



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THREE STANDOUT RUNNING BACKS NAMED FINALISTS FOR 2024 DOAK WALKER AWARD

List features one repeat finalist and a pair of weekly national honorees, features three conferences

DALLAS (SMU) – The PwC SMU Athletic Forum is proud to announce the three finalists for the **2024 Doak Walker National Collegiate Running Back Award**. The nation's top three rushers by total yardage, one from the Atlantic Coast Conference, one from the Big Ten Conference and one from the Mountain West Conference, make up the list of honored players.

The 2024 Doak Walker Award winner will be unveiled live on ESPN during The Home Depot College Football Awards on Dec. 12 at 9 p.m. ET. The formal presentation of the award will take place in Dallas at the annual banquet scheduled for Jan. 31, 2025.

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

Omarion Hampton, North Carolina: The ACC's leading rusher with 1,475 yards that lists third in the nation advances to the finalist stage for a second straight season. He is just the third Tar Heel with three 200-rushing yard games in his career and the 1,475 total moves him into third place on the single-season list at UNC. He has rushed for 100-plus yards in nine of 11 games and had his string of eight straight 100-yard games snapped last week by Boston College. Hampton ran 35 times for 244 yards, both career highs, the previous week against Wake Forest.

Ashton Jeanty, Boise State: The dynamic back known for his breakaway touchdowns just topped 2,000 rushing yards last week with 169 vs. Wyoming, including a 61-yard scoring run, and leads the nation with 2,062 yards. He is 570 yards ahead of Iowa's Kaleb Johnson in second place. Jeanty earned the Doak Walker Award's Player of the Week award four times this season (Sept. 3, Oct. 1, Oct. 8 and Nov. 12), and with four 200-plus-yard games in tow, also leads the FBS in rushing yards per game (187.5), carries (275), and rushing touchdowns (27) and is second in yards per carry (7.35). Jeanty (27 rushing, 1 receiving) has scored more total touchdowns (28) this season than 23 FBS teams and is Boise State's first Doak Walker Award finalist.

Kaleb Johnson, Iowa: Johnson moved up to second place nationally in rushing yards with a 164-yard game against Maryland last week on a career-high 35 carries. He has 1,492 yards on the season and had 109 yards on 22 first-half carries last week with two touchdowns, giving him 21 to break 2008 Doak Walker Award winner Shonn Greene's single-season school record. His 22 total touchdowns are also a record, as are his 132 points scored that tie for fourth in the FBS. Johnson was the Doak Walker National Running Back of the Week for the Sept. 21 weekend and averages 6.69 yards per carry, ninth nationally. Johnson is now third on Iowa's single-season rushing list trailing only Greene (1,850) and Tavian Banks (1,691). Greene is Iowa's only previous Doak Walker Award winner and finalist.

The Doak Walker Award presented by the PwC SMU Athletic Forum has been awarded to the nation's top running back since 1990.

The Doak Walker Award is a member of the National College Football Awards Association. Founded in 1997, the NCFAA includes college football's most prestigious awards and its 24 awards have honored more than 900 recipients dating back to 1935. For more information about the NCFAA and its award programs, visit the redesigned [NCFAA.org](https://ncfaa.org) or follow on X at @NCFAA.

For more information on the Doak Walker Award, contact Jeff Lockhart (lockhart@smu.edu) at the PwC SMU Athletic Forum, visit smu.edu/doakwalkeraward and follow on X at @DoakWalkerAward.



2024 DOAK WALKER NATIONAL RUNNING BACKS OF THE WEEK

- Week 1 (Aug. 31) Ashton Jeanty, Boise State
- Week 2 (Sept. 7) Cam Skattebo, Arizona State
- Week 3 (Sept. 14) RJ Harvey, UCF
- Week 4 (Sept. 21) Kaleb Johnson, Iowa
- Week 5 (Sept. 28) Ashton Jeanty, Boise State
- Week 6 (Oct. 5) Ashton Jeanty, Boise State
- Week 7 (Oct. 12) Cam Skattebo, Arizona State
- Week 8 (Oct. 19) Bhayshul Tuten, Virginia Tech
- Week 9 (Oct. 26) Jarquez Hunter, Auburn
- Week 10 (Nov. 2) Cam Skattebo, Arizona State
- Week 11 (Nov. 9) Ashton Jeanty, Boise State

