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Dec. 12, 2025

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NOTRE DAME'S LOVE WINS 2025 DOAK WALKER NATIONAL RUNNING BACK AWARD

Junior is first Fighting Irish player to win the award with 1,372 rushing yards and 18 touchdowns

DALLAS (SMU) – The PwC SMU Athletic Forum is proud to announce **Jeremiah Love** of Notre Dame as the winner of the **2025 Doak Walker Award**. The announcement came tonight during *The Home Depot College Football Awards* on ESPN. The formal presentation of the award will take place in Dallas at the annual banquet on Jan. 30, 2026. The PwC Doak Walker Legends Award will also be presented at the event.

Love is Notre Dame's first Doak Walker Award winner. He was chosen from among the three finalists that also included Kewan Lacy of Ole Miss and Ahmad Hardy of Missouri. Notre Dame had previous finalists in back-to-back seasons with Lee Becton (1993) and Reggie Brooks (1992).

Love, a 6-0, 214-pound junior from St. Louis, Mo., rushed for 1,372 yards and 18 touchdowns this season on 199 carries. The 1,372 yards list fourth nationally as the FBS heads into its bowl season. The 18 touchdowns are currently third in the FBS and his 6.89 yards per carry average is fifth. Love is the only player in the country to both own more than 1,100 rushing yards on the season and average 6.6 or more yards per carry, and is the only player nationally to list in the top three in scoring, total touchdowns and yards from scrimmage.

Those marks will be Love's season totals, as Notre Dame opted not to compete in a bowl game this season.

A multi-dimensional threat, Love also had 27 receptions for 280 yards and three touchdowns, earning multiple postseason nominations as one of the most outstanding players in college football. His other stats demand attention as well: second nationally in scoring (10.5), second in total points (126), second in total touchdowns (21), fifth in rushing yards per game (114.3) and fifth in all-purpose yards (137.67).

This while sharing a backfield with fellow running back Jadarian Price, who added 113 rushes for 674 yards and 11 touchdowns for the Irish. Six FBS players have rushed for 1,300 yards during the 2025 regular season. Love is the only player on that list who shares the backfield with another running back who has also rushed for at least 600 yards this season.

Known for his bruising style, Love mastered how to gain more yards after contact. He electrified fans all season with dozens of highlight runs, often after absorbing or bouncing off a defenders' initial contact.

Three games stood out from his standout season. In Notre Dame's 34-24 win over No. 20 USC on Oct. 18, Love racked up 228 rushing yards on 24 carries, averaging 9.5 yards per carry. The 228 rushing yards are the most for a Notre Dame player in a single game in Notre Dame Stadium's 513-game history. Love earned the Doak Walker National Running Back of the Week for that performance.

In a runaway 70-7 win over Syracuse on Nov. 22, Love carried the ball just eight times for 171 yards and three touchdowns, averaging 21.4 yards per carry. He is just the third Irish player since 1996 to have 170 or more rushing yards and three touchdowns on eight carries or less. In Notre Dame's most recent game, a 49-20 win over Stanford on Nov. 29, Love rushed for a touchdown on the Irish's opening drive, making him Notre Dame's single-season leader in total touchdowns (21), surpassing the legendary Jerome Bettis' 20 in 1991. His 18th rushing touchdown from that game tied Audric Estimé (2023) for most rushing touchdowns in a single season in Notre Dame history. He is the first player in program history to have multiple seasons with 17 or more rushing touchdowns.

Love became the first player in program history to collect two 90-yard rushing touchdowns in a career with a 94-yard score at Boston College this season to go with a 98-yard bolt against Indiana in last season's College Football Playoff.

Love, the first winner from Notre Dame, is also a finalist for the Heisman Trophy, which will announce its winner tomorrow in New York. He is the only running back among the four Heisman finalists.

The **Doak Walker Award** presented by the PwC SMU Athletic Forum has been awarded to the nation's top running back since 1990. The Doak Walker Award is a member of the **National College Football Awards Association**. Founded in 1997, the NCFAA includes college football's most prestigious awards and its 25 awards have honored more than 900 recipients dating to 1935.

For more information about the NCFAA and its award programs, visit [NCFAA.org](https://ncfaa.org) or follow on X at @NCFAA. For more information on the Doak Walker Award, contact Jeff Lockhart (lockhart@smu.edu or 214-768-4314) at the PwC SMU Athletic Forum, visit smu.edu/doakwalkeraward and follow on X at @DoakWalkerAward.



