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**Contact:**

Jeff Lockhart

lockhart@smu.edu

214-768-4314

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## THREE FINALISTS NAMED FOR 2025 DOAK WALKER NATIONAL RUNNING BACK AWARD

*Each finalist, among the nation's top six rushers, has earned the award's national weekly honor this season*

**DALLAS (SMU)** – The **PwC SMU Athletic Forum** is proud to announce its three finalists for the **2025 Doak Walker National Collegiate Running Back Award**. The trio is each among the four top rushing touchdown leaders nationally and all three – Kewan Lacy of Ole Miss, Ahmad Hardy of Missouri and Jeremiyah Love of Notre Dame – are among the top six backs by rushing yards this season.

The winner of the 2025 Doak Walker Award will be announced live on ESPN during The Home Depot College Football Awards on Fri., Dec. 12. The formal presentation of the award will take place at the annual banquet scheduled for Jan. 30, 2026, in Dallas.

None of the finalists' programs have had a Doak Walker Award winner before. Missouri has had recent finalists in Cody Schrader (2023) and Tyler Badie (2021) and Notre Dame had previous back-to-back finalists in Lee Becton (1993) and Reggie Brooks (1992), while Lacy is Ole Miss' first finalist.

Here's a thumbnail look at the finalists, listed alphabetically. All three were honored during the course of the season as the Doak Walker Award National Running Back of the Week:

**Ahmad Hardy, So., Missouri:** Hardy, Mizzou's third finalist in the last five seasons, is second in the FBS in rushing yards at 1,403, tops among the finalists, and his 15 touchdowns are tied for fourth nationally. He owned the national lead in rushing yards for a week following a 300-yard performance in a 49-27 win over Mississippi State on Nov. 15. Hardy is just the second player in Mizzou history to rush for 300 yards in a game and his 1,403 season total is three yards short of fourth place on the Tigers' all-time single-season rushing list. Hardy was the Doak Walker Award National Running Back of the Week the weekend of Sept. 13, following a 22-carry, 250-yard game with three touchdowns in a win over Louisiana.

**Kewan Lacy, So., Ole Miss:** Lacy has been the catalyst and the catapult in getting the Rebels into position for a College Football Playoff berth. He is tied for the national lead with 19 rushing touchdowns and sixth in the FBS with 1,136 rushing yards from his SEC-leading 231 rushing attempts. The 19 scores are both Ole Miss single-season records for rushing touchdowns and total touchdowns; the last one came at the end of a career-high 224 yards on 31 carries in his last appearance, a Nov. 15 win over Florida. Lacy's 114 points lead the SEC and is now the single-season Ole Miss record for most points by a non-kicker. Lacy was the Doak Walker Award National Running Back of the Week the weekend of Sept. 6, following a 28-carry, 138-yard game in a 30-23 win at Kentucky.

**Jeremiyah Love, Jr., Notre Dame:** Love has electrified fans all season with his bruising style and a series of highlight runs, often after contact. Love's 118.7 yards per game (1,306 total rushing yards) lists third in the FBS. He's just the sixth player in Notre Dame history to have multiple 1,000-yard rushing seasons. The only Irish player in program history with two 90-yard rushing touchdowns in a career hit another big play last week against Syracuse with a 68-yard touchdown run to open the third quarter, part of a dynamic 171 yards and three touchdowns on only eight carries. At home against USC, Love broke a 63-yard run within his 228-yard effort, the most ever in a home game by an Irish player at Notre Dame Stadium (512 games). Love was the Doak Walker Award National Running Back of the Week (Oct. 18) following the game.

Named after Doak Walker, a legendary figure in college football and the NFL, 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.

The Doak Walker Award is a member of the **National College Football Awards Association (NCFAA)**, which encompasses college football's most prestigious awards. The NCFAA's 25 awards have honored more than 950 recipients since 1935.

For more information, visit [SMU.edu/DoakWalkerAward](http://SMU.edu/DoakWalkerAward) or follow on X (@DoakWalkerAward).



