

The Gridiron Club of New England
“Keepers of the Flame”

Our Mission: To promote and advance sportsmanship, fair play, teamwork, athletic and academic achievement, good citizenship, and other worthy qualities and attributes exemplified in the great game of football and in other sporting endeavors. The club is responsible for several of the oldest nationally recognized and most tradition-rich honors in American sport, such as the Bulger Lowe Award (1939), Nils V. “Swede” Swede Nelson Award (1946), and Walter Brown Award (1953). The Swede Nelson Award’s past winners include Doak Walker ‘49 and Doug Flutie ‘84, both of whom were Heisman Trophy winners as were Club members Dick Kazmaier ‘51 and Joe Bellino ‘60.

Our History: Renowned author and *Sports Illustrated* writer Dan Jenkins once dubbed the college football phenomenon “Saturday’s America.” Perhaps that realization, unexpressed though it would be for many years, impelled a small group of men to gather on Saturday afternoons during the winter, spring, and summer to talk about their beloved pastime – the game of football. Five of these gentlemen – Tom Whelan, George “Bulger” Lowe, Mark Devlin, Dan O’Connor, and “Bunny” Corcoran – had been members of the 1919 Canton Bulldogs. Jim Thorpe was also a member of that Canton team, which had paid the \$25 entry fee to the American Professional Football Association along with outfits from Akron, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Rochester, Rock Island, Decatur, Muncie, Chicago, Buffalo, Detroit, and Hammond. With a roster of just 17 players, the Bulldogs had 5 players (29.4% of the team) who eventually became members of the National Football Hall of Fame.

In the autumn, of course, those five football men and their fellow club members, who included Joe McKenney, Bill Ohrenberger, Bill Stewart Sr., D. Leo Daley, Bill Ormsby, and Swede Nelson, were intensely engaged in the gridiron game itself, coaching and officiating high school and college contests throughout New England.

In 1932, these sportsmen established the Gridiron Club of Greater Boston and elected George Lowe its first president. At first, membership was limited to 50. Meetings were at the headquarters of the Boston Athletic Association. In 1939, President Joe McKenney led a drive to broaden the criteria for membership. All who loved sportsmanship and fair play, exemplified not only in football but also in all other athletic pursuits, became eligible to join our mission to promote amateur football so as to instill and nurture the ideals of citizenship, leadership and sportsmanship.

Joe McKenney knew well the meaning of sportsmanship. A legendary player and coach at Boston College, he was one of the field officials in the fabled “Fifth Down Game” between Cornell and Dartmouth. In that 1940 contest, Cornell had inadvertently been allowed an extra down that made the difference in the Big Red’s initial margin of victory. When the mistake came to light, Cornell agreed to relinquish the ensuing score, a selfless move which cost the team the game and its top national ranking, but earned it a permanent niche in the annals of selfless and honorable competition.

Gridiron Club Events:	Bob Whelan College Football Awards Night <i>Super26</i> High School Awards Night	December 2026, TBD March 2027, TBD
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Club Membership: The Gridiron Club is run entirely by volunteers and is supported by members’ dues and contributions, gifts from the business community, and proceeds from annual dinners and events. The club welcomes membership applications from present and former players, coaches, officials, cheerleaders, journalists, and fans of all sports.

Current membership includes former N.F.L. players, coaches, owners, management or support personnel. Patriots’ Steve Grogan was President in 2009. Additionally, many Club members are either current or former College Head or Assistant Coaches, Athletic Directors, or Media Relations Directors.

You can read our latest news on our blog site: www.gridclubofgreaterboston.com.
Follow us on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/gridclubboston>
Watch for our new website, coming soon: www.gridironclubnewengland.com
Become a fan on Facebook: GRIDIRON CLUB OF BOSTON – KEEPERS OF THE FLAME
Mailing address of Club Secretary Dick Lawrence: P.O. Box 571, Ipswich, MA 01938. Email: rlawr51881@aol.com.

Club Officers, 2025-26: President: Timothy W. Whelan, Jr.; First Vice President: Richard Schoenfeld; Second Vice President: Louis Abare; Third Vice President: Kevin Gallant; Secretary/Treasurer: Dick Lawrence

Board of Directors: Tim Whelan, Sr., Chairman; Dick Lawrence, Clerk; Tom Burke, Chris Clemente, Tom Lamb, Cheryl Duddy Schoenfeld, Tim Whelan Jr.

