



Episode #32 - Joey Mulinaro

Coach Ed Orgeron (00:00):

This is Coach O, head coach of the LSU Tigers. You're listening to the Rebel 5ive podcast with Gary Armbruster and today's guest, Joey Mulinaro. Go Tigers And Go Rebels!

Gary (00:11):

You're listening to Rebel 5ive an interactive interview podcast with alumni, past and current parents, and friends of Roncalli high school. I'm your host Gary Armbruster, director of alumni and corporate relations at Roncalli . And each week I will ask our guests five questions regarding how their lives have evolved and how key connections of experience, opportunity and alumni networking have propelled them to where they are today. We'll talk challenges, how to overcome challenges and what they've learned along the way. Stay tuned.

Gary (00:42):

Our guest today all the way from Saint Barnabas. He's a Saint Barnabas warrior from the class of 2008. That's right. Yup. Joey Mulinaro . Joey, thanks for being on the Rebel 5ive podcast right now. If you do a Google search for Joey Mulinaro , you're everywhere. And so we're going to get into that in just a couple minutes. Um, but I want to touch on a couple things first. Yeah. Uh, you graduated from Roncalli in 2012 and so I did a cursory look through your, some of your classmates. And I know the reason I did that is cause the 2012 class. That's a dang good class. Yeah. Uh, well I hit everybody. Everybody

Gary (01:25):

thanks. Their classe is the best. But there are some that that just kind of rise above the rest. And the class of 2012 always kind of sticks out there for me cause I know some of the people that were in it. So I'm just gonna throw out some names and then we'll maybe just review just real quick. Cool. Uh, Jordan Donica yeah.

Joey (01:43):

Talk about everywhere. Oh man. He was talented here for sure. I mean, he played football. Of course. He made quite the splash on the stage and still is. Sure. Yeah. And he's got some TV time I've seen. And um, he, he and I were actually roommates on senior retreat, no kidding. Third retreat in December of 2011 and we're roommates.

Gary (02:03):

Yeah, a stellar group. Collin Hawk. Collin played You know, I went down to UC, played baseball, but came back to UIndy I think, uh, David Heckman.

Gary (02:13):

Um, He was in my wedding. Okay. Not an athlete, but supremely talented. Chessie LaRosa Oh yeah, we go way. I was gonna say another St. Barnabas kid. Um, let's see. Uh, Will Schott state champ. Uh, one of the best, one of my best memories ever in the, uh, woodshed for the faculty student or faculty senior a game. We did you play that? I did not. Me and Mr. Traylor were on the call. Okay. That's right. I'd sticking true to that. Probably the biggest dunk I've ever seen in my life in the woodshed by Will Schott. I remember that. I do the other guy by name of a Cole Toner. Whatever happened to him. It's a mystery. Had a lot going for him, but uh, you know, yeah. But Cole, he's another, another good friend of mine and, uh, the Iceman himself Brad Fey. Oh gosh. I mean, we're going to be seeing him. Uh, and you know, I'm running an NBA team here soon. I mean, yeah, that, uh, anyway, I just want to touch on that cause I thought, you know, that that was a good class and a lot of, a lot of talent and Ryan Weber go play at ball state basketball ball state. All right, so you started out at ball state. How long were you there and then you, you, you left ball state and went to UIndy?

Joey (03:30):

Yeah, it was there just my freshman year and um, yeah, I actually had signed a lease to come back from my sophomore year to move in with a few Clinton Corban, Collin Hartman, couple of other Roncalli guys, Paul Armbruster. And um, then I just had a change of heart and I just, I wanted to come back and then luckily they let me break the lease and uh, it worked out for them and, and it worked out for me.

Gary (03:52):

Why, what was the motivation, do you know or,

Joey (03:54):

you know, it's funny, it, looking back now when I was 19 or 18, whenever I made that call, it's just, it's almost one of those turning point moments in your life because I just, like I said, I was like, okay, I had a little bit of rough freshman year, rough transition. I'm going to stick it out, getting to this house with my buddies and then it'll be all right. And then I just remember vividly just having a moment of, I don't think I'm supposed to be there and, and I want to come back home. I want to come back to Indy. And then we looked up university of Indianapolis, my mom and I, she was like, Oh, they have a radio program. It's pretty good. So there was done deal.

Gary (04:29):

Were you in the radio program at ball state? I was. Okay. Yeah. You just got married [inaudible] yep. And uh, her, uh, your wife's name is Riley [inaudible]. Uh, where's Riley from? She went to Lawrence North. Okay. High school. She's a member of the 2014 class out there. So two years younger than me and then she went to Purdue. Okay. And you spending any time much time up in West Lafayette other than,

Joey (04:52):

yeah, my, her senior year was, we dated all throughout that year and then we got engaged at the end of that year. And so pretty much every weekend and even some week days, you know, when I was, you know, getting out of work and stuff, I would be up there with her. And so, you know, I consider, I consider myself an honorary boiler, you know, I really do.

