

2026 KEYNOTE SPEAKER

JOE BERTAGNA

Joe Bertagna has devoted a lifelong career to the game of hockey, including 40 years as a college hockey administrator and 50 years as a goaltending coach. The longest-serving college hockey commissioner in NCAA history.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- Joe Bertagna has devoted a lifelong career to the game of hockey, including 40 years as a college hockey administrator. Executive Leadership: Served as the Executive Director of the American Hockey Coaches Association (AHCA) where he stills serves as Media Director. Served as college conference head for nearly four decades. An unheard-of feat in modern sports. He is the longest-serving commissioner in NCAA hockey history. ECAC Hockey (15 years): He stabilized one of the oldest and most traditional conferences in the country. Hockey East (23 years): This is where he cemented his legacy. He transformed the league into a powerhouse.
- Innovations: At Hockey East, he launched the women's league, secured major TV deals (NESN, ESPN3), and organized high-profile events like "Frozen Fenway" and the Friendship Four in Belfast.
- Goaltending Expert: A star goaltender himself at Arlington (Mass.) High School, and at Harvard in the late '60s and early '70s, Bertagna served as goaltending coach for the NHL's Boston Bruins from 1985-86 through 1990-91, as well as for the 1994 U.S. Olympic Team, the U.S. Men's National Team, and the Milwaukee Admirals of the International Hockey League (IHL).
- Author & Pioneer: He founded Harvard's women's hockey program in 1977 and has authored numerous books, including The Hockey Coaching Bible

MAJOR HONORS

- 2023 Lester Patrick Trophy recipient for outstanding service to hockey in the United States.
- USA Hockey Distinguished Service Award (2017)
- Massachusetts Hockey Hall of Fame (2017)
- ECAC Hall of Fame (2018)
- The Bertagna Trophy: The Women's Hockey East championship trophy was named in his honor in 2013.