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**Travis Etienne, Darrell Henderson and Jonathan Taylor Named
2018 Doak Walker Award Finalists**

DALLAS – The PwC SMU Athletic Forum today announced **Travis Etienne** of Clemson, **Darrell Henderson** of Memphis and **Jonathan Taylor** of Wisconsin as finalists for the 2018 Doak Walker Award. The Doak Walker Award National Selection Committee ranked the semifinalists to determine the finalists.

The Committee will cast a second ballot after the completion of the regular season and conference championship games to determine the recipient of the 2018 Doak Walker Award. The recipient will be announced live on ESPN during *The Home Depot College Football Awards* airing from the College Football Hall of Fame in downtown Atlanta on Thursday, December 6, at 7 p.m. (ET). The award will be presented at the 2018 Doak Walker Award Presentation Banquet in Dallas on Friday, February 8, 2019.

Etienne, a sophomore from Jennings, Louisiana leads the ACC in total rushing yards (1,157). He has scored 18 touchdowns this season, tied for third best in the nation. Etienne is averaging 8.5 yards per carry, and rushed for a season high 203 yards in a victory over Syracuse on Sept. 29.

Henderson, a junior from Batesville, Mississippi leads the American Athletic Conference and ranks second nationally in total rushing yards (1,521) and rushing yards per game (138.3). He has rushed for over 150 yards six times this season, including a 199-yard output against UCF on Oct. 13.

Taylor, a sophomore from Salem, New Jersey leads the nation in total rushing yards (1,869), rushing yards per game (169.9) and all-purpose yards per game. He has rushed for over 200-yards four times this season including a 321-yard performance against Purdue on Nov. 17. Taylor was also a finalist for the award in 2017.

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In addition to outstanding performance on the field, candidates for the Doak Walker Award must have demonstrated records of leadership and exhibited the characteristics of sportsmanship and fair play associated with Doak Walker.

The award is named after three-time SMU All-America running back and 1948 Heisman Trophy winner Doak Walker. The versatile Walker, who also punted, returned kicks and kicked extra points, led the Mustangs to two Southwest Conference Championships and brought the school into the national spotlight. Walker was drafted by the Detroit Lions and as a rookie led the league in scoring. During his six years with the Lions, he led the team to two NFL championships and was chosen All-Pro four times. Walker is a member of both the College and Pro Football Halls of Fame.

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Honoring the legends of sports for 29 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), which includes college football's most prestigious awards. Founded in 1997, the NCFAA and its 24 awards boast 800 recipients, dating to 1935. Visit NCFAA.org to learn more about the NCFAA.

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