Gary (05:09):

So hobbies, comedy obviously. Yeah. Where do you get your comedy bone from? Your humor bone,

Joey (05:16):

My dad and my uncle. Yeah. Um, my dad is just, he always has had funny ideas, is off, off colored, funny comments. And then my uncle Tony, he went to Roncalli as well and he was actually in the Performing Arts. Stuff. I forgot that. Uh, what's the one, the famous one? The princess bride. Um, yeah, I mean, so he, he has always been really good at that and still is. Uh, so those, those two guys really, you know, from when I was a little,

Joey (05:41):

Well I know your dad and I've known your dad for a long time. And so I, I kind of knew the answer to that question. He's, uh, the, as they say, the nut doesn't fall far from the tree, so to speak. For sure. Um, I'm sure Joe's living a little bit vicariously through you.

Joey (05:59):

Oh, he always has ideas. He's pitching me bits. I know, I'm sure. I'm sure. Yeah.

Gary (06:05):

What is the star Wars podcast?

Joey (06:08):

Okay. Yeah. So that's something that we wanted to start in 2020. Uh, my dad and I are huge star Wars fans and it's something that, uh, my uncle kind of gave us a hard time and there's a skit on SNL where it's like a father. It's almost similar to this. It's a father son, uh, podcasting equipment set up. And um, so he sent it to us and was joking about it just because it's, you know, a way for us to bond, spend an hour a week together over something that we, we care about and are passionate about. So if you're a star Wars fan, you'll listen to, to two guys, you know, joke around and talk about that rule, the galaxy podcast. That's where, where you can find us

Gary (06:41):

and uh, that's been launched and it's out there. Okay. Your first job,

Joey (06:46):

uh, I first real job I consider was at Calvary cemetery on the South side

Gary (06:52):

about that cause I have a connection to that.

Joey (06:54):

Yeah. So that was after my freshman year of college at ball state and I came back and my uncle worked there at the time. He had worked my dad's middle brother. He had worked there for close to 20 years or so. And then, um, Mike English, uh, also a Roncalli guy, uh, got me in there. And so I spent the summer just really groundskeeping maintenance, things like that. So it was, it was fun actually.

Gary (07:15):

My dad would have been 92. Um, last week my dad, uh, cut grass. I'm not sure it was at Calvary, might've been st Joe's, but one of those two

Joey (07:26):

I worked on both. Yeah, it was connected. So I would drive over there and do stuff. Did you do any of that? Cutting grass? Oh yeah. Yeah. cut grass and mulched and, and did weed eating. And now with all that stuff. So what'd you learn from that? It's better to work with your mind and work with your hands. You know what it is. It's nice to have the outdoors and to do physical, you know, just a hard day's work. But, uh, you know, it's trying to do it at this time of the year. I can't imagine. Luckily I was, you know, may to August, but uh, yeah, I, I enjoyed it, but definitely made me say, okay, let's, let's get after this radio thing or whatever it is.

Gary (08:04):

What were some of the personalities maybe that you looked at as a youngster and said, you know, I want to be that person. Matt Taylor was certainly cause, well, you were on the rebel media network with us when you're in high school. Uh, Matt was already, uh, I don't know if he's working for the Colts at that point in time. I've been working for 1070 IBC, I think, um, who were some of those personalities that as a very young kid, maybe just out of high school, that you looked up to and said, you know what, that's, I think that's what I want to do.

Joey (08:35):

Sure. Um, Jimmy Fallon, uh, Johnny Carson, Dana Carvey, um, Dave Chappelle, guys like that. Adam Sandler, uh, you know, those are all big. Um, but then, you know, it didn't, it always was, that was the longterm big thing. I never knew how to get there. And obviously I'm not there, but my point being is that, that's when I started going, okay, well what about like, uh, what about like a Colin cowherd? What about like a sports, you know what I mean? A sports media guy can get into the media, can get into this kind of realm and then use my personality and different things to go off and have fun with it. Um, so all those, all those people I named are definitely, you know, since the time I was 17, 18 years old, you know, I've looked at them.

Gary (09:26):

Here's something that I was thinking about today, and maybe I can't believe I'm the first one to think this, so I'm sure you'll correct me if I'm wrong. Um, but somebody that was in our market for a long, long time, uh, was on a Bob Tom show, uh, there two other people as well. Did impressions was on local media everywhere. Mark Patrick. Yeah. And so you remind me a lot of Mark Patrick and I'm sure that's gotta be somebody that, um, even as a young kid you probably were aware of and sure. And thought, you know, that's kinda what I want to be.

Joey (09:59):

Yeah. And actually when I was a freshman at ball state and I was lucky enough to be able to host a one hour week, you know, radio show and their college station there, I got to have Mark Patrick on as a guest. And uh, that was interesting. He's an interesting guy. I remember I introduced him, I said, uh, you know, I'm 19, 18, 19 years old, scared out of my mind and have this guy on the phone and Mark Patrick and he's a ball state man himself. And, and after, after I said that, he kind of paused and he just said a ball state man. And I was like, Oh boy. He said, I've never been introduced that way. I was like, ah, I'm just trying to be a radio guy here, dude. So, but yeah, it's funny you mentioned that

Gary (10:40):

graduating from UIndy where'd you go from there?

