



News from

The Gridiron Club of Greater Boston

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Curry's Soderwall Wins 24th Joe Concannon Award for Best American-Born Division II/III College Hockey Player in New England

Record-breaking goaltender wins the award over six outstanding finalists representing teams from Endicott, Norwich, Salem State, St. Anselm, St. Michael's, Trinity

BOSTON – March 26, 2025 – [Gridiron Club of Greater Boston](http://www.gridclubboston.com) president **Tim Whelan, Jr.**, announced today that [Shane Soderwall](#) (Algonquin, IL), a sophomore from Curry College, is the winner of the 24th **Joe Concannon Award**, presented annually to the best American-born college hockey player in New England at the Division-II/III level.

The Joe Concannon Award was established in 2001 shortly after the passing of the longtime writer for *The Boston Globe*, who had a great passion for the game of college hockey while always advocating strongly for amateur athletics.

Soderwall, a sophomore goaltender, led his team to their first Frozen Four appearance, hosted by Utica University, on March 28 & 30. Soderwall has played in 27 games posting a 1.45 goals-against average with a .945 save percentage and eight shutouts. He has a 24-3-0 record and earned Player of the Year, Goaltender of the Year, and 1st team All-CNE honors while leading the Colonels to both the CNE regular season and conference tournament championships. Soderwall surrendered just one goal in Saturday's 4-1 win over Hamilton in the NCAA quarterfinals while making thirty-seven saves to backstop the top-seeded Colonels.

"Shane is a special kid, very humble and an incredibly hard worker," noted Curry head coach **Peter Roundy**. "He took a chance on us, coming here last year, and believed in our vision for the program. He has great physical talent, but what separates him is the mindset. He is a very positive influence with the team, and he knows what he wants. When he took the crease last year, he built up his experience and had remarkable success earning the Goaltender and Rookie of the Year honors in the conference. With all that, he still works like he is a back-up goaltender and continually improves his craft. I am very proud of Shane's winning this prestigious award, as it recognizes both his performance as well as our program."

Soderwall was a clear winner over the remaining finalists in the balloting. Each of the finalists had superb seasons, and all were candidates worthy of consideration for the award. The remaining finalists (in alphabetical order) were:

[Hunter Brackett](#) (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) – The senior forward from St. Anselm College finished the season with 20 goals and 20 assists for 40 points and a +29 rating while leading Hawks to the NE-10 regular season title. St. A's ultimately lost to St. Michael's in the conference tournament championship game. Brackett was the NE-10 Player of the year and a 1st Team All-NE-10 selection.

[David Ciancio](#) (Scituate, RI) – The senior defenseman from St. Michael's College led the Purple Knights in scoring with 13 goals and 12 assists for 25 points and a +13 rating. He also earned 1st Team All-NE-10 honors while leading the Purple Knights to the conference championship game, where they defeated St. Anselm, 5-1. Ciancio scored two goals and added an assist as the tournament MVP.

[Landyn Greator](#) (Reading, MA) – The junior forward from Salem State University was a first team MASCAC all-conference player and the league's Player of the Year. He led the team in scoring with 16 goals and 25 assists for 41 points and +20 rating. The Vikings finished third in the regular season and advanced to the MASCAC semifinals with a 3-1 win over Massachusetts-Dartmouth, with Greator figuring in all the scoring with two goals and an assist. Eventual conference champion Fitchburg State downed Salem State in the semifinal round to end the Vikings' very successful season.

[Theodore Griffin](#) (Marshfield, MA) – The senior defenseman from Trinity College was a first team NESCAC all-conference pick while recording two goals and nine assists for 11 points (matching his previous season high mark) and +15 rating. He led Trinity to second place in the NESCAC regular season standings. The Bantams' were ousted in the NESCAC tournament by Middlebury. Griffin was a four-year starter for Trinity, competing in 103 games and being named a captain in his senior year.

