



For our next inductee, there was not much of a question about where he would be going to school. He already had ties to CBA. His Brother Mike, had been a member of the Golden Tornadoes football championship team. Also, many boys from the Northside made that choice, although most of them had their family roots in Italy, in fact Jamey joked that it wasn't until he was 12 or 13 that he realized he wasn't Italian. He even played for an Italian coach in pop warner, Pete Vercillo. By the time he was ready to go to CBA, he was already a pretty accomplished player and a key contributor on the St Peters team that won the National Championship in 1959. So Jamey was looking forward to the day that he would eventually play for Coach Ludovico (boy there certainly are a lot of Italians at CBA) and help lead the CBA Brothers to more championships.

From the moment he stepped on campus, he showed great leadership potential. In each of his last three years, his classmates chose him as their class president. In fact, at the end of his senior year his homeroom voted him most popular, the person who did the most for CBA and most likely to succeed. A resounding tribute from his classmates who obviously had a great grasp on what Barksdale stood for.

In the spring, Jamey ran track. Initially to help increase his speed for football, he eventually became one of the cornerstones of the program. The team was very successful and perennially one of the top teams in the league, even city champs in '61. Jim had a great career, breaking records in the 440 and the high jump along with being a part of several championship relay teams. In fact, he and John Baichi teamed up and helped lead the 880-relay team to a record time in the 1962 City Championship meet.

However, like John Baichi, Jim's main love was football. Playing fullback, he had the speed to break big plays. As a sophomore, in only his third game on the varsity he exploded for a 99-yard touchdown run against Valley, obviously a record that still stands today. That '60 team was touted as one of CBA's best until rival North High upset it in the last game of the year. Jamey had a solid year for the champion Brothers earning honorable mention all city honors. Going into the '61 season, Jamey and Baichi were formed a formidable combination. When Baichi went down with the injury, Barksdale stepped up. With he and left handed Quarterback Andy Tursi directing the offense, the team captured another championship (albeit co – championship)



But in his senior year that close-knit class of 1963 would be not be denied. Co-captain Barksdale was considered one to the top backs in the league and with Baichi and Tursi in the backfield, Sindoni, Finnochio, Falcone and Massaro on the line and a new head coach in Frank Cappelletti the Brothers were considered favorites. And they lived up to the billing. Earlier we said that Baichi scored the first two touchdowns of the Cappelletti era... well Jamey scored the next two. Weeks two and three were the biggest games of the year. Being a northsider, playing North against his neighbors was always the biggest game of the year for Jamey. The game was a war, and Barksdale performed well scoring on an 87 yard run, at least in everyone's eyes but the officials! CBA prevailed and set up a game they would determine the league championship vs. league newcomer Cortland. In fact, the Golden Tornadoes were underdogs that day. But in a driving rain storm before 4500 people at MacArthur Stadium, CBA came away with a 27 – 14

win. Jamey had a great game and named back of the week. Coaches Cappelletti and Vercillo claimed that the 16-year-old senior was the reason for that win. He was given credit for his defensive work in stopping Cortland superstar Charles Freeland, who coach Cappelletti still swears looked more like a 25-year-old man than a high school player. Unfortunately, that was one of the last games Jamey played that season. A deep thigh bruise suffered cut his season short. However, even with the abbreviated season, Barksdale was chosen first team All City. In fact, Cappelletti called him one of the all time best fullbacks at CBA, quite an honor considering the great players that passed before him.

After high school Massaro, Finocchio and Falcone joined Jamey by continuing their academic and athletic careers at the University of Buffalo. Coming off that season ending injury, UB scout and assistant coach Buddy Ryan thought Barksdale was too small. So he walked on to the team and ended up being chosen most valuable back on the Freshman team that season. It just so happened that before his senior year there was a coaching change. Doc Urich took over the reins and opened up the offense. The biggest beneficiary was Jamey Barksdale. He led the '66 team in rushing with 612 yards and his 5.2 average yards per carry is still good for 2nd all-time in the UB record books. For his efforts, he was named most valuable player on the team.

After college, James spent 22 years serving our country in the United States Marine Corps. On a quick side note, he played for a combination Marine/Navy team that competed against college teams in the south. Jamey played running back and his signal caller was none other than future NFL legend Roger Staubach. A decorated flying ace, in retirement he continues to fly today as a contract pilot

Lieutenant Colonel Barksdale, throughout your athletic and professional career, you always represented yourself, your family, your school and your country with class and dignity. Therefore, as we welcome you back home to take your place amongst our finest athletes, I hope you understand how proud we all are to be able to call you a Brothers Boy.