Executive Committee: Lou Abare, Skip Bandini, Curt Bletzer, Tom Burke, Chris Clemente, Ryan Conway, Tim Costello, Pete Cronan, Ned Cully, Ken Eldridge, Ray Gallant, Steve Grogan, Tom Lamb, Dick Lawrence, Bob Norton, Dave O’Brien, Ed Schluntz (R.I.P., November 2025), Cheryl Duddy Schoenfeld, Richard Schoenfeld, William J. Stewart III, Bob Weiss, Tim Whelan, Tim Whelan, Jr.

The Gridiron Club gratefully acknowledges the steadfast support of our corporate partner, New Balance Athletic Shoe, and of our supporters and dinner sponsors for the 2025 season: Raymond Gallant, Jonathan Kraft and the New England Patriots, George H. Lowe, and the Massachusetts High School Football Coaches Association.



The Gridiron Club of New England
and
The Massachusetts High School Football Coaches Association
in partnership with
The New Balance Athletic Shoe Corporation

proudly present the

Twenty-seventh Annual High School Football Awards Night

honoring

The 2025 Massachusetts “*SUPER26*” All-State Team

and presenting

William H. Ohrenberger Award: High School Head Coach of the Year:

Mike Ross, West Boylston High School

Richard Lawrence Award: High School Assistant Coach of the Year:

Mike Germaine, Bishop Feehan High School

Henry J. Smith Courage Award: Alex Russo, Masconomet

William J. Stewart, Jr. Award: Outstanding High School Official:

Bill Donahue, ANEFO, and Gerry Morrissey, EMAIFO

Dr. Joseph H. Burnett Award: Outstanding Player in the City of Boston:

Jack Shapiro, Boston Latin Academy

Dinner Co-Chairmen: Brad Sidwell, Dick Lawrence

Co-Hosts: Timothy W. Whelan, Jr., President, Gridiron Club

Ryan Conway, Head Coach, Boston English High School

Master of Ceremonies: Tom Burke

Sunday, March 1, 2026

Marriott Hotel

Burlington, Massachusetts

SUPER26 Night Gridiron Club Awards

William H. Ohrenberger Award for High School Head Coach of the Year: *Bill (Boston English ’23, BC ’27) was a founding member of the Gridiron Club, its president in 1945-46, and Man of the Year in 1965. He played pro for the New England Père Marquette club and coached at St. Thomas High, Georgetown Prep, BC, and English High. He also taught math, and later became superintendent of Boston Public Schools. In 1978 he received a Distinguished American Award from the National Football Foundation Hall of Fame.*

2025 Winner: Mike Ross, West Boylston High School

Previous Winners: Tom Lopez, Lincoln-Sudbury; Jim Cotter, BC High; Bill Maver, Acton-Boxboro; Tom Lamb, Norwood; Paul Costello, Boston Latin; Jack Green, Charlestown; Armand Sabourin, Bedford; Joe Mason, Dorchester; Bob Bancroft, Whitman-Hanson; Bruce McPherson, Melrose; Hank Cutting, Catholic Memorial; Rocky Nelson, Woburn; Scott Parseghian, Wayland; Ken LaChapelle, Northbridge; John Sousa, East Boston; Paul Ingram, Gloucester; Dave Driscoll, Dighton-Rehoboth; Edmund Murphy, Dracut; Bob Souza, St. Sebastian’s; David Woods, Bishop Fenwick; Charlie Stevenson, Xaverian, Richard White, Dartmouth; Jim Kelliher, Abington; Lou Silva, Marshfield; Jim Pugh, Hamilton-Wenham; Mike Redding, Mansfield; Dan Buron, Bridgewater-Raynham; Herb Devine, Scituate; Al Costabile, Shawsheen Valley; Jack Martinelli, Foxboro; Al Fornaro, Xaverian

Richard Lawrence Award for High School Assistant Coach of the Year

2025 Winner: Mike Germaine, Bishop Feehan Previous Winner: Dave Dugan, Bishop Fenwick

Henry J. Smith Courage Award: *Henry Smith was a Boston College graduate and Gridiron Club president in 1977-78. Henry carried out the duties of all club officer positions at one time or another.*

2025 Winner: Alex Russo, Masconomet Regional High School

Previous Winners: Peter Bruce, Greater New Bedford Voke Tech; Dylan Hagg, Oakmont Regional; Kyle Quatacker, South Hadley Regional; Edwin Martinez, Gardner; Curtis Davis, Central Catholic; Kevin Cavanaugh, Wilmington; Mike Davidson, Blue Hills Regional; Zack Gauvin, Leominster; Dana Willis, Norton; Thomas White, Andover; Ryan Mullin, Duxbury; Jeff Phillips, Medfield; Chris Tracy, Catholic Memorial; Michael and Mark Narcisco, Westwood; Michael Creonte, Waltham; Matthew McKinnon, Bishop Fenwick; Sam Frey, Wakefield; Patrick Morton, Coyle & Cassidy; Michael Morris, Acton-Boxborough; Anthony Manning III, Greater Lowell Voke Tech; Joey Peduto, Acton-Boxborough; Kyle Arieta, Dighton-Rehoboth; Jason Busch, Austin Prep; Cam Lucey, St. John’s (Shrewsbury); Matt Slovak, Dennis-Yarmouth; Joe Shannon, Masconomet; Robert Martins, Braintree; Lucas Ragusa, Canton; Austin Raymond, Whittier Tech; Nik Sperounis, Chelmsford; James Tellier, Braintree; Kyle Wilder, Chelmsford; Madux Iovinelli, Lynnfield

