



MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

November 12, 2009

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2009 Doak Walker Award Semifinalists Announced

DALLAS, TEXAS – The Guaranty Bank SMU Athletic Forum Board of Directors announced today the ten semifinalists for the 2009 Doak Walker Award.

The semifinalists (in alphabetical order) are:

Donald Buckram (Jr.)	UTEP
Jonathan Dwyer (Jr.)	Georgia Tech
Toby Gerhart (Sr.)	Stanford
Mark Ingram (So.)	Alabama
Dion Lewis (Fr.)	Pittsburgh
Ryan Mathews (Jr.)	Fresno State
Jacquizz Rodgers (So.)	Oregon State
C.J. Spiller (Sr.)	Clemson
Ben Tate (Sr.)	Auburn
Ryan Williams (Fr.)	Virginia Tech

The 130 members of the Doak Walker Award National Selection Committee will cast their votes to determine the 2009 finalists. On Monday, November 23, three finalists will be named, and a second vote by the Doak Walker Award National Selection Committee will determine the recipient. The 2009 Doak Walker Award recipient will be announced live on *The Home Depot ESPNU College Football Awards* on Thursday, December 10.

The Award is named after three-time SMU All-American 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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Honoring the legends of sports for 20 years, the Guaranty Bank SMU Athletic Forum celebrates outstanding success in athletics. Based in Dallas, the series features major figures from a variety of sports. The Guaranty Bank 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

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