

ANDREW “DUKE” VERKEY CLASS OF 1997



Mynderse Academy has produced a number of multi-talented athletes over the years. Andrew Verkey adds his name to that impressive list. Duke excelled in football, basketball and lacrosse in high school. Academics were also a priority for him. He was a member of the National Honor Society, recipient of a Fredenburg Scholarship and a member of the Block “M”. A hard worker and leader by example, Andrew was chosen team captain multiple times in multiple seasons.

In football, Duke showed his versatility by playing several different positions including offensive and defensive back, kicker, punter, receiver and return specialist; almost never leaving the field. A 90 + yard rushing touchdown highlighted his running back abilities. For his accomplishments he was selected to offensive and defensive All-League teams. Duke was also chosen for two prestigious football awards: the “Shanghai” Sarratori Memorial Award given to the senior who demonstrates leadership and the Dave Geitner Award for “the student who best exemplifies the ideals and values exhibited by this man that touched us all so profoundly.”

Coached by Hall Of Fame coach Al Henry, Andrew played three years of varsity lacrosse, receiving All-League recognition and earning the “Ball Hawk” Award. He was able to take the valuable fundamentals he learned in high school from Coach Henry to the Division 1 lacrosse level.

Basketball was probably Duke’s favorite sport. A three year starter, he ended his high school career 2nd in scoring with 1410 points, trailing only his brother Matt. His efforts brought him several post season accolades including All-League first team, two time “Fab Five” and two time All-Greater Rochester first team. Andrew was a two time team MVP and led the team to back to back Section V final appearances, winning All-Tournament and Class CCC MVP. His outstanding

efforts earned him 2nd Team All-State honors and selection to the Ronald McDonald All-Star game where he was high scorer. Duke was chosen Male Athlete of the Year his senior year.

Andrew took his excellent undergraduate experiences to the University of Binghamton where he played basketball and lacrosse while earning a degree in finance and marketing and an MBA with a concentration in management information systems. Selected team captain for 2 different years Andrew received the Work Ethic Award and tied the school record with six 3's in a single game.

In lacrosse, Andrew was chosen captain and placed on the All-Rookie team and 2nd team All-Conference. His efforts in the classroom earned him first team All-Academic honors also. He became one of only a handful of NCAA athletes to play at all 3 Division levels.

Andrew credits his high school teachers and coaches with instilling the fundamentals and motivation to succeed at the University level in sports as well as in the classroom.

Andrew joined his father, Rod, and brother, Matt, in the Section V Hall of Fame last year.

He is employed at BonaDent and his wife Kimmy is an elementary teacher.