



News from

# The Gridiron Club of Greater Boston

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## Trinity's Bobak Wins 23<sup>rd</sup> Joe Concannon Award for Best American-Born Division II/III College Hockey Player in New England

*Shutdown goaltender outpolls five outstanding finalists, representing teams from Assumption, Curry, Endicott, Plymouth State and Tufts*

BOSTON – March 20, 2024 – [Gridiron Club of Greater Boston](http://www.gridclubboston.com) president **Tim Whelan, Jr.**, announced today that [Devon Bobak](#), a sophomore from Trinity College, is the winner of the 23<sup>rd</sup> **Joe Concannon Award**, presented annually to the best American-born college hockey player in New England at the Division-II/III level.

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.

Bobak, a sophomore goaltender from Northwood, Ohio, led his team to the [2024 Frozen Four](#), hosted by Trinity at the Koeppe Community Center in Hartford, CT on March 21 and 23. Thus far this season, Bobak has played in 28 games, posting a 24-3-1 record with a 1.20 goals-against average, a .943 save percentage, and seven shutouts. He earned Player of the Year and 1<sup>st</sup> team All-NESCAC honors while leading the Bantams to both the regular season and conference tournament championships. His seventh shutout was a 2-0 blanking of Elmira in the NCAA tournament quarterfinals. Trinity faces Adrian College in the NCAA semifinal round on March 21. In the other semifinal game, defending champion Hobart takes on Utica.

"I am so pumped for Devon," noted Trinity head coach **Matt Greason**. "He is an unreal kid and just super humble but he really deserves this great honor. He has been outstanding for us all season and raises the energy of the whole team. He calms everything down for us with a level of levity that just keeps everybody calm and focused. He always has a smile on his face and is a very hard worker on the ice and in the classroom. He also carries a couple of part-time jobs to maintain his Trinity experience. While he doesn't like the spotlight or individual recognition, I hope he will embrace winning this important award for D-II/III hockey."

Bobak was a clear winner over the five remaining finalists in the balloting, all of whom had stellar seasons and were worthy candidates. They are (in alphabetical order):

[Andrew Kurapov](#) (Corvallis, OR) – Senior forward from Endicott College. He scored 11 goals and 20 assists for 31 points and had a plus/minus rating of +11. He was the Commonwealth Coast Conference Player of the Year and a first team All-CCC player for the second season in a row. He led the Gulls' offense all season, and was the key contributor in the team's second consecutive berth in the NCAA championship tournament, where they lost in the first round to Elmira.

[Ronny Paragallo](#) (Huntington, NY) – Junior forward from Assumption College, who finished the season with 23 goals and 25 assists for 48 points and a rating of +19. He led the Greyhounds to the NE-10 championship game, where they defeated Southern New Hampshire in overtime. The Greyhounds also won the NE-10 regular season title, with Paragallo earning Player of the Year and 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-NE-10 honors.

[Tyler Sedlak](#) (Wyckoff, NJ) – Junior forward from Tufts, a first team NESCAC all-conference player who recorded 15 goals and 16 assists for 31 points and +15 rating. He led Tufts to a program-best, third-place finish in the regular season and scored the only goal in the Jumbos' 1-0 NESCAC playoff semifinal win over Hamilton College.

[Shane Soderwall](#) (Algonquin, IL) – Freshman goaltender for Curry College, who played a big part in the Colonels' playoff championship of the Commonwealth Coast Conference and receipt of an at-large bid to the national tournament. In the national quarterfinals, he tied the NCAA record with 98 saves in Curry's 4-3, four-overtime loss to Hobart. Earlier he shut out Geneseo, 3-0, in the tournament's first round. Soderwall finished the season with a 15-4 record, 1.59 goals-against average, .949 save percentage and three shutouts. He was the CCC's Goaltender of the Year and Rookie of the Year.

[Connor Tait](#) (Boys, MD) – Junior forward from Plymouth State. He finished the season with 18 goals and 20 assists for 38 points and a +29 rating and paced the Panthers to their fifth consecutive MASCAC championship. Tait was a 1st Team All-MASCAC selection and scored two goals in the Panthers' first ever NCAA tournament win, a 5-2 victory win over Cortland State in the first round. He assisted on the Panthers' only goal in a 4-1 loss to Utica in the NCAA quarterfinal.

“This season has truly shown great team and individual performances across each of the conferences and the region at the D-II/III level,” said Gridiron Club Hockey Awards Committee chairman **Tim Costello**. “The committee had a particularly challenging time in reducing the field of semifinalists. But this group of special players, led by Devon in particular, separated themselves from the pack with tremendous individual play and strong impact on team results to garner the special attention of the members. Devon is the third recipient from Trinity and the tenth to win from NESCAC; the last NESCAC player to win the Concannon Award was Walker Harris of Wesleyan in 2020.”

The Joe Concannon Award will be presented at the New England College Hockey Writers’ Dinner on Tuesday, April 23rd in Saugus, MA.

**Joe Concannon Award Winners**

|      |                    |                            |
|------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 2001 | Keith Aucoin       | Norwich University         |
| 2002 | Michael Carosi     | Bowdoin College            |
| 2003 | Nick Stauder       | Salem State College        |
| 2004 | Michael O’Sullivan | Curry College              |
|      | Jim Panczykowski   | Wesleyan University        |
| 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 College          |
| 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             |
| 2017 | Brady Fleurent     | University of New England  |
| 2018 | Colin Larkin       | Massachusetts-Boston       |
| 2019 | Brady Fleurent     | University of New England  |
| 2020 | Walker Harris      | Wesleyan University        |
| 2021 | Not Awarded        | Canceled due to COVID      |
| 2022 | Ryan Black         | Babson College             |
|      | Conor O’Brien      | Endicott College           |
| 2023 | Myles Abbate       | Plymouth State University  |
| 2024 | Devon Bobak        | Trinity 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.

**2023-2024 Gridiron Club Hockey Awards Selection Committee and Advisory Board:** Tim Costello, Chairman; Tom Burke, Jim Connelly, Bernie Corbett, Dick DeCaprio, Tim Flynn, John Gravalles, David Ledzenski, Tyler Murray, John Powers, Paul McNamara, Mike McShane, Richard Umile, and William J. Stewart III.

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