## ALL-TIME DOAK WALKER AWARD WINNERS AND FINALISTS

Year	Winner	Finalists
2025	TBA	Ahmad Hardy, Missouri; Kewan Lacy, Ole Miss; Jeremiah Love, Notre Dame
2024	Ashton Jeanty, Boise State	Omarion Hampton, North Carolina; Kaleb Johnson, Iowa
2023	Ollie Gordon II, Oklahoma State	Omarion Hampton, North Carolina; Cody Schrader, Missouri
2022	Bijan Robinson, Texas	Chase Brown, Illinois; Blake Corum, Michigan
2021	Kenneth Walker III, Michigan State	Tyler Badie, Missouri; Breece Hall, Iowa State
2020	Najee Harris, Alabama	Travis Etienne, Clemson; Breece Hall, Iowa State
2019	Jonathan Taylor, Wisconsin	J.K. Dobbins, Ohio State; Chuba Hubbard, Oklahoma State
2018	Jonathan Taylor, Wisconsin	Travis Etienne, Clemson; Darrell Henderson, Memphis
2017	Bryce Love, Stanford	Saquon Barkley, Penn State; Jonathan Taylor, Wisconsin
2016	D'Onta Foreman, Texas	Dalvin Cook, Florida State; Donnel Pumphrey, San Diego State
2015	Derrick Henry, Alabama	Leonard Fournette, LSU; Christian McCaffrey, Stanford
2014	Melvin Gordon, Wisconsin	Ameer Abdullah, Nebraska; Tevin Coleman, Indiana
2013	Andre Williams, Boston College	Ka'Deem Carey, Arizona; Bishop Sankey, Washington
2012	Montee Ball, Wisconsin	Kenjon Barner, Oregon; Johnathan Franklin, UCLA
2011	Trent Richardson, Alabama	Montee Ball, Wisconsin; LaMichael James, Oregon
2010	LaMichael James, Oregon	John Clay, Wisconsin; Kendall Hunter, Oklahoma State
2009	Toby Gerhart, Stanford	Mark Ingram, Alabama; C.J. Spiller, Clemson
2008	Shonn Greene, Iowa	Knowshon Moreno, Georgia; Javon Ringer, Michigan State
2007	Darren McFadden, Arkansas	Mike Hart, Michigan; Ray Rice, Rutgers
2006	Darren McFadden, Arkansas	Mike Hart, Michigan; Steve Slaton, West Virginia
2005	Reggie Bush, USC	Jerome Harrison, Washington State; DeAngelo Williams, Memphis
2004	Cedric Benson, Texas	J.J. Arrington, California; Adrian Peterson, Oklahoma
2003	Chris Perry, Michigan	Kevin Jones, Virginia Tech; Darren Sproles, Kansas State
2002	Larry Johnson, Penn State	Chris Brown, Colorado; Willis McGahee, Miami
2001	Luke Staley, BYU	Bruce Perry, Maryland; Travis Stephens, Tennessee
2000	LaDainian Tomlinson, TCU	Damien Anderson, Northwestern; Anthony Thomas, Michigan
1999	Ron Dayne, Wisconsin	Thomas Jones, Virginia; Shaun Alexander, Alabama
1998	Ricky Williams, Texas	Mike Cloud, Boston College; Ron Dayne, Wisconsin
1997	Ricky Williams, Texas	Curtis Enis, Penn State; Ahman Green, Nebraska
1996	Byron Hanspard, Texas Tech	Darnell Autry, Northwestern; Troy Davis, Iowa State
1995	Eddie George, Ohio State	Karim Abdul-Jabbar, UCLA; Tiki Barber, Virginia; Tim Biakabataka, Michigan; Warrick Dunn, Florida State; George Jones, San Diego State; Wasean Tait, Toledo; Moe Williams, Kentucky
1994	Rashaan Salaam, Colorado	Ki-Jana Carter, Penn State; Ryan Chistopherson, Wyoming; Chris Darkins, Minnesota; Eddie George, Ohio State; Napoleon Kaufman, Washington; Tyrone Wheatley, Michigan; Sherman Williams, Alabama
1993	Byron "Bam" Morris, Texas Tech	Lee Becton, Notre Dame; Marshall Faulk, San Diego State; LaShon Johnson, NIU; Calvin Jones, Nebraska; Napoleon Kaufman, Washington; Brent Moss, Wisconsin; Errict Rhett, Florida
1992	Garrison Hearst, Georgia	Reggie Brooks, Notre Dame; Trevor Cobb, Rice
1991	Trevor Cobb, Rice	Vaughn Dunbar, Indiana; Tommy Vardell, Stanford
1990	Greg Lewis, Washington	Nick Bell, Iowa; Sheldon Canley, San Jose State; Tico Duckett, Michigan State; Mike Mayweather, Army; Glyn Milburn, Stanford; Tony Thompson, Tennessee; Jon Vaughn, Michigan