

— 20 FUTURES LEAGUE 25 —

AWARDS



FUTURES LEAGUE NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Joshua Kummins, (781) 420-2311, administrator@thefuturesleague.com

Futures League Recognizes 2025 Organization & Executive of the Year

ROCKLAND, Mass. (December 4, 2025) — The Futures League has recognized the Worcester Bravehearts as the 2025 Organization of the Year, while Vermont Lake Monsters Senior Vice President C.J. Knudsen earned William J. Terlecky Executive of the Year honors.

Commissioner Joe Paolucci presented the awards during the Futures League's Organizational Meeting, which was held earlier this fall in Lowell.

ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR

Worcester Bravehearts

Under the leadership of the Vaccaro Family and General Manager Donny Porcaro Jr., the Bravehearts enjoyed a memorable season both on and off the field, claiming Organization of the Year for the fifth time in their 12-year history in Worcester and first since 2019.

"The Worcester Bravehearts have shown what it truly means to be an Organization of the Year," Paolucci said. "Their record-setting success on the field is matched only by their extraordinary commitment to education, inclusion, and community impact. From inspiring thousands of students through innovative programs to building bridges across generations and championing sustainability, the Bravehearts have set the gold standard for what a Futures League franchise can achieve. They didn't just win games in 2025—they strengthened the very fabric of Worcester and our league."

Worcester welcomed over 56,000 fans through the gates of Fitton Field on the College of the Holy Cross campus during the 2025 season, marking the franchise's highest total and average attendance since 2019. The team also hosted the Futures League All-Star festivities in July, including a Home Run Derby and Craft Beer Festival at Fitton Field and the All-Star Game at Polar Park, the home of the Triple-A Worcester Red Sox.

The Bravehearts continued to make a standout impact in the community. Year-round programs such as the Ticket-to-Read Program with Central Massachusetts area schools and the Pen Pal Clubs were tied into a packed summer of activities at the ballpark, while the team donated \$3,000 to local youth baseball and softball organizations and hosted a series of baseball clinics in conjunction with the WooSox among its countless ventures.

As part of hosting the 2025 All-Star Game, the team also hosted the All-Star Communities Donation Drive, working with the other Futures League franchises to collect school supplies for the youth at

the Boys & Girls Club of Worcester. This effort was recognized as the Futures League's Best Community Promotion.

On the field, the Bravehearts set a Futures League single-season record with 45 wins and finished atop the standings by 5.5 games with Manager of the Year Luke Beckstein at the helm. Worcester rattled off a 10-game winning streak following its 2-4 start and never looked back, climbing as high as 28 games above .500 in August. Beckstein's club led the league in including batting average (.280), runs (395), home runs (34), stolen bases (176, second-most in league history), on-base percentage (.378), ERA (3.94) and fewest earned runs allowed (223). A league-high 14 players earned All-Star status in July, while six were named All-Futures League following the summer.

"This is the standard we strive for at the beginning of every season," said Bravehearts President Matt Vaccaro. "We're so proud of our staff for bringing the team back to being the standard of the Futures League. This is an award that was not only won by our staff, but by the entire fan base and our partners who came out and supported us. Without this city's constant belief in our team, this would not have been possible."

"At the beginning of every season, we tell our staff the most unique part of working for the Bravehearts is the impact you can have on the team," Porcaro said. "I hope everyone who put on a Bravehearts jersey or staff polo this season knows that they earned this award."

WILLIAM J. TERLECKY EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR **C.J. Knudsen, Vermont Lake Monsters**

Knudsen's leadership kept the Lake Monsters as a competitive force and a community pillar again in 2025, helping him become just the second three-time winner of the William J. Terlecky Executive of the Year Award in league history. He was also honored in 2021 and 2023.

"C.J. Knudsen has exemplified what it means to be an Executive of the Year," Paolucci said. "His leadership has not only propelled the Vermont Lake Monsters to sustained success on the field, but also strengthened their role as a cornerstone of the community. From record-setting attendance and expanded media reach to impactful charitable initiatives and innovative partnerships, C.J.'s vision has elevated the Lake Monsters into one of the league's premier organizations. His commitment to excellence, both competitively and socially, sets a standard for all Futures League executives."