2024 DOAK WALKER AWARD PRESEASON CANDIDATES LIST

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|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Kaytron Allen, Penn State | DJ Giddens, Kansas State | Jaquez Moore, Duke |
| LeQuint Allen, Syracuse | Ollie Gordon II, Oklahoma State | Devin Neal, Kansas |
| Mario Anderson, Memphis | Rodney Hammond Jr., Pitt | Nate Noel, Missouri |
| Kevorian Barnes, UTSA | Omarion Hampton, North Carolina | Cam Porter , Northwestern |
| CJ Baxter, Texas | T.J. Harden, UCLA | Jadarian Price, Notre Dame |
| Lee Beebe Jr., UAB | Rahjai Harris, East Carolina | Kanye Roberts, App State |
| Ulysses Bentley IV, Ole Miss | RJ Harvey, UCF | Kye Robichaux, Boston College |
| Jaydon Blue, Texas | Justice Haynes, Alabama | Abu Sama III, Iowa State |
| Tahj Brooks, Texas Tech | Jamal Haynes, Georgia Tech | Dylan Sampson, Tennessee |
| Antario Brown, NIU | Roman Hemby, Maryland | Raheim Sanders, South Carolina |
| Jalen Buckley, Western Michigan | TreVeyon Henderson, Ohio State | Gavin Sawchuk, Oklahoma |
| Ryan Butler, Stanford | Daniel Hishaw Jr., Kansas | Malik Sherrod, Fresno State |
| CJ Campbell Jr., Florida Atlantic | Jarquez Hunter, Auburn | Nicholas Singleton, Penn State |
| Marcus Carroll, Missouri | Jordan James, Oregon | Cam Skattebo, Arizona State |
| Nathan Carter, Michigan State | Ashton Jeanty, Boise State | Terion Stewart, Bowling Green |
| Donald Chaney, Louisville | Montrell Johnson Jr., Florida | Darius Taylor, Minnesota |
| Demond Claiborne, Wake Forest | Quinshon Judkins, Ohio State | Alex Tecza, Navy |
| Dean Connors, Rice | Jaylan Knighton , SMU | Jai'Den Thomas, UNLV |
| Quinton Cooley, Liberty | Jeremiyah Love, Notre Dame | DeaMonte Trayanum, Kentucky |
| Marquez Cooper, San Diego State | Marion Lukes, Central Michigan | Bhayshul Tuten, Virginia Tech |
| Marquis Crosby, Louisiana Tech | Phil Mafah, Clemson | Kayne Udoh, Army |
| Jacory Croskey-Merritt, Arizona | Woody Marks, USC | Dre'Iyn Washington, Louisiana |
| Ja'Quez Cross, Arkansas State | LJ Martin, BYU | Jordan Waters , NC State |
| Sean Dollars, Nevada | Damien Martinez, Miami | Harrison Waylee, Wyoming |
| CJ Donaldson Jr., West Virginia | Josh McCray, Illinois | Jahiem White, West Virginia |
| Donovan Edwards, Michigan | Chez Mellusi , Wisconsin | Noah Whittington, Oregon |
| Trevor Etienne, Georgia | Jam Miller, Alabama | Leshon Williams, Iowa |
| Rahsul Faison, Utah State | Devin Mockobee, Purdue | Nay'Quan Wright , South Florida |
| Kaden Feagin, Illinois | Kyle Monangai, Rutgers | Elijah Young, WKU |



2024 DOAK WALKER AWARD SEMIFINALISTS

Tahj Brooks, Texas Tech

DJ Giddens, Kansas State

Omarion Hampton, North Carolina

RJ Harvey, UCF

Makhi Hughes, Tulane

Ashton Jeanty, Boise State

Kaleb Johnson, Iowa

Dylan Sampson, Tennessee

Cam Skattebo, Arizona State

Brashard Smith, SMU

2024 DOAK WALKER AWARD FINALISTS

Omarion Hampton, North Carolina

Ashton Jeanty, Boise State

Kaleb Johnson, Iowa