William J. Stewart, Jr. Award for Outstanding High School Official: *Bill Stewart Jr. was coach of football, hockey and baseball at Boston English and a high school and college official in all three sports. He is a member of the High School Coaching Hall of Fame.*

2025 Winners: Bill Donahue, ANEFO; Gerry Morrissey, EMAIFO

Previous Winners: Paul Sheehan, William “Bill” O’Brien, Bill Barrett, Thatcher Carl, Ken Eldridge, Bill McDonald, Patrick Santin, Bill Leaneus, Dave McCarthy, Bill McDonald, Peter Brady, Paul Lyons, Paul Howard, Al Sheehan, Tom English, Bill Lanigan, George Murphy, Ron Boudreau, Eugene Ferris, William J. Stewart III; Jim Kearney; Angelo Scaccia; William Reinertson, Jay Gledhill, Bill Lannon, Jack Joyce, Ken Fallon, Joe Cacciatore, Jim Regan, Dan Murphy; Bob Prestera; Erle Garrett, ANEFO; Jack Walsh, ANEFO; Jim Rourke, EMAIFO; Robert Lenehan, EMAIFO; Jim Butcher, CCHSFO; Mark Lento, ANEFO; Ron Annand, ANEFO; Jon Rockwood, AIFO’ Tim Hooton, ANEFO; Richard Newman, EMAIFO; Richard Harringtonm, ANEFO; Michael Raybury, MIFOA

Dr. Joseph H. Burnett Award for Outstanding Football Player in the City of Boston

Joseph H. Burnett, M.D., was the attending physician at schoolboy games at White Stadium, Dorchester for many years. He was known as “hot towels” Burnett for his standard remedy for all bumps and bruises.

2025 Winner: Jack Shapiro, Boston Latin Academy

Previous Winners: Kameel Lashley, Brighton; Julius Williams, East Boston; Chris Harris, East Boston; Kenny Lopez, Madison Park; John “Bucky” Jones, Charlestown; Wayne Harris, East Boston; Ricky Brisson, East Boston; Kevin Gilmore, East Boston; Dolan Reid, Brighton; Derek Willis, South Boston; Brandon Amodeo, East Boston; Jonathan Marrero, Brighton; Leo Parnell, East Boston, Kyle Dance, Latin Academy, Jalen Apperwhite, Brighton; Johnny Mims, TechBoston Academy; Anthony Cannady, Madison Park, Kevin Brown, Brighton; Khalil Blair, Boston Cathedral; Marcus Gonzalez, TechBoston Academy; Ozzy Trapilo, BC High; Aamir Johnson, East Boston; Malcolm Xavier Crispin, Latin Academy; Sahmir Morales, Brighton; Isaiah Applewhite, John O’Bryant School; Xavier Landrum, Tech

Massachusetts High School All-State Team

The 2025 Super 26

OFFENSE

Quarterback	
Osiris Lopez	Leominster
Qur’an McNeill	Milton Academy
Will Wood	Xaverian Brothers

Running Back	
Gianni DePrimeo	Winchester
Jack Fabiano	Masconomet
Gustavo Valera	Greater Lawrence Tech

Receiver	
Andrew DeGirolamo	Mansfield
Christian McIntyre	St. Sebastian’s

Offensive Line	
Marcelino Antues	Catholic Memorial
Brady Bekkenhuis	Arlington
Nick Fiumara	Belmont Hill
Kane Mankins	Bishop Feehan
Mike Whalen	Natick

DEFENSE

Defensive Line	
Ronell Armstrong	Barnstable
Dom Chaves	Hudson
Mac Fitzgerald	Catholic Memorial
Dominic Funke	Xaverian Brothers

Linebacker	
Jackson Arnold	Stoughton
Bryan Harrison	Winchester
Tallan King	King Philip
Stevan Many	Lowell
Frankie Strahan	North Attleboro

Defensive Back	
Ryan Brooks	Burlington
Grayson Foley	Scituate
Ronan Sammon	Milton
Jonny Sullivan	Tewksbury