For Immediate Release  
July 17, 2019

2019 Doak Walker Award Candidates Announced

DALLAS - The PwC SMU Athletic Forum released today the preseason candidates for the 2019 Doak Walker Award. The Forum annually presents the award to the nation’s top college running back.

2018 Doak Walker Award recipient Jonathan Taylor (Wisconsin) leads the list of preseason candidates. Taylor, the nation’s leading rusher last season, rushed for 2,194 yards in his sophomore campaign. Doak Walker Award finalist Travis Etienne (Clemson), who average over eight yards per carry last season, is also featured. Other candidates of note include 2018 Doak Walker Award semifinalists Eno Benjamin (Arizona State), AJ Dillion (Boston College) and J.J. Taylor (Arizona).

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

Cam Akers (Jr.), Florida State  
Darius Anderson (Sr.), TCU  
Jafar Armstrong (Jr.), Notre Dame  
LaVante Bellamy (Sr.), Western Michigan  
Eno Benjamin (Jr.), Arizona State  
Max Borghi (So.), Washington State  
Isaiah Bowser (So.), Northwestern  
Rakeem Boyd (Jr.), Arkansas  
Darius Bradwell (Sr.), Tulane  
Shamari Brooks (Jr.), Tulsa  
Spencer Brown (Jr.), UAB  
Brittain Brown (Jr.), Duke  
Cade Carney (Sr.), Wake Forest  
Michael Carter (Jr.), North Carolina  
Ty Chandler (Jr.), Tennessee  
Andrew Clair (Jr.), Bowling Green  
Jashaun Corbin (So.), Texas A&M  
Reggie Corbin (Sr.), Illinois  
AJ Dillon (Jr.), Boston College  
J.K. Dobbins (Jr), Ohio State  
Travis Dye (So.), Oregon  
Travis Etienne (Jr.), Clemson  
Darrynton Evans (Jr.), Appalachian State  
Dayton Furuta (Sr.), Hawaii  
Tre Harbison (Jr.), Northern Illinois  
Najee Harris (Jr.), Alabama  
Kylin Hill (Jr.), Mississippi State  
Jerry Howard, Jr. (Jr.), Georgia Tech  
Chuba Hubbard (So.), Oklahoma State  
Mohamed Ibrahim (So.), Minnesota  
Keaontay Ingram (So.), Texas  
Deon Jackson (Jr.), Duke  
Jermar Jefferson (So.), Oregon State  
Tony Jones, Jr. (Sr.), Notre Dame  
Lopini Katoa (Sr.), BYU  
Joshua Kelley (Sr.), UCLA  
Bryant Koback (So.), Toledo  
Benny LeMay (Sr.), Charlotte  
Vavae Malepeai (Jr.), USC  
Kam Martin (Sr.), Auburn  
Jordan Mason (So.), Georgia Tech  
Greg McCrae (Jr.), UCF  
Anthony McFarland, Jr. (So.), Maryland  
Tra Minter (Sr.), South Alabama  
Elijah Mitchell (Jr.), Louisiana  
Marcel Murray (So.), Arkansas State  
Moe Neal (Sr.), Syracuse  
Jaret Patterson (So.), Buffalo  
Lamical Perine (Sr.), Florida  
Scottie Phillips (Sr.), Ole Miss  
Trey Ragas (Jr.), Louisiana  
Ronnie Rivers (Jr.), Fresno State  
Larry Rountree, III (Jr.), Missouri  
Mekhi Sargent (Jr), Iowa  
Cameron Scarlett (Sr.), Stanford  
Stevie Scott, III (So.), Indiana  
BJ Smith (Sr.), Troy  
Rodney Smith (Sr.), Minnesota  
Kesean Strong (Sr.), Old Dominion  
D’Andre Swift (Jr.), Georgia  
Toa Taau (So.), Nevada  
Corey Taylor, II (Jr.), Tulsa  
J.J. Taylor (Jr.), Arizona  
Jonathan Taylor (Jr.), Wisconsin  
Patrick Taylor (Sr.), Memphis  
DeAndre Torrey (Jr.), North Texas  
Breck Turner (Sr.), Eastern Michigan  
KeShawn Vaughn (Sr.), Vanderbilt  
CJ Verdell (So.), Oregon  
Quardraiz Wadley (Sr.), UTEP  
Michael Warren, II (Jr.), Cincinnati  
Devwah Whaley (Sr.), Arkansas

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The PwC SMU Athletic Forum Board of Directors will name ten semifinalists in November, and three finalists, as voted on by the Doak Walker Award National Selection Committee, will be announced on November 20. The committee will cast a second vote beginning December 2 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 2019 Doak Walker Award will be announced live on The Home Depot College Football Awards on Thursday, December 12 on ESPN.

The award, which will name its 30th recipient in 2019, 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 30 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 25 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 12-day period this month. Seventeen of the association’s 24 awards select a preseason watch list and the NCFAA has spearheaded a coordinated effort to promote each award’s preseason candidates.

Following is the entire 2019 preseason watch list calendar:

Monday July 15: Bednarik Award / Maxwell Award
Tuesday July 16: Davey O’Brien Award
Wednesday July 17: Doak Walker Award
Thursday July 18: Biletnikoff Award
Friday July 19: Mackey Award & Rimington Award
Monday July 22: Thorpe Award & Butkus Award
Tuesday July 23: Outland Trophy & Nagurski Award
Wednesday July 24: Groza Award & Ray Guy Award
Thursday July 25: Hornung Award & Wuerffel Trophy
Friday July 26: Walter Camp Award

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