



Jerry Riordan grew up in the 400 block of East Jefferson Street in downtown Syracuse. He spent his free time working out at the YMCA and watching professional athletes train during their off seasons. He learned a great deal about conditioning from that experience. A fine athlete, Jerry played six man football at Cathedral High school and graduated in 1949, when he was 16 years old. After high school, he worked on the railroad for a year before joining the Air Force in 1951. During his four years in the Air Force, he played base level basketball in California, Idaho and Japan against armed forces and college teams. His last year in Japan, he also ran on the base track team. After his discharge in 1955, he entered Syracuse University on the G.I. Bill and was a walk on the Cross Country team for all of his four years at S.U.

When CBA moved from Willow Street to Randall Road in 1961, Arnie Briggs, a local legend in Marathon running and coaching, was offered the cross country coaching position at the new school by the departing AD and track coach, Brother James. Arnie could not accept it because of the lack of a teaching certificate. Although he never dealt with a CBA student, Arnie made one the most important contributions ever to the CBA track program. He told Brother Bernard, the new CBA AD, about Jerry Riordan, who at the time was teaching in the East Syracuse District. Jerry was offered and accepted the coaching position. A year later he was hired By Brother Victor to teach Earth Science and Geography.

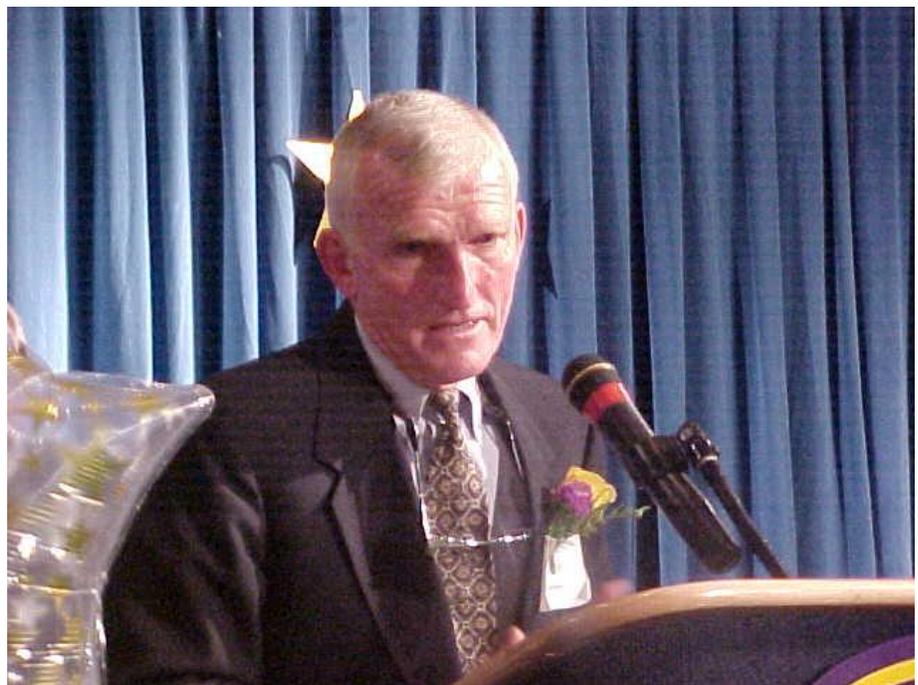
The effect that Jerry had on the CBA athletic community was immediate. Under Coach Riordan's guidance, the Brothers won 17 Cross Country league championships in his first eighteen years of coaching. Not only did they dominate the Central New York running scene, but his program became well respected statewide and even nationally.



Many of Jerry's runners excelled in prestigious invitational's and the Brothers were a mainstay in the top ten of the Class A State rankings.

In outdoor track his feats were equally amazing. After finishing second to Nottingham in his first 3 years as coach, Riordan's Raiders reeled off 36 consecutive dual meet wins over the next four years en route to 4 consecutive league championships. In fact, between 1964 and 1981, Jerry's teams won 136 out of 140 dual meets. This translated into 14 league championships and ---- sectional championships and numerous invitational championships. But what Jerry Riordan brought to the track program and to CBA cannot be measured in wins and losses. He was always able to bring out the best in his runners and prided himself in getting many student athletes involved in his programs. Jerry would comb the hallways encouraging any and all boys to get involved in the CBA track program. And his methods worked like a charm. He was able to teach, motivate, and allow many of our student athletes to achieve much more than they ever dreamed possible.

Somehow, the years have failed to slow Coach Riordan. He continues to run, race and win. With each coaching season, Jerry's circle of runners grows larger and more loyal. Thousands of CBA alumni are privileged to be part of this prestigious circle and our Academy as a whole is greatly in his debt. Tonight, it is our distinct privilege to spotlight and honor an exceptional coach, teacher and friend - a gentleman whose strong fervor has



added inextricable strength, character and Christian spirit to our Academy. It is my pleasure to introduce to you, my track coach, Jerry Riordan.