



Jimmy Vesey of Harvard is Winner of 63rd Walter Brown Award

Nation's Leading Goal Scorer Named Best American-born Division One College Hockey Player in New England by Gridiron Club of Greater Boston

BOSTON – March 24, 2015 – [Gridiron Club of Greater Boston](http://www.gridclubofgreaterboston.com) president Jim Kearney announced today that Harvard junior center [Jimmy Vesey](#) (North Reading, MA) is the winner of the 63rd [Walter Brown Award](#), presented annually to the best American-born college hockey player in New England.

Vesey finished first in the final balloting just ahead of Boston University freshman [Jack Eichel](#) (North Chelmsford, MA). Support for the other 18 Walter Brown Award semifinalists was broadly diversified; Vesey and Eichel, who are both among the ten finalists for the 2015 Hobey Baker Award, received all of the first- and second-place votes.

Vesey led all Division One players in the country in goals this season, scoring 31 times in 36 games. He also had 26 assists to give him 57 points and place him in a tie with Boston University's **Evan Rodrigues** for second in the nation in that category. Three of Vesey's six game-winning goals came in post-season competition. He has amassed a total of 97 career points heading into the NCAA regional playoffs.

Vesey was also named ECAC Player of the Year; this season was the third straight in which Vesey made the roster of Walter Brown Award semifinalists. He is the tenth player from Harvard to win the Walter Brown Award and the 11th Harvard recipient. **Bob Cleary** was the winner in both 1957 and 1958. Harvard's last winner was goalie **Dov Grumet-Morris** in 2005.

Eichel led all scorers in the country with 66 points on 24 goals and 42 assists. He was Hockey East's Player of the Year and Rookie of the Year. Four of Eichel's 24 goals were game-winning scores.

"Jimmy is a great player who has had a tremendous season. He has been incredibly consistent offensively, leading the country in goals scored, and has been relied upon in all key situations," said Harvard head coach **Ted Donato**. "Jimmy has also established himself as a team leader both on and off the ice. He is very deserving of this prestigious award and we are very proud of him."

"The 20 semifinalist candidates for the Walter Brown Award this year made up our largest group ever. But as the season progressed and the playoffs commenced, there was no doubt in anyone's mind that it would come down to Jimmy or Jack. The Gridiron Club and the selection committee extend their congratulations to both of them on their superlative seasons," said Committee Chairman **Tim Costello**.

The Walter Brown Award was established at the 20th reunion of the 1933 Massachusetts Rangers in honor of Brown, who coached the Rangers to America's first World Championship in Prague, Czechoslovakia. The 63rd Walter Brown Award will be presented at the New England College Hockey Writers' Dinner on April 21.

Walter Brown Award Winners

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

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 are derived from the wording of the original Walter A. Brown Trophy: "Awarded annually to the player who best combines the attributes of sportsmanship, skill, and team spirit." The Gridiron Club of Greater Boston has been the steward of the Walter Brown Award since 1977.

2015-2016 Gridiron Club of Greater Boston Officers: Jim Kearney, President; Tom Lamb, First Vice President; Chris Clemente, Second Vice President; Dick Lawrence, Secretary/Treasurer; Ned Cully, Historian..

Gridiron Club Hockey Awards Selection Committee and Advisory Board: Tim Costello, Chairman; Joe Bertagna, Tom Burke, Jim Connelly, Ned Cully, Bob DeGregorio, Kevin Fleming, Steve Hagwell, Nancy Marrapese-Burrell, Hon. Gordon A. Martin, Jr., Paul McNamara, and William J. Stewart III.

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