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Gridiron Club of New England Announces 25 Semi-Finalists for 74th Walter Brown Award

Slate of American-born Division One hockey players in New England includes 19 forwards, four defensemen, and two goaltenders

BOSTON – February 2, 2026 – [Gridiron Club of New England](http://www.gridclubboston.com/) president Tim Whelan, Jr. announced today that 25 NCAA Division One players are semifinalists for the 74th [Walter Brown Award](http://www.gridclubboston.com/), presented annually to the best American-born Division I college hockey player in New England.

The nation's oldest nationally recognized college hockey honor, the Walter Brown Award was established in 1953 by the members of the 1933 Massachusetts Rangers, the first American team ever to win the World Championship Tournament. Brown coached the Rangers to the title in Prague, Czechoslovakia, where the team defeated Canada 2-1 in overtime in the championship game.

Fifteen teams are represented in the slate of candidates that includes 19 forwards, four defensemen, and two goaltenders. Eighteen semifinalist nominees are from teams in **Hockey East**; five nominees are from **ECAC Hockey**; and two are from **Atlantic Hockey**. Boston College, Boston University, and the University of Connecticut lead the way with three semifinalists each; Bentley, Dartmouth, Providence, and Quinnipiac all have two; Harvard, Maine, Merrimack, New Hampshire, Northeastern, UMass, UMass-Lowell, and Yale each have one.

The following is the complete list of semifinalists, by team, with statistics through February 1:

Bentley: Senior forward Jake Black (Pomfret, CT) 13-13-26, 1.00 ppg; and sophomore forward Michael Mesic (Ft. Myers, FL) 11-13-24, .96 ppg.

Boston College: Sophomore forward James Hagens (Hauppauge, NY) 12-13-25, 1.19 ppg; senior Andre Gasseau (Garden Grove, CA) 4-7-11, 1.10 ppg; and sophomore forward Teddy Stiga (Sudbury, MA) 4-10-14, .74 ppg.

Boston University: Sophomore defenseman Cole Hutson (North Barrington, IL) 8-15-23, 0.92 ppg; sophomore forward Cole Eiserman (Newburyport, MA) 10-6-16, .73 ppg; and junior forward Jack Harvey (Stacy, MN) 7-8-15, .75 ppg.

Connecticut: Junior forward Joey Muldowney (Lake View, NY) 13-8-21, .84 ppg; senior goalie Tyler Muszelik (Long Valley, NY) 2.16 gaa, .93 save pct.; and junior forward Jake Richard (Jacksonville, FL) 7-15-22, .88 ppg.

Dartmouth: Sophomore forward Hayden Stavroff (Dublin, OH) 22-10-32, 1.39 ppg; and sophomore forward Hank Cleaves (Riverside, CT) 13-12-25, 1.09 ppg.

Harvard: Senior forward Philip Tresca (Newton, MA) 9-10-19, .90 ppg.

Maine: Senior defenseman Brandon Holt (Grand Forks, ND) 5-27-22, .92 ppg.

Massachusetts: Junior forward Jack Musa (Orange Park, FL) 10-14-24, .96 ppg.

Merrimack: Senior defenseman Seamus Powell (Marcellus, NY) 3-12-15, .56 ppg

UMass-Lowell: Senior forward Dillan Bentley (Peoria, IL) 11-9-20, .87 ppg.

New Hampshire: Senior forward Morgan Winters, (Osprey, FL) 9-9-18, .82 ppg.

Northeastern: Senior defenseman Vinny Borgesi (Philadelphia, PA) 4-13-17, .71 ppg.

Providence: Sophomore forward John Mustard (Oradell, NJ) 10-9-19, .79 ppg.; and freshman goalie Jack Parsons (Ithaca, NY) 2.09 gaa, .922 save pct.

Quinnipiac: Sophomore forward Chris Pelosi (Sewell, NJ) 16-14-30, 1.03 ppg; and freshman forward Ethan Wytenbach (Roslyn NY) 15-26-41, 1.46 ppg.

Yale: Sophomore forward Ronan O'Donnell (Fairfield, CT) 10-8-18, 1.00 ppg.

“This is a superb field of semifinalists. There’s plenty of hockey yet to be played, with almost six weeks remaining in the regular season, so we’ll be following all the semifinalists very closely to see who separates themselves from the pack,” said committee chairman **Tim Costello**.

The Gridiron Club will announce the winner of the 74th Walter Brown Award in the final week of March.