Joey (10:44):

So my junior year at UIndy actually I got a part time job at Emmis communications and it was just once a week just babysitting the board, doing that kind of stuff. Uh, other people who I was in the program with at UIndy worked there and so had that tie. And then, uh, Matt Hibbeln, who's still the executive producer over at WIBC, um, you know, he needed people over the weekend to be bodies watching the board. And I said, yeah, let's do it. So I started there as a junior doing that. And then, you know, throughout my junior and senior year, I always get my foot in the door there, do what they needed me to do, Indiana sports, talk with Bob Lovell, scoreboard updates, things like that. And then, um, once I graduated, I mean I hopped around, I was doing whatever, whatever young media dude or girl does, is sending out applications like crazy flying everywhere, having interviews, getting turned down and, and really, I mean I was just doing part time work still at Emmis and uh, and then I actually ended up driving a truck delivering chips for my grandpa for a while. So Seiferts chips. Yeah. Cause I, I needed the money and I, you know, I needed some more regular stuff, regular hours, you know, more so than what I was getting at the time. So I was just trying to find my way for awhile.

Gary (11:58):

Where, where are you now? Talk a little bit, a little bit about your viral video that, uh, came about not too long ago. Um, I think I said earlier, if you do a Google search, Joey Mulinaro you're everywhere.

Joey (12:13):

Well, uh, so funny enough, kind of piggybacking off of where I, where I was, you know, um, and that kind of downtime, figuring it out time. Um, I, I said to myself, I said I got to do something. I'd do something to make myself stand out. So this

was back in 2016, 2017 and . So I reached out to Ben Polizzi, Roncalli '09, uh, another, another rebel grad. He's, he was also in my wedding and I was like, Hey man, you know, cause he worked also as part time employee for WIBC. And I was like, Hey man, we're both kind of wanting to do the same thing. We know each other. We've hung out before, we know that we're into this kind of stuff. Let's do something, you know, whether it's starting to show or doing videos or let's do something. So he said, yeah, okay, I like it.

Joey (12:59):

So then about this time, three years ago, 2017, uh, we'd launched what we call espresso and it's, you know, two Italian guys, you know, the idea was to drop our content in the morning so it could be like a shot of espresso, right. As you know, the, the grand idea was, and so then we just started making little short, you know, comedy sketches and things like that. Um, and so really we've been doing that for the last three years now, but it didn't really start, you know, picking up steam for him, picking up steam for myself until in the last six months or so. Um, so what, you know, that's when I started doing more impressions and putting out more videos that I thought were funny and just really kind of going for it. Cause I was like, if I'm going to get to that point where I want to be, I got to just do it. And um, you know, that started, it really kickstarted with the Nick Saban on Thanksgiving and ever since then it's just been a whirlwind

Gary (13:54):

Going back to you and Ben cause I've seen some of that stuff and it's uh, for our listeners, if you haven't seen it, you need look it up cause it's pretty hilarious. Your content, was it a weekly or were you, did you have a, uh, a schedule that you were trying to, to reach that you'd have content, new content every week or every month or how did that work?

Joey (14:15):

Yeah, it's really funny to think back now because at that time we felt good every couple weeks. If we could get something out, you know, once a month if we could get something out, we felt like we were really doing something. And so now, like I said, it's, it's crazy to think about it because now it's to the point where, you know, we're, we're trying to churn out something every day, you know, if we don't get at least something out almost every day that we are, feel good about that, we're proud of it individually. Right. And not, not together, but just, um, you know, individually if we don't do that and then we're feeling like we're kind of missing out, you know, it's hard for me to sit on the couch at night, my wife if I haven't done something creative, done something I think is funny and then put it out there.

Joey (14:56):

Um, so it's, you know, we've come a long way. We've come a long way, that's for sure.

Gary (15:00):

What's the fine line between a good taste and bad taste in comedy? Yeah. For, for you specifically.

Joey (15:07):

I mean, it just depends on your audience. Uh, I think with the majority of it, you know, it's just like almost when, you know, when you see it, right? Like if you've, if you don't feel good about it, if you don't feel right about it, whether it's the material or the idea behind the, the skit or whatever it is, then you kind of know just to stay away from it. Um, but then again, you know what I mean? Like the, the audience is big just because, I mean, when did you graduate from Roncalli ? 1981 I see anyone, you know, somebody who graduated from Roncalli in 1981 may find something not as tasteful as somebody who graduated from Roncalli in 2010.

Joey (15:46):

That's a very good point. And no disrespect, but that's our audience and that's, you know what I mean? So I'm not your demographic. Sure. Yeah. But I, like I said so much, most of it's really, really funny. Yeah. And what I enjoy. I just saw one of them, it might've been this morning when the, I think you're back from a date that's a kind of a little mini series. I just launched here just because I think that stuff's hilarious just because I'm around it so much with sports media and have been around it. And then, you know, I'm just kind of Tran transferring that into daily life and there's a lot of, uh, you know, funny parallels there that you can make so successful.

Gary (16:25):

I think that stuff's really good because it's really creative. It's something that, um, even though I'm a lot older, I still find it very funny and I probably have a sense of humor of a 16 year old anyway, so appreciate it. Yeah, yeah.

Gary (16:42):

Tell you what, we're going to a break room real quick and we'll come back and I've got some more questions for you. This is Andrew Luck former Colts quarterback your listening to the Rebel Five podcast with Gary Armbruster and Joey Mulinaro, today's guest, we'll be right back.

Break (16:59):

Rebel Five is sponsored by Steve's flowers and gifts for the best and freshest flowers in Indianapolis and surrounding areas. Steve's flowers and gifts have exactly what you're looking for. For your next special occasion call Steve's flowers at (800) 742-9359.

