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Bryce Love Named 2017 Doak Walker Award Recipient

ATLANTA – Bryce Love of Stanford was named the 2017 Doak Walker Award Recipient, the PwC SMU Athletic Forum announced Thursday at *The Home Depot College Football Awards* from the College Football Hall of Fame.

Love, a junior from Wake Forest, North Carolina, established an FBS record with 12 carries of 50 yards or more in 2017. His 164.4 rushing yards per game and 1,973 total rushing yards rank him second nationally. Love rushed for at least 100 yards in 11 games, missing the Oregon State game due to injury.

With his selection, Love joins 2009 Doak Walker Award recipient Toby Gerhart as the only recipients from Stanford. Love recently surpassed Gerhart for second place on the Stanford single-season rushing list and needs only 46 yards to pass 2015 Doak Walker Award finalist Christian McCaffrey and move into first place.

“Congratulations to Bryce on receiving the prestigious Doak Walker Award and on an outstanding year on the Farm,” 2009 recipient Gerhart said. “Not only is Bryce the most dynamic running back in college football, he epitomizes the character and community values that Doak stood for. I had the opportunity to see Bryce play in person in the Pac-12 title game and was impressed by his toughness, grit and determination to play through injury and carry the team on his back. Do not let his yards per carry and long rushes fool you, he is a physical runner who can break tackles, wear down defenses, and take it the distance at any moment. I am thrilled and honored to welcome fellow Stanford Cardinal Bryce Love into the Doak Walker Award family.”

Love will receive the award at the Doak Walker Award Presentation Banquet on Friday, February 16, 2018, in Dallas. Johnny Majors, the 2017 PwC Doak Walker Legends Award recipient, will also be honored at the banquet.

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 National Selection Committee comprised of members of the media and former players.

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Honoring the legends of sports for 28 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 24 awards boast more than 700 years of tradition-selection excellence. Visit ncfaa.org to learn more about our story.

The Home Depot College Football Awards air from the College Football Hall of Fame and Chick-fil-A Fan Experience in downtown Atlanta. Live on ESPN on December 7, 2017, college football's brightest stars are honored for their performance on and off the field.

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