



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **KANSAS STATE'S GIDDENS IS DOAK WALKER NATIONAL RUNNING BACK OF THE WEEK**

*Sophomore scores four rushing touchdowns, racks of 293 yards from scrimmage in Big 12 win over UCF*

**DALLAS (SMU)** – Kansas State running back **DJ Giddens** rushed for a career-high 207 yards and four touchdowns and caught eight passes for another 86 yards as the Wildcats spoiled UCF's Big 12 Conference debut, 44-31, in Manhattan. The performance earned him the **Doak Walker National Running Back of the Week** honor for games of the weekend of Sept. 23.

The 6-1, 212-pound sophomore from Junction City, Kan., scored three first-half touchdowns on runs of 1, 9, 18 yards as K-State took a 21-17 into the halftime locker room. He later added a 3-yard scoring run in the fourth quarter that helped seal the win.

Yet perhaps his biggest play on the night that included 293 scrimmage yards was a 16-yard catch-and-run that converted a key third down and led to a tie-breaking touchdown in the third quarter. The 30 carries also marked a career high and Giddens who scored multiple rushing touchdowns in a game for the first time in his career.

The Wildcats (3-1) will enjoy a week off before traveling to Oklahoma State for a Friday night tilt on Oct. 6.

Other candidates for the honor in Week 4 included:

**Rasheen Ali, Marshall:** Ali finished with 174 yards and two touchdowns to lead the Thundering Herd to a 24-17 win over ACC foe Virginia Tech. For the second straight week, the junior from Cleveland, Ohio, notched a 56-yard touchdown run, this one a second quarter burst that gave Marshall the lead for good.

**Peny Boone, Toledo:** Boone rushed for a career-high 211 yards and two touchdowns in a 49-31 win over Western Michigan, the most yards by a Rocket since Bryant Koback rushed for 259 yards vs. Eastern Michigan in 2019. The junior from Detroit, Mich., and Maryland transfer earned the bulk of his yardage in the fourth quarter, rushing for 132 yards in the final period.

**Emmanuel Michel, Air Force:** Michel, a senior fullback from Lawrenceville, Ga., carried 33 times for 148 yards and three touchdowns – all career highs – and the first time he has had back-to-back games with a touchdown and 100 yards as Air Force topped San Jose State, 45-20, last Thursday.

**Ashton Jeanty, Boise State:** Jeanty rushed for a career-high 205 yards and scored two touchdowns as Boise State defeated San Diego State, 34-31, on Friday. The sophomore from Jacksonville, Fla., and Texas transfer is the first Bronco to rush for more than 200 yards since 2018, and he accounted for 12 of BSU's 19 first downs.

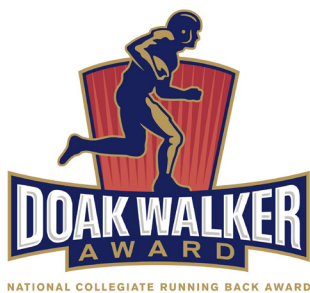
**Ismail Mahdi, Texas State:** Mahdi's career-high 216 rushing yards helped Texas State overcome a 17-0 halftime deficit to beat Nevada, 35-24 – the program's largest come-from-behind win in its FBS history. The sophomore from Plano, Texas, and Houston Christian transfer averaged 10.3 yards per rushing attempt (21 carries) and added two catches for 40 yards to finish with 256 all-purpose yards.

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 [smu.edu/doakwalkeraward](http://smu.edu/doakwalkeraward) 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)..... Omarion Hampton, North Carolina
- Week 3 (Sept. 16) ..... Trevor Etienne, Florida
- Week 4 (Sept. 23)..... DJ Giddens, Kansas State
- 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

- |                                 |                                      |                                 |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 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        |