Gary (17:30):

I'm Gary Armbruster and this is the Rebel Five podcast. Our guest today, Joey Mulinaro. Joey, thanks for being here. Really appreciate it. I'm going to go back to some Roncalli memories. Okay. And then we'll get back into you to your career and what you're doing. Favorite Roncalli class. Do you remember what that might be?

Joey (17:49):

Yeah, yeah, I've got a couple. A one definitely stands out speech with Mr. Milroy. Mr. Milroy is great. Um, I mean I miss him a lot. I wish that we, you know, kept in touch more, but uh, that was awesome. And then of course, uh, Mr. Newton in choir, that was, that was good too.

Gary (18:06):

And why speech? I mean, it kind of fits in with what you do. Sure. But tell me why.

Joey (18:12):

I just, well that, uh, it was big and I felt comfortable in there, you know, when I'm in math or chemistry, that was not my, not my forte, not my alley. But when I was in speech I was ready to go and um, and the way that Mr. Milroy just taught the class, you know, he was groupies. Yeah. He's got so much energy and so much enthusiasm and he just, you know, it was like, this is what you want in school. You want to learn, you want to be educated, but you wanna have fun. You want to be happy to be there. And then he did it like nobody else.

Gary (18:44):

You list a favorite teacher, Mrs. Toner and Mr. Newton. Yeah. So you just mentioned, uh, you weren't necessarily comfortable in math class and yet one of your favorite teachers is Mrs. Toner? Yes. So explain that.

Joey (18:58):

She made it about more than math. She made it about more than what was going on just inside the classroom. I'll never forget senior year, she had, I'm afraid exactly what it was called, but she gave us all construction paper and each think Friday maybe she would come in and she would have a tidbit of advice, you know, to that was just totally outside of school. It was just for life. And obviously I'm friends with Cole, you know, so that helps too. But, um, again, she was just somebody who just, you know, looking back now it's like, okay, they got it. You know,

Gary (19:29):

Mr. Newton, which choir were you in?

Joey (19:31):

I was in, I was in, uh, Mr. Newton's First beginning mixed.

Gary (19:35):

Okay. So as a senior year in beginning mix. I love that because so oftentimes I think you go to most schools and you've got all these senior boys in this beginning choir and they're just going through the motions. Yeah. I don't think it's that

way here. At least it's not a lot of times because the, the guys just really, lot, lot of times there's more guys in the choir than the girls. And I think Joey just, there's something there that he makes it fun for everybody.

Joey (20:06):

He does. Yeah. I mean, it worked out perfectly for us because he was, he graduated in 03. You know, he was in his mid to late twenties teaching 18 year olds. So, you know what I mean? So we had that connection right there. Uh, you know, the name tie and everything like that. I don't know, we just hit it off. Um, and I, you know, well I'm sure we'll talk more about it, but I've always just been a big fan and enthusiastic of just buying in, you know, if you buy in with almost anything that you're doing, it's going to be a much better experience than if you're, you know, I want to be too cool or if you want to have a standoffish attitude. And, um, so we, we did that with that class and we had a heck of a time and me and me and Joey still great friends to this day.

Gary (20:48):

Yeah. But again, that's something that he did. I think that motivated all of these older guys and girls too.

Joey (20:57):

There's a relatability factor. Yeah. I think a lot of times when you think of choir teachers, you think of, especially at a Catholic school, maybe somebody who's super religious, who's, you know, maybe I'm a little bit older who just can't really understand or get these kids. And then, you know, Mr. Newton walks in and he looks like us and he kind of thinks, like I said, he got it. You know what I mean? So it just, it, it was different. So, yeah.

Gary (21:22):

Yeah. A favorite Roncalli coach.

Joey (21:24):

Coach Puntarelli Yeah. Why he, you know, I, I'm lucky to have a great dad, you know, I'm lucky to have a lot of really positive male role models and figures in my life, but he really took upon as a coach, that kind of dad type of feel, you know, he, you could feel the love that coach P had for me. He had for his players had for this place. And, and he took the time and effort to hear us out and you know, to not just be the coach, be the Dean at the time. We would have conversations about real things and, and he cared about us. You know, and it was awesome.

Gary (22:05):

Well, I don't think everybody will remember this, but, uh, you came out of Saint Barnabas, you were a pretty well thought of athlete. Yeah, played baseball, played football. I think you got hurt, uh, playing football that first year, that right. Um, and that kind of hampered your baseball career. So talk a little bit about that because I think athletically there were some of us who thought, man Joey Mulinaro, He's gonna really be quite the player. And then, you know, it just didn't necessarily work out maybe as you had thought for sure, but you didn't just shrivel up and forget about it. No, you did other things. So talk a little bit about that.

Joey (22:48):

Yeah, I mean, you know, guys like especially coming from Saint Barnabas, guys like Jason Warner, Pat Kuntz, you know, I mean, you're a kid and you'd gone to bed at night, you know, you're not watching Peyton Manning highlights. I was watching Jason Warner take the snap and score against cathedral and the two point conversion, you know, I mean, that's what it was like. You wanted to be those guys. Um, so for sure. I mean that's all I wanted to do until I thought about doing. And so I thought I was going to do. Um, but like you said, I mean it just didn't work out. But to me this is a life lesson for a young kid that was really hard at times. But, um, again, I, and I had my rough, I have my rough goes, I have my rough patches, you know, I wasn't always in the football program.

