

LIAM HURLEY

Liam Hurley says he was a “visual learner.” He remembers “watching my older brother play numerous sports -- soccer, running and tennis -- and wanting to be able to keep up with him. Both my parents were active and I remember wanting to always play against them. I really remember watching the Celtics of the Bird-McHale-Parish-DJ era and just loving those teams. I remember really trying to visualize these great players and how they moved.”

That translated into a distinguished and versatile athletics career at Bedford High School that began in 1986 as a freshman on Coach Joe Patuleia’s varsity soccer team.

As a senior he was captain of the basketball and tennis teams, and a Boston *Globe* all-scholastic and Dual County League all-star in basketball and soccer. “Winning the DCL in soccer and basketball my senior year -- that was very special,” he said.

Liam was a two-year starter on Coach Jim Greenwood’s basketball teams of 1988-90 that combined for a record of 31-9. He was the only returning starter from that first year, but the program didn’t miss a beat. The starting five were leading-rebounder Liam (112), Hall of Famer Dennis Taylor, Scott Albani, Tom Lentine and Carl Szezniak. All five of those starters shot over 70 percent from the foul line.

“Liam could play four positions,” said Coach Greenwood, who began teaching in Bedford in 1970. “I think he was one of the top five best all-around basketball players we’ve ever had.” His best offensive effort was 25 points in an overtime win over Concord-Carlisle; Liam was 10-for-10 from the line.

On the court he was smart and always under control, the coach continued. “You could look at his face and you wouldn’t know if we were down eight or ahead by eight.” In the final regular season game of 1989-1990, he sank two free throws in the waning seconds to give Bedford a one-point victory over Boston Latin and clinch the first DCL championship in 16 years. (“I remember hitting that free throw -- my mom actually ended up out on the court with time remaining,” he laughed. “I had to tell my mom the game was not over.”)

Coach Greenwood said Liam had the third highest vote total in the 1990 DCL all-star voting. He also was a league all-star in soccer and tennis. The coach also said Liam occasionally would enter half-mile races in outdoor track meets, coming off the practice tennis courts to run a 2:10.

Liam played soccer at the next level – on two continents. He was all-New England for the Bates College Bobcats and competed for University College in Dublin, Ireland as a junior year exchange student.

Liam credits his coaches, teammates, friends and family for his achievements in sports. Indeed, his sister Caitlin DeSanti ’93 is a member of the BHS Sports Hall of Fame. “My friends Scott Albani, Tom Lentine, Dennis Taylor, Eric Berman, Mark Alves, Jimmy and David Hunt,

Danny Carroll, Sean Deardorff, Dave Boschetto, Dan Callahan, Karl Farmer, Taavo Gotfredsen, Jamie Lewis and a whole bunch of others -- these guys inspired me and pushed me to be the best that I could.”

These days Liam does “anything to keep moving,” from running with a group in the morning, trying to commute by bicycle, and playing tennis and paddle tennis to skiing with his kids, and coaching his daughter’s soccer team and his son’s basketball team.