



Our final inductee is not a graduate but certainly someone who has been adopted as a favorite son. His high school career was spent in the Southern tier at Norwich high school. There, Joe Casamento was a three sport star for the Tornados (and interestingly enough their colors are purple and white), lettering in football, basketball and baseball. After high school he came up north to Syracuse University where he hoped to continue his football career, however a shoulder injury prevented him from playing football but did allow him to participate in crew for two years

Upon graduation he remained in the Syracuse area, teaching at East Syracuse until he was recruited by Henninger to join their football staff. There, along with head coach Tom Acee and then later Bob Campese, helped put together one of the most successful high school football programs in the Syracuse Area. There was a brief stint as quarterback coach at Hamilton College, but then back to high school where he felt he could truly make a difference in lives of young men he coached. Joe was content being an assistant coach, quietly going..(well, I don't think he ever does anything quietly) how about willing to stay out of the limelight (remember this was when he was an assistant coach) and doing anything necessary to for the success of the program. But then, an opportunity presented itself to him that he couldn't resist, an opportunity to coach one of the most tradition rich programs in Central New York. And an added bonus was the chance to coach his son Joe. In the two years prior to Joe taking over, the Trevor White led Brothers had won two consecutive Section III Championships. Casamento was hired to help take the program to the next level... and he did that and then some.

Joe Casamento is an innovator. Like Ludovico, Ciciarelli, and any true leader, he has tremendous confidence in himself and his abilities. He also has a very definite idea of what he wants to do. His first task as a head coach was to put together a coaching staff. Somehow he was able to assemble a group of amazing men, with the same passion for the game that he had. A group that, like Joe, understands how to get the most out of the young men they coach and in my opinion, is the best coaching staff in the state. A master at coaching quarterbacks, and now having the ability to call all the shots, Joe implemented an offensive system not often used at the high school level, the spread offense. So armed with his new offense, a great staff and an unmatched work ethic, Joe was ready to put his signature on the CBA program. The Casamento era, however, certainly got off to an inauspicious start. In his first game as head coach, the Brothers played at perennial power Fulton and lost a 19



– 18 heartbreaker. Fortunately, however, that was not a omen of things to come. Rather the Casamento led Brothers won 74 of their next 79 games. During that time his teams won six sectional championships and 5 regional championships.

And in 2004, the Brothers became the first Central New York team to win the Class AA state championship. Competing against schools 6 and 7 times their size, that team led by Greg Paulus and Bruce Williams. finished the year with a 13 – 0 record (sound familiar) They defeated New Rochelle, led by current NFL All Pro Running back Ray Rice in the state championship game, a game that is considered by many to be the best high school football game ever to be played in New York State. His quarterbacks and receivers set state record and put up numbers never seen before in high school football. And during this time, Joe revolutionized high school football in the area. His innovative offense, and probably more so, the desire of opposing coaches to stop it, has lifted the level of play in the entire area and even the state. Joe has earned the respect of high school and college coaches throughout the country. Central New York football, unnoticed by colleges for several decades, has now

become a regular stop on the recruiting trail.

Now in his fourteenth season at the helm, his record stands at 125 or 6 and 21 or 22 (depending on the game on Saturday). And when the other teams caught on to the spread, he changed his offense so that it is tailored to the talent he has on the team. And because of that his teams have continue to thrive. This years' team set a record for being the first AA team to reach the sectional finals in four consecutive years, a great tribute to Joe and his staff.

But the on field success that Coach Caz's teams have enjoyed only tells a small portion of what Joe has done for our program. As the executive Director of Lead USA, he speaks at schools all over the area, working with young people to help them to develop leadership skills and strong character. Joe is quoted as saying "To me, it's important that a young person has a solid foundation about character, values, integrity, honesty, selflessness and service to community". And that statement describes his coaching philosophy and what Joe Casamento is all about. What he teaches his players goes way beyond the game of football. He instills discipline into his players and teaches them important life lessons that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

Joe, for the last 14 years you have dedicated yourself to CBA and making our football program one of the best in the state. You have touched the lives of hundreds of our student athletes, teaching them the values that help them grow into responsible young adults. Please accept you induction into the LaSallian Athletic Hall of Fame as a token of our deep appreciation for all that you do for CBA and its' students.

