



MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

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Toby Gerhart, Mark Ingram, C.J. Spiller Named Finalists for the 2009 Doak Walker Award

DALLAS, TEXAS – The SMU Athletic Forum today announced **Toby Gerhart** of Stanford, **Mark Ingram** of Alabama and **C.J. Spiller** of Clemson as the three finalists for the 2009 Doak Walker Award. The three finalists were determined by a vote of the 130-member Doak Walker Award National Selection Committee.

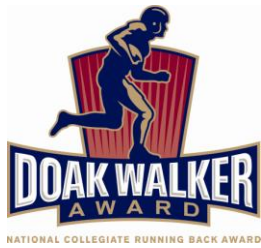
The Committee will cast a second vote to determine the recipient of the 2009 Doak Walker Award. The recipient will be announced live on *The Home Depot ESPNU College Football Awards* at 7:30 p.m. (EST) on Thursday, December 10. The award will be presented at the 2009 Doak Walker Award Presentation Banquet in Dallas on Friday, February 19, 2010.

Gerhart, a senior from Norco, California, has rushed for 1,531 yards and 23 touchdowns this season, and ranks second nationally in total rushing yards. For the second consecutive year Gerhart has established the Stanford single-season rushing record. Gerhart rushed for a school record 223 yards in Stanford's victory over eight-ranked Oregon.

Ingram, a sophomore from Flint, Michigan, has rushed for 1,399 yards and scored 15 touchdowns in 2009. He leads the SEC in total rushing yards and rushing yards per game. In only his second season, Ingram needs only 73 yards to eclipse the Alabama single-season rushing record.

Spiller, a senior from Lake Butler, Florida, has rushed for 894 yards and scored 15 touchdowns this season. He ranks third nationally with 187 all-purpose yards per game, and has scored four touchdowns on returns this season. A true all-around threat, Spiller is the ACC career leader in all-purpose yards and threw a touchdown pass, caught a touchdown pass and rushed for a score vs. N.C. State this season.

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In addition to outstanding performance on the field, candidates for the Doak Walker Award must have demonstrated records of leadership and exhibited the characteristics of sportsmanship and fair play associated with Doak Walker.

The award is named after three-time SMU All-American running back and 1948 Heisman Trophy winner Doak Walker. The versatile Walker, who also punted, returned kicks and kicked extra points, led the Mustangs to two Southwest Conference Championships and brought the school into the national spotlight. Walker was drafted by the Detroit Lions and as a rookie led the league in scoring. During his six years with the Lions, he led the team to two NFL championships and was chosen All-Pro four times. Walker is a member of both the College and Pro Football Halls of Fame.

Ballots for the Doak Walker Award are tabulated by Certified Public Accountant Jennifer C. Henard.

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Honoring the legends of sports for 20 years, the SMU Athletic Forum celebrates outstanding success in athletics. Based in Dallas, the series features major figures from a variety of sports. The 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). The NCFAA was founded in 1997 as a coalition of the major collegiate football awards to protect, preserve and enhance the integrity, influence and prestige of the game's predominant awards. The NCFAA encourages professionalism and the highest standards for the administration of its member awards and the selection of their candidates and recipients. For more information, visit the association's official website, ncfaa.org.

-smu.edu/doakwalker-