



Let's fast forward a couple of decades. The year is 1990 and the CBA that our cross country team of 1973 experienced had changed dramatically. Although the values instilled and the strong academic programs were intact, the student body was a bit more diverse. You see in 1987, the Convent School girls that used to be our cheerleaders and dance guests became our classmates. We were a bit smaller too. The graduating class of 1974 was 179 males; the graduating class of 1990 had 67 males and 7 females.

Along with the decrease of enrollment, was a decrease in championships. In fact, those football glory days of the fifties and sixties were a distant memory. After those three consecutive championship teams that Baichi and Barksdale played on CBA had won only two football championships in the next 28 years, a long drought by anyone's standards. In order to turn the program around, as was done with Ludovico some 40 years earlier, the Brothers turned to an alum to lead the way. Paul Ciciarelli, a football star during those glory years, was given the task to resurrect the program. As any coach knows, in order to win you need to have talent and that is where our next inductee Frank Giufre comes in.

Now Frank's road to CBA included the purchase of an EZ Pass, twenty-five miles each way along the Thruway to and from Canastota. Moreover, the decision was his own. His father Jim, a pretty good football player in his own right at Idaho State University, helped him weigh his options, and it was decided that Frank would come to CBA for high school, a decision that would change his life's path. In addition, he didn't come alone. Nick DiVeronica and Brian Bruno also came with him forming a combination that would help change the fortunes of the CBA Football Program.

Frank was a hard worker who was a very accomplished wrestler. In June of 1991, just before Frank came to CBA, he won the National Freestyle Wrestling Championship at heavyweight in the 13-14 year old age group. Frank then gave up wrestling to concentrate more fully on his Karate and football. Ah yes, Karate, something he started at the age of 5 under the tutelage of the legendary Greg Tierney. Frank was considered one of the best students Tierney ever taught because of his ability to set and reach his goals. A fact that will help drive him to his eventual successes

Now on to football. A new coach who wanted to make his team a family was perfect for Frank because of how important family was to him. In his first two years, the team was still struggling for an identity. Although showing obvious improvement the team could only muster a 4 - 12 record. That was through no fault of Frank.

He made an immediate impact on the program, earning a starting spot on the varsity the moment he stepped on the field. His sophomore year he got noticed by opposing coaches and was named first team all league at



center. By his junior year, it all started to come together. The '93 team knew they had a chance to be something special, a great group of returning veterans and a freshman running back named Tim Brunson. It did not take long for them to make a statement. In the opening game against defending champion Fowler, who the year before shut out CBA 24 - 0 , the Brothers came out on top with a 14 – 12 win getting the go ahead score with just 35 seconds remaining.

From that moment on, the fortunes of the CBA football program changed. That year the team went undefeated in the regular season and advanced to the sectional final for the first time in school history. If Brunson became the face of the program, certainly Giufre was the heart and soul. The team molded together as one with Dave Giamartino, Diveronica and Bruno all making key contributions to the teams. While often a lineman's accomplishments go unnoticed, Franks did not. After one game when Brunson gave the credit for his success to the offensive line, Giufre, who played the game with a broken finger remarked, that s the greatest feeling in the world making a block and seeing Timmy run for a touchdown... that's what we do!

In his junior and senior years, Frank led the Brothers to a 15 – 2 record, more wins in those two seasons than in the previous seven combined.

Frank was ranked the 10<sup>th</sup> best lineman in the nation. The honors came pouring in, similar to that of Alex Delucia 40 years earlier. All League, All CNY, All State, a USA today All American. As could be expected, the colleges came calling. However, for Frankie, Syracuse was the perfect fit. On the day of his official signing, Coach Ciciarelli echoed the remarks of Greg Tierney years before, "If every athlete worked as hard as Frank did, they would all meet their expectations. Even as a freshman he set a goal for himself and now he has accomplished it." However, on that day his biggest fan made the most important comment about him. His grandparents Sharky and Florence Giufre attended just about every game Frank played, and his attending Syracuse allowed them to continue that family tradition. While everyone else was spewing superlatives about his football abilities, her statement, at the end of the day, is the reason for his postgraduate successes. She said simply "He is just a terrific kid, God Bless Him!"

That terrific kid continued his playing career at Syracuse University. When that was finished, he still had an unquenchable passion for the game. So as his father before him had done, he entered the coaching ranks, first here at his beloved alma mater, then as a grad assistant with University of Miami where he took part in two national championship games. He has moved quickly through the ranks and is now an assistant coach for the Indianapolis Colts.

Frank is unable to be with us tonight. He is helping his team prepare for their Monday Night game against the Giants. Judging from large group of his family and friends here today in his honor it obvious that his grandmothers assessment was correct. I hope that the family will relay to Frank just how proud CBA is of his accomplishments and how honored we are to Frank take his place in our Athletic Hall of Fame.

