



SAN JOSE BARRACUDA PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Barracuda Media Relations

sjbarracuda.com

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JOHN MCCARTHY NAMED 2019-20 FRED T. HUNT MEMORIAL AWARD WINNER

San Jose, CA - The [San Jose Barracuda](http://SanJoseBarracuda.com) ([@SJBarracuda](https://twitter.com/SJBarracuda)), proud affiliate of the [San Jose Sharks](http://SanJoseSharks.com) ([@SanJoseSharks](https://twitter.com/SanJoseSharks)), in conjunction with the [American Hockey League](http://AmericanHockeyLeague.com) ([@TheAHL](https://twitter.com/TheAHL)), announced today that [John McCarthy](http://JohnMcCarthy.com) has been named the 2019-20 winner of the [Fred T. Hunt Memorial Award](http://FredT.HuntMemorialAward.com) as the AHL player who best exemplifies the qualities of sportsmanship, determination and dedication to hockey.

The award is voted on by coaches, players and members of the media in each of the league's 31 cities.

"It is an honor to win the Fred T. Hunt Memorial Award," said McCarthy. "I'd like to thank the players, coaches, and media that voted for me. It means a lot to be recognized for my passion for the game of hockey. I'd also like to thank the Sharks organization for giving me the opportunity to play the game that I love for as long as I did."

"John's 'lead by example' approach as a person and player has positively impacted many players in the Sharks organization," said Barracuda general manager **Joe Will**. "John epitomizes the qualities of this award and he has forged his legacy in the Sharks organization as a leader."

The captain of the Barracuda since 2016, McCarthy concluded a distinguished 11-year professional career in December after suffering an ischemic stroke due to a previously undetected hole in his heart. Following swift medical attention from the team's medical staff and physicians at Kaiser Permanente San Jose Medical Center, McCarthy made a complete recovery and joined the Barracuda coaching staff as an assistant on Dec. 27, allowing him to continue mentoring the San Jose Sharks' top prospects.

McCarthy, 33, played 577 games in the American Hockey League - all but 25 with the Sharks' affiliates in San Jose (2015-19) and Worcester (2009-15). He totaled 130 goals and 167 assists for 297 points in the AHL, and is the Barracuda's all-time leader in games played (275), goals (62), assists (76) and points (138). McCarthy notched four goals in 18 contests with San Jose in 2019-20.

Originally drafted by the Sharks in 2006, McCarthy also had three goals and three assists in 88 career NHL games with San Jose. He was a member of the United States Olympic men's hockey team in 2018, and co-captained Boston University to an NCAA championship in 2009.

This award, which was first presented by the AHL in 1978, honors the late Fred T. Hunt, a long-time contributor to the league who won three Calder Cup championships as a player and three more as a general manager during a career spent primarily with the AHL's Buffalo Bisons and the NHL's Buffalo Sabres. Previous winners of the award include Ross Yates (1983), Glenn Merkosky (1987, '91), Bruce Boudreau (1988), Murray Eaves ('89, '90), John Anderson (1992), Tim Tookey (1993), Ken Gernander (1996, 2004), Randy Cunneynworth (2000), Mike Keane (2007), Bryan Helmer (2011), Jake Dowell (2014), Tom Kostopoulos (2016), [Craig Cunningham](#) (2017), [Bracken Kearns](#) (2018) and [Brett Sutter](#) (2019).

About the AHL:

In operation since 1936, the American Hockey League continues to serve as the top development league for all 31 National Hockey League teams. Nearly 90 percent of all players competing in the NHL are AHL graduates, and through the years the American Hockey League has been home to more than 100 honored members of the Hockey Hall of Fame.

[\(Link to release\)](#)

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SAN JOSE BARRACUDA ANNOUNCE TEAM AWARD WINNERS

San Jose, Ca - The [San Jose Barracuda \(@SJBarracuda\)](#), proud [American Hockey League \(@TheAHL\)](#) affiliate of the [San Jose Sharks \(@SanJoseSharks\)](#), today announced individual team award winners for the 2019-20 season as selected by the San Jose Barracuda Hockey Operations Department.

Barracuda Most Valuable Player: [Maxim Letunov](#)

In his second professional season, **Maxim Letunov** collected a team-best 40 points and 28 assists. He also finished tied for second on the team in power-play goals (4) and first in power-play assists (10). On Feb. 4, 2020, Letunov made his NHL debut at Calgary and two nights later, he scored his first NHL goal at Edmonton. In total, he appeared in three games with the Sharks, posting one goal. Letunov joins **Alexander True** (2018-19), **Antoine Bibeau** (2017-18), **Troy Grosenick** (2016-17) and **Ryan Carpenter** (2015-16) as winners of the team's Most Valuable Player award.

Barracuda Rookie of the Year: [Joachim Blichfeld](#)

An AHL All-Star in 2019-20, **Joachim Blichfeld** finished the season first on the Barracuda in power-play goals (5), third in points (32), second in goals (16) and fourth in shots (114). Among AHL rookies, the Denmark native ranked ninth in goals, tied for seventh in power-play goals, tied for 12th in points, 12th in shots and tenth in points-per-game (.73) among skaters who appeared in at least 40 games. Blichfeld also dressed in three contests with the Sharks, making his NHL debut on Dec. 12, 2019 against the New York Rangers. Blichfeld joins **Josef Korenar** (2018-19), **Rudolfs Balcers** (2017-18), **Danny O'Regan** (2016-17) and **Nikolay Goldobin** (2015-16) as winners of the team's Rookie of the Year award.

