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2024 Doak Walker Award Candidates Announced

DALLAS - The PwC SMU Athletic Forum released today the preseason candidates for the 2024 Doak Walker Award. The Forum annually presents the award to the nation's most outstanding college running back.

The list features 2023 Doak Walker Award recipient Ollie Gordon II (Oklahoma State), who is seeking to become the third two-time recipient of the award (Jonathan Taylor 2018-19 and Ricky Williams 1996-97). The list also features 2023 Award finalist Omarion Hampton (North Carolina) and 2023 semifinalists Tajh Brooks (Texas Tech), Marcus Carroll (Missouri), R.J. Harvey (UCF), and Damien Martinez (Miami).

University athletic departments nominate candidates for the award and can continue to do so through October.

The complete list of candidates is below.

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

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The PwC SMU Athletic Forum Board of Directors will name ten semifinalists in November, and three finalists, as voted on by the Doak Walker Award National Selection Committee, will also be announced in November. The committee will cast a second vote in December to determine the recipient. The National Selection Committee consists of past recipients, former NFL All-Pro and college All-America running backs, media members and selected special representatives. The recipient of the 2024 Doak Walker Award will be announced live on *The Home Depot College Football Awards* on December 12, 2024.

The award is named for SMU's three-time All-America running back Doak Walker. Each Tuesday of this season, The PwC SMU Athletic Forum will once again announce a Doak Walker National Running Back of the week.

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Honoring the legends of sports for 35 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.

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. This season, 12 NCFAA awards will honor national players of the week each Tuesday.

Sixteen NCFAA members are unveiling preseason watch lists over a two-week period as the association spearheads a coordinated effort to promote each award's preseason candidates. Following is the remaining 2024 preseason watch list calendar:

*Wed., Aug. 7: Biletnikoff Award
Thu., Aug. 8: Davey O'Brien Award
Fri., Aug. 9: Mackey Award/Rimington Trophy
Mon., Aug. 12: Bednarik Award
Tue., Aug. 13: Butkus Award*

For more information about the NCFAA and its award programs, visit the redesigned NCFAA.org or follow on X at @NCFAA.

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