Under Knudsen, the team drew nearly 97,000 fans across 36 home games, including 12 sellouts and five crowds topping 4,000—a testament to a thriving fan experience and community engagement. The Vermont fans saw a winning product again, with the Lake Monsters winning 40 games to reach the postseason for the fifth consecutive summer and keeping a league-best .629 winning percentage since the franchise's start in the Futures League in 2021.

Beyond the diamond, Knudsen's impact rippled through the community. He launched a landmark partnership with Northeast Delta Dental that rebranded Burlington's ballpark as Delta Dental Diamond at Centennial Field, ensuring long-term support for Vermont baseball. This summer, the team also welcomed its three millionth fan in franchise history, sold over 28,000 hot dogs during their wildly popular Hot Dog Hysteria (25-cent hot dog nights), and raised over \$58,000 for local causes through jersey auctions, raffles and other fundraisers. Knudsen also expanded the team's

media reach with TV and radio broadcast deals that brought games into the homes of fans across Vermont and northern New York.

"I'm very honored to be selected as the William J. Terlecky Executive of the Year," Knudsen said. "This award is a true reflection of our entire franchise and the efforts and dedication our staff give to the community that supports us so well. Thank you to The Futures League owners and Commissioner Joe Paolucci and Associate Commissioner Josh Kummins for this recognition and distinction."

The Executive of the Year Award is named for Bill Terlecky, the former North Shore Navigators GM who lost his courageous battle with cancer in October 2020.

For the latest Futures League news and information throughout the year, visit thefuturesleague.com and follow the league's [Facebook](#), [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#) and [Instagram](#) pages.

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Ducatelli Receives Futures League's 2025 Pete Wilk Award

ROCKLAND, Mass. (December 3, 2025) — Norwich Sea Unicorns outfielder Antonio Ducatelli is the 2025 recipient of the Futures League's Pete Wilk Award, it was announced today by Commissioner Joe Paolucci.

The Pete Wilk Award was established to honor the former Vermont Lake Monsters manager who lost a 15-month battle with brain cancer in April 2024. The award is presented to a persevering individual who has overcome injury, illness or personal tragedy to make an impact for their team on or off the field, as that is exactly what Wilk did throughout his life.

A rising junior at Central Connecticut State University and from Levittown, N.Y., Ducatelli returned to the Sea Unicorns for the second straight summer in 2025, and despite twice having his season interrupted due to injuries, he stayed around to be supportive of his teammates while rehabbing diligently to get back in the lineup as fast as he could.

Ducatelli hit .333 with a .439 on-base percentage and three extra-base hits across 14 regular-season games, the last nine of which came after he returned from injury in time for Norwich's playoff push. He helped the Sea Unicorns win their third straight Futures League championship in August, recording seven hits, four runs scored and two stolen bases during the five-game postseason run.

"Antonio Ducatelli is the type of player that every team would like to have; shows up every day and works hard to make himself and his team better," said Sea Unicorns General Manager Lee Walter Jr. "He may have worked even harder while out with injuries so that he could come back and finish the summer out with his teammates. This perseverance helped make the Sea Unicorns a tough team to beat late in the season and showed the best qualities of what Futures League baseball is all about!"

The award's namesake, Wilk joined the Lake Monsters ahead of their inaugural Futures League season in 2021 and became an instrumental figure whose impact touched his players, the Lake Monsters and Burlington community, and the Futures League as a whole. On the field, Wilk's Vermont teams set single-season league record win totals in the first two of his three seasons at the helm, including the championship-winning 2021 campaign. Those successes led Wilk to becoming the first two-time Futures League Manager of the Year and just the third Futures League Hall of Famer honored exclusively for his coaching career.

The Futures League is proud to recognize Antonio Ducatelli as the second winner of the Pete Wilk Award and looks forward to honoring Wilk's legacy for years to come.

