



News from

The Gridiron Club of Greater Boston

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Colin Larkin from Massachusetts-Boston is Winner of the 18th Joe Concannon Award for Best American-Born Division III College Hockey Player in New England

Wins award over five outstanding finalists representing teams from Colby, Endicott, Fitchburg State, Massachusetts-Dartmouth and University of New England

BOSTON – March 22, 2018 – [Gridiron Club of Greater Boston](http://www.gridclubofgreaterboston.com) president **Chris Clemente** announced today that [Colin Larkin](#) from the **University of Massachusetts-Boston** is the winner of the [18th 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.

Larkin, a senior from Waterford, Michigan, finished his final season with the Beacons by recording 24 goals and 22 assists for 46 points. During Larkin's four years, he played in 111 games and posted 64 goals and 84 assists for 148 points. He helped the Beacons earn their first NEHC title back in 2016 and first ever trip to the Frozen Four in program history. Larkin recently signed a professional contract with the Edmonton Oilers, where he hopes to join his younger brother Dylan in the NHL next season.

This is huge for Colin and for our program," noted UMB head coach [Peter Belisle](#). "Colin has been a cornerstone player in building the program here and has become a better hockey player during each of his four seasons. He is a terrific competitor and really was a leader on our team this season."

Larkin was also recognized as the New England Hockey Conference (NEHC) Player of the Year and a first team all-star by the league coaches for his consistent performance on the ice. He has also clearly exhibited the crucial qualities of sportsmanship and leadership essential to winning the award this year after being named a finalist last season.

"It is always exciting when you see players rewarded for their hard work and dedication to their sport," stated Belisle. "Colin just loves playing the game and is continuing on in California right now in the AHL with the Bakersfield Condors. His signing of a professional contract coming out of the D-III ranks truly shows how much his game has developed and we are all rooting for him to be successful at the next level in the professional ranks."

Larkin outpaced five outstanding finalists, including last year's winner Brady Fleurent in the final balloting. Each of the finalists had stellar seasons, and all were worthy candidates for the award. They are:

[Brady Fleurent \(Biddeford, ME\)](#) – the junior forward from University of New England finished the season tops in the nation in points per game with 16 goals and 35 assists for 51 points in 27 games played. He became UNE's all-time leading scorer this season, surpassing his brother Trevor, in leading the Nor'easters to the CCC title game and first ever NCAA tournament appearance.

[Logan Day \(Seminole, FL\)](#) – the junior defenseman from Endicott was an integral element in Endicott's great regular season and was second in the country among defensemen in scoring offense. Day finished the season with 15 goals and 23 assists for 38 points, and recently left school to join the AHL with Bakersfield.

[Jonathan Ruiz \(Williamstown, NJ\)](#) – the senior forward was the MASCAC Player of the Year while recording 27 goals and 18 assists for 45 points in 27 games played. His 27 total goals and 13 power play goals both led the nation in their respective categories. Ruiz led the UMass-Dartmouth Corsairs to the MASCAC championship game where they lost 2-0 to Fitchburg State.

[Nick DiNicola \(Wolcott, CT\)](#) – the junior forward was a MASCAC first-team all-conference player while recording 11 goals and 36 assists for 47 points in leading Fitchburg State to their first MASCAC championship and first-ever NCAA tournament appearance.

[Sean Lawrence \(Granite Bay, CA\)](#) – the senior goaltender for Colby continues to play on into this weekend's D-III Frozen Four in Lake Placid where he has backstopped the Mules to their first-ever appearance. Lawrence has a 2.01 goals-against average and .941 save percentage in 25 games started this season which propelled Colby to their first NESCAC championship and second NCAA appearance, first since 1996.

“This has been an incredible season at the D-II/III level with so many great players and teams accomplishing so much for the first time,” said Gridiron Club Hockey Awards Committee chairman **Tim Costello**. “These finalists are truly the best representation of the superb level of play and individual excellence from across each of the conferences.”

“This year showcased a season where there was great parity and high level of play across New England. For Colin, this season was truly a great culmination to a wonderful four-year career topped off by his NEHC Player of the Year recognition and now the Joe Concannon Award. He joins a growing list of worthy recipients.”

The Joe Concannon Award will be presented to the winner at the New England College Hockey Writers’ Dinner on Wednesday, April 11 at the Prince Restaurant in Saugus, MA.

Joe Concannon Award Winners

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|------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 2001 | Keith Aucoin | Norwich University |
| 2002 | Michael Carosi | Bowdoin College |
| 2003 | Nick Stauder | Salem State College |
| 2004 | Jim Pancyzkowski | Wesleyan University |
| | Michael O’Sullivan | Curry College |
| 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 |

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.

2017-2018 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, Bernie Corbett, Paul McNamara, and William J. Stewart III.

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