



The year is 1953 and Eisenhower, just elected President, brought about a truce in Korea. On the home front, CBA was gradually outgrowing its current building on Willow Street. One possible reason was that success of the football team, led by head coach Walt Ludovico. Since the start of the decade, the Brothers had not lost a game, quite an impressive record. Therefore, it was easy to see why parents would make the sacrifice and pay the tuition of almost \$200 to send their sons to the athletic and academic powerhouse that was CBA.



Now the Delucia family was already well engrossed in the CBA Community. Big brother Mike was a stalwart on the CBA Machine and by his junior year considered one of the best football players in Syracuse history. So it was only natural that young Alex would love to follow in his brothers footsteps and don the purple and gold.

Alex was quite an athlete in his own right. In his sophomore and junior years, he participated in track and baseball. In those day's there was no restriction on playing two sports in a season. It just so happened that the baseball teams and track teams both practiced at Griffin field and it just so happened that Brother James, a very persuasive man, was trying to build a track team. So, Alex and a few other baseballers also ran track. If the story I heard is correct, sometimes they participated in the meets in their baseball uniforms! With that said, when Alex wasn't trying to hit the curve ball he was putting the shot and throwing the discus. I'm kinda surprised that coach Mannara or Weber were fine with that but it didn't impact Alex too negatively because he was a baseball all city all-star in his junior year.

However, where Alex shined was on the gridiron. A hardnosed competitor, he had the size and heart needed to excel. As a freshman in 1953, he played on the one of the best football teams ever to come out of Syracuse. It was unusual at that time for a freshman to step right in and play on a CBA football team, but Alex

did get the opportunity to play alongside big Brother Mike that season. In his sophomore year, he began to make a name for himself. Taking over for Mike at center and linebacker Alex helped lead the Brothers to another undefeated season and increase the winning streak to 35 games. In fact, he single handedly kept the streak in tack when he blocked an extra point in the Central game to give the Brothers a 14-13 win and extend the streak to 32 games. At the end of his sophomore year, he was “nosed out” for first team all league honors, by a senior. In fact the paper even admitted that was the only reason he wasn’t chosen! but that didn’t stop Coach Ludovico from singing his praises... he told the post Standard that Alex DeLucia is 15 years old and weighs 190 pounds of all muscle. Alex is agile and quick despite his youth. I feel certain he will become one of the greatest football players to come out of the City of Syracuse. In his next two years, he did his best to prove that Ludovico was right. By his junior year, Alex was dominant. He earned all city honors in each of his junior and senior seasons, the only underclassman to be bestowed that honor in 1955. His team won championships in both of those years with him dominating the offensive line and anchoring one of the best defenses in the city. And about that agile part, Alex scored a defensive touchdown in each of his last three years on the team... going 30 yards with an interception vs Eastwood as a sophomore, 52 yards with another interception against Nottingham the next year and returning a fumble 78 yards vs. Central for a score his senior year.

His grit carried over to his teammates. He was a great leader who encouraged his teammates always to do their best... well, in the interest of full disclosure, his teammates claim that he inspired them into always do their best because they were... SCARED of him. Now look at that picture, that is Alex on the left... does he look like someone you would be scared of? Another note about Alex, he never came out of the game. From the beginning to the end you could count on him being out there

As expected the accolades and plaudits were abundant. After his junior year, he was dubbed the best linebacker in the league. The following year he was called one of the best centers to emerge from the local scholastic ranks. That year he was named captain of the All City team, which included teammates Benny Alibrandi and John Lischak. Alex was called the best lineman in the city when he was the only Syracuse area player named to the all-state team

After high school, continued his career following his brother Mike to Villanova and concluding it at Syracuse University. He then went on to serve his country, taking up boxing along the way. He even sparred with then Cassius Clay while he was in the service. He even spent a season or so on the CBA staff, coaching several of the men here today from the Class of 63.

Unfortunately, this past summer Alex left us. Although he cannot be here to accept this honor, I hope that his family will take some solace in knowing that his induction into the LaSallian Hall of Fame will ensure that the memory of Alex Delucia will live on forever in the halls of CBA



