



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Sept. 20, 2022

**Contact:**

Jeff Lockhart  
lockhart@smu.edu  
214-768-4314

---

## **EASTERN MICHIGAN'S EVANS IS DOAK WALKER NATIONAL RUNNING BACK OF THE WEEK**

*Senior bolts for 258 yards on 36 carries as Eagles make history with a win at Arizona State*

**DALLAS (SMU)** – Eastern Michigan running back **Samson Evans** exploded through the Arizona State defense Saturday, rushing for 258 yards on 36 carries as the Eagles pulled off a 30-21 upset in Tempe, Ariz. His career-best numbers for carries and yards that led to the first regular-season win for a Mid-American Conference school over a Pac-12 opponent earned Evans the **Doak Walker National Running Back of the Week** honor for games of the weekend of Sept. 17.

Evans' 258 rushing yards is the top single-game total by any FBS player this season. The 6-0, 218-pound senior from Crystal Lake, Ill., averaged 7.2 yards per carry and ran for a touchdown in the win, EMU's fourth over a Power 5 opponent on the road in the last six seasons. Evans added a reception for seven yards and returned a kickoff 21 yards to finish the evening with 286 all-purpose yards.

Evans entered the game with a career single-game best of 89 yards rushing against Eastern Kentucky on Sept. 2. Against ASU, he ran for 107 yards in the fourth quarter alone, averaging 8.9 yards per carry.

Now now sixth in the FBS with 122.0 yards per game and 11th nationally with 366 rushing yards, Evans leads the MAC and is 18th nationally in all-purpose yards (142.33 per game).

The Eagles return home Saturday to face Buffalo in their MAC opener at Noon ET on CBS Sports Network.

Other candidates for the honor in Week 3 included:

- **Mo Ibrahim, Minnesota:** The sixth-year senior ran for the Gophers' first three touchdowns in a 49-7 romp over Colorado. He buoyed the nation's top offense with 202 rushing yards on 23 carries, marking the fourth 200-yard game of his career. Ibrahim now owns school records for the most 200-yard games and extended his school record to 12 consecutive 100-yard rushing games (13th of his career) and his third straight multi-touchdown game.
- **Bijan Robinson, Texas:** The junior rushed for 183 yards and three touchdowns on 20 carries as Texas (2-1) rallied from a 17-7 deficit to score a 41-20 win over UTSA. Robinson had touchdown runs of 78 and 42 yards, the longest scoring plays for the season for Texas and the 78-yarder marking the longest of his career. He added one catch for 19 yards to finish with 202 all-purpose yards. It was the third career game for Robinson to rush for three touchdowns.

The **Doak Walker Award presented by the PwC SMU Athletic Forum** has been awarded to the nation's top running back since 1990. For the first time, the award is recognizing a national running back of the week this season. A select 20-person committee from the award's full voting body of media and past winners chooses the weekly recipient. On July 20, a preseason candidates list was released and semifinalists for the award will be named on Nov. 22. A week later, the three finalists will be announced.

The 2022 Doak Walker Award winner will be unveiled live on *The Home Depot College Football Awards*, televised by ESPN on Dec. 8. The annual banquet, where the winner and the recipient of the 2022 PwC Doak Walker Legends Award will be honored, will take place in February on the SMU campus.

The Doak Walker Award is a member of the **National College Football Awards Association (NCFAA)**, which encompasses college football's most prestigious awards. The NCFAA's 25 awards have honored more than 800 recipients since 1935. Visit [NCFAA.org](http://NCFAA.org) for more information.

For more information on the Doak Walker Award, contact Jeff Lockhart ([lockhart@smu.edu](mailto:lockhart@smu.edu)) at the PwC SMU Athletic Forum, visit [doakwalkeraward.com](http://doakwalkeraward.com) and follow on Twitter at [@DoakWalkerAward](https://twitter.com/DoakWalkerAward).



## 2022 DOAK WALKER NATIONAL RUNNING BACKS OF THE WEEK

- Week 1 (Sept. 3) .....Chase Brown, Illinois
- Week 2 (Sept. 10) ..... Khalan Laborn, Marshall
- Week 3 (Sept. 17) ..... Samson Evans, Eastern Michigan
- Week 4 (Sept. 24)
- Week 5 (Oct. 1)
- Week 6 (Oct. 8)
- Week 7 (Oct. 15)
- Week 8 (Oct. 22)
- Week 9 (Oct. 29)
- Week 10 (Nov. 5)
- Week 11 (Nov 12)
- Week 12 (Nov. 19)

## 2022 DOAK WALKER AWARD PRESEASON CANDIDATES LIST

- |                                 |                                     |                                  |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Devon Achane, Texas A&M         | Deion Hankins, UTEP                 | Bijan Robinson, Texas            |
| Braelon Allen, Wisconsin        | TreVeyon Henderson, Ohio State      | Raheim Sanders, Arkansas         |
| Rasheen Ali, Marshall           | George Holani, Boise State          | Will Shipley, Clemson            |
| Ronald Awaft, UTEP              | Evan Hull, Northwestern             | Shaun Shivers, Indiana           |
| Tank Bigsby, Auburn             | Mohamed Ibrahim, Minnesota          | Jabari Small, Tennessee          |
| Isiah Bowser, UCF               | Dillon Johnson, Mississippi State   | Chris Smith, Louisiana           |
| British Brooks, North Carolina  | Roschon Johnson, Texas              | Dontae Smith, Georgia Tech       |
| Jarek Broussard, Michigan State | Austin Jones, USC                   | E.J. Smith, Stanford             |
| Antario Brown, NIU              | Johnnie Lang Jr., Arkansas State    | Tyjae Spears, Tulane             |
| Chase Brown, Illinois           | Keyvone Lee, Penn State             | Titus Swen, Wyoming              |
| Jermaine Brown, UAB             | Joquavious Marks, Mississippi State | Tavion Thomas, Utah              |
| Nate Carter, UConn              | DeWayne McBride, UAB                | Sean Tucker, Syracuse            |
| Zach Charbonnet, UCLA           | Chez Mellusi, Wisconsin             | Calvin Tyler Jr., Utah State     |
| Blake Corum, Michigan           | Kendre Miller, TCU                  | Sean Tyler, Western Michigan     |
| Travis Dye, USC                 | Jordan Mims, Fresno State           | Chris Tyree, Notre Dame          |
| Justice Ellison, Wake Forest    | Keaton Mitchell, East Carolina      | Xazavian Valladay, Arizona State |
| Samson Evans, Eastern Michigan  | Damien Moore, Cal                   | Deuce Vaughn, Kansas State       |
| Deshaun Fenwick, Oregon State   | Devin Neal, Kansas                  | Kimani Vidal, Troy               |
| Alex Fontenot, Colorado         | Lew Nichols III, Central Michigan   | Blake Watson, Old Dominion       |
| Pat Garwo, Boston College       | Nate Noel, App State                | Treshaun Ward, Florida State     |
| Frank Gore Jr., Southern Miss   | Nathaniel Peat, Missouri            | Harrison Waylee, NIU             |
| Eric Gray, Oklahoma             | Camerun Peoples, App State          | Jalen White, Georgia Southern    |
| Gerald Green, Georgia Southern  | Dominic Richardson, Oklahoma State  | Jamyest Williams, Georgia State  |
| Tucker Gregg, Georgia State     | Johnny Richardson, UCF              | Nay'Quan Wright, Florida         |
| Hassan Hall, Georgia Tech       |                                     |                                  |