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URI's Fleming, Wesleyan's DiCenzo Named Recipients of New England Football Writers Coach of the Year Awards

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – A pair of first-time honorees have been named the University and College Division Coaches of the Year by the New England Football Writers. University of Rhode Island head man Jim Fleming and Wesleyan University mentor Dan DiCenzo will be presented the awards at the New England Football Writers Captains and Awards Banquet on Thursday, December 12, at the Sheraton Framingham (Mass.) Hotel and Conference Center.

Fleming, the recipient of the Jack Grinold Division I Coach of the Year Award, completed his eleventh season with a career best 10-2 record. The ledger marked the fifth consecutive winning season for the Rams, a feat unmatched by URI squads since the 1980's. He started his tenure with the Rams in 2013 and in 2018 led Rhode Island to its first winning season in 17 seasons. A 30-year college coaching veteran, Fleming has coached for teams in the CAA, the AAC, the ACC, Conference USA, the MAC, the former Atlantic 10 (now CAA Football), the NEC, the Ivy League and the Big Sky Conference. He is the fourth URI coach to receive the award following Harold Kopp (1955), Bob Griffin (1985) and Floyd Keith (1995). Fleming is a graduate of the University of the South.

"I am honored to be named the 2024 Jack Grinold Division I Coach of the Year and thank you to the New England Football writers for their recognition of what our team has accomplished this season," Fleming says. "I am humbled to have my name next to so many outstanding coaches that have been similarly honored in the past. The past 11 years have been spent chasing a CAA Conference title and I accept this honor for all players and coaches that I have had the privilege to coach or work with that have strained tirelessly to be able to say University of Rhode Island 2024 CAA Champions."

In his tenth season as head coach of Wesleyan, DiCenzo is the first ever coach of the Cardinals to earn NEFW Division II/III Coach of the Year Honors. With his staff being selected the 2024 New England Small College Athletic Conference Coaching Staff of the Year, DiCenzo led Wesleyan to an 8-1 overall record and the NESCAC title. His 10-year record at Wesleyan is 56-23 (.709 winning percentage), with the Cardinals posting winning seasons all 10 years DiCenzo has been the head man. A five-year assistant coach at Wesleyan before taking over the top job in 2015, prior to his stint with the Cardinals DiCenzo coached at NESCAC rivals Trinity College and Williams College and at Brown University. He is a 2001 graduate of Williams

"I am honored to be selected as the New England Football Writers Association 2024 DII/III Coach of the year," DiCenzo says. "We had an outstanding season and our student-athletes competed hard for us. I am fortunate to have a great staff and they do an awesome job. They make going to work every day easy. We had tremendous Senior leadership this year and our guys loved playing in big games. It was really fun to coach this team. I am very proud to be the Head Football Coach at Wesleyan and work at such a great University that supports its students in everything that they do."

Any persons wishing to attend the NEFW Banquet can make reservations on-line at <https://newenglandfootballwriters.com/captains-%26-awards-banquet>. Reservations are non-refundable and must be made by 4:00PM, Friday, December 6.

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