 5 of their last seven just to get into the playoffs. This is where Jason took matters into his own hands and came up with one of the most impressive offensive displays in CBA History. The team got their five wins ... and in those games, Jason scored 40, 30, 36, 46 and in the season ending do or die game against Fulton, this time he would not be shut down. He scored 25 points in that victory on Senior night. The Post

Standard quoted Jason as saying “This couldn’t have been any better...my most memorable game and we finally get a chance to play in a sectional game”. So in that five game stretch, Jason scored 177 points or an average of over 35 ppg and we needed all of them to get into the post season. The team made an improbable run to the sectional final that year. They eventually lost to eventual State Champion Bishop Ludden led by Channel 9 sports director Steve Infanti. But Jason’s individual accomplishments certainly stood out. He ended up with 1223 career points in only 3 years of varsity competition, for an average of just under 20 ppg for his **career**. He was a two year all league selection and was named third team all state his senior year.

Jason continued his athletic career at the next level. After a stop at Lafayette, Jason transferred to the University of Rochester where he continued his offensive prowess. In his two years as a Yellowjacket, he started 51 consecutive game and scored 833 points for an average of 16.3 ppg. He led the team in scoring as a senior and was twice selected as an All conference player. He tied a school record for three point goals in a game when he was 8 – 10 in a game his senior year.

After graduation, Jason wasn’t quite ready to give up the game he loved. So like so many of us he became a coach. After working as an assistant for several years he finally got a team of his own when he was hired as head coach at Keystone College in PA where his is showing that same intensity and work ethic and trying to instill it his players.



Jason, I had the utmost respect for you and the way you conducted yourself when you a player and I have watched you grow into a fine young man. It is my great honor, as your coach and your friend to welcome you into the Lasallian Athletic Hall of Fame.