Barracuda Top Defenseman: [Trevor Carrick](#)

After helping the Charlotte Checkers capture the Calder Cup in June, the Carolina Hurricanes shipped blueliner **Trevor Carrick** to San Jose in August in exchange for defenseman Kyle Wood.

In his first year in teal, the 25-year-old skated in 48 games with the Barracuda, finishing fourth among all AHL defenseman with ten goals and, on Dec. 3, 2019, he became the first Barracuda d-man to record a hat-trick in a 6-2 win over Bakersfield. The hatty was the first for a Barracuda skater since John McCarthy scored three times in a win against Cleveland on March 9, 2018. In addition, among Barracuda d-men, Carrick finished first in goals, plus/minus (+17), penalty minutes (55), power-play goals (3), shorthanded goals (1), shots (108), shooting percentage (9.3%), first goals (3) and game-winners (4). Carrick, who also skated in three games with the Sharks, becomes the team's inaugural winner of the Top Defenseman award.

John McCarthy Leadership Award: [Jeffrey Viel](#)

In 2019-20, sophomore **Jeff Viel** surpassed his rookie point, goal and assist totals in 14 fewer games. Viel racked up 30 points (13 goals, 17 assists) in 54 games, finishing fourth on the club in goals, third in assists, tied for fourth in points, and first in insurance goals (3). In addition, his 103 penalty minutes and seven major penalties ranked eighth and tied for fifth in the AHL respectively. The 22-year-old also wore an "A" as an assistant captain for the team. Viel becomes the team's inaugural winner of the John McCarthy Leadership award. The John McCarthy Leadership Award will be annually presented to the player who displays incredible leadership qualities on the ice, amongst his teammates and within the community, through his preparation, hard work, character and inclusivity.

[About McCarthy](#)

McCarthy, who was selected by the Sharks in the seventh round of the 2006 NHL Draft, holds all major Barracuda franchise records including games played (275), goals (62), assists (76), points (138), power-play goals (17), and shorthanded goals (5). He served as the Barracuda team captain since 2016 and also served as captain of the Worcester Sharks for the 2012-2013 season.

In total, McCarthy appeared in 640 regular season games with San Jose's NHL and AHL franchises. In 2018, McCarthy was selected to the United States Men's Olympic Ice Hockey Team, appearing in five games at the Pyeongchang Olympics. McCarthy retired last December after suffering an Ischemic stroke.

Roy Sommer Most Inspirational Award: [Manuel Wiederer](#)

The Barracuda's winner of IOA/American Specialty AHL Man of the Year award for his contributions to the San Jose community during the 2019-20 season, **Manny Wiederer**, entered this season with something to prove, having torn his ACL the year prior. Wiederer managed to skate in 35 games, totaling 12 points (three points, nine assists). He also, he finished fourth on the team in plus/minus (+6). Wiederer was one of four skaters to be given an "A" as an assistant captain for the team at the beginning of the season. Wiederer joins McCarthy (2016-17, 2017-18) and Viel (2019-19) as winners of the award, which was implemented following the 2016-17 season. This season, the Most Inspirational Award was renamed for Sommer, who held the role of head coach for the Sharks AHL affiliate for 22 seasons before joining the coaching staff of the Sharks midway through last season.

[About Sommer](#)

Sommer is the all-time leader in games coached and wins in American Hockey League history, posting a 772-664-48-153 (W-L-T-OTL/SOL) record. Each of those wins has come behind the bench of San Jose's AHL affiliate (Kentucky 1998-01, Cleveland 2001-06, Worcester 2006-15, San Jose 2015-19). He also served as an assistant coach with the Sharks during the 1997-98 season under Darryl Sutter.

In his time as head coach in the AHL, Sommer has promoted more than 130 players to the National Hockey League.

Three Stars Award: [Josef Korenar](#)

Presented to the player who accumulates the most three-star nominations at home games during the season, Josef Korenar joins **Francis Perron** (2018-19), **Rudolfs Balcers** (2017-18), **Troy Grosenick** (2016-17) and **Aaron Dell** (2015-16) as winners of the team's First Star Award. In 2019-20, Korenar earned three first-star honors and two second-star honors during home games, going 9-9-1 on home ice during the 2019-20 season.

[\(Link to release\)](#)

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SAN JOSE BARRACUDA SIGN FORWARD JOSEPH GARREFFA

San Jose, Ca - The San Jose Barracuda (@SJBarracuda), proud American Hockey League (@TheAHL) affiliate of the San Jose Sharks (@SanJoseSharks), and General Manager **Joe Will** announced today that the club has signed forward **Joseph Garreffa** (Guh-REHF-uh). Per club policy, terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

"Joseph is a highly competitive, dynamic player who makes plays and creates offense at a high tempo and we're excited for him to join the organization," said Will.

In a shortened 2019-20 season, Garreffa, 20, finished seventh in the Ontario Hockey League (@OHLHockey) in points with 90 (36 goals, 54 assists), sixth in plus/minus (+48) and tied for third in points-per-game (1.82) as a member of the Ottawa 67's (@Ottawa67sHockey).

Over a five-year career in the OHL, with Ottawa and the Kitchener Rangers (@OHLRangers), the five-foot-seven, 176-pound Toronto, Ontario, native totaled 315 points (108 goals, 207 assists), 34 penalty minutes and plus-13 rating.

[\(Link to release\)](#)

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