



The year was 1975, when Bob Vinciguerra was considering where he would go to school for the next 4 years. Well, actually that is not totally accurate. You see the idea of Bobby having any say in the aforementioned decision was not ever really in on the table, as was the case with many of us. However, there was at least some discuss although above Bobby's head. His uncle, Don Hoffsher the basketball coach at Assumption at the time, was doing some recruiting and trying to convince the elder Vinciguerra that CBA was not the right place for Bob. There was some precedent. Bob's older brother Lou did spend a year at CBA before deciding it was not for him. Nonetheless, Bob and his Brother Paul did not question his fathers' decision and ultimately understood his wisdom.

Bob was always a gifted athlete. He loved playing baseball and basketball and excelled in both. During that time, CBA's basketball program was the top program in the area. During his freshman and sophomore years, a couple of guys named Headd and Belcher were leading the team to back to back sectional championships. When it was his turn as a junior, he made the most of it. Felasco was entering what would be his last year as head coach and he joined returnees Danny Fletcher and Greg Dunn on the varsity. Bobby became a contributor right away and the team had a good year, finishing 14 – 6. In his senior year, he really came into his own, With new coach Jack Conroy taking over he counted on Bob and Mike Burns to be the leaders of the squad and they formed a formidable one two punch. That season he averaged over 18 points per game and in half those contests, he scored 21 points or more. This despite being moved from off guard to point guard. Coach Conroy had nothing but praise for Bobby and was quoted as saying "There is no one who plays harder and few who play as hard. he has a Kamikaze streak in him." Now Bobby was the commensurate teammate, but in the last game of the year, Bobby was within a few points of winning the scoring title. He went into the game with his shooting guard mentality and was very aggressive offensively, so much so that he scored 18 points in the first half. However, his aggressiveness cost him that day. He finished the game with 18 points AND a broken jaw which sidelined him for the second half. For his efforts, Bob was chosen as a first team All-City selection.

As gifted as he was in basketball, he was an equally talented baseball player. In his sophomore season, Pete Birmingham was hired to take over the team. Birmingham inherited a team full of future college players like



Pat Murphy, Mike Zamba, and Greg Dunn and molded them in to a championship squad. That team won the CNYCL Championship with Bobby playing second base. For that and the next two seasons, he became a mainstay in the CBA lineup. During his junior year, Bobby hit 461 and even with the high average, was considered one of the top power hitters in the area. In his senior year it was more of the same. He and fellow co-captain Mike Burns dominated the CNYCL, Burns on the mound and Vinciguerra at the plate. In one stretch Bobby hit three home runs in two days, the first two the only tallies in a 2-1 win over Solvay and the next day hitting the game winning 2-run walk off homer against Watertown. The team won its second CNYCL championship in three years and both he and Burns were again chosen to the All City All Star Team. Like Coach Conroy in basketball, Birmingham had high praise for his star. "Bobby is blessed with superior athletic instincts, exceptional work ethic and is an exceptional leader by example". Quite high praise for the kid from Lyncourt.

Bobby knew at the end of high school that he wanted to continue his athletic career in college but the question was which sport and where? He did have a scholarship to New Haven but they told him he could play baseball OR basketball. Since he really did not want to make a choice, and as fate would have it, the Cortland basketball coach who was also recruiting Bobby took the same position at Flagler College in Florida, an NAIA school similar to Lemoyne at the time. There they said he could play baseball AND basketball. So just like his move to CBA four years earlier, the choice was a no brainer. So Bobby packed his bags and his sunscreen and went South to St. Augustine Florida. His college career picked up right where his high school one left off. On the hardwoods, he immediately became one of the top players in the program. In his sophomore year, he averaged over 15 points per

game, led the team in steals and assists and scored 20 points in a 5-point loss to Georgia Tech. For his efforts, he was selected team MVP. He had similar success on the diamond. Over the first 19 games his sophomore year he was hitting 340 with 7 homers and 20 RBI's for the 14 – 5 Saints. Then the unthinkable happened. While he was rounding first base he broke his ankle, and he would injure that same ankle three times in the next 18 months. While he completed his career as a 4-year lettermen in both sports, it certainly hampered his stats for the rest of his career

Bobby, you were and still are a great athlete, father, husband and person. We are proud to be able to recognize you by inducting you into our LaSallian Athletic Hall of Fame.

