



News from

The Gridiron Club of Greater Boston

Contact: Tom Burke, Club Communications

Phone: (617) 326-7471

Email: gridclubboston@gmail.com

Web site: www.gridclubofgreaterboston.com

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Gridiron Club's 2019 College Awards to Include the First Flamekeeper Medal, Awarded to Mike Mushaw of Central Connecticut for Heroic Service to Others

In BCS/FBS Divisions, BC Running Back A.J. Dillon Earns His Second Bulger Lowe Award; Jake McIntyre of Harvard Takes Swede Nelson Award

BOSTON - November 26, 2019 - Gridiron Club of Greater Boston College Awards Committee chairman **Tim Whelan** today announced that [Mike Mushaw](#), Central Connecticut State junior linebacker from Scotia, NY is the first recipient of the club's **Flamekeeper Medal**.

Mushaw's donation of bone marrow saved the life of a young girl in 2018. The recipient, named Eleanor, is now almost two years old and cured of the immune deficiency that was detected shortly after her birth. Mushaw was able to play only four games in the 2018 season. But he has been a mainstay in 2019 for the Blue Devils, who posted an 11-1 mark and will play Albany in the NCAA's FCS Playoff First Round on November 30.

The club will honor Mushaw along with an all-star slate of players, coaches and officials at the club's annual [Bob Whelan College Football Awards Night](#) on Thursday, December 19, 2019 at the Marriott Hotel in Burlington, Massachusetts.

"The Gridiron Club recognizes the best in college football each year," remarked Whelan. "We are pleased, and are ourselves honored, that Mike Mushaw will be with us. He is an example of the best that our sport has to offer."

Cheryl Duddy Schoenfeld, Gridiron Club president, added, "We at the Gridiron Club have always considered ourselves the Keepers of the Flame – of fair play, love of community and country, and sportsmanship. The Flamekeeper Medal is a fitting award to recognize and thank Mike. We established it specifically for him. What he has done for Eleanor is an extraordinary example of sportsmanship of the highest order – love and sacrifice for a fellow human being."

Other awards to be conferred that evening are:

The 81st annual [George "Bulger" Lowe Award](#), "New England's Heisman Trophy" and one of America's oldest college football accolades, to New England's best offensive and defensive players in the NCAA Bowl Subdivision/Football Championship Subdivision (FBS/FCS).

This year's recipients are both from Boston College: junior running back [A.J. Dillon](#) (New London, CT) on offense and redshirt junior linebacker [Max Richardson](#) (Duluth, GA) on defense. Dillon, the Bulger Lowe recipient as a freshman two years ago, currently ranks third in the nation with 1,507 net rushing yards. Richardson also ranks third in the country with 68 solo tackles.

The winners of the 74th annual [Nils V. "Swede" Nelson Award](#) for exceptional achievement in sportsmanship, academics, and athletics are Harvard placekicker [Jake McIntyre](#) (Orlando, FL) in the FBS/FCS and Springfield College senior center [Nick Bainter](#) (East Bridgewater, MA) in NCAA Divisions II/III. McIntyre is Harvard's all-time leader in field goals with 39 and is the Crimson's second all-time scorer with 229 points; he majors in statistics and carries a 3.7 GPA. Bainter sports a 3.7 GPA in Criminal Justice. He anchored an offensive line that made the Pride third in all of college football in rushing with 3,574 yards.

The 24th annual [Joe Zabalski Award](#), which recognizes New England's top offensive and defensive players in Divisions II/III go to Norwich junior wide receiver [Manni Romero](#) (Phillipsburg, NJ) on offense and Western New England junior linebacker [Erich Keutmann](#) (Washingtonville, NY) on defense. Romero ranks eighth in the nation in receiving yards with 1,225. Keutmann is fourth in the nation in total tackles with 132, going into 9-1 WNE's first-round NCAA Division II playoff game against Brockport on November 30.

[Head Coach of the Year](#) Awards to [Ryan McCarthy](#) of 11-1 Central Connecticut in the FBS/FCS and [Bob Ritter](#) of 9-0 Middlebury in Divisions II/III.

[Assistant Coach of the Year](#) awards to [Drew Canan](#), special teams coach at Holy Cross, in the FBS/FCS and [Steve Faniel](#), associate head coach and defensive coordinator at UMass-Dartmouth, in Divisions II/III.

The [Joseph V. McKenney Award](#) for top collegiate football official to **Daniel Richard** of Leominster, MA, a line judge in the Big Ten for 25 years.

The [John Baronian Award](#) for Lifetime Contribution to Football to [Sean McDonnell](#) of New Hampshire, who has served his alma mater for 21 years as head coach and eight years as an assistant coach. During his tenure, the Wildcats qualified for the NCAA football playoffs 14 times. His career resume also includes coaching positions at Boston College, Boston University, Columbia, and Hamilton.

Awards Banquet Information:

Thursday, December 19, 2019 at [Burlington Marriott Hotel](#).

Social hour 6:00 p.m. Dinner and program begin at 7:00.

Tickets are \$75 each or \$750 for a table of ten. They may be ordered online at www.gridclubofgreaterboston.com or by calling call club secretary/treasurer Dick Lawrence at (781) 929-3650.

About the Gridiron Club, "Keepers of the Flame"

Founded in 1932, the Gridiron Club of Greater Boston (www.gridclubofgreaterboston.com) promotes the game of football at all levels and nurtures the ideals of citizenship, sportsmanship, leadership, and athletic and academic achievement. A registered 501 (c) 3 non-profit corporation, the Gridiron Club is supported by membership dues, philanthropic contributions, and proceeds from its annual dinners. The Club honors exemplary players, coaches and officials at all levels of the sport and supports worthy charitable causes, especially those that assist children.