Joey (23:28):

I didn't left it for a while after my freshman year. Really. I didn't, sophomore, junior year I w I wasn't a part of it. And, um, and then senior year I came back and you know, somebody like coach P, you know, welcomed me with open arms. There wasn't that, you know, tough guy football, you know, kind of annoying, you know, hard, uh, hardheaded guy that, you know, you could think of with a football coach, Oh Mulinaro, you ditched that. And uh, he again, now he understood and

he was just happy that I was there as was the majority. You know what I mean? Like me and a couple other guys, we came out for our senior year. They were just welcoming. They were glad that we were there. It wasn't like a, where have you been? It was happier here. So, um, you know, I, I, I look back now and I, that's just how it was supposed to go. You know, I want to change it.

Gary (24:18):

You were part of the rebel media network, um, your senior year, just your senior junior year, second semester. Junior year. Started. Talk a little bit about that because you had an opportunity to sit next to Rob Brown. Aw man. And uh, how did Rob influence what you do today, if at all?

Joey (24:36):

He did? Uh, absolutely. Um, you know, Rob and my dad and mom do they, he just, he went to Southport so they knew each other from those days. Yeah. And so, you know, he, he also took me under his wing and gladly did so and, and um, you know, he, he let me experiment. He let me fail. He let me be bad, you know, he allowed me to be bad and not, not be brunt about it or not be rude about it. He knew that I was figuring it out and while also figuring it out, he let me be myself, you know, he, he would, he knows almost better than anybody how to constructively criticize at the perfect times. You know what I mean? He, he sees his moments and he comes in. Yeah, I think you could do a little bit better there, but I like this a lot, you know what I mean?

Joey (25:22):

And, um, yeah. And so he was always encouraging and again was just somebody who really was invested in somebody who wasn't his nephew, wasn't his cousin. And you know what I mean? Like just a kid that he hopefully saw potential in and wanted to help, you know. And so I still keep in touch with Rob on a regular basis. We text, we call just last summer actually, um, he, I invited him to a, there's a South side wiffle ball league that I, uh, broadcast the all star game for. Then I invited, brought Rob back and got back in there and it's great. You know, we'll go over to Brozini's and meet for lunch and um, love RB, he's the man!

Gary (26:03):

You broadcast the wiffle ball, all star games. That's a, I don't want to spend too much time on that, but uh, who does that involve that we're not talking a five and six year olds?

Joey (26:13):

No, uh, it is a collection of mid to um, you know, probably teenagers to mid twenties, late twenties. There's even a couple 40 year olds in there and they're just guys who instead of playing slow pitch softball and they put on the spikes and they go play this whole field. They call it dirt yard and it's really, really something.

Gary (26:32):

Yeah, that sounds like fun. You were part of the rebel media network broadcast team. Um, and then did you do any of that in high school or in college broadcasting? As far as play by play. And so talk a little bit about that

Joey (26:48):

really into it. When I got to UIndy because, um, they had really good basketball team and that was kind of my background with Rob is doing, um, doing games that way. And uh, I enjoyed the play by play aspect of broadcast and then games and I loved being able to, you know, as I was talking about paint that picture and get excited when the team's doing well and emphasize that play. It was just something that was really cool and also let me bring out my personality a little bit more. You know, I was in control of the broadcast, you know, I was going, as I, as I talked about it, as I said it. Um, so sophomore, junior, sophomore and junior year at UIndy I did a lot of play by play, uh, for basketball, both men's and women's. Um, and I enjoyed it a lot. I thought that was my career trajectory

Gary (27:35):

and that's where I was going with this. So at what point did you say even what that's not really what I'm going to do

Joey (27:40):

My senior year? No, my junior year. Yeah. My junior year, second semester at UIndy, I took a class called writing for television and I thought that it was going in. I was like, Oh, this will be like for newscasts and things like that, you know, to write that kind of stuff. Wasn't that it was writing for comedy. It was writing, it was writing, um, a spec scripts for sitcoms and comedy shows. And it was just the coolest thing I'd ever done. I was one of those when I was like, did you know whether it's writing or whether it's acting out these things or what? I was like, this is it. This is, this is what I gotta do. This is amazing. Um, and so that, that really changed. They always just hopping off. I would go prep and do play by play and then I would go right to write in my spec scripts. And you know what I mean? It was, it was really, really a big deal.

Gary (28:36):

You mentioned, um, I remember watching somewhere along the line, um, somebody interviewing you and I think maybe they asked, uh, ultimately what, where you want to be. And you said a writer for SNL or, or maybe a performers as well. Um, is that still it?

Joey (28:52):

Yeah, for sure. I mean, that's a, you know, other avenues for sure. Yeah, I'd be down to, I'm all ears, but if somebody could say, Hey man, you know, we like you. What do you want to do? I want to go come up with sketch and skit comedy and perform on Saturday night live.

Gary (29:10):

Well, here's the, here's the interesting thing. I think, um, today, uh, you can become relevant without necessarily a formal education. Uh, you know, there's all kinds of examples of people putting out stuff on social media and becoming famous and stuff that you can do today, 10 years ago for maybe 15 years for sure. There's no way that you would have these platforms to be, but what a neat, what a neat opportunity for somebody like you or anybody really. Um, we're going to take another break and we'll be back in just a moment with Joey Mulinaro on the Rebel Five podcast.

