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Bentley's Scarpa, Yale's Reno Named Recipients of New England Football Writers Coach of the Year Awards

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – A first-time honoree and a repeat selection from 2017 have been named the College and University Division Coaches of the Year by the New England Football Writers. Bentley University head man CJ Scarpa and Yale University mentor Tony Reno will be presented the awards at the New England Football Writers Captains and Awards Banquet on Thursday, December 11, at the Sheraton Framingham (Mass.) Hotel and Conference Center.

In his rookie season as head coach of Bentley, Scarpa is the second coach of the Falcons to earn NEFW Division II/III Coach of the Year Honors (Peter Yetten in 1994 and 2003). Scarpa led Bentley to a 7-4 record, a share of the Northeast 10 title and the Conference's automatic bid to the NCAA Division II Championship Tournament. A 2017 graduate of Bentley, Scarpa quarterbacked the Falcons to an 8-2 record his senior season. He followed that with a graduate year at Merrimack College and went directly into coaching following that season. Scarpa has amassed significant coaching experience at all levels. He was a football operations intern for the New England Patriots, an assistant quarterbacks coach at Harvard University, a tight ends coach at Austin Peay State University, special assistant to the head coach at Arkansas State and quarterbacks coach at Williams College before returning to Waltham in 2023 as associate head coach and offensive coordinator.

Reno, the recipient of the Jack Grinold Division I Coach of the Year Award, is the Ivy league Coach of the Year. He directed the Eli an 8-2 record with a shared Ivy League title and captured the Ivy League's first ever automatic bid to the NCAA FCS Tournament. Also the 2017 NEFW Coach of the Year, Reno is the fourth Yale coach to receive the NEFW honor and the third to twice take home the award. He was preceded by the Jordan Oliver (1956 & 1960), Carm Cozza (1980), and Jack Siedlecki (1999 & 2007). A 1997 graduate of Worcester State, Reno was a three-year starter at safety for the Lancers. Following graduation Reno became defensive coordinator at Worcester and then went to Yale as the coach of the secondary. In 2009-2011 he was the defensive coordinator under Siedlecki before assuming the role of head coach in 2012.

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 5.

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