"Antonio Ducatelli embodies the very essence of the Pete Wilk Award. His resilience in the face of adversity, his commitment to his teammates, and his determination to return stronger after injury reflect the values we strive to honor across the Futures League," Paolucci said. "While his contributions on the field were impressive, it is his character off the field—choosing to stay, support, and lead by example—that truly sets him apart. Antonio represents the kind of player and person who elevates the game and inspires everyone around him."

"Pete Wilk was a great coach and an even better person. I know that he would have been honored to have known Antonio as a player and a person," Vermont Lake Monsters Senior Vice President C.J. Knudsen said. "Congratulations to Antonio on winning this year's Pete Wilk Award and for representing the characteristics that Pete strived for every day!"

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Futures League Recognizes 2025 Team & Staff Award Winners

ROCKLAND, Mass. (November 12, 2025) — For the fourth consecutive year, the Futures League is proud to recognize and honor its teams and front office staff members for their accomplishments throughout the 2025 season with a series of off-the-field awards.

Commissioner Joe Paolucci announced the award winners during the Futures League's Fall Organizational Meeting, which was held earlier this fall in Lowell. The winners have been individually recognized on the league's social media channels.

This series of awards began in 2022 to recognize the best in the Futures League from a variety of categories, including broadcasting and social media, food, promotions and events, as well as annual intern and front office staff honors.

BEST BALLPARK FOOD

Lake Monsters Pizza

Vermont Lake Monsters

A fan favorite in Burlington, Lake Monsters Pizza already earned the inaugural Best Ballpark Food honors in 2022 and remains a centerpiece of the Lake Monsters experience. An Italian-made, custom Lake Monster-colored Neapolitan pizza oven made its Centennial Field debut in 2021 and has been a fan favorite ever since. People travel from near and far for a taste of the best pizza in Vermont. The pizzas feature handmade dough and cook at 720 degrees, with over 300 made per home game with cheese, pepperoni and mushroom toppings.

BEST IN-GAME PROMOTION

Return of the Nashua Pride & Butch Hobson

Nashua Silver Knights

On June 27, the Silver Knights rebranded as the Nashua Pride for one night and celebrated the former independent league team that called Historic Holman Stadium home from 1998-2008. Former Pride manager Butch Hobson returned to the dugout and joined the Silver Knights' coaching staff during the game, which was played before a jam-packed crowd of over 3,000 fans. The night also featured appearances by other Nashua legends like Rich 'El Guapo' Garces, Glenn Murray, The World Famous Monkey Boy and several other former Pride players, owners and staff.

Jonathan Papelbon's One-Day Contract

Westfield Starfires

The Starfires signed Boston Red Sox Hall of Famer, 2007 World Series champion and six-time MLB All-Star Jonathan Papelbon to a one-day contract on Aug. 8, bringing a level of excitement and prestige rarely seen at the summer collegiate level and creating an unforgettable experience for fans across Western Massachusetts. Papelbon's starting pitching appearance for the Starfires drew cheers from a sold-out Bullens Field, but the festivities also featured both VIP and public ticketed meet-and-greet sessions before the game.

BEST COMMUNITY PROMOTION

All-Star Communities Donation Drive

Worcester Bravehearts

While hosting the 2025 Futures League All Star Game at Polar Park, the Bravehearts made an impact bigger than the game with the All-Star Communities Donation Drive. Each Futures League team hosted a school supply drive to benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Worcester prior to the All-Star Game, where over \$800 worth of supplies were brought together to help local students go back to school prepared. The program was created to be an annual event, allowing it to benefit all of the communities the Futures League calls home.

BEST NON-BASEBALL EVENT

Camp Ta-Kum-Ta Softballathon

Vermont Lake Monsters

In the continuation of an annual tradition, the Lake Monsters hosted the Camp Ta-Kum-Ta Softballathon at Centennial Field. The 12-hour softball game supports Camp Ta-Kum-Ta, which provides challenging, extraordinary experiences in a safe and loving environment for children in Vermont and northern New York who have or have had cancer. Donations allow year-round programs benefitting the children and their families to be provided at no cost, including over \$50,000 raised since the event was started.

