



Sarsfield J. O'Connor graduated from CBA in 1916, after turning seventeen in May of that year. His older brother, Lloyd O'Connor, was also a member of the same graduating class. Sars matriculated at the University of Buffalo Dental School where, despite his lack of size, he played varsity football with such tenacity and zeal as to earn election to the All-time University of Buffalo Football Team as a tackle. He graduated from the University of Buffalo at the age of nineteen. Too young for professional licensure as a dentist, he played professional football for the Seneca Professional Football Team, and returned to Syracuse to become CBA's first football coach. From the time of his graduation until his death in 1954, Sars was a loyal alumnus. For thirty plus years he served as a volunteer timekeeper at all CBA basketball games and as a linesman for the school's football games after his tenure as coach had concluded.



Sars was an important benefactor to CBA and fast friend to many Brothers. He provided free dental services for students, local faculty and for Brothers from around the Northeast, even during the Depression. He x-rayed all types of sports injuries for CBA athletes free of charge, and also fabricated mouthpieces for them, similarly without compensation. He and his wife, Helen, opened their home to the Brothers and students, and they often hosted Sunday dinners and other social events. Sars and Helen were tireless fundraisers for CBA, and Helen was active with the Mother's Club. Sars was the first president of the schools' Alumni Association.

Sars's love and devotion towards CBA became a family legacy. To date, his only son, five grandsons, one great-grandson and three great-granddaughters have graduated from CBA. Additional family members are expected to graduate from CBA in the near future. His son and one grandson have

served on CBA's Board of Trustees, two grandchildren have held office with the Alumni Association, and two grandchildren have coached at CBA. Sars often said the Brothers molded him into the man he became, therefore he felt an intense desire to reciprocate for the many benefits he came to enjoy because of his affiliation with CBA. He guided many students to the school and made it possible for many of them to graduate.

Sarsfield O'Connor died on September 1, 1954. At that time in order to recognize his importance to the school and to its' athletic program, a group of his friends established a Memorial Award in his name. The group, led by John Lynch, Ed Kearney, Francis St. Denis and Joe Byrne, among others designated this award to be given to annually to the CBA football player who had shown a combination of outstanding athletic ability and good citizenship. This award has been coveted by our football players for nearly a half a century.

After giving so much of himself to Christian Brothers Academy during his lifetime, it is fitting that tonight we honor Dr. O'Connor's memory by inducting him into the LaSallian Athletic Hall of Fame.

