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Montee Ball Named 2012 Doak Walker Award Recipient

Orlando, Florida – The PwC SMU Athletic Forum announced Montee Ball from the University of Wisconsin as the recipient of the 2012 Doak Walker Award on Thursday, December 6, 2012, at *The Home Depot College Football Awards*.

Ball, a senior from Wentzville, Missouri, has rushed for 1,730 yards and 21 touchdowns this season, and helped lead Wisconsin to their third consecutive Big Ten title. He compiled nine 100-yard rushing games including two 200-yard rushing performances in 2012. Ball has scored more career touchdowns (82) and career rushing touchdowns (76) than any player in NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision history. Ball's impressive collegiate career will conclude when he and the Badgers face Stanford in the Rose Bowl on January 1.

Ball will receive the award at the Doak Walker Award Presentation Banquet on Friday, February 15, 2013, in Dallas. Syracuse University and Cleveland Browns' great Jim Brown also will be honored that evening as the 2012 PwC Doak Walker Legends Award recipient. Ball and other NCFAA award recipients will be honored by the Orange Bowl Committee at the 2013 Discover BCS National Championship Game in South Florida on January 7.

The Award is named after three-time SMU All-America running back and 1948 Heisman Trophy winner Doak Walker. Walker, who also punted, returned kicks and kicked extra points, led the Mustangs to two Southwest Conference Championships. He was drafted by the Detroit Lions and led the league in scoring his rookie year. 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.

The recipient of the Doak Walker Award is chosen by a 174-member National Selection Committee comprised of members of the media and former players.

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Honoring the legends of sports for 24 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 was founded in 1997 as a coalition of the major collegiate football awards to protect, preserve and enhance the integrity, influence and prestige of the game's predominant awards. The NCFAA encourages professionalism and the highest standards for the administration of its member awards and the selection of their candidates and recipients. For more information, visit the association's official website, www.ncfaa.org.

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