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## TEN SEMIFINALISTS NAMED FOR 2025 DOAK WALKER NATIONAL RUNNING BACK AWARD

*Six conferences are represented as well as six standouts who earned the weekly national honor this season*

**DALLAS (SMU)** – The PwC SMU Athletic Forum is proud to announce the 10 semifinalists for the **2025 Doak Walker National Collegiate Running Back Award**. Headed by the current top six rushers in the FBS and seven of the top 10, along with the top four rushing touchdown leaders, the list of honored players represent six Division I FBS conferences and an Independent.

Three finalists for the 2025 Doak Walker Award will be announced a week from today and the winner will be unveiled 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 on Jan. 30, 2026, in Dallas.

The American, Big Ten and Southeastern Conferences each have two of the semifinalists while the Big 12, Conference USA, Mountain West and Notre Dame as an Independent have one apiece. Only one of the 10 schools represented (Texas Tech) has had a previous Doak Walker Award winner.

Here's a thumbnail look at the semifinalists, listed alphabetically, six of whom were honored during the course of the season as the Doak Walker Award National Running Back of the Week:

**Cam Cook, Jr., Jacksonville State:** Cook is second in the FBS in rushing yards with 1,306 on the season, an average of 130.6 per game, also second-best in the nation. His numbers are on pace to be ahead of where three of the last five Doak Walker Award recipients were at this point in the season. Cook is the FBS leader in all-purpose yards at 151.22 per game, with 186 receiving yards added to his rushing total.

**Cameron Dickey, So., Texas Tech:** Dickey leads the Big 12 in rushing yards (944) and rushing touchdowns (13). No Red Raider has ever led the Big 12 in rushing yards and only two have ever led in rushing touchdowns. Dickey has scored two or more touchdowns in four games and could become only the ninth Texas Tech player to have a 1,000-yard season. Dickey was the Doak Walker Award Player of the Week the weekend of Oct. 11 following a 263-yard, two-touchdown game that was the best single-game rushing mark to that point in the season. Byron Hanspard (1996) and Bam Morris (1993) are past Doak Walker Award winners.

**Ahmad Hardy, So., Missouri:** Hardy has charged to the national lead in rushing yards (1,346) and yards per game (134.6) following a 300-yard performance in last week's 49-27 win over Mississippi State. He is just the second player in Mizzou history to rush for 300 yards and had 203 of it in the second half while scoring three touchdowns. His 1,346 total yards are already the fifth-most at Mizzou for a single season to go with 15 touchdowns. Hardy was the Doak Walker Award Player of the Week the weekend of Sept. 13 following a 22-carry, 250-yard game with three touchdowns in a win over Louisiana. Former Missouri backs Cody Schrader (2023) and Tyler Badie (2021) have been finalists for the Doak Walker Award in recent seasons.

**Caleb Hawkins, Fr., North Texas:** Hawkins is second in the FBS with 16 rushing touchdowns and now has 19 total touchdowns, tied for the national lead. He is UNT's freshman single-season record holder. Last Saturday, in a road win over UAB, he rushed for five touchdowns and 189 yards, the third game this season in which he has scored at least four rushing touchdowns. His 103.7-yard per game average is eighth in the FBS. Hawkins was the Doak Walker Award Player of the Week the weekend of Nov. 1, following a 33-carry, 197-yard and four-touchdown effort that sank Navy from the unbeaten ranks.

**Robert Henry Jr., Gr., UTSA:** Henry's 983 rushing yards have him just under the 100-yards-per-game clip through 10 games, but he is best known for his big-play production. Henry has broken loose for six runs this season of 70 or more yards, four more than any other running back. Four of those scoring runs have come on UTSA's first, second or third play from scrimmage to start a half. Henry also has 17 receptions for 112 yards and a pair of scores, giving him 1,095 all-purpose yards. His current 5.8 yards-per-rush is the best in UTSA history.

