



The Gridiron Club of Greater Boston

Web site: www.gridclubofgreaterboston.com

Maine Junior Goaltender Jeremy Swayman is winner of 68th Walter Brown Award as Best American-born Division One College Hockey Player in New England

Tops Five Other Finalists, Winnowed from an Initial Field of 23 Candidates and Representing All Three of the Region's Major Conferences

BOSTON – March 17, 2020 – [Gridiron Club of Greater Boston](http://www.gridclubofgreaterboston.com) president **Cheryl Duddy Schoenfeld** announced today that junior goaltender [Jeremy Swayman](#) of the University of Maine is winner of the 68th [Walter Brown Award](#), presented annually to the best American-born college hockey player in New England.

Swayman is the second Maine player and the first Black Bear in 32 years to receive the Walter Brown Award. Mike McHugh was the first Maine honoree in 1988. Drafted in the fourth round of the 2017 National Hockey League entry draft by the Boston Bruins, Swayman is also the second goalie from Anchorage, Alaska to win the award. Ty Conklin of New Hampshire received it in 2001.

Over the recently completed regular season, Swayman led all Hockey East goaltenders in save percentage, with 1099 saves and 71 goals against for a mark of .939. His overall goals-against average of 2.07 placed him 15th in the nation. The 18-11-5 Black Bears ranked ninth in the conference in total offense. But backstopped by Swayman's superb netminding, they were third in total defense. Maine played in nine overtime games over the course of the season and didn't lose one of them, posting a 4-0-5 mark in those contests. Their three defeats during a 10-3-2 second-half surge were all by a 3-2 margin.

The nation's oldest nationally-recognized college hockey honor, the Walter Brown 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, where the team defeated Canada 2-1 in overtime in the championship game.

The following players, listed in alphabetical order, polled strongly in the balloting and were the finalists out of an initial field of 23 semifinalist candidates:

[David Cotton](#), Boston College senior forward from Parker, Texas, who led the resurgent Eagles to a Hockey East regular-season championship and an overall record of 24-8-2 after a seventh place finish and an overall mark of 14-22-3 a year ago. Cotton scored 15 goals and added 24 assists for 39 points in 32 games. He was a sixth-round pick by Carolina in in 2015 NHL entry draft.

[Jason Cotton](#), Sacred Heart senior forward and brother of David Cotton, led Atlantic Hockey in scoring with 20 goals and 18 assists for 38 points in 34 games. Sacred Heart finished second in league play with a mark of 21-10-3 overall and 18-8-2 in conference play. A transfer from Northeastern three seasons ago, Cotton played in 118 games and scored 41 goals and 40 assists in his career at Sacred Heart.

[Jack Drury](#), Harvard sophomore forward from Winnetka, Illinois, led the 11-6-5 Crimson in goal scoring with 20 and was second in overall point production with 39. Drury's 1.39 points per game ranked him fourth in the nation. Eleven of his 20 goals came on the power play. In ECAC Hockey, he was second in both points and goals. Drury was chosen in the second round of the 2018 NHL entry draft by Carolina.

[Jack Dugan](#), Providence sophomore forward from Rochester, New York, led the nation in points per game. In 34 contests he scored ten goals and added 42 assists for 52 points and a 1.53.ppg average. He also led all Hockey East scorers with seven goals and 28 assists for 35 points in league games. Dugan was a fifth-round pick by the Vegas Golden Knights in the 2017 NHL entry draft.

[John Leonard](#), University of Massachusetts junior forward from Amherst, Massachusetts led the nation in goals scored with 27 in 33 games. He added ten assists for a team-best 37 points. In Hockey East play, he had five game-winning goals and took only two minor penalties. UMass finished second in the league with a 14-8-2 record and a 21-11-2 overall slate. Leonard was a sixth-round pick of the San Jose Sharks in the 2018 NHL entry draft.

