

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Undefeated 1970 Cross Country Team



Standing - Br. Smith, Br. Bielen, Br. Leavy, Marty Wisnieski, Tony Fiorentino, Br. Sirignano, Br. Binkley
Kneeling - Pat Rafferty, Ed Walsh, Paul Barbary, Ray Naudain, Matt Centrowitz

Hundreds of runners from up to 20 schools stand side-by-side at the start of a cross-country race. Colorful uniforms dot what looks more like a medieval battle line than the starting line of a race. When the starters gun sounds, runners sprint forward in unison before shortly thinning to one, two or three abreast. They race towards a finish line $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles away over a rugged course of grass, dirt, rocks, sand, hills and valleys, contending with the terrain, the elements and each other.

Welcome to the sport of Cross-Country.

Coached by Bro. John Bielen, the 1970 Varsity Cross-Country team consisted of Paul Barbary, Ray Naudain, Ed Walsh, Marty Wisnieski, Tony Fiorentino, Pat Rafferty and Matt Centrowitz. Starting with their season opener at the Bear Mountain Invitational in September, the team “ran the table” on the challenging courses by competing in nine races and taking 1st place in each one.

Their titles included the CHSAA Manhattan–Bronx–Staten Island Sectional Championship, the CHSAA Intersectional Championship and cross-country’s biggest prize, the Eastern States Championship.

Seven young men and their coach made the Fall of 1970 a season to remember.