



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WASHINGTON'S JOHNSON IS DOAK WALKER NATIONAL RUNNING BACK OF THE WEEK

Junior transfer records career night to help keep Washington atop the Pac-12 standings and in the College Football Playoff hunt

DALLAS (SMU) – Washington running back **Dillon Johnson** rushed for 256 yards and four touchdowns on 26 carries in Washington's 52-42 win at USC. The performance earned him the **Doak Walker National Running Back of the Week** honor for games the weekend of Nov. 4.

Johnson's 256 rushing yards is the highest single-game total in the Pac-12 this season and the fifth-best in a game by any player in FBS. He came into the game with just one career 100-yard game, three weeks ago vs. Oregon. On the night, he also added two receptions for 11 yards.

The 6-0, 218-pound junior from Greenville, Miss., sealed the win for 9-0 Washington with a 1-yard scoring run with 2:20 left. In addition to two other short scoring runs, he busted a 52-yard touchdown run in the second quarter.

Johnson had the fifth-biggest rushing performance in Washington program history and its first 200-yard game or four-TD game since 2017 as the Huskies racked up 572 total yards in the shootout win.

The Huskies host Utah on Saturday in another critical Pac-12 battle at 3:30 p.m. ET on FOX.

Other candidates for the honor in Week 10 included:

Marion Lukes, Central Michigan: Lukes ran for a career-high 202 yards in the Chippewas 37-31 win over NIU last Tuesday in the snow. The 5-9, 200-pound junior from Charlestown, Ind., scored on a 46-yard run and added 52 yards in kickoff returns to finish with 254 all-purpose yards on the night.

Phil Mafah, Clemson: The 6-1, 230-pound junior from Loganville, Ga., had a career day in the Tigers' 31-23 win over Notre Dame. Carrying the ball a school record-tying 36 times, Mafah ran for 186 yards and two scores. His 41-yard scoring dash opened the scoring for Clemson and a 1-yard run to close an 11-play, 75-yard scoring drive extended the Clemson lead to 31-16 in the fourth quarter.

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 on February 16, 2024, 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](https://www.ncfaa.org) or follow on X at [@NCFAA](https://twitter.com/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 and follow on X at [@DoakWalkerAward](https://twitter.com/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)Ray Davis, Kentucky
- Week 6 (Oct. 7).....Trey Benson, Florida State
- Week 7 (Oct. 14) Ollie Gordon II, Oklahoma State
- Week 8 (Oct. 21)..... Ollie Gordon II, Oklahoma State
- Week 9 (Oct. 28) Ollie Gordon II, Oklahoma State
- Week 10 (Nov. 4) Dillon Johnson, Washington
- Week 11 (Nov 11)
- Week 12 (Nov. 18)

2023 DOAK WALKER AWARD PRESEASON CANDIDATES LIST

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