BEST SOCIAL MEDIA

Vermont Lake Monsters

The Lake Monsters' social media accounts featured informative and entertaining content while growing their following on Instagram and Facebook throughout the summer. Pre-game and post-game updates helped Vermont fans stay on top of the action, while fun, behind-the-scenes video content and promotional night and sponsored items were also staples of the team's accounts. The team's top post of the year was a parody ESPN "breaking news" graphic of Juan Soto during his free agency, which drew major buzz and engagement.

BROADCASTER OF THE YEAR

Adam Plager

Norwich Sea Unicorns

Working in conjunction with local partner SNSN Sports, Plager has taken Norwich's broadcasts to a new level in two summers. The Sea Unicorns' home game streams integrated new pregame show features and advertising sponsorship spots, but Plager also took to the road quite often to provide an audio broadcast for Norwich fans if they were not tuned into the home broadcast. His tireless work ethic also had him writing game recaps for the team website, as well as compiling statistics for Sea Unicorns and opposing players. Plager was also selected to call two NESN games, including the All-Star Game at Polar Park in Worcester.

INTERN OF THE YEAR

Gabby Reinbold

New Britain Bees

Reinbold joined New Britain's intern team as a student-athlete playing softball at Wheaton College, where she found out about the opportunity through fellow Wheaton athletes and Bees pitchers Evan Mello and Ben Oliveira. She played a leading role in the team's social media efforts, taking high-quality photographs and building a great relationship with the team on the field that was showcased in interactive and behind-the-scenes content on a revived TikTok page.

Henry Ramey

Vermont Lake Monsters

Ramey spent his second season in Vermont as a Promotions & Operations Assistant. In this role, he led grassroots marketing efforts by delivering pocket schedules to local businesses, ran the Bat Kid Program for kids and executed in-game promotions at all home games. He was also a key member of the team's ballpark operations, conducting setup and takedown and coordinating jersey auctions and promotional nights. He is entering his senior year at Coastal Carolina University, where he hopes to bring this past season's experience to impact the school's athletic department.

STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Nick DiLello

Vermont Lake Monsters

DiLello has been with the Lake Monsters since 2019, rising from game day staff to front office leadership with his current position of Director of Tickets & Group Sales. He has contributed to a major increase in group sales attendance in recent years, created new programs to retain and grow corporate sponsorship and season ticket members, and played a key role in the team's community efforts, raising money for local schools, sports teams and nonprofits. DiLello's hard work, creativity and commitment to the Lake Monsters have made a lasting impact on the team and the community.

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Futures League Names 2025 Postseason All-League Teams

ROCKLAND, Mass. (December 10, 2025) — As the 2025 calendar year draws to a close, the Futures League takes one final look back to its 15th season of summer baseball action in New England with the release of the 2025 All-Futures League Teams.

The All-Futures League First and Second Teams highlight players by position after being nominated and voted on by the league's field managers. Each franchise is represented across the two lineups, which both include five starting pitchers, one relief pitcher, one player at each infield position, three outfielders, and spots for both a designated hitter and utility player.

A full listing of both teams can be found at the end of this release.

The winners of five of [major league awards](#) garnered first-team status, including a pair of Vermont Lake Monsters: the dual recipient of Most Valuable Player and Top Pro Prospect in **Shaun McMillan** (St. John's) and Pitcher of the Year **John Delgado** (Stevenson/Dayton). McMillan hit 11 home runs and added his name to the Futures League record books with the third-most RBI in single-season league history with 52, while Delgado's 53 strikeouts were tops among league pitchers.

Joining Delgado as first-team pitchers are the New Britain Bees' **Garret Garbinski** (UConn) and **Evan Mello** (Wheaton), who took home Top Pro Pitching Prospect and Relief Pitcher of the Year honors, respectively. The championship-winning Norwich Sea Unicorns duo of **Matt Wootton** (Eastern Connecticut State) and **Frank Spirito** (UConn) and the Worcester Bravehearts' **Jake LeFranciois** (UMass Lowell) round out the staff. Garbinski allowed just two earned runs and struck out 32 in 30.1 innings, helping the Bees make their first-ever championship appearance. Wootton and LeFranciois were among league leaders with five wins apiece.

