

## *Lorin Beresnyak*



**L**orin Beresnyak was a coaching legend in the making when he passed away at the all-too-young age of 41 because of complications from the diabetes he lived with since his childhood.

That disease never stopped him from accomplishing some wonderful things on a baseball diamond, both as a player — he hit a school-record .463 at the University of Bridgeport — and as a coach for a dozen years at Central Catholic High School.

The soft-spoken gentleman known as “Mr. B” became baseball coach in 1965 and guided the Cavaliers to an 11–7 record, the first of nine winning seasons during his 12 years on the hill. In his second season, Central went 14–5 and won the 1966 Thruway League crown, while the ‘67 team went 13–8 and reached the state semifinals.

But Beresnyak is best remembered for leading the Cavaliers to back-to-back Class S state championship games in 1974 and ’75. The ’74 team went 15–7 and won a share of the Western Connecticut Conference title, while the 1975 Cavs finished 16–2 in the regular season — both losses by one run — to claim the program’s first outright WCC title. They would finish 19–3 overall, one of the best records in city history, but lost to Griswold for the second year in a row in the state final.

In his dozen years at Central Catholic, Beresnyak was 147–86, a .630 winning percentage. He coached the Cavaliers one more year after that memorable 1975 season, going 14–7 and returning to the state tournament. But with his diabetes worsening, Beresnyak stepped down as coach a month before the 1977 season. He passed away later that year.

The upper field at CCHS was eventually named Lorin Beresnyak Field.