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Roger Crosley
603-247-0471
newenglandfootballwriters@gmail.com

# UMass' Harasymiak Named Recipient of

# New England Football Writers Jack Grinold Division I Coach of the Year Award

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – University of Massachusetts Head Coach Joe Harasymiak has been named the 2026 Jack Grinold Division I Coach of the Year by the New England Football Writers Association. Harasymiak will be presented the award at the New England Football Writers Captains and Awards Banquet on Thursday, December 10, at the Renaissance Framingham (Mass.) Hotel and Conference Center.

Harasymiak has engineered a dramatic turnaround in the UMass program in his second season guiding the Minutemen. Following an 0-12 campaign in 2025, Harasymiak has directed UMass to a 5-6 record with a season finale at Bowling Green left on the schedule. A 2008 graduate of Springfield College where he played defensive back and set the program record for career interceptions, Harasymiak returned to Springfield as a graduate assistant for two years following a year assisting at Maine Maritime Academy. From Springfield he moved on to the University of Maine where he coached on the defensive side of the ball becoming defensive coordinator before being elevated to head coach in 2016. At the time of his hiring, Harasymiak was the youngest Division I head coach in the country. He compiled a 20-15 record at Maine leading the Black Bears to the 2018 NCAA Division I FCS semifinals and was named National Division I FCS Coach of the Year by the American Football Coaches Association.

Stints as defensive coordinator at the University of Minnesota and Rutgers University followed before Harasymiak returned to New England to lead the Minutemen.

Also the 2018 NEFW Coach of the Year when coaching the University of Maine, Harasymiak is the seventh UMass coach to receive the NEFW honor and the fourth to twice take home the award. He was preceded by Vic Fusia (1964), Dick MacPherson (1972, 1977), Jim Reid (1988, 1990), Mike Hodges (1992), Mark Whipple (1988, 2003) and Don Brown (2006).

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 5:00PM, Friday, December 4.

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