

The Gridiron Club of Greater Boston
“Keepers of the Flame”
Soon to be
The Gridiron Club of New England

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	December 2025,TBD
	<i>Super26</i> High School Awards Night	March 2026, TBD

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, 2024-25: 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, Jim Kearney (R.I.P. February 2025), Tom Lamb, Cheryl Duddy Schoenfeld, Tim Whelan Jr.

Executive Committee: Skip Bandini, Curt Bletzer, Tom Burke, Jay Civetti, Chris Clemente, Tim Costello, Pete Cronan, Ned Cully, Ken Eldridge, Ray Gallant, Steve Grogan, Bob Horan, Jim Kearney (R.I.P. February 2025), Tom Lamb, Dick Lawrence, Tom Lopez, Bob Norton, Dave O’Brien, Ed Schluntz, 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 2024 season: Ned Cully, Raymond Gallant, Jonathan Kraft and the New England Patriots, George H. Lowe, Massachusetts High School Football Coaches Association, the Schoenfeld family, and Veteranscribe Press.



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

proudly present the

Twenty-sixth Annual High School Football Awards Night

honoring

The 2024 Massachusetts “*SUPER26*” All-State Team

and presenting

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

Al Fornaro, Xaverian Brothers High School

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

Dave Dugan, Bishop Fenwick

Henry J. Smith Courage Award: Madux Iovinelli, Lynnfield High School

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

Richard D. Harrington, ANEFO, and Michael Rayburg, MIFOA

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

Xavier Landrum, Tech High School

Dinner Co-Chairmen: Jim Kearney (R.I.P), Tom Lopez, Dick Lawrence

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

Al Fornaro, President, MHSFCA

Master of Ceremonies: Tom Burke

Sunday, March 9, 2025
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.*

2024 Winner: Al Fornaro, Xaverian Brothers 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

Richard Lawrence Award for High School Assistant Coach of the Year

Richard Lawrence, A Tufts Graduate, is a past president of the Gridiron Club and currently serves as the club’s clerk and secretary / Treasurer.

2024 Winner: Dave Dugan, Bishop Fenwick High School

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.*

2024 Winner: Madux Iovinelli, Lynnfield 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

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.*

2024 Winners: Richard D. Harrington, ANEFO; Michael Rayburg, MIFOA

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

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.

2024 Winner: Xavier Landrum, Tech High School

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

Massachusetts High School All-State Team

OFFENSE

Quarterback	
Jake Attaway	Hudson
Osiris Lopez	Leominster

Running Back	
Mekhi Dodd	Catholic Memorial
Shane Eason	Methuen
Justin Marques	Fairhaven

Receiver	
Merrick Barlow	St. John’s Prep
Kaelan Chudzinski	St. Sebastian’s
Lawson Foley	Scituate

Offensive Line	
Thomas Brown	Chelmsford
Naheem Ridore	Weymouth
Graham Roberts	St. John’s Prep
Charlie Simeone	Needham
Marky Walbridge	St. Sebastian’s

DEFENSE

Defensive Line	
Micah Amedee	Xaverian
Logan Dennett	Wachusett Regional
Dominic Funke	Xaverian

Linebacker	
Aiden Astorino	King Philip Regional
Ryan Bannon	North Attleboro
Max Dresens	Wayland
Manny Mengata	Tewksbury
David Timson	Catholic Memorial
Aidan Williams	Needham

Defensive Back	
AJ Azuakolam	Buckingham Browne & Nichols
Jared Bernabei	Lynnfield
Brady Chapman	Westborough
Sidney Tildsley	Shawsheen Tech

Massachusetts High School Football Coaches Association Selection Committee:
Tom Lopez, Lincoln-Sudbury, Chairman; Ryan Conway, Boston English; Dave Driscoll, Dighton-Rehoboth; Bob LaRose, Worcester South