



## MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

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### **Toby Gerhart Named 2009 Doak Walker Award Recipient**

ORLANDO, FL – The SMU Athletic Forum announced Toby Gerhart from Stanford University as the recipient of the 2009 Doak Walker Award on Thursday, December 10, 2009, at *The Home Depot ESPNU College Football Awards*.

Gerhart, a senior from Norco, CA, ranks first nationally in total rushing with 1,736 yards and 160 points scored. Gerhart has ten 100-yard games to his credit this season, rushed for 100 or more yards 19 times in his career, and has rushed for an outstanding 26 touchdowns this season. Gerhart and the Cardinal will face Oklahoma in the Sun Bowl on December 31.

“Doak Walker taught us all, more than half a century ago, that great players perform their best in games of consequence. Toby Gerhart demonstrated the truth of that maxim during Stanford's marvelous 2009 season. When the Cardinal needed him most, he was there. He is a most deserving winner of the 2009 Doak Walker Award,” said CBS' Verne Lundquist, a member of the Doak Walker Award National Selection Committee and presenter of the 2009 Award.

Gerhart will receive the award at the Doak Walker Award Presentation Banquet on Friday, February 19, 2010, in Dallas. Also honored that evening will be Eric Dickerson and Craig James, the SMU “Pony Express”, recipients of the 2009 PricewaterhouseCoopers Doak Walker Legends Award.

The Award is named after three-time SMU All-America running back and 1948 Heisman Trophy winner Doak Walker. Walker, who also punted, returned kicks and kicked extra points, led the Mustangs to two Southwest Conference Championships. He was drafted by the Detroit Lions and led the league in scoring his rookie year. 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.

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The recipient of the Doak Walker Award is chosen by a 130-member National Selection Committee comprised of members of the media and former players. Ballots for the Doak Walker Award were tabulated by Certified Public Accountant, Jennifer L. 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](http://ncfaa.org).*

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