The All-Futures League First Team sees New Britain's **Brennan Stauble**y (Southern Connecticut State) at catcher, McMillan at first base, Norwich second baseman **Charlie Walsh** (George Washington) and Nashua Silver Knights shortstop **Patrick Shrake** (Colby) covering the middle infield, and New Britain's **Colin Crowley** (Winthrop) at third base. Shrake finished as the league's qualified batting leader with a .342 average.

Two of the first-team outfielders are Westfield Starfires in **Anthony Ruggiero** (Northeastern) and **Griffin Mills** (Northwestern). Vermont returnee **Sam Cavossa** (Saint Michael's) rounds out the trio, having led the league with 69 hits and 42 runs scored. Worcester designated hitter

Jackson Marshall (UConn) and **Casey Wensley** (Bryant) complete the positional roster. Marshall reached base at a league-best .434 clip while ranking second in homers (9), RBI (44) and slugging (.541), while Wensley was fifth with 30 RBI despite playing in just 24 games.

Highlighting the second-team players are Futures League Defensive Player of the Year in Nashua outfielder **Cole Patterson** (American International) and Worcester's **Kaleb Woodward** (Trinity of Texas), the latter who stole a league-leading 25 bases. Woodward and Vermont outfielder **Hunter Kingsbury** (Bryant) were both top-10 qualifying hitters, while Nashua second baseman **Ernie Little** (Fordham) hit .400 across his 23-game stint mostly early in the summer.

Six players from Worcester, Vermont and New Britain were named to the All-Futures League squads. Nashua and Norwich each had five, and Westfield had four.

For the latest news and information on the Futures League all year long, visit thefuturesleague.com and follow the league's [Facebook](#), [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#) and [Instagram](#) pages.

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FIRST TEAM

P: John Delgado, Vermont Lake Monsters, Stevenson University

(Pitcher of the Year)

P: Garret Garbinski, New Britain Bees, University of Connecticut

(Top Pro Prospect - Pitcher)

P: Matt Wootton, Norwich Sea Unicorns, Eastern Connecticut State University

P: Frank Spirito, Norwich Sea Unicorns, University of Connecticut

P: Jake LeFrancois, Worcester Bravehearts, UMass Lowell

RP: Evan Mello, New Britain Bees, Wheaton College

(Relief Pitcher of the Year)

C: Brennan Stauble, New Britain Bees, Southern Connecticut State University

1B: Shaun McMillan, Vermont Lake Monsters, St. John's University

(Most Valuable Player & Top Pro Prospect)

2B: Charlie Walsh, Norwich Sea Unicorns, George Washington University

SS: Patrick Shrake, Nashua Silver Knights, Colby College

3B: Colin Crowley, New Britain Bees, Winthrop University

OF: Sam Cavossa, Vermont Lake Monsters, Saint Michael's College

OF: Anthony Ruggiero, Westfield Starfires, Northeastern University

OF: Griffin Mills, Westfield Starfires, Northwestern University

DH: Jackson Marshall, Worcester Bravehearts, University of Connecticut

Utility: Casey Wensley, Worcester Bravehearts, Bryant University

SECOND TEAM

P: Jack Kelleher, Vermont Lake Monsters, Northern Essex Community College

P: Matt Fitzgibbon, Nashua Silver Knights, Saint Joseph's University

P: Cody Heselton, Westfield Starfires, Southern Connecticut State University

P: Ben Oliveira, New Britain Bees, Wheaton College

P: Damien Carter, Worcester Bravehearts, Eastern Connecticut State University

RP: Rob Gilchrist, Nashua Silver Knights, Pace University

C: Leandro Guevara, Vermont Lake Monsters, American International College

1B: Chace Chaplin, Norwich Sea Unicorns, Yale University

2B: Ernie Little, Nashua Silver Knights, Fordham University

SS: Evan Menzel, Westfield Starfires, University of Connecticut

3B: Jaylem Sepulveda, Worcester Bravehearts, Western Oklahoma State College

OF: Cole Patterson, Nashua Silver Knights, American International College

(Defensive Player of the Year)

