

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WASHINGTON'S JOHNSON IS DOAK WALKER NATIONAL RUNNING BACK OF THE WEEK

Junior transfer records career night to help keep Washington atop the Pac-12 standings and in the College Football Playoff hunt

DALLAS (SMU) – Washington running back **Dillon Johnson** rushed for 256 yards and four touchdowns on 26 carries in Washington's 52-42 win at USC. The performance earned him the **Doak Walker National Running Back of the Week** honor for games the weekend of Nov. 4.

Johnson's 256 rushing yards is the highest single-game total in the Pac-12 this season and the fifth-best in a game by any player in FBS. He came into the game with just one career 100-yard game, three weeks ago vs. Oregon. On the night, he also added two receptions for 11 yards.

The 6-0, 218-pound junior from Greenville, Miss., sealed the win for 9-0 Washington with a 1-yard scoring run with 2:20 left. In addition to two other short scoring runs, he busted a 52-yard touchdown run in the second guarter.

Johnson had the fifth-biggest rushing performance in Washington program history and its first 200-yard game or four-TD game since 2017 as the Huskies racked up 572 total yards in the shootout win.

The Huskies host Utah on Saturday in another critical Pac-12 battle at 3:30 p.m. ET on FOX.

Other candidates for the honor in Week 10 included:

Marion Lukes, Central Michigan: Lukes ran for a career-high 202 yards in the Chippewas 37-31 win over NIU last Tuesday in the snow. The 5-9, 200-pound junior from Charlestown, Ind., scored on a 46-yard run and added 52 yards in kickoff returns to finish with 254 all-purpose yards on the night.

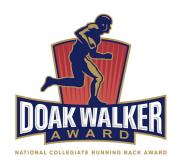
Phil Mafah, Clemson: The 6-1, 230-pound junior from Loganville, Ga., had a career day in the Tigers' 31-23 win over Notre Dame. Carrying the ball a school record-tying 36 times, Mafah ran for 186 yards and two scores. His 41-yard scoring dash opened the scoring for Clemson and a 1-yard run to close an 11-play, 75-yard scoring drive extended the Clemson lead to 31-16 in the fourth quarter.

The **Doak Walker Award presented by the PwC SMU Athletic Forum** has been awarded to the nation's top running back since 1990. Since 2022, the award has recognized a national running back of the week. A select 20-person committee from the award's full voting body of media and past winners chooses the weekly recipient. On Aug. 9, a preseason candidates list was released and semifinalists for the award will be named on Nov. 21. A week later, the three finalists will be announced.

The 2023 Doak Walker Award winner will be unveiled live on *The Home Depot College Football Awards*, televised by ESPN on Dec. 7 or 8. The annual banquet, where the winner and the recipient of the 2024 PwC Doak Walker Legends Award will be honored, will take place on February 16, 2024, in Dallas.

The Doak Walker Award is a member of the **National College Football Awards Association**. Founded in 1997, the NCFAA includes college football's most prestigious awards and its 24 awards have honored more than 900 recipients dating back to 1935. This season, 12 NCFAA awards will honor national players of the week each Tuesday. For more information about the NCFAA and its award programs, visit the redesigned NCFAA.org or follow on X at @NCFAA.

For more information on the Doak Walker Award, contact Jeff Lockhart (lockhart@smu.edu) at the PwC SMU Athletic Forum, visit smu.edu/doakwalkeraward and follow on X at @DoakWalkerAward.



2023 DOAK WALKER NATIONAL RUNNING BACKS OF THE WEEK

• Week 1 (Sept. 2)	Dylan Edwards, Colorado	• Week 7 (Oct. 14) Ollie Gordon II, Oklahoma State
• Week 2 (Sept. 9)	Omarion Hampton, North Carolina	• Week 8 (Oct. 21) Ollie Gordon II, Oklahoma State
• Week 3 (Sept. 16)	Trevor Etienne, Florida	• Week 9 (Oct. 28) Ollie Gordon II, Oklahoma State
• Week 4 (Sept. 23)	DJ Giddens, Kansas State	• Week 10 (Nov. 4) Dillon Johnson, Washington
• Week 5 (Sept. 30)	Ray Davis, Kentucky	• Week 11 (Nov 11)
• Week 6 (Oct. 7)	Trey Benson, Florida State	• Week 12 (Nov. 18)

2023 DOAK WALKER AWARD PRESEASON CANDIDATES LIST

Rasheen Ali, Marshall Braelon Allen, Wisconsin Kaytron Allen, Penn State LeQuint Allen, Syracuse Emani Bailey, TCU Sieh Bangura, Ohio Jovantae Barnes, Oklahoma Kevorian Barnes, UTSA Trey Benson, Florida State Tahj Brooks, Texas Tech Antario Brown, NIU Jermaine Brown Jr., UAB Noah Cain, LSU Marcus Carroll, Georgia State Blake Corum, Michigan Marguis Crosby, Louisiana Tech CJ Donaldson Jr., West Virginia Donovan Edwards, Michigan Justice Ellison, Wake Forest Davion Ervin-Poindexter, WKU Audric Estimé, Notre Dame Samson Evans, Eastern Michigan Pat Garwo, Boston College Rodney Hammond Jr., Pitt Deion Hankins, UTEP

Rahjai Harris, East Carolina RJ Harvey, UCF Roman Hemby, Maryland TreVeyon Henderson, Ohio State Daniel Hishaw Jr., Kansas George Holani, Boise State Bucky Irving, Oregon Kaleb Johnson, Iowa Kobe Johnson, Colorado State Austin Jones, USC Jawhar Jordan, Louisville Quinshon Judkins, Ole Miss Reggie Love III, Illinois Jaylin Lucas, Indiana Jo'Quavious Marks, Mississippi State Damien Martinez, Oregon State Tony Mathis Jr., Houston Alton McCaskill, Colorado Josh McCray, Illinois Chez Mellusi, Wisconsin Devin Mockobee. Purdue Devin Neal, Kansas Nate Noel, App State Jaydn Ott, California Frank Peasant, Middle Tennessee

Richard Reese, Baylor Aidan Robbins, BYU Kairee Robinson, San Jose State Raheim Sanders, Arkansas Trey Sanders, TCU Will Shipley, Clemson Nicholas Singleton, Penn State Cam Skattebo, Arizona State Jabari Small, Tennessee Dontae Smith, Georgia Tech E.J. Smith, Stanford Kavosiey Smoke, Colorado Carson Steele, UCLA Bhayshul Tuten, Virginia Tech Kimani Vidal, Troy Treshaun Ward, Kansas State Dre'lyn Washington, Louisiana Nakia Watson, Washington State La'Damian Webb, South Alabama Noah Whittington, Oregon Michael Wiley, Arizona Sy'veon Wilkerson, Colorado Josh Williams, LSU Miyan Williams, Ohio State Jaylen Wright, Tennessee