



## Gridiron Club of Greater Boston Announces Semi-Finalists for 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Joe Concannon Award

*Outstanding field of American-born Division II/III Players includes players from ECAC Northeast, MASCAC, ECAC East, NE-10 and NESCAC Conferences*

BOSTON – February 3, 2010 – Gridiron Club of Greater Boston president Steve Grogan announced today that sixteen NCAA Division II/III players are semi-finalists for the eighth Joe Concannon Award, presented annually to the best American-born college hockey player in New England playing at the D-II/III level.

The list is comprised of twelve forwards, two defensemen and two goalies, including two nominees from the D-II ranks. The candidates include seven players from the ECAC East. Nominees **Eric Tallent** (Garland, TX) and repeat candidate, **Ryan Kligensmith** (Morton, PA), represent the unbeaten and second ranked Norwich Cadets who have benefited by their defensive and goaltending skills to lead Norwich's number one ranked scoring defense.

The remaining representatives from ECAC East include four forwards whose achievements are a big part of their team's strong results this season. New England College senior forward **Alex Muse** (Lynnfield, MA) has provided key production to spark the Pilgrims' offense and he leads the team with seven power-play goals. Babson's **Terry Woods** (Duxbury, MA) leads his team in scoring and has been a catalyst for the Beavers' offense. Junior forward **Vinnie Jacona** (East Stroudsburg, PA) has flourished this season at UMass-Boston as a key playmaker for the Beacons. Lastly Southern Maine junior **Zach Joy** (Dover, NH) is averaging nearly a goal per game with 18 goals in his first 19 games for the Huskies.

From the NESCAC conference, four different institutions have had players recognized for their great play and strong leadership on and off the ice. Senior **Alex Smigelski** (Mt. Lakes, NJ) leads the Williams Ephs in scoring and has helped Williams to stay near the top of the conference standings. Junior **Billy Crinnion** (Smithtown, NY) leads the White Mules of Colby in search of a return to the playoffs among the best in NESCAC. Another repeat nominee, forward **Tom Derosa** (Charlestown, MA) and teammate **Scott Barchard** (Reading, MA) have been the pivotal players on offense and defense for a rejuvenated Tufts team. Barchard currently leads the nation in save percentage in backstopping the Jumbos. Junior **Bryan Curran** (Wilmette, IL) is the sole defenseman among his conference's nominees but plays big For Middlebury in the offensive zone with fourteen points in his first sixteen games.

The group of nominees all from the newly instituted MASCAC conference and are key contributors in leading their team's in scoring. Senior forward **Chris Chambers** (Crofton, MD) is Plymouth States' main offensive threat and has been a key contributor on the power-play. The other MASCAC representative is forward **Dennis Zak** (Dover, NJ) from Westfield State is also a repeat nominee from last season. Zak has led the Owls to the top spot in the very competitive new league.

The ECAC Northeast is represented by sophomore forward **Skylur Jameson** (Long Beach, CA) who is a threat to score in any situation and has led his Wentworth team as the sixth ranked scoring offense in the nation.

Lastly, two representatives from the D-II ranks include a pair of high energy forwards who make opponents pay for taking penalties by converting on the power play. St. Anselm forward **Coleman Noonan** (Norfolk, MA) and Assumption's **Pat O'Kane** (Hollis, NH) are amongst the top players in the country when it comes to scoring with the man advantage or when on the penalty kill.

"With the new league alignments this season, we have seen great individual talent shine through in each of the conferences in New England. Each and every season it becomes increasingly more challenging to single out worthy nominees for the Concannon Award," said Gridiron Club Hockey Awards Committee chairman Tim Costello. "There are many players that have been considered by the committee but do not appear as semi-finalists. Our committee believes this is a strong group of nominees and it will take the remaining games of the regular season and conference tournaments to identify the most worthy player for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary winner of this prestigious award."

The Gridiron Club plans to announce the finalists and winner of the 10<sup>th</sup> Joe Concannon Award in March, prior to the start of NCAA Frozen Four Tournament play and present the award during the New England Hockey Writers dinner in mid-April.

**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

**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.

**2009-2010 Gridiron Club of Greater Boston Officers:** Steve Grogan, *President*; Ray Gallant, *First Vice President*; Paul Stewart, *Second Vice President*; John Ingoldsby, *Third Vice President*; Dick Lawrence, *Secretary*; Paul Costello, *Treasurer*.

**2009-2010 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., Paul McNamara, Bob Norton, Paul Stewart, and William J. Stewart III.

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