OF: Kaleb Woodward, Worcester Bravehearts, Trinity University (Texas)

OF: Hunter Kingsbury, Vermont Lake Monsters, Bryant University

DH: Aidan Stern, Norwich Sea Unicorns, Trinity College

Utility: Camden Righi, New Britain Bees, University of Connecticut



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2025 Futures League Postseason Award Winners Announced

ROCKLAND, Mass. (September 5, 2025) — After completing its milestone 15th season in mid-August, the Futures League has revealed its 2025 postseason award winners.

The recipients were announced over a two-week period via the league's social media channels. Prior to the public announcements, each team's field managers nominated players from their respective rosters and cast votes when the regular season concluded on Saturday, Aug. 9.

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

TOP PRO PROSPECT (POSITION PLAYER)

Shaun McMillan, Vermont Lake Monsters, St. John's University

McMillan tore up the Futures League with a .313 average and league-best 11 home runs, 52 RBI and eight stolen bases in 47 games after finishing his debut season at St. John's in the spring as a NCBWA Freshman All-American. He is the second straight Lake Monster to earn Futures League MVP, following 2024 catcher Mark Quatrani (Cornell). The first baseman also led the league in doubles (16, tied), extra-base hits (27), total bases (109) and slugging percentage (.568), ranked second in runs scored (40), and third in hits (60), on-base percentage (.408) and walks (29). McMillan began his time in Vermont on a 14-game hit streak, hitting .400 with six doubles, four homers and 23 RBI from June 3-18. He also reached base in his first 20 games. He departed Vermont with hits in 18 of his last 22 games.

PITCHER OF THE YEAR

John Delgado, Vermont Lake Monsters, Stevenson University

Delgado went 4-1 with a 1.26 ERA and a league-leading 53 strikeouts in 43 innings, becoming Vermont's fourth Futures League Pitcher of the Year honoree in five seasons since joining the league in 2021. The left-hander made nine starts as a Lake Monster and pitched scoreless ball in five of them, including a streak of 20.2 consecutive scoreless innings over four-plus starts to begin the summer. Delgado allowed just 25 hits and six earned runs, holding opponents to a .164 average. He earned victories in three of his first four outings in Vermont, working six shutout, two-hit innings with a season-high eight strikeouts in a June 19 win over New Britain. After two seasons at Stevenson, Delgado will be continuing his career in Division 1 at the University of Dayton.

RELIEF PITCHER OF THE YEAR

Evan Mello, New Britain Bees, Wheaton College

New Britain's second Relief Pitcher of the Year honoree in three summers, Mello posted six saves, one relief victory and finished 13 games among his league-leading 22 appearances in the regular season. He had a 2.10 ERA with 33 strikeouts and just nine hits allowed in 25.2 innings. His save total was good for second in the league this summer and also second in the Bees' six-year Futures League history. The All-Star left-hander from New Bedford, Mass., was not scored upon in 18 of his 22 outings, including a streak of 9.1 consecutive scoreless innings from June 21 through July 16. He earned the save in the final game of his scoreless run, marking his first of three in a four-game span through July 27.

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Cole Patterson, Nashua Silver Knights, American International College

Patterson made his mark in all aspects of the game while playing in 51 of the team's 60 games, which were tied for the fourth-most of any player in the league. He manned the outfield in 31 contests and finished the summer without making an error in 78 total chances. Silver Knights manager Nick Guarino praised Patterson for his play on the grass, saying that "he covers a lot of ground and catches everything out there." Like in the outfield, Patterson was a great tone-setter at the plate and on the bases, reaching base at a .363 clip and ranking second in the league with 23 steals. The Winchendon, Mass., native is the third-ever Silver Knight to win Defensive Player of the Year, but the first since 2012.