Joey (29:53):

Hi, this is Nick Saban, head coach at university of Alabama. And you're listening to the Rebel Five podcast with Gary Armbruster and today's guest, Joey Mulinaro. ight

Break (30:02):

Rebel Five is sponsored by Steve's flowers and gifts for the best and freshest flowers in Indianapolis and surrounding areas. Steve's flowers and gifts have exactly what you're looking for for your next special occasion called Steve's flowers at (800) 742-9359.

Gary (30:33):

I'm Gary Armbruster and this is the Rebel Five podcast we're visiting today with Joey Mulinaro. Joey, thanks for being here. Appreciate that. Um, when I started I talked about doing a Google search on Joey Mulinaro and several things came up. The, uh, impression wheel with the voice of the Colts Matt Taylor. Talk a little bit about that and then we'll go to the next one.

Joey (30:58):

So one of the things that I do in my day job, I had the fan now recently is a weekly YouTube series. So, Oh, that's a sports update or a skit or an interview. That's the idea. And so Matt being Roncalli connection known him for for a long time. He was the first one that I went after. Also knew he could do impressions. So I said this will be fun. And so it took a little inspo from, uh, from Jimmy Fallon and ma made our own, I noticed the similarities. Yeah. Made our own wheel and actually had to spin it. We didn't press a button for it. Um, so he came in and chatted with me for about 15 minutes about different things. And then at the end we, uh, spun the wheel a handful of times and I had my producers, uh, put together, you know, just about a list of about 12 things, you know, talking about the monument circle, uh, favorite holiday food, you know, different things like that. Um, and then we did that together. So it was a lot of fun.

Gary (31:53):

It was a lot of fun. Uh, drive the lane podcast, the Ohio state podcast. You were on that. Talk a little bit about that.

Joey (31:59):

Yeah. So, uh, Joey lane, former Ohio state basketball player, and uh, Andrew Soldan, uh, two good guys. I just reached out to me, wanted me to be on there and I said, yeah, let's do it. Let's have some fun. So it's been about 30 minutes on their, on their show. Got a lot of requests don't want to be that guy, but I get a lot of requests here recently, so I try to do as many as I can because I remember being one of those kids that wanted to get somebody on their show. But it's hard sometimes. Yeah. Off the bench. Ah, I love those guys. Um, they have a great, great show down in Baton Rouge. My LSU Tigers. Go Tigers. Uh, that wasn't a good, I was just in yeah. But we'll come back. Yeah. Yeah. But um, yeah, they're, they're great. 1045 ESPN down there. We always have a good time

Gary (32:40):

Talking about Matt Taylor and impressions and obviously I'm sure your big break came with the impression of Nick Saban. Do you have a favorite?

Joey (32:51):

Yeah. Yeah. I mean, I enjoy doing all of them. I mean like, yeah. You know, it's, it's fun to do all of them really. Um, Saban is up there for sure. Um, recently one that I've been doing a lot. It's Collin cowherd. That's been fun. People really enjoy that one. Um, too. He's my favorite comedian. I've been, I've been doing him.

Gary (33:13):

Um, on the um, the Ohio state podcast. I think you were talking to the guys and they, they refer to you as an impressionist and you kinda rebutted that a little bit. And so talk a little bit about that.

Joey (33:23):

I think that it's a fine line that people get confused every now and then and then that's okay. Um, because I do do impressions, but my impressions, I want to be able to, I'm showing range here. I'm trying to see, now I'm almost getting into get into Saban, but I was trying to show range because I wanted to be in sketch comedy. Like I said, I want, I want to be on SNL. I don't want to be somebody who's just like, and now the gesture on the stage that just sounds like a carbon copy of different people that you throw out there. I want to show the ability that I can capture the essence, I can pull off the voice, I can do their mannerisms you know what I mean? Like, so I could put him in situations that are funny. That's what I go for. To me an impressionist is just somebody that literally is a carbon copy, like can't tell them apart. And that's an incredible talent. Don't get me wrong, but I want to do other things.

Gary (34:12):

Right? So, no, and I, I've, uh, observed you doing the Collin cowherd. It is a mannerism.

Joey (34:21):

Well, once I started getting that itch for media and making people laugh and things like that, you know, it changed from being, you know, the, the Derek Jeter is of the world to the, like I said to the Adam Sandler's to the Jimmy Fallon's. Um, and, and those have been my guys ever since. Right. So, um, those, those five are main ones. You know, a lot of people from the different SNL casts. Yeah. I could go, go through, I mean hell even got like Phil Hartman, you know, rest in peace. But, uh, he's somebody, again, I look at, he's not doing carbon copies of these people. He's doing a comedic impression of the person. There's a difference.

Gary (35:01):

What, what is more, what was more difficult do you think?

Joey (35:03):

I mean, you probably, I mean, just the voice, right? Like I, I don't know, you know, because to me, what I'm more of what I'm doing is acting as compared to what an impressionist would do is, is just nailing the voice. Yeah. You know what I mean? So

Gary (35:19):

In my mind, I'm thinking, growing up Rich Little, I've had people point that out. I mean, he was just, I just always, he would be on 'em, he'd be on Johnny Carson I think. A lot. Yeah. And I always just thought that was amazing that he could, could do that. And I think it's quite the.

Joey (35:37):

Frank Caliendo. Oh yeah. It's, you know, I've been able to be in touch with him here recently and that's awesome. So he's a great guy.

