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2016 Doak Walker Award Candidates Announced

DALLAS - The PwC SMU Athletic Forum announced today the preseason candidates for the 2016 Doak Walker Award. The award is presented annually to the nation's top college running back.

Juniors Leonard Fournette of LSU and Christian McCaffrey of Stanford headline the 2016 candidate list after both were Doak Walker Award finalists a year ago. Fournette led the NCAA at 162.8 yards per game last year, while McCaffrey was the nation's leader in all-purpose yardage (276.0 YPG). Six of the 11 semifinalists for the 2015 Doak Walker Award appear on the 2016 watch list.

Nominations for the award will be accepted through October. The complete list of candidates, who were nominated by their universities, follows:

Josh Adams (So.), Notre Dame
Saquon Barkley (So.), Penn State
Jamauri Bogan (So.), W. Michigan
Joel Bouagnon (Sr.), Northern Illinois
Matt Breida (Sr.), Georgia Southern
Shannon Brooks (So.), Minnesota
Algernon Brown (Sr.), BYU
James Butler (Jr.), Nevada
Nick Chubb (Jr.), Georgia
Jordan Chunn (Jr.), Troy
Corey Clement (Sr.), Wisconsin
James Conner (Jr.), Pittsburgh
Dalvin Cook (Jr.), Florida State
Marcus Cox (Sr.), Appalachian State
LeShun Daniels, Jr. (Sr.), Iowa
Justin Davis (Sr.), USC
Matthew Dayes (Sr.), NC State
Jela Duncan (Sr.), Duke
D'Andre Ferby (So.), W. Kentucky
Tarean Folston (Sr.), Notre Dame
D'Onta Foreman (Jr.), Texas
Leonard Fournette (Jr.), LSU
Jarvion Franklin (Jr.), W. Michigan
Royce Freeman (Jr.), Oregon
Wayne Gallman (Jr.), Clemson
Myles Gaskin (So.), Washington
Damien Harris (So.), Alabama

Paul Harris (Sr.), Hawaii
Kyle Hicks (Jr.), TCU
Brian Hill (Jr.), Wyoming
Dontrell Hilliard (Jr.), Tulane
Brandon Holloway (Sr.), Miss. State
Elijah Hood (Jr.), North Carolina
Kareem Hunt (Sr.), Toledo
Jalen Hurd (Jr.), Tennessee
Johnny Jefferson (Jr.), Baylor
Aaron Jones (Jr.), UTEP
Charles Jones (Sr.), Kansas State
Markell Jones (So.), Purdue
Ronald Jones II (So.), USC
Xavier Jones (So.), SMU
Alvin Kamara (Jr.), Tennessee
Ray Lawry (Jr.), Old Dominion
Phillip Lindsay (So.), Colorado
Shock Linwood (Sr.), Baylor
Marlon Mack (Jr.), South Florida
Devante Mays (Sr.), Utah State
Christian McCaffrey (Jr.), Stanford
Elijah McGuire (Sr.), UL-Lafayette
Jeremy McNichols (Jr.), Boise State
Sony Michel (Jr.), Georgia
Taquan Mizzell (Sr.), Virginia
Khalfani Muhammad (Sr.), Cal
Terrell Newby (Sr.), Nebraska

Arkeel Newsome (Jr.), Connecticut
Jacobi Owens (Sr.), Air Force
Samaje Perine (Jr.), Oklahoma
Donnel Pumphrey (Sr.), SDSU
Devine Redding (Jr.), Indiana
Larry Rose III (Jr.), New Mexico State
Bo Scarbrough (So.), Alabama
De'Veon Smith (Sr.), Michigan
Justin Stockton (Jr.), Texas Tech
Shaq Vann (So.), Eastern Michigan
Ke'Shawn Vaughn (So.), Illinois
Anthony Wales (Sr.), W. Kentucky
Kody Walker (Sr.), Arkansas
Warren Wand (So.), Arkansas State
Chris Warren III (So.), Texas
Mike Warren (So.), Iowa State
Tre Watson (Jr.), Cal
Ralph Webb (Jr.), Vanderbilt
David Williams (Jr.), South Carolina
Jamaal Williams (Sr.), BYU
Rawleigh Williams III (So.), Arkansas
Stanley Williams (Jr.), Kentucky
Nick Wilson (Jr.), Arizona
Shaun Wilson (Jr.), Duke
Marquis Young (So.), Massachusetts

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The PwC SMU Athletic Forum Board of Directors will name ten semifinalists on November 16, and the Doak Walker Award National Selection Committee will cast votes to determine the three finalists, who will be announced on November 22. The committee will cast a second vote beginning November 28 to determine the recipient. The National Selection Committee consists of past recipients, former NFL All-Pro and college All-America running backs, media members and selected special representatives.

The recipient of the 2016 Doak Walker Award will be announced live on *The Home Depot College Football Awards* on Thursday, December 8, on ESPN. The Doak Walker Award Presentation Banquet will be held in Dallas in early 2017.

The award, which will name its 27th recipient in 2016, is named for SMU's three-time All-America running back Doak Walker. It is the only major collegiate award that requires all candidates to be in good academic standing and on schedule to graduate within one year of other students of the same classification.

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Honoring the legends of sports for 27 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 encompasses the most prestigious awards in college football. The 22 awards boast more than 700 years of tradition-selection excellence. Visit ncfaa.org to learn more about our story.

The members of the NCFAA are unveiling their preseason watch lists over a 12-day period this month. Seventeen of the association's 22 awards select a preseason watch list and the NCFAA has spearheaded a coordinated effort to promote each award's preseason candidates. The Walter Camp Award and Paul Hornung Award will release the final NCFAA 2016 preseason watch lists on July 15.

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