Walter Brown Award Winners

1953	Ray Picard	Northeastern	1990	Greg Brown	Boston College
1954	Bob Babine	Boston College	1991	Dave Emma	Boston College
1955	Bill Cleary	Harvard	1992	Rob Gaudreau	Providence
1956	R.J. Cavanaugh	Northeastern	1993	Dave Sacco	Boston University
1957	Bob Cleary	Harvard	1994	Jacques Joubert	Boston University
1958	Bob Cleary	Harvard	1995	Mike Grier	Boston University
1959	Mike Karin	Middlebury	1996	Jay Pandolfo	Boston University
1960	Art Chisholm	Northeastern	1997	Chris Drury	Boston University
1961	Tom Martin	Boston College	1998	Chris Drury	Boston University
1962	Dave Grannis	Harvard	1999	Mike Mottau	Boston College
1963	Bill Hogan	Boston College		Mike Omicioli	Providence
1964	Richie Green	Boston University	2000	Mike Mottau	Boston College
1965	Bob Gaudreau	Brown	2001	Ty Conklin	New Hampshire
1966	John Cunniff	Boston College		Brian Gionta	Boston College
1967	Jerry York	Boston College	2002	Jim Fahey	Northeastern
1968	Tim Sheehy	Boston College	2003	Mike Ayers	New Hampshire
1969	Paul Hurley	Boston College	2004	Steve Saviano	New Hampshire
1970	Tim Sheehy	Boston College	2005	Dov Grumet-Morris	Harvard
1971	Joe Cavanagh	Harvard	2006	Chris Collins	Boston College
1972	Bob McManama	Harvard	2007	John Curry	Boston University
1973	Tom Mellor	Boston College	2008	Kevin Regan	New Hampshire
1974	Ed Walsh	Boston University	2009	Matt Gilroy	Boston University
1975	Ron Wilson	Providence	2010	Bobby Butler	New Hampshire
1976	Richie Smith	Boston College	2011	John Muse	Boston College
1977	Bob Miller	New Hampshire	2012	Brett Gensler	Bentley University
1978	Joe Mullen	Boston College	2013	Steve Whitney	Boston College
1979	Ralph Cox	New Hampshire	2014	Johnny Gaudreau	Boston College
1980	Bill Army	Boston College	2015	Jimmy Vesey	Harvard
1981	Mark Switaj	Boston College	2016	Jimmy Vesey	Harvard
1982	Chuck Marshall	Northeastern	2017	Joe Gambardella	UMass-Lowell
1983	Mark Fusco	Harvard	2018	Adam Gaudette	Northeastern
1984	Cleon Daskalakis	Boston University	2019	Adam Fox	Harvard
1985	Tim Army	Providence	2020	Jeremy Swayman	Maine
1986	Scott Fusco	Harvard	2021	Bobby Trivigno	Massachusetts
	Scott Harlow	Boston College	2022	Bobby Trivigno	Massachusetts
1987	Brian Leetch	Boston College	2023	Lane Hutson	Boston University
1988	Mike McHugh	Maine	2024	Cutter Gauthier	Boston College
1989	Lane MacDonald	Harvard	2025	Ryan Leonard	Boston College

The Walter Brown Award

Commemorating the life and works of America's greatest sportsman, the Walter Brown Award is given annually to the outstanding American-born college hockey player in New England. The Walter Brown Award is the oldest nationally recognized honor accorded to individual players in the sport of American college hockey. Brown coached the United States to its first world hockey championship in 1933. The U.S. team, the Massachusetts Rangers, comprised players from Boston College, Boston University, Harvard, Yale, Dartmouth, Notre Dame, and Boston Commerce High School. The Americans defeated the Toronto National Sea Fleas, coached by Harold Ballard, 2-1 in overtime in the final game of the 1933 World Tournament at Prague, Czechoslovakia. It was also America's first win over a team from Canada and the first loss ever suffered by the Canadians in international play. The U.S. team members established the Walter Brown Award at their 20th reunion in 1953. Criteria for the selection committee include leadership, character, sportsmanship, and ability as well as on-ice achievement. The Gridiron Club of New England has been the steward of the Walter Brown Award since 1977.

2026 Gridiron Club Hockey Awards Selection Committee and Advisory Board: Tim Costello, Chairman; Tom Burke, Jim Connelly, Dick DeCaprio, Tim Flynn, John Gravallese, Dave Lezenski, Paul McNamara, John Powers, William J. Stewart III, and Dick Umile.

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