



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

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

COLORADO'S EDWARDS IS DOAK WALKER NATIONAL RUNNING BACK OF THE WEEK

True freshman breaks 62-year-old school receiving record as Buffs open season with upset of No. 17 TCU in Fort Worth

DALLAS (SMU) – Colorado running back **Dylan Edwards** set a school record with 135 receiving yards as a running back and scored the decisive fourth-quarter touchdown on a 46-yard reception on fourth down in the Buffaloes' season-opening 45-42 upset win at TCU. The performance earned him the **Doak Walker National Running Back of the Week** honor for games of the extended weekend of Sept. 2.

The 5-9, 170-pound true freshman from Derby, Kan., broke a 62-year-old school record while scoring three touchdowns on his five catches. His other touchdown grabs – the first Colorado scores of each half – were four and 75 yards. In addition, Edwards added 24 rushing yards on six carries and a fourth touchdown and returned one kickoff for 18 yards in his debut.

Edwards, the first true freshman running back to start a season-opener at Colorado since Kent Kahl in 1991, also set school records for most receiving touchdowns in a game and most receiving touchdowns by a running back. He is one of six players to score four touchdowns in Week 1 and thus is tied for the national lead in scoring with 24 points.

The Buffaloes return to Boulder for their home-opener this Saturday, hosting Nebraska at Noon ET on FOX.

Other candidates for the honor in Week 1 included:

- **Jalen Buckley, Western Michigan:** Buckley had a career-high 30 rushes for 194 yards and his first career touchdown as Western Michigan beat St. Francis (Pa.), 35-17. Prior to Saturday, the redshirt freshman from Aurora, Ill., had just nine career carries in four previous appearances.
- **Marcus Carroll, Georgia State:** Carroll rushed for a career-high 184 yards and three touchdowns as Georgia State opened the season with a 42-35 home win against Rhode Island. The senior from Union City, Ga., posted the fourth-highest single-game rushing total in school history.
- **Chez Mellusi, Wisconsin:** Mellusi led the Badgers' rushing attack with a career-high 157 yards and a career-best two touchdowns on only 13 carries in a 38-7 win over Buffalo. The 12.1 yards per carry for the grad student from Naples, Fla., was the highest clip of his career when carrying five or more times.
- **Jaydn Ott, Cal:** Ott ran for 188 yards and two touchdowns as Cal exploded for its highest point total in eight seasons in a 58-21 win at North Texas. The 20 carries were a career-high and the 188 yards the second-highest rushing total for the sophomore from Chino, Calif.
- **Kimani Vidal, Troy:** Vidal ran for a school-record 248 yards on 25 carries as Troy ran its win streak to 12 games with a 48-30 defeat of Stephen F. Austin. The junior from Marietta, Ga., had a career-long rush (59) and reception (44) and finished with 302 all-purpose yards and has now rushed for 200-plus yards in three of his last five games.

The **Doak Walker Award presented by the PwC SMU Athletic Forum** has been awarded to the nation's top running back since 1990. Since 2022, the award has recognized a national running back of the week. A select 20-person committee from the award's full voting body of media and past winners chooses the weekly recipient. On Aug. 9, a preseason candidates list was released and semifinalists for the award will be named on Nov. 21. A week later, the three finalists will be announced.

The 2023 Doak Walker Award winner will be unveiled live on *The Home Depot College Football Awards*, televised by ESPN on Dec. 7 or 8. The annual banquet, where the winner and the recipient of the 2024 PwC Doak Walker Legends Award will be honored, will take place in February in Dallas.

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. For more information about the NCFAA and its award programs, visit the redesigned 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 doakwalkeraward.com and follow on X at @DoakWalkerAward.



2023 DOAK WALKER NATIONAL RUNNING BACKS OF THE WEEK

- Week 1 (Sept. 2)Dylan Edwards, Colorado
- Week 2 (Sept. 9)
- Week 3 (Sept. 16)
- Week 4 (Sept. 23)
- Week 5 (Sept. 30)
- Week 6 (Oct. 7)
- Week 7 (Oct. 14)
- Week 8 (Oct. 21)
- Week 9 (Oct. 28)
- Week 10 (Nov. 4)
- Week 11 (Nov 11)
- Week 12 (Nov. 18)

2023 DOAK WALKER AWARD PRESEASON CANDIDATES LIST

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|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Rasheen Ali, Marshall | Rahjai Harris, East Carolina | Richard Reese, Baylor |
| Braelon Allen, Wisconsin | RJ Harvey, UCF | Aidan Robbins, BYU |
| Kaytron Allen, Penn State | Roman Hemby, Maryland | Kairee Robinson, San Jose State |
| LeQuint Allen, Syracuse | TreVeyon Henderson, Ohio State | Raheim Sanders, Arkansas |
| Emani Bailey, TCU | Daniel Hishaw Jr., Kansas | Trey Sanders, TCU |
| Sieh Bangura, Ohio | George Holani, Boise State | Will Shipley, Clemson |
| Jovantae Barnes, Oklahoma | Bucky Irving, Oregon | Nicholas Singleton, Penn State |
| Kevorian Barnes, UTSA | Kaleb Johnson, Iowa | Cam Skattebo, Arizona State |
| Trey Benson, Florida State | Kobe Johnson, Colorado State | Jabari Small, Tennessee |
| Tahj Brooks, Texas Tech | Austin Jones, USC | Dontae Smith, Georgia Tech |
| Antario Brown, NIU | Jawhar Jordan, Louisville | E.J. Smith, Stanford |
| Jermaine Brown Jr., UAB | Quinshon Judkins, Ole Miss | Kavosiey Smoke, Colorado |
| Noah Cain, LSU | Reggie Love III, Illinois | Carson Steele, UCLA |
| Marcus Carroll, Georgia State | Jaylin Lucas, Indiana | Bhayshul Tuten, Virginia Tech |
| Blake Corum, Michigan | Jo'Quavious Marks, Mississippi State | Kimani Vidal, Troy |
| Marquis Crosby, Louisiana Tech | Damien Martinez, Oregon State | Treshaun Ward, Kansas State |
| CJ Donaldson Jr., West Virginia | Tony Mathis Jr., Houston | Dre'lyn Washington, Louisiana |
| Donovan Edwards, Michigan | Alton McCaskill, Colorado | Nakia Watson, Washington State |
| Justice Ellison, Wake Forest | Josh McCray, Illinois | La'Damian Webb, South Alabama |
| Davion Ervin-Poindexter, WKU | Chez Mellusi, Wisconsin | Noah Whittington, Oregon |
| Audric Estime', Notre Dame | Devin Mockobee, Purdue | Michael Wiley, Arizona |
| Samson Evans, Eastern Michigan | Devin Neal, Kansas | Sy'veon Wilkerson, Colorado |
| Pat Garwo, Boston College | Nate Noel, App State | Josh Williams, LSU |
| Rodney Hammond Jr., Pitt | Jaydn Ott, California | Miyan Williams, Ohio State |
| Deion Hankins, UTEP | Frank Peasant, Middle Tennessee | Jaylen Wright, Tennessee |