"All of the finalists in this year's balloting for the Walter Brown Award had superb years. Their teams were well positioned for the post-season and a shot at the 16-team NCAA tournament, which unfortunately will not happen this year. Nonetheless, they can take tremendous pride in their accomplishments of the past season, where many other Eastern players in addition to them were among the nation's leaders in just about every category," said Gridiron Club Hockey Awards Committee chairman **Tim Costello**.

Gridiron Club president Schoenfeld stated “Our hearty congratulations and best wishes go out to Jeremy, to the finalists and semifinalists, and to their teammates and all the teams of Atlantic Hockey, ECAC Hockey, and Hockey East. The abrupt end of play was hard and frustrating for all of us, but especially for the senior student athletes who will not get to cap off their careers with a chance to compete in the playoffs. We thank them, salute them, and wish them Godspeed in all their future endeavors.”

The Gridiron Club will present the 68th Walter Brown Award to the winner at the New England College Hockey Writers’ Awards Brunch, which is currently scheduled for May 3 at the Prince Restaurant in Saugus.

Walter Brown Award Winners

1953	Ray Picard	Northeastern	1988	Mike McHugh	Maine
1954	Bob Babine	Boston College	1989	Lane MacDonald	Harvard
1955	Bill Cleary	Harvard	1990	Greg Brown	Boston College
1956	R.J. Cavanaugh	Northeastern	1991	Dave Emma	Boston College
1957	Bob Cleary	Harvard	1992	Rob Gaudreau	Providence
1958	Bob Cleary	Harvard	1993	Dave Sacco	Boston University
1959	Mike Karin	Middlebury	1994	Jacques Joubert	Boston University
1960	Art Chisholm	Northeastern	1995	Mike Grier	Boston University
1961	Tom Martin	Boston College	1996	Jay Pandolfo	Boston University
1962	Dave Grannis	Harvard	1997	Chris Drury	Boston University
1963	Bill Hogan	Boston College	1998	Chris Drury	Boston University
1964	Richie Green	Boston University	1999	Mike Mottau	Boston College
1965	Bob Gaudreau	Brown		Mike Omicioli	Providence
1966	John Cunniff	Boston College	2000	Mike Mottau	Boston College
1967	Jerry York	Boston College	2001	Ty Conklin	New Hampshire
1968	Tim Sheehy	Boston College		Brian Gionta	Boston College
1969	Paul Hurley	Boston College	2002	Jim Fahey	Northeastern
1970	Tim Sheehy	Boston College	2003	Mike Ayers	New Hampshire
1971	Joe Cavanagh	Harvard	2004	Steve Saviano	New Hampshire
1972	Bob McManama	Harvard	2005	Dov Grumet-Morris	Harvard
1973	Tom Mellor	Boston College	2006	Chris Collins	Boston College
1974	Ed Walsh	Boston University	2007	John Curry	Boston University
1975	Ron Wilson	Providence	2008	Kevin Regan	New Hampshire
1976	Richie Smith	Boston College	2009	Matt Gilroy	Boston University
1977	Bob Miller	New Hampshire	2010	Bobby Butler	New Hampshire
1978	Joe Mullen	Boston College	2011	John Muse	Boston College
1979	Ralph Cox	New Hampshire	2012	Brett Gensler	Bentley University
1980	Bill Army	Boston College	2013	Steve Whitney	Boston College
1981	Mark Switaj	Boston College	2014	Johnny Gaudreau	Boston College
1982	Chuck Marshall	Northeastern	2015	Jimmy Vesey	Harvard
1983	Mark Fusco	Harvard	2016	Jimmy Vesey	Harvard
1984	Cleon Daskalakis	Boston University	2017	Joe Gambardella	UMass-Lowell
1985	Tim Army	Providence	2018	Adam Gaudette	Northeastern
1986	Scott Fusco	Harvard	2019	Adam Fox	Harvard
	Scott Harlow	Boston College	2020	Jeremy Swayman	Maine
1987	Brian Leetch	Boston College			

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.

2019-2020 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, Paul McNamara, Mike McShane, John Powers, William J. Stewart III, and Dick Umile.

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