



News from

The Gridiron Club of Greater Boston

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Brady Fleurent from University of New England Named Winner of 19th Joe Concannon Award by Gridiron Club of Greater Boston

Outpolls five other outstanding finalists representing Wesleyan, UMass-Boston, Plymouth State, Babson, and UNE in balloting for best American-born Division II/III college hockey player in New England

BOSTON – March 21, 2019 – [Gridiron Club of Greater Boston](http://www.gridclubofgreaterboston.com) president **Cheryl Schoenfeld** announced today that senior forward **Brady Fleurent** from the [University of New England](http://www.unenewengland.edu) is the winner of the **19th Joe Concannon Award**, presented annually to the best American-born college hockey player in New England at the Division-II/III level. Fleurent also won the Concannon Award as a sophomore in 2017.

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.

Fleurent, a senior from Biddeford, Maine, finished this season leading the Nor'easters in scoring with 13 goals and 35 assists for 48 points. Fleurent was critical in leading UNE to their first ever CCC title and second appearance in the NCAA tournament. They eliminated Trinity in the first round before suffering a 2-1 overtime loss to Norwich in the quarterfinals.

During Fleurent's four years with the Nor'easters, he played in 110 games and posted 60 goals and 121 assists for 181 points. He leaves UNE as the program's all-time leading scorer.

"This is great news for Brady and our program," noted UNE head coach **Kevin Swallow**. "It is going to be hard to imagine a team here without a Fleurent on the roster, especially one who has been so productive and important to building the program over the past four seasons."

Fleurent was also recognized as the **Commonwealth Coast Conference** (CCC) Player of the Year and a first team all-star by the league coaches. It is also the second time that Fleurent has earned the Conference Player of the Year Award. He has consistently exhibited outstanding leadership qualities and exemplary sportsmanship, essential to winning the award two times and to being a finalist as a junior.

"Brady just has evolved so much as a player and a leader here at UNE," stated Swallow. "He has helped to set a high bar for our team in playing the game the right way. I am sure he will have success playing at the next level, based on his work ethic, skill and dedication."

Fleurent topped five other finalists in the final balloting, including his teammate, **Ryan Bloom**. Each of the finalists had stellar seasons, and all were worthy candidates for the award. They are, in alphabetical order:

Ryan Bloom (Northville, MI) – the junior forward from University of New England finished the season among the nation's leaders in points per game with 22 goals and 21 assists for 43 points in 29 games played. Bloom was also a first team all-star in the CCC and showed versatility with five power play goals, five shorthanded goals and five game-winning goals.

Michael Covach (Shillington, PA) – the senior forward from Plymouth State was a MASCAC first team all-star while recording 12 goals and 28 assists for 40 points in 28 games played. Covach led the Panthers to the MASCAC title and an NCAA tournament berth, where they lost in the first-round to Hobart 2-1.

Nolan Redler (Winchester, MA) – the junior forward from UMass-Boston was an NEHC first-team all-conference player while sharing Player of the Year honors with Norwich's **Tom Aubrun**. Redler recorded 15 goals and 19 assists for 34 points in leading UMB to their first NEHC regular season title and second NCAA tournament appearance.

Nick Rosa (Birmingham, MI) – the sophomore forward from Babson was a key ingredient in the Beavers' offense, posting 30 points on 14 goals and 16 assists. He was a first team all-star in the NEHC and scored four game-winning goals.

Tim Sestak (Darien, CT) – the junior goaltender from Wesleyan was the NESCAC Player of the Year and first team all-star, leading the Cardinals to a second-place finish in the regular season – their highest finish ever. Among the leading goaltenders in the country, Sestak finished with an astounding 1.58 goals-against average, .950 save percentage, and seven shutouts.

“This is the second time we have had a repeat winner in the history of the award, but the first time in non-consecutive years. This showcases the high level of performance for Brady, both in this season and over his career,” said Gridiron Club Hockey Awards Committee chairman **Tim Costello**. “There were many worthy candidates among the strong list of semifinalists, but Brady rose to the top of this talented group and is, again, a very deserving winner.”

“The 2018-19 season continued the recent trend of great parity and high level of play across D-II/III hockey in New England. For Brady, this season culminated a wonderful four-year career, capped off by his second CCC Player of the Year recognition and now his second Joe Concannon Award. He joins Jamie Murray from Babson as the only two-time winners of the award.”

The Joe Concannon Award will be presented at the New England College Hockey Writers’ Dinner on Wednesday, April 17 at the Prince Restaurant in Saugus, MA.

Joe Concannon Award Winners

2001	Keith Aucoin	Norwich University
2002	Michael Carosi	Bowdoin College
2003	Nick Stauder	Salem State College
2004	Jim Pancyzkowski Michael O’Sullivan	Wesleyan University Curry College
2005	Brian Doherty Joseph Ori	Curry College 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

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.

2018-2019 Gridiron Club Hockey Awards Selection Committee and Advisory Board: Tim Costello, Chairman; Joe Bertagna, Tom Burke, Jim Connelly, Ned Cully, Dick DeCaprio, Bob DeGregorio, Kevin Fleming, Steve Hagwell, John Powers, Paul McNamara, and William J. Stewart III.

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