



# ***EASTERN LEAGUE***

## **OF PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL CLUBS, INC.**

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*President*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Akron's Chris Walsh Named Winner of the 2016 Eastern League Diamond Pro Sports Field Manager of the Year Award**

PORTLAND, MAINE – Eastern League President **Joseph McEacharn** is pleased to announce **Chris Walsh** of the **Akron RubberDucks** has been named the winner of the **2016 Eastern League Diamond Pro Sports Field Manager of the Year Award**. It is the first time in his career that Chris has won this award, which is selected based on voting by Eastern League field staff and umpires.

Chris is currently in his sixth season as the Head Groundskeeper at Canal Park. Prior to becoming a member of the Akron franchise he spent time as the Head Groundskeeper for the Aberdeen IronBirds, Mahoning Valley Scrappers and Camden Riversharks. Chris is a native of Boardman, Ohio and a graduate of Kent State University. He currently resides in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio with his wife Chrystie and their dog Duke.

In presenting Chris with this award the Eastern League and Diamond Pro would also like to recognize Assistant Groundskeeper **James Petrella** along with **Nicolas Leondarides, Nicholas Shaw, Ian Wilkinson, Jacob Lambert** and **John Margidan**, who are all members of the grounds crew at Canal Park.

“We are thrilled for Chris Walsh to be recognized as the top groundskeeper in the Eastern League,” said Akron RubberDucks General Manager/C.O.O. **Jim Pfander**. “I have been lucky to have worked with a number of outstanding groundskeepers during my career, but I have to say that Chris is the very best. He and his team work tirelessly to keep the playing surface at Canal Park in outstanding shape and he is well-deserving of this recognition. In addition to 71 RubberDucks regular season home games, we typically host 30-40 additional events on the field, including high school baseball games, special events, the Akron Marathon, and this year the Eastern League All-Star Game & Home Run Derby. Additionally, Chris oversaw the installation of a new playing surface in 2016 as well as a complete renovation of the drainage and irrigation systems at Canal Park. For every event, the field looks spectacular and the credit goes to Chris and his crew.”

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