



News from

# The Gridiron Club of Greater Boston

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## Joe Gambardella of UMass-Lowell Receives 65<sup>th</sup> Walter Brown Award from Gridiron Club of Greater Boston

*First UML Player in History to be Named Best American-Born Player in New England Edges  
Northeastern's Zach Aston-Reese and UNH's Tyler Kelleher in Final Balloting*

BOSTON – March 22, 2017 – [Gridiron Club of Greater Boston](http://www.gridclubofgreaterboston.com) president Chris Clemente announced today that senior forward [Joe Gambardella](#) of UMass-Lowell is winner of the 65<sup>th</sup> [Walter Brown Award](#), presented annually to the best American-born college hockey player in New England.



Gambardella, from Staten Island, New York, is the first UMass-Lowell player to win the Walter Brown Award, the nation's oldest nationally-recognized college hockey honor. The 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, that year; the team defeated Canada 2-1 in overtime in the championship game.

Gambardella led the River Hawks to a first seed in the 2017 Hockey East Playoffs and a 4-3 win over Boston College in the league championship game. During his career, UML played four times in the championship game and won the title twice.

Gambardella finished the season as the team's scoring leader with 18 goals and 31 assists for 51 points. In his 148 career games, prior to the 2017 NCAA playoff tournament, he has scored 47 goals and added 81 assist for 128 points. In 2016-2017, his seven game-winning goals tied him for first place in the nation in that category. He also received the Len Ceglarski Sportsmanship Award from Hockey East for the second consecutive year.

"Joe Gambardella has developed greatly as a man and a student athlete throughout his four years," said River Hawks' coach [Norm Bazin](#).

"He has become one of the elite offensive threats in Hockey East due to his work ethic and persistence. He is a true example of what a student-athlete should stand for on and off the ice. He is very deserving of this award."

In the final voting, Gambardella won by a slight margin over Northeastern senior forward [Zach Aston-Reese](#), also of Staten Island, NY, and New Hampshire senior forward [Tyler Kelleher](#) of Longmeadow, Massachusetts.

"Once again we had a large contingent – 23 in all – of semifinalists for the Walter Brown Award. By the end of the season, Joe, Zach and Tyler had separated themselves from the pack and had become the clear front-runners. The final vote was very close, and any of them would have been a worthy recipient, The Gridiron Club extends its congratulations to all three — all of them seniors — for their superb seasons and outstanding college careers," said Gridiron Club Hockey Awards Committee chairman Tim Costello.

The 65th Walter Brown Award will be presented at the New England College Hockey Writers' Dinner on April 11 at the Prince Restaurant in Saugus, Massachusetts.

**Walter Brown Award Winners**

1953	Ray Picard	Northeastern	Scott Harlow	Boston College	
1954	Bob Babine	Boston College	1987	Brian Leetch	Boston College
1955	Bill Cleary	Harvard	1988	Mike McHugh	Maine
1956	R.J. Cavanaugh	Northeastern	1989	Lane MacDonald	Harvard
1957	Bob Cleary	Harvard	1990	Greg Brown	Boston College
1958	Bob Cleary	Harvard	1991	Dave Emma	Boston College
1959	Mike Karin	Middlebury	1992	Rob Gaudreau	Providence
1960	Art Chisholm	Northeastern	1993	Dave Sacco	Boston University
1961	Tom Martin	Boston College	1994	Jacques Joubert	Boston University
1962	Dave Grannis	Harvard	1995	Mike Grier	Boston University
1963	Bill Hogan	Boston College	1996	Jay Pandolfo	Boston University
1964	Richie Green	Boston University	1997	Chris Drury	Boston University
1965	Bob Gaudreau	Brown	1998	Chris Drury	Boston University
1966	John Cunniff	Boston College	1999	Mike Mottau	Boston College
1967	Jerry York	Boston College		Mike Omicioli	Providence
1968	Tim Sheehy	Boston College	2000	Mike Mottau	Boston College
1969	Paul Hurley	Boston College	2001	Ty Conklin	New Hampshire
1970	Tim Sheehy	Boston College		Brian Gionta	Boston College
1971	Joe Cavanagh	Harvard	2002	Jim Fahey	Northeastern
1972	Bob McManama	Harvard	2003	Mike Ayers	New Hampshire
1973	Tom Mellor	Boston College	2004	Steve Saviano	New Hampshire
1974	Ed Walsh	Boston University	2005	Dov Grumet-Morris	Harvard
1975	Ron Wilson	Providence	2006	Chris Collins	Boston College
1976	Richie Smith	Boston College	2007	John Curry	Boston University
1977	Bob Miller	New Hampshire	2008	Kevin Regan	New Hampshire
1978	Joe Mullen	Boston College	2009	Matt Gilroy	Boston University
1979	Ralph Cox	New Hampshire	2010	Bobby Butler	New Hampshire
1980	Bill Army	Boston College	2011	John Muse	Boston College
1981	Mark Switaj	Boston College	2012	Brett Gensler	Bentley University
1982	Chuck Marshall	Northeastern	2013	Steve Whitney	Boston College
1983	Mark Fusco	Harvard	2014	Johnny Gaudreau	Boston College
1984	Cleon Daskalakis	Boston University	2015	Jimmy Vesey	Harvard
1985	Tim Army	Providence	2016	Jimmy Vesey	Harvard
1986	Scott Fusco	Harvard	2017	Joe Gambardella	UMass-Lowell

**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.

**2016-2017 Gridiron Club Hockey Awards Selection Committee and Advisory Board:** Tim Costello, Chairman; Joe Bertagna, Tom Burke, Don Cahoon, Jim Connelly, Ned Cully, Dick DeCaprio, Bob DeGregorio, Kevin Fleming, Steve Hagwell, Nancy Marrapese-Burrell, Paul McNamara, and William J. Stewart III.

Press Contacts: Tim Costello, Committee Chairman Phone: 732-425-5922  
Tom Burke, Communications Director Phone: 617-323-5694

[Tim.costello@ymail.com](mailto:Tim.costello@ymail.com)  
[tomburke99@aol.com](mailto:tomburke99@aol.com)