



News from

The Gridiron Club of Greater Boston

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Gridiron Club of Greater Boston Announces Semi-Finalists for 57th Walter Brown Award

Outstanding field of American-born Division One hockey players includes four repeat nominees, three players from Northeastern and two from Boston University

BOSTON – February 2, 2009 – Gridiron Club of Greater Boston president Tim Whelan announced today that sixteen NCAA Division One players are semi-finalists for the fifty-seventh Walter Brown Award, presented annually to the best American-born college hockey player in New England.

The candidates include **eleven players from Hockey East, four from the ECAC Hockey League, and one from Atlantic Hockey.** The slate comprises 12 forwards, one goalie, and three defensemen. Northeastern University, which did not have a semifinalist last year, boasts three in 2009 while Boston University has two. Four nominees, Boston College senior forward **Benn Ferriero**, Providence senior defenseman **Matt Taormina**, New Hampshire sophomore forward **James van Riemsdyk**, and Massachusetts sophomore forward **James Marcou**, were all semifinalists for last year's award, which was won by New Hampshire goalie Kevin Regan.

The only goaltender on the 2009 semifinalists' list is Brown University junior **Dan Rosen**, who was a semifinalist as a freshman two years ago. Defensemen on the list in addition to Taormina are Boston University senior **Matt Gilroy** and Northeastern senior **Louis Liotti**.

The remaining forwards from Hockey East schools are Northeastern seniors **Ryan Ginand** and **Joe Vitale**; BU senior **Chris Higgins**; UMass-Lowell junior **Kory Falite**; and Vermont senior **Peter Lenex**.

ECAC Hockey League forwards are Yale junior **Sean Backman**; Dartmouth sophomore **Adam Estoclet**; and Quinnipiac senior David Marshall.

The lone nominee from Atlantic Hockey and the first ever from Bentley College is senior forward **Dain Prewitt**.

"This has been a very interesting season to date in Eastern hockey, with several more teams in contention for the respective league titles and home ice playoff berths than we've seen in previous years," said Gridiron Club Hockey Awards Committee chairman **Tim Costello**.

"That competitiveness has made the task of drawing up a list of semifinalists for this year's Walter Brown Award even more difficult than usual. Not everyone who received serious consideration was able to make the cut. We look forward to tracking the semifinalists closely through the stretch run and playoffs."

The Gridiron Club will announce the finalists and winner of the 57th Walter Brown Award in March, following league playoffs and before the start of NCAA Tournament play.

Walter Brown Award Winners

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

2008-2009 Gridiron Club of Greater Boston Officers: Tim Whelan, *President*; Steve Grogan, *First Vice President*; Fran Allen, *Second Vice President*; Ray Gallant, *Third Vice President*; Dick Lawrence, *Secretary*; Paul Costello, *Treasurer*; Edmund (Ned) Cully, *Historian*.

2008-2009 Gridiron Club Hockey Awards Selection Committee and Advisory Board: Tim Costello, *Chairman*; Joe Bertagna, Tom Burke, Paul Costello, Ned Cully, Bob DeGregorio, Kevin Fleming, Steve Hagwell, Dick Lawrence, Hon. Gordon A. Martin, Jr., Bob Norton, Paul Stewart, and William J. Stewart III.

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