[Clark Kerner](#) (Kansas City, KS) – The senior forward for Norwich University was named 1st Team All-NEHC in the conference's final season. He completed his four-year career with the Cadets by leading the team in scoring with 12 goals and 15 assists for 27 points and a +5 rating. The twenty-seven-point season matched his career high from his first-year season and led the Cadets to a second-place finish. After defeating Elmira and Skidmore in quarterfinal and semifinal round action, where Kerner had a goal and an assist in each game, the Cadets lost to Hobart in the title game, with Kerner contributing his final collegiate goal.

Andrew Kurapov (Corvallis, OR) – The grad-student forward was a key contributor in Endicott College’s run to the CNE title game, where they lost to Curry while trying to earn their third straight conference crown. He finished the season with 14 goals and 14 assists for 28 points and a +16 rating. Kurapov tied for the team lead in points and surpassed both the 100-point mark and 100 games played milestone with the Gulls. He was named a 1st Team All- CNE forward for the third straight season.

“Without question, this season has shown great balance with team and individual performances across all the conferences and the region at the D-II/III level,” said Gridiron Club Hockey Awards Committee chairperson **Tim Costello**. “The committee is always challenged in reducing the field of semifinalists, but this group of strong players, led by Shane Soderwall in particular, distinguished themselves from the group with exceptional individual play and positive impact on team results to merit the special attention of the members. Shane is the third recipient from Curry and the seventh to win from the CCC, now CNE, with another goaltender, Conor O’Brien from Endicott, last winning in 2022.”

The Joe Concannon Award will be presented to the winner at the New England College Hockey Writers’ Dinner on Tuesday, April 22nd in Saugus, MA.

Joe Concannon Award Winners

2001	Keith Aucoin	Norwich University
2002	Michael Carosi	Bowdoin College
2003	Nick Stauder	Salem State College
2004	Michael O’Sullivan	Curry College
	Jim Panczykowski	Wesleyan University
2005	Brian Doherty	Curry College
	Joseph Ori	Trinity College
2006	Adam Dann	Bowdoin College
2007	Greg Osborne	Colby College
2008	Tom Maldonado	Middlebury College
2009	Jeff Landers	Amherst College
2010	Coleman Noonan	St. Anselm College
2011	Josh Harris	Castleton College
2012	Jeremiah Ketts	Johnson & Wales University
2013	Colin Mulvey	Norwich University
2014	Jackson Brewer	Trinity College
2015	Jamie Murray	Babson College
2016	Jamie Murray	Babson College
2017	Brady Fleurent	University of New England
2018	Colin Larkin	Massachusetts-Boston
2019	Brady Fleurent	University of New England
2020	Walker Harris	Wesleyan University
2021	Not Awarded	Canceled due to COVID.
2022	Ryan Black	Babson College
	Conor O’Brien	Endicott College
2023	Myles Abbate	Plymouth State University
2024	Devon Bobak	Trinity College
2025	Shane Soderwall	Curry College

The Joe Concannon Award

The Gridiron Club established the Joe Concannon Award in 2001 to honor Joe, a lifelong devotee of college hockey, former member of the Walter Brown Award Selection Committee and, as a journalist, a staunch advocate for the amateur athletes he knew and covered. A native of Litchfield, Connecticut, Joe graduated from Boston University in 1961. He served as sports information director (SID) at Holy Cross before joining the *Boston Globe* in the late 1960’s to cover college sports. Joe declined frequent invitations by his editors to write about Boston’s major professional sports teams, preferring to concentrate on the colleges, distance running and golf. He wrote the book *Marathoning with Bill Rodgers* and established the highly successful Litchfield Road Race in his hometown. Joe was a world traveler and was especially proud of his Irish heritage, frequently sojourning to the Emerald Isle. He passed away in 2000.

2024-2025 Gridiron Club Hockey Awards Selection Committee and Advisory Board: Tim Costello, Chairperson; Tom Burke, Jim Connelly, Dick DeCaprio, Tim Flynn, John Gravallese, David Ledzenski, John Powers, Paul McNamara, Richard Umile, and William J. Stewart III.

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