



MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

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Eric Dickerson and Craig James Named 2009 PricewaterhouseCoopers Doak Walker Legends Award Recipients

DALLAS, TEXAS – Eric Dickerson and Craig James, former star SMU running backs, were jointly named the recipients of the 2009 PricewaterhouseCoopers Doak Walker Legends Award. The award is presented by the SMU Athletic Forum. Individuals are nominated by the Doak Walker Award National Selection Committee, and the recipient is chosen by the Forum’s Board of Directors.

Dickerson and James will accept their trophies at the Doak Walker Award Presentation Banquet on Friday, February 19, 2010, at the Hilton Anatole Hotel in Dallas. The “Pony Express” joins a prestigious list of recipients which includes, Calvin Hill (2008), Marcus Allen (2007), Walter Payton (2006), Jim Swink (2005), John David Crow (2004), Doc Blanchard and Glenn Davis (2003), Earl Campbell (2002), Tony Dorsett (2001), Pete Dawkins (2000), Archie Griffin (1999), and Gale Sayers (1998).

From 1979-82, teammates Dickerson and James, collectively known as the “Pony Express”, led SMU to national prominence. In their careers, they combined for 8,192 rushing yards and 70 rushing touchdowns which remains a NCAA career record for a duo. They led SMU to national championships in 1981 and 1982.

Dickerson was a two-time All-America choice for SMU and finished third in the 1982 Heisman voting. He is SMU’s career and single-season rushing record holder. Dickerson went on to an 11-year NFL career where he was voted All-Pro six times and established the current NFL rushing record when he ran for an astonishing 2,105 yards in 1984. He was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1999.

James was a three-time All-Southwest Conference selection at SMU and ranks third on SMU’s all-time rushing list. James was the first player in the Southwest Conference since 1951



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to be voted All-Conference at two positions (running back and punter). He went on to a productive professional career with the New England Patriots where he was the NFL's Offensive Player of the Year in 1985 and voted to the Pro Bowl in 1986.

The PricewaterhouseCoopers Doak Walker Legends Award was created by the SMU Athletic Forum in 1998 to honor former running backs who excelled at the collegiate level and also distinguished themselves as leaders in their communities.

“Eric Dickerson and Craig James made extraordinary contributions to their team while at SMU, and it is only appropriate that they receive this award created to honor the legacy of SMU legend Doak Walker,” said Thomas W. Codd, North Texas Managing Partner for PricewaterhouseCoopers. “We are proud to honor these tremendous athletes who composed one of the greatest backfields in college football history.”

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Doak Walker epitomized leadership, sportsmanship, and academic and athletic achievement during his storied career at SMU. Walker was a three-time All-America choice who won the Heisman Trophy as a junior in 1948, was a first round draft pick of the Detroit Lions, led the team to NFL championships in 1952 and 1953, and was chosen All-Pro four times. Walker is a member of both the College and Pro Football Halls of Fame.

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Honoring the legends of sports for 21 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.

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