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## **2015 Doak Walker Award Candidates Announced**

**DALLAS** - The PwC SMU Athletic Forum announced today the preseason candidates for the 2015 Doak Walker Award. The award is presented annually to the nation's top college running back.

Junior Ezekiel Elliot leads the field of nominees after rushing for 1,878 yards and 18 touchdowns a year ago for national champion Ohio State. Matt Breida (Georgia Southern), James Conner (Pittsburgh) and Devon Johnson (Marshall) were 2014 Doak Walker Award semifinalists and are candidates again this season.

Nominations for the award will be accepted through October. The complete list of candidates, who were nominated by their universities, follows:

Leon Allen (Sr.), Western Kentucky  
Devontae Booker (Sr.), Utah  
Matt Breida (Jr.), Georgia Southern  
Brandon Burks (Sr.), Troy  
Jordan Canzeri (Sr.), Iowa  
Tra Carson (Sr.), Texas A&M  
Nick Chubb (So.), Georgia  
Corey Clement (Jr.), Wisconsin  
Alex Collins (Jr.), Arkansas  
James Conner (Jr.), Pittsburgh  
Marcus Cox (Jr.), Appalachian State  
Justin Davis (Jr.), USC  
Matt Dayes (Jr.), North Carolina State  
Kenneth Dixon (Sr.), Louisiana Tech  
Ezekiel Elliott (Jr.), Ohio State  
Kenneth Farrow (Sr.), Houston  
Josh Ferguson (Sr.), Illinois  
Tarean Folston (Jr.), Notre Dame  
Leonard Fournette (So.), LSU  
Jarvion Franklin (So.), Western Michigan  
Royce Freeman (So.), Oregon  
Wayne Gallman (So.), Clemson  
Michael Gordon (Sr.), Arkansas State  
Johnathan Gray (Sr.), Texas  
Aaron Green (Sr.), TCU  
Travis Greene (Sr.), Bowling Green  
Russell Hansbrough (Sr.), Missouri  
Derrick Henry (Jr.), Alabama  
Jon Hilliman (So.), Boston College  
Jordan Howard (Jr.), Indiana  
Kareem Hunt (Jr.), Toledo  
LaJuan Hunt (So.), Utah State  
Darius Jackson (Sr.), Eastern Michigan  
Don Jackson (Sr.), Nevada  
Justin Jackson (So.), Northwestern

Paul James (Sr.), Rutgers  
Devon Johnson (Sr.), Marshall  
Aaron Jones (Jr.), UTEP  
Daniel Lasco (Sr.), California  
Ray Lawry (So.), Old Dominion  
Shock Linwood (Jr.), Baylor  
Robert Lowe (Sr.), Texas State  
Akeel Lynch (Jr.), Penn State  
Marlon Mack (So.), South Florida  
Tre Madden (Sr.), USC  
Christian McCaffrey (So.), Stanford  
Elijah McGuire (Jr.), Louisiana-Lafayette  
Samaje Perine (So.), Oklahoma  
Paul Perkins (Jr.), UCLA  
Christian Powell (Sr.), Colorado  
Shaquille Powell (Sr.), Duke  
Donnel Pumphrey (Jr.), San Diego State  
Demario Richard (So.), Arizona State  
Ashton Shumpert (Jr.), Mississippi State  
William Stanback (Jr.), UCF  
Chris Swain (Sr.), US Navy  
Anthonie Taylor (Sr.), Buffalo  
Jahad Thomas (Jr.), Temple  
Shane Tucker (Jr.), Middle Tennessee  
Thomas Tyner (Jr.), Oregon  
Marteze Waller (Sr.), Fresno State  
DeAndre Washington (Sr.), Texas Tech  
Dwayne Washington (Jr.), Washington  
Ralph Webb (So.), Vanderbilt  
Shaun Wick (Sr.), Wyoming  
Brandon Wilds (Sr.), South Carolina  
Jamaal Williams (Sr.), BYU  
Jonathan Williams (Sr.), Arkansas  
Nick Wilson (So.), Arizona

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The PwC SMU Athletic Forum Board of Directors will name ten semifinalists on November 18, and the Doak Walker Award National Selection Committee will cast votes to determine the three finalists, who will be announced on November 24. The committee will cast a second vote beginning November 30 to determine the recipient. The National Selection Committee consists of past recipients, former NFL All-Pro and college All-America running backs, media members and selected special representatives.

The recipient of the 2015 Doak Walker Award will be announced live on *The Home Depot College Football Awards* on Thursday, December 10, on ESPN. The Doak Walker Award Presentation Banquet will be held in Dallas in early 2016.

The award, which will name its 26th recipient in 2015, is named for SMU's three-time All-America running back Doak Walker. It is the only major collegiate award that requires all candidates to be in good academic standing and on schedule to graduate within one year of other students of the same classification.

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*Honoring the legends of sports for 26 years, the PwC SMU Athletic Forum celebrates outstanding success in athletics. Based in Dallas, the series features major figures from a variety of sports. The PwC SMU Athletic Forum includes four luncheons and the prestigious Doak Walker Award Presentation Banquet.*

*The Doak Walker Award is a member of the National College Football Awards Association (NCFAA). The NCFAA encompasses the most prestigious awards in college football. The 22 awards boast more than 700 years of tradition-selection excellence. Visit [ncfaa.org](http://ncfaa.org) to learn more about our story.*

*Beginning in 2015, The Home Depot College Football Awards will have a new home at the College Football Hall of Fame and Chick-fil-A Fan Experience in downtown Atlanta. Airing live on ESPN on December 10, 2015, college football's brightest stars will be honored for their performance on and off the field.*

*The members of the NCFAA are unveiling their preseason watch lists over a 12-day period this month. Fifteen of the association's 21 awards select a preseason watch list and the NCFAA has spearheaded a coordinated effort to promote each award's preseason candidates. The Walter Camp Award will release the final NCFAA 2015 preseason watch list on July 17.*

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