Gary (35:44):

What's the next step? Do you know? Or do you, what, what's, what do you hope happens?

Joey (35:53):

No, I hope Lorne Michaels comes calling and I get getting audition right now. But, uh, I, you know, all I can keep doing is just putting out stuff that I think is funny. Helping making people laugh. And I mean, cause that, that's the main, that's the main thing, right. Um, so that, that's really all I'm going to. Yeah. I mean, you know, it's coaches speak right now, but yeah, that's all I can do. You know, I just keep doing that and then, you know, things will fall into place, but that's my main focus every day is what's, what's a bit that I could do that's going to be funny.

Gary (36:21):

I think you're on your way. I hope I've enjoyed, I know I'm not your demographic, as we talked about earlier, but surprise with the different spots people. Yeah. Your not Polizzi's demographic. I think that's the nail on the head. Yeah, I think you're right. Yeah. But that's okay. Yeah, I mean that's, that's all right. Ben's good guy. I would've been okay. Moving on. I want to go back to one thing. Um, and then we'll get into the Rebel Five questions. Um, something that you did your senior year that only one person gets to do their senior year. Um, and that's the senior reflection. Talk a little bit about that and what, what is it like some of our listeners won't, won't know what senior reflection is.

Joey (37:07):

Yeah, so like you said, it's, uh, each, each year, um, the last we called senior mass here, that's why they still call it right. It's the last mass for the soon to be graduating senior class. And it's kind of the wrap up. It's kind of to, to honor that class, right. To send them on their way. And so it's kind of a big deal around here. And he remember, even as an eighth grader, I knew about it and, uh, and then freshman year, obviously I'm sitting there and I'm, I just remember, uh, Alyssa seaman, I think was her name or a thing. That's what it was. Right. And I just said, man, I want to do that. That, you know, I want to have that kind of experience throughout my four years so that I can, well, what you have to do is you have to write a speech first and submit it and then you have to be chosen.

Joey (37:53):

And so I did that. And, um, it was tough to write that. It was, it really was. But, uh, I'll never forget it was sitting in mr Keller's econ class, uh, and when Mr. Tully came to the door, asked to see me and walked out, I was like, I hope this is good what I've done. And, uh, Mr. Tully gave me the news that I've been, my speech had been picked. Yeah. Yeah. So, um, there was, I was thrilled. It was one of the biggest honors and thrills of definitely my career here at Roncalli my life. And then to give the speech, you know, just surreal.

Gary (38:29):

Yeah, that's a, that's a big honor. And, uh, not everybody has a full appreciation for that, but you clearly did. And so, uh, nice work. Thank you. And that's a great compliment for your four years here at Roncalli . A couple of more questions and then we'll go into Rebel Five. What are you most proud of so far in your career?

Joey (38:50):

I guess being recognized enough to be able to get the invite down in the national championship. I mean, I can talk to that accomplishment. So talking about that Twitter sports reached out to me a week before the college football championship in new Orleans between LSU and uh, and Clemson. And they just said, Hey, love what you've been doing. Love how you been on this platform and you know, bringing college football fans together and we want you down at the cha the championship. We'll fly down there, won't get you, you'll be in a suite and you know, we'll, we'll get you a hotel. All that. I

was like, was that all based on your Nick Saban? Saban, Orgeron A few others I think I had done, I don't know. But um, and I was like, I mean, this is a joke, you know, like what, what do you need my blood now? I'm like, Whoa, what is this? So, and eventually they were like, no, it's for real. I said, all right, let's do it. And um, so that was really cool just to be down there. I was, I mean on unreal. I got to do a video with drew Brees. Uh, I mean, just a truly pinch me type moment. So that was awesome. New Orleans. Yeah. Yeah. And I was surrounded by tigers fans and it was great.

Gary (39:57):

Uh, well of course they played the Tigers too, so

Joey (39:59):

well, yeah. But like I said, the Tigers instead of the tigers. Did you spend any time in the French quarter a little bit. Uh, we was so, and my wife, they didn't fly her down, but we got her flight and so she came down with me. Unfortunately, she didn't get to go to the game, but that's neither here nor there. Um, she was supposed to go to the game and then they told her the day of dove ticket. So, uh, I did, uh, but we were there. We flew down on Monday, got there about 11:00 AM on Monday, new Orleans, and then we had a flight the next day at like four o'clock. So it was quick, quick, quick. The day before we went to the airport on Tuesday. Um, yeah, before we went to the airport on Tuesday. Uh, we got, we got some time to, to venture a little bit and it was cool.

Gary (40:41):

Pat O'Brian's?, Did you hit Pat O'Brien's? Nope. Okay. Well next time you go to new Orleans you have to go to Pat O'Brien's. Last question before the Rebel Five favorite woodshed moment?

Joey (40:53):

I have two. Okay. You're allowed. Okay. Um, one, I think at this point it was probably about this time, 2007 probably about February, 2007. Um, I was in the stands was I think Jordan Rieser and Anthony Milto. Um, David Heckman probably and Roncalli is playing cathedral and Paul Corsaro at the time, senior stud. Um, this is a close game. Near the end of fourth quarter. He stole at the top of the key. He had a wide open lane. Just either dunk it or go do a layup. The dude, you know, he pulls out for three and buries it and the place just goes nuts. Uh, that was unreal. Um, yeah, that was so cool. And then the second one would have to be my senior year, uh, December of 2011 and it's Park Tudor. Yogi Ferrell's coming in and IU everybody's wearing the IU stuff, you know, and uh, they score with man, I'd probably less than 10 seconds left in the game. They're celebrating like they won and uh, wasn't looking great and put them Brad Fey, my guy got it. I brought it up down to the near sideline, right in front. The students section one, the top of the key, toss it up to Michael Clements somehow comes down with it at the buzzer.

