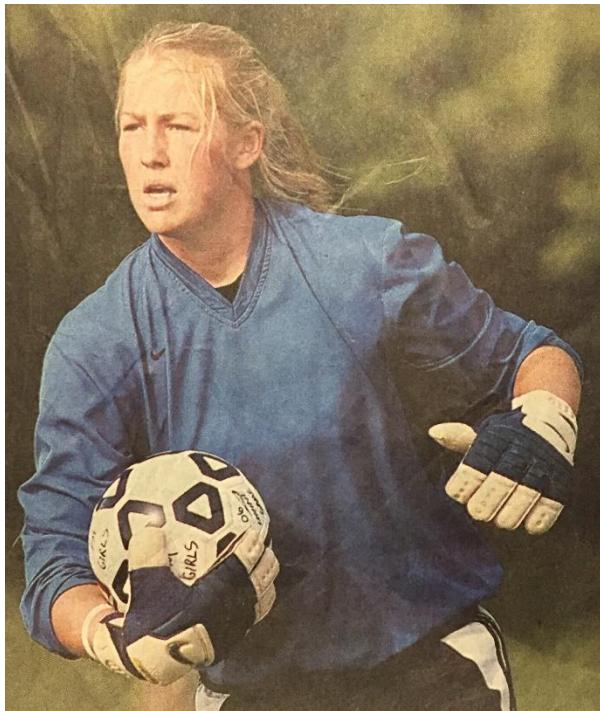




Our first inductee had an unusually long road to get to CBA, Almost 3000 miles long! You see, Grace Barnard had a non- traditional introduction to CBA. She went to sixth grade in California, but when her family moved back to the Syracuse area, several of her cousins were already students at CBA and the family wanted her to follow in their footsteps to attend CBA. In fact, her acceptance was up in the air for most of the summer. She is not sure what strings had to be pulled or pushed but a couple of days before the opening of school, Grace got her long-awaited acceptance letter and she proudly became a member of the Class of 2007

Grace was naturally athletic and at the time her first love was softball. As an eighth grader she earned a starting spot on the varsity and made the most of it. A shortstop on a program trying to find its' identity, Grace stood out, batting an outstanding .358 and was among the team leaders in all offensive categories, a trend that would continue over the next 4 years! By her sophomore year she had become one of the top players in the area. Batting an amazing .446 she was chosen to all league and All CNY. Interestingly in her short bio printed in the paper for All CNY, she said that she was hoping to play college sports at the Division I level and that in the future she wanted to become a coach. I guess she really knew what she wanted to do in life at a young age. In her next two years she was one of the most feared hitters in the area. In her junior year, she ended up with almost 30 less at bats than her 8th grade year. Why? If you watched the World Series this year you know that for most good hitters, there is a shift to neutralize a batter's effectiveness. For Grace, they didn't bother with the shift, they just walked her! So much so that eventually Coach Greg Jewett had her bat leadoff just so that she might have a chance to see some pitches. In fact, she proved her opponent coach's strategy correct when in her last game they chose to pitch to her with the bases loaded...Bad idea, Grace hit a grand slam, a fitting end to a great career. Her last two seasons had similar outstanding results to her initial three. Grace batted nearly .500 for her junior and senior years and ended up first team All-League 4 times. Not bad for what turned out to be her second sport.

You see what happened to Grace, as has happened to many of us, was that at some point her focus and passion shifted. As an 8th grader she was also selected by Godwin Iwelumo to be a member of the varsity soccer team. She fondly recalls that the players on that team embraced her. The older girls Niland, Carrick, Catanzarita took her under their wings and treated her like a little sister. Grace thrived in that atmosphere. In fact, Grace loved that camaraderie most about team sports. The program that she was welcomed into was one of the best in the area.



The girls that were accepting of her happened to be very talented and hard-working athletes, just like Grace. In the offseason, she participated on many high-level teams. Each year, she continued to improve and as she improved she became more motivated to get better. When not playing for CBA, she played on a team that participated in tournaments in England and Brazil. Selfishly the CBA program reaped the benefits of her training and experience. In her five years on the varsity team, the Brothers won four league championships, three sectional championships and advanced to the final four in 2004. And Grace played an important role in that success. In her career she played in 95 games, garnering 61 shutouts and only allowing a total of 29 goals. In 2004, the year the team advanced to the state final four. Grace set a school record by recording 17 shutouts. During her four years of high school she led the league in save percentage each of those four seasons turning away nearly 95 percent of the shots she faced. And naturally the accolades came pouring in. She was a four-time All-League selection, was named All CNY and All State in her junior and senior years. As a senior, she ranked among the top 100 players in the country and she received the ultimate recognition when she was named to the All-American team.

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At one of those National clinics she attended, she impressed the William and Mary coaching staff. When she visited, she was felt the same camaraderie that she had with her team at CBA, so it was a perfect match for her! She had a solid career with the tribe, finishing second in shutouts in the CAA during her junior year.

After college Grace followed the path that she wrote about some 13 years ago. She became a coach. And after assistant positions at LeMoyne and Dartmouth, last year she took over the program at Assumption College.... well...the NE 10 conference has its tournament this weekend each year, last night the Greyhounds defeated Southern New Hampshire to advance to tomorrow's Championship game against Franklin Pierce. Coach Barnards' team currently is riding an 8-game unbeaten streak which is the programs longest since 2005. Because of that, Grace is unable to be with us tonight. And while we can't tell her in person, we want her to know that because of the way that she performed on the athletic fields and the way that she presented herself that she understands how proud of her we are for all that she accomplished so far and what she will accomplish in the future. I ask that Graces mom Elaine pass along our good wishes to her daughter and come up now to accept her award for being inducted into the LaSallian Athletic Hall of Fame.

