



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KENTUCKY'S DAVIS IS DOAK WALKER NATIONAL RUNNING BACK OF THE WEEK

Grad transfer leads Wildcats to stomping of Florida with career-best 280 rush yards and four total touchdowns

DALLAS (SMU) – Kentucky running back **Ray Davis** totaled 289 yards from scrimmage and scored a school-record-tying four touchdowns in Kentucky's 33-14 win over Florida. The performance earned him the **Doak Walker National Running Back of the Week** honor for games of the weekend of Sept. 30.

The 5-10, 216-pound graduate transfer from San Francisco, Calif., ran for 206 yards in the first half as the 'Cats bolted to a 23-0 halftime advantage. On the afternoon, Davis finished with 280 rushing yards, the third-best single-game performance in program history.

Davis caught a nine-yard scoring pass before busting a 75-yard touchdown run that capped the first-half scoring. His two-yard scoring run early in the third quarter put Kentucky back up by 23 at 30-7. The performance also earned him national player of the week honors from the Maxwell Football Club and the Walter Camp Football Foundation. His left tackle Jeremy Flax was named the Outland Trophy National Player of the Week.

Saturday, the 5-0 Wildcats head to Athens, Ga., to challenge the top-ranked Georgia in a 7 p.m. ET tilt on ESPN.

Other candidates for the honor in Week 5 included:

Jonathan Brooks, Texas: Brooks rushed for a career high 218 yards with two touchdowns on 21 carries to lead Texas to a 40-14 win over No. 24 Kansas, the first 200-yard rushing game of his career and his third straight and fourth overall 100-yard effort of 2023. The sophomore from Hallettsville, Texas, had a season-long 67-yard run that marked his third-straight game with a run of at least 40 yards.

Kadarius Calloway, Old Dominion: Calloway had 11 carries for 236 yards and three touchdowns in the Monarchs' 41-35 loss at Marshall. The junior from Philadelphia, Miss., scored on touchdown runs of 69, 70 and 75 yards. His 236-yard total is the second most rushing yards in a game by an ODU player and his 21.5-yard average is the single-game school record.

Quinshon Judkins, Ole Miss: Judkins finished with season-highs of 177 rushing yards and 33 carries, including a season-long 37-yard burst in a 55-49 win over LSU. The Rebels had a season-high 317 rushing yards and the 706 yards of total offense was the sixth-best in program history.

Ismail Mahdi, Texas State: Mahdi had 316 all-purpose yards and four total touchdowns in the 50-36 win at Southern Miss. The sophomore from Murphy, Texas, became the first Bobcat in 64 years to return an opening kickoff for a touchdown, which not only made him the first Bobcat to turn the feat since 1959 but also the first since 2020 to return any kickoff for a touchdown.

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 in February 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 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)
- Week 7 (Oct. 14)
- Week 8 (Oct. 21)
- Week 9 (Oct. 28)
- Week 10 (Nov. 4)
- Week 11 (Nov 11)
- Week 12 (Nov. 18)

2023 DOAK WALKER AWARD PRESEASON CANDIDATES LIST

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|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 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 | Bhayshul 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'lyn 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 |