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Contact:

Jeff Lockhart
lockhart@smu.edu
214-768-4314

TEN SEMIFINALISTS NAMED FOR 2023 DOAK WALKER AWARD

The nation's leading rushers are among 10 backfield standouts vying for 2023 national running back award

DALLAS (SMU) – The **PwC SMU Athletic Forum** is proud to announce the 10 semifinalists for the **2023 Doak Walker National Collegiate Running Back Award**. Headed by four players from the Big 12 Conference and two Sun Belt Conference selections, the list of honored players includes one repeat semifinalist, Michigan's Blake Corum. In all, the 10 semifinalists represent six Division I FBS conferences.

Three finalists for the 2023 Doak Walker Award will be announced a week from today and the winner will be unveiled live on ESPN during *The Home Depot College Football Awards* on Dec. 8. The formal presentation of the award will take place here on the SMU campus at the annual banquet scheduled for Feb. 16, 2024.

Here's a thumbnail look at the semifinalists, five of whom were honored during the course of the season as the Doak Walker Award National Running Back of the Week:

Jonathon Brooks, Texas: The nation's eighth-leading rusher has 1,139 yards on only 187 carries, a 6.1 average per carry in just 10 games. Although sidelined now for the season by injury, Brooks has scored 10 rushing touchdowns and is fourth in the nation in total yards from scrimmage (142.5 per game).

Tahj Brooks, Texas Tech: Brooks is the nation's third-leading rusher with 1,348 yards on 249 carries and has surpassed the 100-yard mark in eight of his last nine games to go with nine rushing touchdowns on the season.

Marcus Carroll, Georgia State: The leading rusher in the Sun Belt Conference with 1,293 yards on 259 carries. He has scored 13 touchdowns on the ground and has seven 100-yard games; four of those have been for 150 or more yards, including a 208-yard performance vs. Georgia Southern.

Blake Corum, Michigan: The lone returning semifinalist leads the nation with 20 rushing touchdowns for the unbeaten Wolverines. He has seven multi-score games, including the last three and has 888 yards rushing on the season.

Ollie Gordon II, Oklahoma State: A three-time Doak Walker National Running Back of the Week this season, Gordon is tied for the national lead with 1,414 rushing yards to go with 15 touchdowns. Gordon has run up his numbers despite only having 19 carries in the season's first three games. Over the last eight games, he has 1,305 rushing yards and over 100 yards in all but one outing.

Omarion Hampton, North Carolina: Tied as the nation's leading rusher with 1,414 yards and 15 touchdowns, he's reeled off six straight 100-yard games and seven on the season. Hampton was the Doak Walker National Running Back of the Week for his Sept. 9 performance vs. App State (26 carries, 234 yards and three touchdowns).

R.J. Harvey, UCF: With a string of five straight 100-yard games, Harvey has 1,160 yards rushing on 190 totes. With 8 rushing touchdowns in his last three games, he has 14 on the season.

Damien Martinez, Oregon State: After opening the season with three straight 100-yard games, Martinez is riding a current three game streak of 100-yard games and is the Pac-12's second-leading rusher with 1,147 yards on 181 carries. He has scored six touchdowns in his last two games.

Cody Schrader, Missouri: The SEC's leading rusher by more than 20 yards per game has 1,272 yards on 220 carries after earning the Doak Walker National Running Back of the Week honor a week ago. He has 12 rushing touchdowns and has scored in eight straight games.



Kimani Vidal, Troy: With 1,280 rushing yards in 238 carries, Vidal is the second-leading rusher in the Sun Belt Conference. He has two games of 245-plus yards rushing and has scored eight touchdowns.

The Doak Walker Award presented by the PwC SMU Athletic Forum has been awarded to the nation's top running back since 1990.

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](https://www.ncfaa.org) or follow on X at [@NCFAA](https://twitter.com/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](https://twitter.com/DoakWalkerAward).



2023 DOAK WALKER NATIONAL RUNNING BACKS OF THE WEEK

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

2023 DOAK WALKER AWARD SEMIFINALISTS

Jonathon Brooks, Texas	Ollie Gordon II, Oklahoma State	Damien Martinez, Oregon State
Tahj Brooks, Texas Tech	Omarion Hampton, North Carolina	Cody Schrader, Missouri
Marcus Carroll, Georgia State	R.J. Harvey, UCF	Kimani Vidal, Troy
Blake Corum, Michigan		

2023 DOAK WALKER AWARD PRESEASON CANDIDATES

Rasheen Ali, Marshall	Rahjai Harris, East Carolina	Richard Reese, Baylor
Braelon Allen, Wisconsin	RJ Harvey, UCF	Aidan Robbins, BYU
Kaytron Allen, Penn State	Roman Hemby, Maryland	Kairee Robinson, San Jose State
LeQuint Allen, Syracuse	TreVeyon Henderson, Ohio State	Raheim Sanders, Arkansas
Emani Bailey, TCU	Daniel Hishaw Jr., Kansas	Trey Sanders, TCU
Sieh Bangura, Ohio	George Holani, Boise State	Will Shipley, Clemson
Jovantae Barnes, Oklahoma	Bucky Irving, Oregon	Nicholas Singleton, Penn State
Kevorian Barnes, UTSA	Kaleb Johnson, Iowa	Cam Skattebo, Arizona State
Trey Benson, Florida State	Kobe Johnson, Colorado State	Jabari Small, Tennessee
Tahj Brooks, Texas Tech	Austin Jones, USC	Dontae Smith, Georgia Tech
Antario Brown, NIU	Jawhar Jordan, Louisville	E.J. Smith, Stanford
Jermaine Brown Jr., UAB	Quinshon Judkins, Ole Miss	Kavosiey Smoke, Colorado
Noah Cain, LSU	Reggie Love III, Illinois	Carson Steele, UCLA
Marcus Carroll, Georgia State	Jaylin Lucas, Indiana	Bhayskul Tuten, Virginia Tech
Blake Corum, Michigan	Jo'Quavious Marks, Mississippi State	Kimani Vidal, Troy
Marquis Crosby, Louisiana Tech	Damien Martinez, Oregon State	Treshaun Ward, Kansas State
CJ Donaldson Jr., West Virginia	Tony Mathis Jr., Houston	Dre'Iyn Washington, Louisiana
Donovan Edwards, Michigan	Alton McCaskill, Colorado	Nakia Watson, Washington State
Justice Ellison, Wake Forest	Josh McCray, Illinois	La'Damian Webb, South Alabama
Davion Ervin-Poindexter, WKU	Chez Mellusi, Wisconsin	Noah Whittington, Oregon
Audric Estimé, Notre Dame	Devin Mockobee, Purdue	Michael Wiley, Arizona
Samson Evans, Eastern Michigan	Devin Neal, Kansas	Sy'veon Wilkerson, Colorado
Pat Garwo, Boston College	Nate Noel, App State	Josh Williams, LSU
Rodney Hammond Jr., Pitt	Jaydn Ott, California	Miyan Williams, Ohio State
Deion Hankins, UTEP	Frank Peasant, Middle Tennessee	Jaylen Wright, Tennessee