When Walt Patulski entered CBA in the Fall of 1964, he was entering a brand new building that was only three years old, but the traditions and successes of the school were legendary. The football team was coached by Frank Cappelletti and was fresh off winning a City league championship. Walt though of the day that he’d be part of that winning tradition. Little did he know that by the end of his high school career he’d be one of the most sought after football recruits in the country.

At CBA, Walt was three-sport athlete. He not only competed in football, but also played basketball and ran track. On the hardwoods, Walt was an agile big man with a great scoring touch. He was named to the all city all star team in 1967 and 1967 and scored 652 points (amazingly 326 each season) for an average of 20.4 points per game. When basketball season ended, Walt became one of Riordan’s Raiders and helped lead the Brothers to 4 consecutive undefeated seasons. The 6’6” 245 pounder held the school record in the discus throw with a toss of 155’ 10 inches and, get this, was a consistent winner in the high jump, clearing the 6 foot mark in his best performances.

But Walter’s first love was football. By his junior year, he had become one of the top tight ends and linebackers in Central New York high school football. He earned all city honors his junior year and was looking forward to a very successful senior campaign. But something happened that summer that changed the road that Patulski would take for the rest of his life - a change of position. The 1966 version of the Brothers football team had an all senior backfield. So when looking to fill that void, Coach Cappelletti simply looked to the end of the line, offensive line that is. He took a chance on his all league end being the right person to take over the fullback spot. The rest is history. From the fullback position, Walt rewrote the record books. In eight games, he battered his opponents for 1,111 yards in 156 carries or an average of over 7 yards per carry.
He led his team to a 7 - 1 record and a second place finish in the rugged Central New York Cities League. Walt shattered the league’s scoring record with 23 touchdowns and two conversions for 140 points, or just over 17 points per game. When he wasn’t slashing through opponents lines, he was performing equally as well as a middle linebacker. At season’s end he was a unanimous choice as Fullback on the CNYCL all star team and rated a first team berth at linebacker as well. This was followed by selection as fullback on the all Area team. Then he reached the scholastic pinnacle when named to the Coach and Athlete’s Magazine All American team in 1967.

Walt’s outstanding leadership and scholastic abilities were also cited as he won the Italian American Athlete Club’s and the Jewish War Veteran Association’s annual Onondaga County Athlete of the Year awards, the Cornell Alumni Student Athlete Award and the CBA’s Annual Sarsfield O’Connor Memorial Trophy. For all of his hard work and achievement Walt was awarded a full scholarship to the University of Notre Dame.

At Notre Dame, Walt’s position was changed again. He was moved to the defensive line where, playing for one of the most visible programs in the country any on field success would not go unnoticed. In his senior year, he was voted a consensus All American and the Winner of the Lombardi Trophy given to the Most outstanding lineman in the country. When the time came for the 1972 draft, the question wasn’t will he get drafted, but how high will he go. That question was answered quickly when he was chosen as by the Buffalo Bills as the number one pick overall in he NFL Draft.

Success at all levels, high school, college and on the professional level and now at McDonald Investments, Walt we are pleased to have you with us on a night that we honor not only you but three of your mentors, Frank Cappelletti, Jerry Riordan, and Brother Basilian. You have always proudly worn the Purple and Gold and now we are able to express to you our pride in you and your successes through the years.