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Hayden Stavroff of Dartmouth Wins 74th Walter Brown Award as Best American-Boston Division One College Hockey Player in New England

Columbus, Ohio Resident is First Big Green Player Ever to Receive Award Since Its 1953 Inception

BOSTON – March 25, 2026 – [Gridiron Club of New England](http://www.gridclubboston.com/) president Tim Whelan, Jr. announced today Dartmouth College sophomore forward [Hayden Stavroff](#) is winner of the 74th [Walter Brown Award](#), presented annually to the best American-born Division I college hockey player in New England.

The Columbus, Ohio resident led the nation in goals with 29 and added 19 assists for a total of 48 points in 34 games. He was also ECAC Hockey's leading scorer with 22-15-37 in 22 games.

This was a history-making season for Stavroff and Dartmouth hockey. He is the first Dartmouth player to win the Walter Brown Award since it was established in 1953. He was also named ECAC Player of the Year, the first Dartmouth winner since that award's inauguration in 1962. Stavroff led the Big Green to a 23-7-4 overall record, its first ECAC playoff championship, and its first berth in the NCAA Division One Playoffs since 1980.

"Hayden has shown tremendous leadership both on and off the ice this year," said Dartmouth head coach Reid Cashman.

"He is leader off the ice with his infectious attitude and positive energy. On the ice he led both our team and the country in goals. He is the best college goal scorer I have ever seen. On top of his goal scoring, Hayden competes at a high level and plays a selfless form of hockey."

Stavroff was one of three finalists out of an initial field of 25 semifinalists for the 2626 Walter Brown Award. The other finalists were:

- Boston College sophomore forward [James Hagens](#) (Hauppauge, NY) Hockey East's scoring champion with 13-15-28 in league play and 23-24-47 in 34 games overall, placing him sixth in the country in scoring; and
- Quinnipiac freshman forward [Ethan Wyttenbach](#) (Roslyn NY), who led the country in scoring with 24 goals and 34 assists for 58 points in 38 games. In league play, he finished second in ECAC scoring with 15-21-36 in 22 games.

"This season in New England college hockey was loaded with surprises all the way through," commented Walter Brown Award Committee chairman **Tim Costello**.

"Not only did we see the first ever-Walter Brown winner from Dartmouth. Both Dartmouth in ECAC Hockey and Merrimack in Hockey East took home their first league playoff championships, respectively, and won well-deserved berths in the NAAs. New England will be represented as well by Quinnipiac of the ECAC and Providence and Connecticut of Hockey East."

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.

The Walter Brown Award will be presented at the New England Hockey Writers' Awards Brunch on Sunday, April 19 at the Prince Restaurant in Saugus, MA.

Walter Brown Award Winners

1953	Ray Picard	Northeastern	1991	Dave Emma	Boston College
1954	Bob Babine	Boston College	1992	Rob Gaudreau	Providence
1955	Bill Cleary	Harvard	1993	Dave Sacco	Boston University
1956	R.J. Cavanaugh	Northeastern	1994	Jacques Joubert	Boston University
1957	Bob Cleary	Harvard	1995	Mike Grier	Boston University
1958	Bob Cleary	Harvard	1996	Jay Pandolfo	Boston University
1959	Mike Karin	Middlebury	1997	Chris Drury	Boston University
1960	Art Chisholm	Northeastern	1998	Chris Drury	Boston University
1961	Tom Martin	Boston College	1999	Mike Mottau	Boston College
1962	Dave Grannis	Harvard		Mike Omicioli	Providence
1963	Bill Hogan	Boston College	2000	Mike Mottau	Boston College
1964	Richie Green	Boston University	2001	Ty Conklin	New Hampshire
1965	Bob Gaudreau	Brown		Brian Gionta	Boston College
1966	John Cuniff	Boston College	2002	Jim Fahey	Northeastern
1967	Jerry York	Boston College	2003	Mike Ayers	New Hampshire
1968	Tim Sheehy	Boston College	2004	Steve Saviano	New Hampshire
1969	Paul Hurley	Boston College	2005	Dov Grumet-Morris	Harvard
1970	Tim Sheehy	Boston College	2006	Chris Collins	Boston College
1971	Joe Cavanagh	Harvard	2007	John Curry	Boston University
1972	Bob McManama	Harvard	2008	Kevin Regan	New Hampshire
1973	Tom Mellor	Boston College	2009	Matt Gilroy	Boston University
1974	Ed Walsh	Boston University	2010	Bobby Butler	New Hampshire
1975	Ron Wilson	Providence	2011	John Muse	Boston College
1976	Richie Smith	Boston College	2012	Brett Gensler	Bentley University
1977	Bob Miller	New Hampshire	2013	Steve Whitney	Boston College
1978	Joe Mullen	Boston College	2014	Johnny Gaudreau	Boston College
1979	Ralph Cox	New Hampshire	2015	Jimmy Vesey	Harvard
1980	Bill Army	Boston College	2016	Jimmy Vesey	Harvard
1981	Mark Switaj	Boston College	2017	Joe Gambardella	UMass-Lowell
1982	Chuck Marshall	Northeastern	2018	Adam Gaudette	Northeastern
1983	Mark Fusco	Harvard	2019	Adam Fox	Harvard
1984	Cleon Daskalakis	Boston University	2020	Jeremy Swayman	Maine
1985	Tim Army	Providence	2021	Bobby Trivigno	Massachusetts
1986	Scott Fusco	Harvard	2022	Bobby Trivigno	Massachusetts
	Scott Harlow	Boston College	2023	Lane Hutson	Boston University
1987	Brian Leetch	Boston College	2024	Cutter Gauthier	Boston College
1988	Mike McHugh	Maine	2025	Ryan Leonard	Boston College
1989	Lane MacDonald	Harvard	2026	Hayden Stavroff	Dartmouth
1990	Greg Brown	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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