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The Gridiron Club of Greater Boston

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Gridiron Club of Greater Boston Announces 20 Semi-Finalists for 67th Walter Brown Award

Slate of American-born Division One hockey players in New England includes 12 from Hockey East, six from ECAC, two from Atlantic Hockey

BOSTON – February 4, 2019 – [Gridiron Club of Greater Boston](http://www.gridclubofgreaterboston.com) president Chris Clemente announced today that 20 NCAA Division One players are semifinalists for the 67th [Walter Brown Award](#), presented annually to the best American-born college hockey player in New England.

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.

Twelve teams are represented in the slate of candidates that includes nine forwards and three goalies from **Hockey East**; two forwards, two defensemen, and two goalies from **ECAC Hockey**; and one forward and one defenseman from **Atlantic Hockey**. The University of Massachusetts at Amherst and Quinnipiac University each have three nominees. The University of New Hampshire, Providence College, Harvard, and American International College have two each.

Three of the 2019 nominees were semifinalists a year ago: Harvard defenseman **Adam Fox**, Yale forward **Joe Snively**, and Quinnipiac forward **Odeen Tufto**.

The following is the complete list of semifinalists, by team, with statistics through February 3:

UMass–Amherst: Senior forward [Jacob Pritchard](#), Macomb, MI (13-19-32); sophomore forward [Mitchell Chaffee](#), Rockford, MI, (15-14-29); and sophomore forward [John Leonard](#), Amherst, MA, (9-19-28).

Quinnipiac: Sophomore forward [Odeen Tufto](#), Chaska, MN (13-22-35); senior defenseman [Chase Priskie](#), Pembroke Pines, FL (14-19-33); and junior goalie [Andrew Shortridge](#), Anchorage, AK (1.22 goals-against average, .952 save percentage.)

American International College: Sophomore defenseman [Brennan Kapcheck](#), Mount Prospect, IL (4-19-23); and junior forward [Blake Christensen](#), Coral Springs, FL (13-21-34).

Harvard: junior defenseman [Adam Fox](#), Jericho, NY (7-20-27); and senior goaltender [Michael Lackey](#), Washington, DC (2.13 goals-against average, .927 save percentage).

New Hampshire: Sophomore forward [Charlie Kelleher](#), Longmeadow, MA, (3-17-20); and sophomore goalie [Mike Robinson](#), Bedford, NH, (2.27 goals-against average; .921 save percentage)

Providence: Junior forward [Josh Wilkins](#), Raleigh, NC (9-19-28), and senior goaltender [Hayden Hawkey](#) Parker, CO (1.96 goals-against average, .912 save percentage).

Boston College: Junior forward [David Cotton](#), Parker, TX (15-9-24).

Boston University: Freshman forward [Joel Farabee](#), Cicero, NY (9-14-23).

UMass-Lowell: Junior forward [Ryan Lohin](#), Chadds Ford, PA (10-12-22).

Northeastern: Freshman forward [Tyler Madden](#), Deerfield Beach, FL (8-12-20).

Vermont: Junior goaltender [Stefanos Lekkas](#), Elburn IL (2.36 goals-against average, .929 save percentage)

Yale: Senior forward [Joe Snively](#), Herndon, VA (13-14-27).

“This number of semifinalists is slightly more than last year, when we had 16 candidates in the running. As of press time, three of the semifinalists - Odeen Tufto, Chase Priskie, and Blake Christensen - were among the nation's top

ten in points scored. Two of the goalie nominees – Andrew Shortridge and Hayden Hawkey - were in the top ten in goals-against average,” said Gridiron Club Hockey Awards Chairman **Tim Costello**.

“But there’s a full month and nearly one third of the regular season league games yet to play, so a lot can change between now and the final balloting.”

The Gridiron Club will announce the finalists and winner of the 67th Walter Brown Award in March, following league playoffs and before the start of NCAA Tournament play. The award will be presented to the winner at the New England College Hockey Writers’ Dinner in April.

Walter Brown Award Winners

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

2018-2019 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, John Powers, and William J. Stewart III.

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