



News from

The Gridiron Club of Greater Boston

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Boston College Sophomore Ryan Leonard is Winner of 73rd Walter Brown Award as Best American-Born Division One College Hockey Player in New England

Hockey East Player of the Year and National Goal Scoring Leader Paces BC to its Second Consecutive Berth in NCAA Tournament

BOSTON – March 27, 2025 – [Gridiron Club of Greater Boston](http://www.gridclubboston.com/) president Tim Whelan, Jr. announced today Boston College sophomore [Ryan Leonard](#) (Amherst, MA) in the winner of the 73rd **Walter Brown Award**, 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.

Leonard currently stands as the leading goal scorer in the nation with 29 and leader in goals per game with .83. Nine of his goals were game-winners. He ranks sixth nationally in overall points with 47. Leonard was named Hockey East's Player of the Year and is one of ten finalists for the Hobey Baker Award as the top player in the nation.

"Boston College could not be more proud of Ryan Leonard and his selection as this year's Walter Brown Award recipient. Ryan has been a leader on and off the ice. He is an alternate captain as a sophomore and is a consistent volunteer for our numerous community service events, including the annual game with the New England Jumbos and reading to children at local schools," said BC coach [Greg Brown](#).

"Ryan's scoring ability is second to none. After an outstanding freshman season where he tallied 31 goals, he currently leads the nation with 29. Ryan's intensity and competitiveness are a catalyst for the team's success. The team won the Hockey East Regular Season trophy and secured the No. 1 seed in the upcoming NCAA Tournament. In addition to this, Ryan also served as captain for the 2025 U.S. World Junior team, which won a second consecutive gold medal with a 4-3 overtime victory over Finland.

"Ryan is a diligent student who carries over a 3.2 GPA in the Morrissey School of Arts and Sciences. Ryan is an outstanding representative of Boston College and he embodies everything the Walter Brown Award stands for," added Brown, who was the Walter Brown Award winner in 1990.

Leonard topped the final balloting in a field of five finalists, who had emerged from the initial crop of 26 semifinalists. The following are the other finalists, in alphabetical order:

[Jacob Fowler](#) (Melbourne, FL): Sophomore Boston College goaltender who ranks second in the nation in goals-against average with 1.165 and third in the country in both save percentage with .940 and winning percentage with .781. He earned First Team All-Hockey East honors and was named a finalist for the Mike Richter Award as the nation's top goalie for the second consecutive year.

[Liam McLinskey](#) (Pearl River, NY): Senior Holy Cross forward who led Atlantic Hockey in scoring with 24-30-54. His goal total placed him tenth in the nation in goals per game and sixth in goals scored. He was named both Atlantic Hockey Player of the Year and a finalist for the Hobey Baker Award for the second consecutive season,

[Joey Muldowney](#) (Lake View, NY): After an 11-point freshman season, the sophomore UConn forward scored 27 goals and 18 assists to lead the Huskies in scoring and a berth in the Hockey East championship game. He was second to Leonard nationally in goals scored and in goals per game, with .73. He also earned Second Team All Hockey East honors.

[Harrison Scott](#) (San Jose, CA): The senior forward, playing in his second season at Maine after transferring from Bentley University, led the balanced Black Bears' offense with 18 goals and 17 assists for 35 points, which tied him for 13th among Hockey East scorers. It was his best season as a college player. Scott was a team leader and key component in the Black Bears' first Hockey East playoff championship since 2004.

“From a very impressive field of semifinalists and then a group of five superb finalists, Ryan Leonard clearly stood out. His performance in leading BC to a most successful season was one of the best that the selection committee members had ever seen,” said committee chairman **Tim Costello**.

The Walter Brown Award will be presented at the New England Hockey Writers’ Dinner on April 22.

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			
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 Greater Boston has been the steward of the Walter Brown Award since 1977.

2025 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.

Press Contacts: Tim Costello, Committee Chairman Phone: 732-425-5922
Tom Burke, Communications Director Phone: 617-803-4826

Tim.costello@ymail.com
tomburke99@aol.com