**Emmett Johnson, Jr., Nebraska:** Johnson is the latest Nebraska back to top 1,000 yards on the season with 1,131 thus far to go with 11 rushing touchdowns. Of most recent note, Johnson became the first player in Nebraska's illustrious offensive backfield history to have 100 rushing and receiving yards in the same game following his 232-yard all-purpose performance (129 rushing yards, 103 receiving) at UCLA last Saturday. Per Nebraska staff, he is the first Big Ten player since at least 1995



to have more than 125 rushing yards, more than 100 receiving yards, a rushing TD and two receiving TDs in the same game. Nebraska has three former Doak Walker Award finalists in its past: Ameer Abdullah (2014), Ahman Green (1997) and Calvin Jones (1993).

**Kewan Lacy, So., Ole Miss:** Lacy has put the Rebels on his back as they charge toward a College Football Playoff berth. He leads the nation with 19 rushing touchdowns and is third in the FBS with 1,136 rushing yards. In last Saturday's win over Florida, Lacy rushed for a career-high 224 yards and three touchdowns on 31 carries, the last score setting the Ole Miss touchdown record for a single season. With 114 points this season, Lacy now owns the single-season Ole Miss record for most points by a non-kicker. Lacy was the Doak Walker Award Player 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. His 113.5 yards per game average lists third in the FBS and his 1,135 rushing yards are fourth. One such big play – a 56-yard touchdown in a win at Pitt last weekend – made him just the sixth player in Notre Dame history to have multiple 1,000-yard rushing seasons. Another highlight came against USC when Love broke loose on a 63-yard run as part of a 228-yard effort, the most ever in a home game by an Irish player in Notre Dame Stadium history (512 games). Love was the Doak Walker Award Player of the Week (Oct. 18) following the game. Notre Dame had back-to-back previous Doak Walker Award finalists in Lee Becton (1993) and Reggie Brooks (1992).

**Antwan Raymond, So., Rutgers:** Raymond is second in the Big Ten in rushing at an even 1,000 yards – 10th nationally – as is his per game average at 100.0. He is Rutgers' ninth all-time player to have a 1,000-yard season. Raymond was the Doak Walker Award Player of the Week the weekend of Nov. 8 after he tied a program record with 41 carries for a career-high 240 yards and a touchdown in a win over Maryland. The 240 yards are the most in a single game by a Big Ten player this season. Rutgers' lone previous Doak Walker Award finalist was Ray Rice in 2007.

**Lucky Sutton, Jr., San Diego State:** Sutton has played a major role in San Diego State's ascent as the current rushing leader in the Mountain West, leading the league with 1,048 yards and 104.8 rushing yards per game. Both are currently the sixth-best marks nationally. He leads the league in five rushing categories and is in the top five in nine overall. Sutton has scored nine touchdowns, and his is the 28th season for an Aztec to post a 1,000-yard rushing season. He has five 100-yard games, including two 150-yard games, among his 10 starts this year. The Aztecs have had three former Doak Walker Award finalists, Donnel Pumphrey (2016), George Jones (1995) and Marshall Faulk (1993).

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. A select 20-person committee from the award's full voting body of media and past winners chooses the weekly recipient. On Aug. 5, a preseason candidates list was released and semifinalists for the award will be named on Nov. 18. At the annual banquet, the recipient of the 2025 PwC Doak Walker Legends Award also will be honored.

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. This season, 13 NCFAA awards will honor national players of the week each Tuesday. For more information, visit [smu.edu/DoakWalkerAward](https://smu.edu/DoakWalkerAward) or follow on X (@DoakWalkerAward).

## 2025 DOAK WALKER AWARD SEMIFINALISTS

Cam Cook (Jr.), Jacksonville State  
Cameron Dickey (So.), Texas Tech  
Caleb Hawkins (Fr.), North Texas  
Robert Henry Jr. (Grad), UTSA  
Emmett Johnson (Jr.), Nebraska

Kewan Lacy (So.), Ole Miss  
Jeremiyah Love (Jr.), Notre Dame  
Antwan Raymond (So.), Rutgers  
Ahmad Hardy (So.), Missouri  
Lucky Sutton (Jr.), San Diego State



## 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	