



For Immediate Release
February 2, 2022
Contact: Jeff Lockhart (214) 768-4314
lockhart@smu.edu

Abner Haynes Named Recipient of 2021 PwC Doak Walker Legends Award

DALLAS – The PwC SMU Athletic Forum has selected former North Texas State and Dallas Texans/Kansas City Chief running back Abner Haynes as the recipient of the 2021 PwC Doak Walker Legends Award. The award was created in 1998 to honor former running backs that excelled at the collegiate level and went on to distinguish themselves as leaders in their communities.

Haynes will be honored at the Doak Walker Award Presentation Banquet on Friday, February 18, 2022 in Dallas. Michigan State running back Kenneth Walker, III, the 2021 Doak Walker Award recipient, will also be honored at the banquet. Haynes joins an impressive list of past recipients: Rocky Bleier (2019), Johnny Robinson (2018), Johnny Majors (2017), Herschel Walker (2016), Barry Sanders (2015), Bo Jackson (2014), Floyd Little (2013), Jim Brown (2012), Tommy McDonald (2011), Jim Taylor (2010), Eric Dickerson and Craig James (2009), 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).

Haynes graduated from Dallas' Lincoln High School and in 1956 he and teammate Leon King became the first African-American players to play for a major college program in Texas when they took the field for North Texas State. Haynes was a two-time all-Missouri Valley Conference running back, and was a Time Magazine All-America selection in 1959.

Haynes was drafted by teams in the AFL, NFL and CFL and ultimately chose to play for Dallas Texans of the AFL and legendary coach Hank Stram. He enjoyed almost immediate success leading the league in rushing yards and touchdowns in 1960, and being named Rookie of the Year and league MVP. In 1962, Haynes led the Texans to the AFC Championship. He was four-

time AFL All-Star and four-time All-Pro in just eight AFL seasons. Haynes retired in 1968 and was inducted into the Chiefs Hall of Honor in 1991. The franchise later retired his number 28 in 1998. Haynes was elected to the Texas Sports Hall of Fame in 2008.

“Abner Haynes is an icon of Dallas sports, both as an athlete and as a trailblazer,” said Clark Hunt, Chairman and CEO of the Kansas City Chiefs, and son of AFL founder Lamar Hunt. “He was instrumental in the early years of the American Football League, and in building football’s popularity in Dallas. Abner was also a pioneer for athletes of color, helping integrate college football and professional football in Texas. He is a man of character and conviction, and we are thrilled to see him recognized with the Doak Walker Legends Award.”

Doak Walker epitomized leadership, sportsmanship, and academic and athletic achievement during his outstanding 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.

About the PwC SMU Athletic Forum

Honoring the legends of sports for over 30 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 events and the prestigious Doak Walker Award Presentation Banquet.

PwC Doak Walker Legends Award recipients are nominated by the Doak Walker Award National Selection Committee, and then chosen by the Forum’s Board of Directors. For more information, visit www.smu.edu/doakwalker.

About PwC

At PwC, our purpose is to build trust in society and solve important problems. We’re a network of firms in 156 countries with over 295,000 people who are committed to delivering quality in assurance, advisory and tax services. Find out more and tell us what matters to you by visiting us at www.pwc.com.

PwC refers to the PwC network and/or one or more of its member firms, each of which is a separate legal entity. Please see www.pwc.com/structure for further details.

© 2021 PwC. All rights reserved