



Contact: Jeff Lockhart (214) 768-4314
lockhart@smu.edu

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**Tyler Badie, Breece Hall and Kenneth Walker III Named
2021 Doak Walker Award Finalists**

DALLAS – The PwC SMU Athletic Forum today announced **Tyler Badie** of Missouri, **Breece Hall** of Iowa State and **Kenneth Walker, III** of Michigan State as finalists for the 2021 Doak Walker Award. The Doak Walker Award National Selection Committee ranked the semifinalists to determine the finalists.

The Committee will cast a second ballot to determine the recipient of the 2021 Doak Walker Award. The recipient will be announced live during *The Home Depot College Football Awards* which will be televised on ESPN on Thursday, December 9, at 7 p.m. (ET).

Badie, a senior from New Orleans, Louisiana is the SEC's leading rusher (1385 yards). He ranks fourth nationally in both total rushing yards and rushing yards per game, and is the only back in the nation with four 200-yard rushing games this season. In his last two games, Badie has rushed for a combined 355 yards to lead the Tigers to victories over South Carolina and Florida.

Hall, a junior from Wichita, Kansas has rushed for 1,230 yards this season and ranks second nationally with 19 touchdowns. Hall rushed for a career-high 197 yards in a victory over Kansas State. With one regular season game remaining, Hall has tied the all-time NCAA record by rushing for a touchdown in 23 consecutive games. The 2020 Big 12 offensive player of the year was also a finalist for the award in 2020.

Walker, a junior from Arlington, Tennessee leads the BIG 10 in total rushing yards (1,498) and rushing yards per game (136.2) and ranks second nationally in both rushing categories. Walker rushed for a season high 264 yards in Michigan State's victory over Northwestern and an impressive 197 yards and five touchdowns verses rival Michigan.

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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-America 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.

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Honoring the legends of sports for 32 years, the PwC SMU Athletic Forum celebrates outstanding success in athletics. Based in Dallas, the series features major figures from a variety of sports. The PwC 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), which includes college football's most prestigious awards. Founded in 1997, the NCFAA and its 25 awards boast 800 recipients, dating to 1935. Visit NCFAA.org to learn more about the NCFAA.

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