TOP PRO PROSPECT (PITCHER)

Garret Garbinski, New Britain Bees, University of Connecticut

A native of Clinton, Conn., Garbinski enjoyed a dominant stint in New Britain as he returned from a season-long injury that kept him out for his junior season at UConn, where he transferred after starting his career at Manhattan College. He posted a miniscule 0.59 ERA with 32 strikeouts against just three walks in 30.1 innings of regular-season work for the Bees, keeping a scoreless stat line intact until July 25. Garbinski allowed his only two runs and eight of the 23 hits against him in one outing. His summer also included being the starting and winning pitcher for Team Hearts in the Futures League All-Star Game at Polar Park in Worcester.

MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Luke Beckstein, Worcester Bravehearts

Beckstein enjoyed a historic managerial debut in 2025, guiding the Bravehearts to a Futures League-record 45 wins and finishing atop the regular-season standings by 5.5 games. Following a 2-4 start, Beckstein's club immediately rattled off a 10-game win streak before climbing as many as 28 games above in August. Worcester lost just four times after the All-Star break, going 11-1 across its final 12 contests. Under Beckstein, the Bravehearts led the league in numerous categories including batting average (.280), runs (395), home runs (34), stolen bases (176, second-most in league history), on-base percentage (.378), ERA (3.94) and fewest earned runs allowed (223). A Northeastern alum and current Kansas State graduate assistant coach, Beckstein played on the 2020 Futures League championship-winning Nashua Silver Knights and is now only the second player-turned-manager in league history to earn this honor.

UMPIRE OF THE YEAR

Curtis Dugar

A recent transplant to the New England area, Dugar was selected as the top umpire following a vote of the league's field managers. He earned assignments in both Futures League postseason

rounds. Over the past year, he has officiated in both the Atlantic 10 Conference and Patriot League and also worked the quarterfinals of the MIAA state tournament. Off the field, Dugar serves as an Associate Dean of Students at Bentley University and is also on track to complete his doctorate in Educational Leadership and Administration in May 2026, focusing his research on the recruitment and retention of sports officials.

ADAM KEENAN SPORTSMANSHIP & SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

James Benestad, Nashua Silver Knights, Endicott College

Brennan Stauble, New Britain Bees, Southern Connecticut State University

Gavin O'Brien, Norwich Sea Unicorns, University of Massachusetts

Adam Schwartz, Vermont Lake Monsters, Colby College

Josh Frometa, Westfield Starfires, American International College

Josh Fischer, Worcester Bravehearts, Wheaton College

For the sixth consecutive season, one player from each of the Futures League's eight franchises was selected to receive this prestigious annual award, which is bestowed upon someone who exemplifies the outstanding attitude, character and sportsmanship that is synonymous with Adam Keenan's legacy. Adam was a former Franklin Pierce University and UMass Lowell player who also played for the former Seacoast Mavericks. [Click here](#) for the full release on this year's recipients.

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Third Hall of Fame Class Inducted at 2025 Futures League Hot Stove

NASHUA, N.H. (November 8, 2025) — Highlighted by the induction of the Hall of Fame Class of 2025, the Futures League community came together for its first-ever Hot Stove celebration on Saturday night on the Rivier University campus.

A capacity crowd of over 100 guests filled the Dion Center to witness five distinguished player alumni and one legendary coach hear their names called to the Hall of Fame as part of the third-ever class. Commissioner Joe Paolucci made the official presentations before longtime Futures League supporter Bill Burt, the Eagle-Tribune newspaper's Executive Sports Editor, conducted a panel discussion featuring the Class of 2025.

Beloved former Vermont Lake Monsters field manager **Pete Wilk**, who lost a 15-month battle with brain cancer in April 2024, was the first to be honored during the Hall of Fame ceremony. With members of the Wilk family in attendance, Pete's longtime friend Bill Gorman delivered a speech in his memory.

