

HALL OF ACHIEVEMENT

2006/2007

Journal

BEN BONAVENTURA

Class of 1973

Ben Bonaventura was born and raised in Copiague and graduated from Copiague High School in 1973. While attending High School, Ben was involved in student government and was a three-sport athlete; playing football, basketball and baseball. He excelled at baseball and in his junior and senior years was recognized as an All-County Player. In his senior year he was named League III Most Valuable Player.

After graduating from High School, Ben attended Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia and double majored in sociology and religion. He was a four-year starter on the baseball team which he captained during his junior and senior years. Ben continued his education at the College of William and Mary, earning a Masters Degree in Educational Administration.

Ben began his career in education at Christchurch School, a boys' boarding school in Middlesex, Virginia. At Christchurch School, Ben taught social studies and coached football and baseball, leading the baseball team to a league championship in 1984. In his last year at Christchurch, Ben was hired as the Acting Headmaster, supervising the entire educational program. He then went on to serve as the Headmaster at Southampton Academy in Courtland, Virginia, a Pre-K through Grade 12 college preparatory school, from 1984 to 1986. In 1986, Ben returned to his roots on Long Island and was hired by his alma mater to teach Social Studies. Then in 1999, he was appointed as Middle School Social Studies Department Chairman. From the very first, he became involved in coaching football, wrestling and baseball, and in 2005, "Coach B." helped lead the Copiague Eagles to their first league championship since 1962. Ben takes great pride in all of his students, but is most proud of the hundreds of scholar-athletes he has mentored and guided to college.

Ben is married to Michele Russo, a former classmate and colleague at Copiague. Together they have four sons, Ben Jr., Daniel and twins Gennaro and Anthony.

**"OUR HISTORY IS NOT OUR DESTINY...
WE DETERMINE OUR OWN DESTINY"**