NEWS RELEASE

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BLUE JACKETS' ZACH WERENSKI WINS NORRIS TROPHY

2026 NHL Awards Winners to Be Announced Throughout Stanley Cup Final

NEW YORK (June 2, 2026) – **Zach Werenski** of the Columbus Blue Jackets is the 2025-26 recipient of the **James Norris Memorial Trophy**, awarded "to the defense player who demonstrates throughout the season the greatest all-round ability in the position," as selected by the Professional Hockey Writers Association.

Werenski and his wife, **Odette**, hosted friends and family for one of their weekly family gatherings – and to introduce everyone to their new baby – when he was surprised by the trophy.

The Blue Jackets' all-time leader in goals, assists and points by a defenseman, Werenski became the franchise's first Norris finalist in 2024-25, finishing second in voting to Colorado's **Cale Makar**. In winning this season the Grosse Pointe, Mich., native joins **Rod Langway** (2x), **Chris Chelios** (3x), **Brian Leetch** (2x), **Adam Fox** and **Quinn Hughes** as the sixth American player to capture the Norris Trophy.

Werenski was a top-five pick on 194 of 198 ballots, including 113 first-place selections, for 1,589 voting points. Makar was the top choice of 47 voters in collecting 1,191 points for second place, while third-place **Rasmus Dahlin** of the Buffalo Sabres garnered 13 first-place votes and 657 points.

Werenski led or was near the top of several categories for NHL defensemen in 2025-26, including goals (t-3rd, 22), even-strength goals (t-1st, 18), assists (t-4th, 59), points (2nd, 81), even-strength points (2nd, 59), shots (1st, 260) and average time on ice (2nd, 26:37). He tied the single-season franchise record for assists, matching his total from last year and **Artemi Panarin** in 2018-19, and became the 10th blueliner in NHL history to lead his club in scoring in consecutive seasons. Werenski recorded a career-high nine-game point streak from Jan. 22-Feb. 28 (2-11—13), the longest in franchise history by a defenseman, to key a 20-3-4 run during which Columbus leapfrogged 11 Eastern Conference rivals into the thick of the playoff race.

2025-26 Norris Trophy Voting

		Points	(1st-2nd-3rd-4th-5th)
1.	Zach Werenski, CBJ	1,589	(113-48-16-13-4)
2.	Cale Makar, COL	1,191	(47-62-37-30-12)
3.	Rasmus Dahlin, BUF	657	(13-23-50-30-26)
4.	Evan Bouchard, EDM	593	(12-22-36-32-43)
5.	Moritz Seider, DET	360	(5-21-15-21-25)
6.	Lane Hutson, MTL	357	(3-13-20-31-43)
7.	Quinn Hughes, MIN	282	(5-6-21-22-19)
8.	Miro Heiskanen, DAL	52	(0-3-1-6-8)
9.	Erik Karlsson, PIT	16	(0-0-1-3-2)
10.	Jake Sanderson, OTT	16	(0-0-0-4-4)
11.	Darren Raddysh, TBL	14	(0-0-1-2-3)
12.	Matthew Schaefer, NYI	14	(0-0-0-3-5)
13.	Charlie McAvoy, BOS	6	(0-0-0-1-3)
14.	Adam Fox, NYR	1	(0-0-0-0-1)

(10-7-5-3-1 points allocation)

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