News from

The Gridiron Club of Greater Boston

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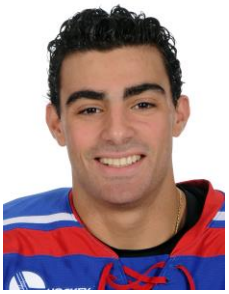
Joe Gambardella of UMass-Lowell Receives 65th Walter Brown Award from Gridiron Club of Greater Boston

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** president Chris Clemente announced today that senior forward **Joe Gambardella** of UMass-Lowell is winner of the 65th **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
1954	Bob Babine	Boston College
1955	Bill Cleary	Harvard
1956	R.J. Cavanaugh	Northeastern
1957	Bob Cleary	Harvard
1958	Bob Cleary	Harvard
1959	Mike Karin	Middlebury
1960	Art Chisholm	Northeastern
1961	Tom Martin	Boston College
1962	Dave Grannis	Harvard
1963	Bill Hogan	Boston College
1964	Richie Green	Boston University
1965	Bob Gaudreau	Brown
1966	John Cunniff	Boston College
1967	Jerry York	Boston College
1968	Tim Sheehy	Boston College
1969	Paul Hurley	Boston College
1970	Tim Sheehy	Boston College
1971	Joe Cavanagh	Harvard
1972	Bob McManama	Harvard
1973	Tom Mellor	Boston College
1974	Ed Walsh	Boston University
1975	Ron Wilson	Providence
1976	Richie Smith	Boston College
1977	Bob Miller	New Hampshire
1978	Joe Mullen	Boston College
1979	Ralph Cox	New Hampshire
1980	Bill Army	Boston College
1981	Mark Switaj	Boston College
1982	Chuck Marshall	Northeastern
1983	Mark Fusco	Harvard
1984	Cleon Daskalakis	Boston University
1985	Tim Army	Providence
1986	Scott Fusco	Harvard
	Scott Harlow	Boston College
1987	Brian Leetch	Boston College
1988	Mike McHugh	Maine
1989	Lane MacDonald	Harvard
1990	Greg Brown	Boston College
1991	Dave Emma	Boston College
1992	Rob Gaudreau	Providence
1993	Dave Sacco	Boston University
1994	Jacques Joubert	Boston University
1995	Mike Grier	Boston University
1996	Jay Pandolfo	Boston University
1997	Chris Drury	Boston University
1998	Chris Drury	Boston University
1999	Mike Mottau	Boston College
	Mike Omicioli	Providence
2000	Mike Mottau	Boston College
2001	Ty Conklin	New Hampshire
	Brian Gionta	Boston College
2002	Jim Fahey	Northeastern
2003	Mike Ayers	New Hampshire
2004	Steve Saviano	New Hampshire
2005	Dov Grumet-Morris	Harvard
2006	Chris Collins	Boston College
2007	John Curry	Boston University
2008	Kevin Regan	New Hampshire
2009	Matt Gilroy	Boston University
2010	Bobby Butler	New Hampshire
2011	John Muse	Boston College
2012	Brett Gensler	Bentley University
2013	Steve Whitney	Boston College
2014	Johnny Gaudreau	Boston College
2015	Jimmy Vesey	Harvard
2016	Jimmy Vesey	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.

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