ALL-TIME DOAK WALKER AWARD WINNERS AND FINALISTS

Year	Winner	Finalists
2025	Jeremiah Love, Notre Dame	Ahmad Hardy, Missouri; Kewan Lacy, Ole Miss
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



2025 DOAK WALKER NATIONAL RUNNING BACKS OF THE WEEK

- Week 1 (Aug. 30)Jonah Coleman, Washington
- Week 2 (Sept. 6)..... Kewan Lacy, Ole Miss
- Week 3 (Sept. 13)Ahmad Hardy, Missouri
- Week 4 (Sept. 20)Sutton Smith, Memphis
- Week 5 (Sept. 27).....Greg Desrosiers Jr., Memphis
- Week 6 (Oct. 4)Jordan Gant, Akron
- Week 7 (Oct. 11)..... Cameron Dickey, Texas Tech
- Week 8 (Oct. 18)..... Jeremiah Love, Notre Dame
- Week 9 (Oct. 25) Isaac Brown, Louisville
- Week 10 (Nov. 1)..... Caleb Hawkins, North Texas
- Week 11 (Nov. 8) Antwan Raymond, Rutgers

2025 DOAK WALKER AWARD PRESEASON CANDIDATES LIST

Sedrick Alexander, Vanderbilt	Jamal Haynes, Georgia Tech	Wayshawn Parker, Utah
Kaytron Allen, Penn State	Eli Heidenreich, Navy	Zylan Perry, Louisiana
Jo'Shon Barbie, Marshall	Roman Hemby, Indiana	Jadarian Price, Notre Dame
Jadan Baugh, Florida	Robert Henry Jr., UTSA	Evan Pryor, Cincinnati
CJ Baxter, Texas	Daniel Hishaw Jr., Kansas	Nolan Ray, Maryland
Jalen Berger, UCLA	Makhi Hughes, Oregon	Desmond Reid, Pitt
DeSean Bishop, Tennessee	Sedrick Irvin, Stanford	Jamal Roberts, Missouri
Davon Booth, Mississippi State	Bryan Jackson, USC	Braylen Russell, Arkansas
Fluff Bothwell, Mississippi State	Parker Jenkins, East Carolina	Abu Sama III, Iowa State
Alex Broome, Boston College	Emmett Johnson, Nebraska	Eli Sanders, USC
Isaac Brown, Louisville	Waymond Jordan, USC	Gavin Sawchuk, Florida State
Xavier Brown, Virginia	Quinten Joyner, Texas Tech	Jo Silver, Delaware
Demond Claiborne, Wake Forest	Aidan Laughery, Illinois	Nicholas Singleton, Penn State
Jonah Coleman, Washington	Jeremiyah Love, Notre Dame	Joquez Smith, Temple
Cam Cook, Jax State	Jordan Marshall, Michigan	Sutton Smith, Memphis
Ja'Quez Cross, Arkansas State	Justin Marshall, Colorado State	Hollywood Smothers, NC State
Bill Davis, Louisiana	LJ Martin, BYU	Terion Stewart, Virginia Tech
Greg Desrosiers Jr., Memphis	Tony Mathis Jr., Marshall	Darius Taylor, Minnesota
C.J. Donaldson, Ohio State	Josh McCray, Georgia	Alex Tecza, Navy
Bryson Donelson, Fresno State	Jordan McDonald, Boston College	Star Thomas, Tennessee
Jay Ducker, Temple	Derrick McFall, SMU	Jai'Den Thomas, UNLV
Cam Edwards, UConn	Makenzie McGill II, North Texas	Jaivian Thomas, UCLA
Dylan Edwards, Kansas State	Jam Miller, Alabama	A.J. Turner, Minnesota
Kaden Feagin, Illinois	Devin Mockobee, Purdue	Tawee Walker, Cincinnati
Nate Frazier, Georgia	London Montgomery, East Carolina	Bryson Washington, Baylor
Sire Gaines, Boise State	Myles Montgomery, UCF	Duke Watson, Louisville
Davion Gause, North Carolina	Jaquez Moore, Duke	Micah Welch, Colorado
Julian Gray, Liberty	Le'Veon Moss, Texas A&M	Jahiem White, West Virginia
Marlon Gunn Jr., East Carolina	Kamari Moulton, Iowa	Noah Whittington, Oregon
Anthony Hankerson, Oregon State	Jaden Nixon, UCF	Aneyas Williams, Notre Dame
Carson Hanson, Iowa State	Will Nixon, Syracuse	Leshon Williams, Kansas
Ahmad Hardy, Missouri	Cartevious Norton, South Florida	Yasin Willis, Syracuse
George Hart III, WKU	Jaydn Ott, Oklahoma	Quintrevion Wisner, Texas
Dallan Hayden, Colorado	Rueben Owens II, Texas A&M	Terrez Worthy, Temple
Justice Haynes, Michigan	Lincoln Pare, Texas State	