Fresh off an outstanding second season with the New York Yankees, 2020 Futures League Most Valuable Player **Ben Rice** appeared at the event to take his place in the Hall of Fame. The rest of the Class of 2025 consists of Nashua Silver Knights legends **Cam Cook** and **Ryan Sullivan**, Rice's former Worcester Bravehearts teammate **Mariano Ricciardi**, and former Futures League Pitcher of the Year **Nick Sinacola**. Full biographies on the new Hall of Famers can be found [here](#).

Paolucci also recognized the Futures League's first "Hometown Heroes," a group consisting of longtime fans, supporters and staff members who best represent each of the Futures League's teams and its overall community spirit. Quite simply, these people help make the league special. The Class of 2025 Hometown Heroes are:

Scott "Mad Dog" Northrup - Nashua Silver Knights

A passionate super fan in every sense, "Mad Dog" is one of the most recognizable figures in Silver Knights history. He wasn't just a fan in the stands; he was part of the team. Mad Dog knew every player by name, and every player who has ever worn a Silver Knights jersey remembers him. For 13 seasons, he was as much a fixture of Holman Stadium as the players on the field — cheering louder than anyone, banging his drum, blowing his air horn, and often being banished to the brick wall in left field.

Rob Roberts & Walt Alcutt - New Britain Bees

Roberts and Alcutt were longtime “partners in crime” at New Britain Stadium, holding season tickets together since 2017. The duo attended the Futures League All-Star Game in July to support the Bees and have a good time, as they so often did. Rob was the baseball expert of the dynamic duo, bringing along baseball cards for many of the players. Walt sampled all the local beverages and the fellowship a game provides. Sadly, Walt passed away unexpectedly on July 24, 2025, but their friendship is remembered with this honor.

Bruce Rosenthal - Norwich Sea Unicorns

Rosenthal is a season ticket holder of 10-plus years who very rarely misses a game and has brought his kids out for years, introducing them to a game they have grown to love. He was one of the first supporters to fully grasp the Futures League concept in Norwich and talk to other fans in the area about how much the play on the field is better in many ways than it was in the minors, including the excitement of the players every game.

Freda Tutt - Vermont Lake Monsters

Tutt coordinates the Lake Monsters’ host family program, carefully matching players with families who fit their personalities, schedules, and needs, ensuring each player has a supportive and welcoming environment throughout the season. Beyond providing housing, Tutt fosters meaningful relationships between players and families, creating lifelong memories for both. Her guidance makes every player’s stay in Vermont feel like home while helping families feel connected to the team and the broader baseball community.

Seth Dussault - Westfield Starfires

The Voice of Starfires Baseball, Dussault embodies the very spirit and passion that define both the Starfires and the Futures League: dedication, community, and an unwavering love for the game. His commitment to the Starfires is unmatched. He arrives at the ballpark as early as the players to prepare for each broadcast with meticulous care and attention to detail. He’s one of the last to leave Bullens Field each night, ensuring his recaps, photos, and social media updates capture the full energy and emotion of the game. He is always willing to lend a hand in other areas, including concession operations to get product in place before gates open.

Brian “Front Row Brian” Dillon - Worcester Bravehearts

“Front Row Brian” has been the most loyal Bravehearts fan in the team's history, attending more games than anyone who currently works for the team. In the last four years, the Bravehearts have gone through front office changes, field changes during the 2020 season, and new concessions strategies, but one thing has remained the same: Front Row Brian behind home plate. Not only has he become a staple at the ballpark, but he has joined in on the fan experience, joining in on the acts against Twister, the evil mascot and talking to young fans about their love of the team.

Prior to the Hall of Fame portion of the event, four of New England’s best baseball and softball coaches formed a panel on college recruiting and related topics in nearby Sylvia Trottier Hall.

The panelists were Northeastern University’s **Mike Glavine**, Babson College’s **Matt Noone**, Eastern Connecticut State University’s **Mike Odenwaelder** (a Futures League Hall of Famer

himself) and Rivier softball's **Noelle Sass**. Worcester Bravehearts Director of Player Personnel **Alex Dion** moderated the hour-long discussion.

For the latest Futures League news and information throughout the year, visit thefuturesleague.com and follow the league's [Facebook](#), [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#) and [Instagram](#) pages.

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