



The year was 1990 and the sport of soccer in the United States was growing in popularity. The country was awarded the 1994 World Cup, and there was a concerted effort being made to improve the visibility of the sport. At CBA, it was already very visible. The boys teams of the late 80's had been very successful and even advanced to the State Quarterfinals in 1988. In fact, one of our former standouts, Joe Papaleo, was named the Goalkeeper of the Year in the professional indoor soccer league that year. So soccer had a prominent place on the Randall Road campus. At that time, a young Mike McQuatters was honing his craft in youth soccer leagues. He was already an accomplished player and several of his friends decided to go to CBA and continue playing together, and hopefully they could continue the tradition of success that had become the norm for the CBA Soccer Program.

Mike was a natural at the game. He was chosen as a member of the varsity in eighth grade and made an immediate impact on the program. Coach Carlos Villarreal made him a starter in the midfield, one of the few junior high students ever to make that claim on a boys' high school team. In fact, he retained his starting position for the next 5 years. The team had its ups and downs in his first two seasons but by his sophomore year, ours was one of the most talented groups in the section. At that time, the section still allowed CBA to play in the classification that our enrollment placed us so after a very successful regular season, one in which we won the League Championship, the team advanced into the sectional playoffs as the number one seed. They won the section III championship for the first time in several years. In fact they advanced to the State Semifinal game, such a feat at the time that our principal, Brother Michael, cancelled school on the day of the State semifinals and five bus loads of CBA students converged on the thriving metropolis of Cohocton to watch their heroes play. The result wasn't what was hoped for and the Brothers lost 3 - 1. His junior year brought a new coach, Joe Papaleo who brought in a new fire and a winning attitude to the program. Mike continued to thrive under Papaleo. The team again breezed through the regular season and sectionals and again advanced to the state final four. Unfortunately, for CBA the result was the same, this time the Brothers lost in a shootout. In his senior year, he and classmates such as Sean Boyle and Mike Kuznia vowed they would follow in the footsteps of the baseball team from the previous spring and finally win that elusive state championship. That year it was obvious that the team was on a mission. They were dominant in the regular season and sectionals and again advanced to the final four. This time, however, the result was different. A win in the semis over....



And then Mike helped seal the deal in the finals when he scored the teams' second goal to help secure the schools' first soccer state championship. They had finally done it!! When asked how it felt to win the title, Mike is quoted as saying that he slept with the plaque and carried around all day in school. I don't know about the sleep part, but I can attest to the carry it around part! In the sport of soccer, statistics do not always tell the entire story. Such was the case with Mike. He did score his share of goals, scoring 32 goals and he assisted on 40 more during his last two seasons. But what the stats don't tell is the leadership that Mike provided on the field. He was a four time captain, unheard of even today. His intense aggressive style helped him earn many individual honors. He was an all league selection four times, He was selected All CNY and All State in his junior and senior years. The individual honors culminated by him being selected as a high school All American in 1996. For his efforts, he received a scholarship to the University of Virginia, at the time one of the top programs in the country.

When his playing days were through, Mike wanted to remain involved in the game that did so much for him. When Godwin Iwelumo, the first and only coach the girls program ever had moved on to a college position, Mike was there to take the torch. And he proved to be as skilled on the bench as he was on the field. In his first year at the helm, he led the Brothers to a Section III Class A Championship. And just as

when he played, the success kept on coming. In the next three years the team won two league championships and reached the sectional finals twice. In 2009 it got even better. That year, a team with only 2 seniors, won the league and sectional title and advanced to the State Championship game. Honors poured in for the team and for Mike. The team was ranked 23<sup>rd</sup> in the nation in the final NSCAA poll. For his efforts Mike was named OHSL, CNY and New York State Coach of the Year. Not bad for a fifth year coach. His record speaks for itself. In his six years as coach his teams have amassed an 96 – 17 – 5 record.

Mike, first as a player and now as a coach you have given your all to CBA and its students. You have showed how much CBA meant to you as a student and you now back to make sure that a new group of students have the same experience you did. We appreciate your dedication to our school and proudly welcome you into the LaSallian Hall of Fame.

