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2017 Doak Walker Award Candidates Announced

DALLAS - The PwC SMU Athletic Forum released today the preseason candidates for the 2017 Doak Walker Award. The Forum annually presents the award to the nation's top college running back.

Junior Saquon Barkley of Penn State and Kamryn Pettway of Auburn, Doak Walker Award semifinalists from a year ago, headline the crop of preseason candidates. Barkley's 2016 1,496 rushing yards is second among returning running backs, while Pettway leads all returners at 122.4 yards per game.

University athletic departments nominate candidates for the award and can continue to do so through October. The complete list of candidates is below.

Josh Adams (Jr.), Notre Dame
Ryquell Armstead (Jr.), Temple
Kalen Ballage (Sr.), Arizona State
Saquon Barkley (Jr.), Penn State
Alex Barnes (So.), Kansas State
Jamauri Bogan (Jr.), W. Michigan
D'Angelo Brewer (Sr.), Tulsa
Nick Chubb (Sr.), Georgia
Jordan Chunn (Sr.), Troy
Justin Crawford (Sr.), West Virginia
Damarea Crockett (So.), Missouri
Rico Dowdle (So.), South Carolina
D'Andre Ferby (Jr.), WKU
Kendrick Foster (Sr.), Illinois
Jarvion Franklin (Sr.), W. Michigan
Myles Gaskin (Jr.), Washington
James Gilbert (Jr.), Ball State
Derrius Guice (Jr.), LSU
Damien Harris (Jr.), Alabama
Kyle Hicks (Sr.), TCU
Justice Hill (So.), Oklahoma State

Jon Hilliman (Jr.), Boston College
Justin Jackson (Sr.), Northwestern
Chris James (Jr.), Wisconsin
Ty Johnson (Jr.), Maryland
Ronald Jones, II (Jr.), USC
Ray Lawry (Sr.), Old Dominion
Phillip Lindsay (Sr.), Colorado
Tonny Lindsey, Jr. (Sr.), Utah State
Bryce Love (Jr.), Stanford
Sony Michel (Sr.), Georgia
Dedrick Mills (So.), Georgia Tech
David Montgomery (So.), Iowa State
Jamal Morrow (Sr.), Washington State
Ryan Nall (Jr.), Oregon State
Jacques Patrick (Jr.), Florida State
Kamryn Pettway (Jr.), Auburn
Demario Richard (Sr.), Arizona State
Diocemy Saint Juste (Sr.), Hawaii
Bo Scarbrough (Jr.), Alabama
Jordan Scarlett (Jr.), Florida
LJ Scott (Jr.), Michigan State

Bradrick Shaw (So.), Wisconsin
Armand Shyne (Jr.), Utah
Justin Silmon (Jr.), Kansas State
Ito Smith (Sr.), Southern Mississippi
Rodney Smith (Jr.), Minnesota
Benny Snell, Jr. (So.), Kentucky
Terry Swanson (Sr.), Toledo
Shaq Vann (Jr.), Eastern Michigan
Akrum Wadley (Sr.), Iowa
Mark Walton (Jr.), Miami
Warren Wand (Jr.), Arkansas State
Tre Watson (Sr.), Cal
Ralph Webb (Sr.), Vanderbilt
Mike Weber (So.), Ohio State
Braeden West (Jr.), SMU
Devwah Whaley (So.), Arkansas
Aeris Williams (Jr.), Mississippi State
Shaun Wilson (Sr.), Duke
Marquis Young (Jr.), Massachusetts

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The PwC SMU Athletic Forum Board of Directors will name ten semifinalists on November 15. Three finalists, as voted on by the Doak Walker Award National Selection Committee, will be announced November 20. The committee will cast a second vote beginning November 26 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 2017 Doak Walker Award will be announced live on *The Home Depot College Football Awards* on Thursday, December 7 on ESPN. The Doak Walker Award Presentation Banquet is scheduled for February 16, 2018 in Dallas.

The award, which will name its 28th recipient in 2017, 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 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), which encompasses college football's most prestigious awards. Founded in 1997, the NCFAA and its 22 awards now boast over 800 recipients, dating to 1935. Visit ncfaa.org to learn more about our story.

The members of the NCFAA are unveiling their preseason watch lists over a two-week period this month.

Sixteen 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 watch list will be released July 21.

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