



News from

# The Gridiron Club of Greater Boston

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## Gridiron Club of Greater Boston Announces 26 Semi-Finalists for 17<sup>th</sup> Joe Concannon Award

*Second-year varsity program at Endicott leads way with four nominees;  
Massachusetts-Boston, Norwich and University of New England all have three nominees.*

BOSTON – February 9, 2017 – [Gridiron Club of Greater Boston](http://www.gridclubofgreaterboston.com) president Jim Kearney announced today that 26 NCAA Division II/III players are semifinalists for the 17<sup>th</sup> [Joe Concannon Award](http://www.gridclubofgreaterboston.com), presented annually to the best American-born college hockey player in New England.

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.

Fifteen teams are represented in the slate of candidates that includes nine players from the **Commonwealth Coast Conference (CCC)**, eight from the **New England Hockey Conference (NEHC)**, four from the **Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC)**, four from the **New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC)** and one from the **Northeast-10 Conference (NE-10)**. The list of nominees includes 14 forwards, eight defensemen and four goalies. Second-year program Endicott College, which moved its hockey up to varsity status last season after 12 years as a club team, leads the way with four nominees. Norwich, Massachusetts-Boston and the University of New England have three each.

Just four of the 2017 nominees were semifinalists a year ago. They are UNE forward **Trevor Fleurent**; Norwich forward **Tyler Piacentini**; UMB defenseman **Tyler Bishop**; and Tufts defenseman **Sean Kavanagh**.

The following is the complete list of semifinalists, by team, with statistics through February 8:

**Amherst: Conor Girard**, junior goaltender from Bloomington, MN (2.04 goals-against average (GAA), .928 save percentage (SP)).

**Colby: Geoff Sullivan**, senior defenseman from Topsfield, MA (5G - 9A - 14 points).

**Endicott: Kevin Aldridge**, sophomore goaltender from Beverly Hills, MI (1.82 GAA; .940 SP and 3 shutouts (SO)); **Tommy Besinger**, sophomore forward from Milton, MA (11G - 21A - 32 points); **Logan Day**, sophomore defenseman from Seminole, FL (9G - 11A - 20 points); **Ross Olsson**, sophomore forward from Billerica, MA (13G - 13A - 26 points).

**Massachusetts-Boston: Tyler Bishop**, senior defenseman from Ramsey, NJ (4G - 22A - 26 points); **Ryan Cusin**, freshman forward from Detroit, MI (16G - 23A - 39 points); **Colin Larkin**, junior forward from Waterford, MI (19G - 19A - 38 pts.)

**Massachusetts-Dartmouth: Casey Shea**, junior forward from Woburn, MA (10G - 21A - 31 points).

**Nichols: Colin Brennan**, junior goaltender from Chester, NJ (2.27 GAA; .926 SP and 1 shutout); **JB Baker**, freshman forward from Columbia, MD (13G - 18A - 31 points).

**Norwich: Tyler Piacentini**, senior forward from South Weymouth, MA (13G - 10A - 23 points); **Cody Smith**, senior defenseman from Hudson, MA (2G - 26A - 28 points); **Kevin Salvucci**, junior forward from Plymouth, MA (13G - 13A - 26 points)

**Plymouth State: Tommy Dowell**, senior defenseman from Olathe, KS (11G - 7A - 18 points); **Ryan Stevens**, sophomore forward from Colleyville, TX (15G - 14A - 29 points).

**Southern New Hampshire: Joe Collins**, senior forward from Mansfield, MA (11G - 23A - 34 points).

**St. Anselm: Shane Joyce**, junior goaltender from Pembroke, MA (2.00 GAA; .927 SP and 2 shutouts).

**St. Michael's: Danny Divis**, senior defenseman from Media, PA (4G - 14A - 18 Points and nominee for the Hockey Humanitarian Award).

**Tufts: Sean Kavanagh**, senior defenseman from Wilbraham, MA (3G - 8A - 11 points).

**Westfield State: Jackson Leef**, senior forward from Fort Wayne, IN (14G - 17A - 31 points).

**Williams: Frankie Mork**, senior defenseman from Victoria, MN (2G – 14A – 16 points)

**University of New England: Ryan Bloom**, freshman forward from Northville, MI (14G – 19A – 33 points); **Brady Fleurent**, sophomore forward from Biddeford, ME (16G – 29A – 45 points); **Trevor Fleurent**, senior forward from Biddeford, ME (17G – 16A – 33 points)

“This is the greatest number of semifinalists we have ever had for the Concannon Award,” said Gridiron Club Hockey Awards Committee chairman **Tim Costello**.

“The incredibly high level of play across each of the five conferences as well as the number of teams that have appeared in national rankings and players receiving weekly conference recognition are true indicators of the field’s worthiness for consideration. With the final weeks of the regular season and conference tournaments ahead at the end of February, there is a short window of time for players to truly separate themselves from the talented and deep field contending for this year’s award.”

The Gridiron Club will announce the finalists and winner of the 17<sup>th</sup> Joe Concannon Award in March, following league playoffs and before the start of NCAA Frozen Four in Utica, NY. The award will be presented to the winner at the New England College Hockey Writers’ Dinner on Tuesday, April 11 at the Prince Restaurant in Saugus, MA.

#### Joe Concannon Award Winners

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 University
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

#### 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.

**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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