Joey (42:11):

That was an easy Yogi Ferrell rush the floor. It was great. Unreal.

Gary (42:16):

Yeah. Those uh, the first uh, memory that you brought up has been mentioned numerous times in our 30 some episodes. Rebel Five. Um, and, and the, I think Michael Wantz brought up the Yogi Ferrell one. So very, uh, monumental moments in the woodshed.

Joey (42:38):

We had the band, we had the band, whoever's on the drums. There are, yeah, they're doing the boiler up. So when yogi was here we were given boiler up the whole time. Cause he's gone to IU. So it was great.

Gary (42:48):

Yeah. That's funny. All right. Rebel Five. Yup. In another life. What would you want to be or do?

Joey (42:56):

Uh, um, probably like the centerfielder for the Chicago Cubs.

Gary (43:03):

Favorite time or place when you've run into a Roncalli person.

Joey (43:06):

Really anytime a place I run into a Roncalli person, whether it's downtown, whether it's, um, man, one that sticks out in my mind and I don't know why this one sticks out in my mind so much, but I hadn't seen him in awhile and I was at a Purdue football game cheering on my wife who was cheering future wife, not the wife at the time. Um, and I was going to the concession stand and all of a sudden I hear my name and just Kevin Harrington, a guy that I'd known my whole life. Um, Saint Barnabas and Roncalli and yeah, just one of those, you just, you share such a great embrace and you know, it's really, it's really special. So it was that one right. Just stuck out to me off the top of my head. And that was fun.

Gary (43:47):

Good. The Rebel Five questions. I actually have seven questions and I perfect. Well, I don't, I don't ask seven questions, but I take five of those seven. Yeah. And this is one that I've had since we started, but I've never asked anybody. No. So again, Oh, well Joey's, Joey's younger. So, and when I asked you that, you'll know why I don't ask anybody else. So. Okay. Favorite animal. What would a, what would it be and why? What's my favorite and yeah, if you were an animal, what would you want to be?

Joey (44:20):

Well, now that I'm a cat guy, I would love to be on my little cat Remi. He's just the sweetest little thing. And he has the group best, best, best life. And he has parents love him. Me and my wife. Yeah. And, and he lays around sleeps all day and he purrs and he eats his food when he wants to and he's happy.

Gary (44:41):

Alright. I was, I was expecting more than a cat, but that's okay. That's all right. Maybe I asked the question wrong.

Joey (44:51):

Well, if it makes it feel that he's, he's like, you know, he's like Simba compared to a lion. So you know, he could be on his way to becoming a lion. So I guess if I had to choose that would be, it is a lion.

Speaker 3 (45:01):

Okay. I like that better. Let's go with that. Right. We may have to edit. I could show you the pictures of Remy. He's great. He probably seen him on Facebook though. My last question to you. Uh, any life advice?

Joey (45:14):

Eh, I mean it's, it's not something that hasn't been preached before. Um, but I guess the basis of it is just, you know, if at first you don't succeed, try and try again. You know? Right. Like I, so many times that I think about, um, in my career and you know, when I was just getting out of school and for six months, almost a year, nothing was happening. I w I couldn't get that job. I couldn't figure it out. Why is this SWAT is supposed to be doing? Am I meant for the, once you find your purpose, that purpose that you feel like you're here for, keep going. Keep going after it, you know, because eventually I think you'll break through, but it's just for whatever reason, I don't know if it's, you know, probably God's plan or just how life is. Yeah. It's not just served up to you, you know, whether it be, whether you're in law school or you want to be a doctor or you're trying to go back to get your teaching degree or you know, or you want to be on SNL. Like if you break it down to the basis of what you want to do. And for me that's making people laugh at the bringing joy that I just kept going after it. And luckily right now and you know, it's working out for me. But that'd be my biggest thing is just, you know, if it breaks your beat and you down here a little bit, you gotta just keep trudging forward and keep moving on.

Gary (46:37):

I think when you have those setbacks, it certainly makes the successes that much sweeter. Yeah. I appreciate you being here today. Thanks for having me. It's great. Um, I think you're well on your way. Appreciate them. It's been fun to see all this transpire in a very short time. Um, in the last moments here, you have a impression you want to give us. Well, I usually what happens is people, you know, throw one at me and then I'll do it. So of course, you know, um, um, the most distinctive voice Coach "O", maybe a go rebels from Ed This is Coach "O", head coach at LSU Tigers go rebels, Chuck Weisenbach, fourth period announcements. Good morning Rebels it's a SWEEP. That's good. That's good. Those are good

sun splashed day. Joey, thanks for being here. Appreciate it. And good luck to you and we wish you all the best. Yeah, go rebels, rebels,

Gary (47:43):

Gary Armbruster and thanks for joining us today for this episode of the Rebel Five podcast. To find out more information about the podcast please visit 50.roncalli.org/podcast.php. Again, thanks so much for joining us today. And until next time, We'll fight ahead.