

2025 Walter Payton Award Finalists

Quarterbacks

Keali'i Ah Yat, Montana, R-So., 6-1, 200 (Big Sky Conference)

248 of 361 (68.7%), 3,154 yards, 25 TDs, 7 INTs, 160.5 pass efficiency; 83 rush yards, 7 TDs (12 games)

Braden Atkinson, Mercer, Fr., 6-1, 215 (Southern Conference)

250 of 367 (68.1%), 3,448 yards, 34 TDs, 7 INTs, 173.8 pass efficiency; 1 rush TD (10 games)

Andrew Body, Alabama State, R-Jr., 6-0, 205 (Southwestern Athletic Conference)

113 of 160 (70.6%), 1,770 yards, 20 TDs, 1 INT, 203.6 pass efficiency; 518 rush yards, 4 TDs (8 games)

Beau Brungard, Youngstown State, Jr., 6-0, 215 (Missouri Valley Football Conference)

254 of 368 (69.0%), 2,917 yards, 23 TDs, 3 INTs, 154.6 pass efficiency; 225 carries, 1,378 yards, 24 TDs; 50-yard TD catch (12 games)

Jaden Craig, Harvard, Sr., 6-2, 215 (Ivy League)

195 of 310 (62.9%), 2,722 yards, 24 TDs, 5 INT, 159.0 pass efficiency; 84 rush yards, 3 TDs (10 games)

Taron Dickens, Western Carolina, R-So., 5-11, 180 (Southern Conference)

271 of 365 (74.2%), 3,508 yards, 38 TDs, 2 INT, 188.2 pass efficiency; 321 rush yards, 1 TD (9 games)

Devin Farrell, Rhode Island, R-Jr., 6-0, 195 (CAA Football)

221 of 332 (66.6%), 3,087 yards, 20 TDs, 7 INTs, 160.3 pass efficiency; 60 rush yards, 2 TDs (12 games)

Victor Gabalis, Tarleton State, Sr., 6-3, 210 (United Athletic Conference)

160 of 268 (59.7%), 2,395 yards, 25 TDs, 4 INTs, 162.6 pass efficiency; 1 rush TD (10 games)

Walker Harris, North Carolina Central, R-Sr., 6-1, 195 (Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference)

234 of 375 (62.4%), 3,214 yards, 24 TDs, 9 INTs, 150.7 pass efficiency; 77 rush yards, 5 TDs (12 games)

Collin Hurst, Presbyterian, R-So., 5-10, 185 (Pioneer Football League)

197 of 289 (68.2%), 2,684 yards, 26 TDs, 11 INTs, 168.3 pass efficiency; 56 rush yards, 2 TDs (12 games)

Justin Lamson, Montana State, Jr., 6-2, 210 (Big Sky Conference)

194 of 268 (72.4%), 2,345 yards, 20 TDs, 2 INTs, 169.0 pass efficiency; 589 rush yards, 11 TDs; 23 receiving yards (12 games)

Eddie Lee Marburger, UT Rio Grande Valley, R-Sr., 6-2, 215 (Southland Conference)

199 of 305 (65.2%), 2,780 yards, 31 TDs, 7 INTs, 170.8 pass efficiency; 308 yards, 4 TDs (12 games)

Chris Parson, Austin Peay, R-So., 5-11, 224 (United Athletic Conference)

206 of 326 (63.2%), 3,003 yards, 23 TDs, 5 INTs, 160.8 pass efficiency; 743 rush yards, 14 TDs (12 games)

Cole Payton, North Dakota State, Sr., 6-3, 233 (Missouri Valley Football Conference)

157 of 212 (74.1%), 2,618 yards, 15 TDs, 4 INTs, 107.4 pass efficiency; 791 rush yards, 13 TDs (12 games)

Kekoa Visperas, Tennessee Tech, R-Sr., 6-0, 193 (OVC-Big South Football Association)

212 of 323 (65.6%), 2,486 yards, 25 TDs, 5 INTs, 152.7 pass efficiency; 484 rush yards, 3 TDs (12 games)

DJ Williams, Southern Illinois, Sr., 6-3, 218 (Missouri Valley Football Conference)

222 of 352 (63.1%), 2,846 yards, 22 TDs, 5 INTs, 148.8 pass efficiency; 847 rush yards, 18 TDs (12 games)

Running Backs

Joshua Dye, Southern Utah, R-So., 5-11, 205 (United Athletic Conference)

295 carries, 1,831 yards (6.2 ypc), 28 TDs, 7 receptions, 40 yards; 51 KOR yards (12 games)

Kente Edwards, Lafayette, Jr., 5-9, 197 (Patriot League)

199 carries, 1,454 yards (7.3 ypc), 20 TDs, 10 receptions 67 yards (10 games)

Marquis Gillis, Delaware State, RB, Grad, 6-0, 210 (Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference)

182 carries, 1,166 yards (6.4 ypc), 8 TDs; 11 receptions, 98 yards, 1 TD (12 games)

Rodney Hammond Jr., Sacramento State, Sr., 5-9, 195 (Big Sky Conference)

188 carries, 1,216 yards (6.5 ypc), 13 TDs, 15 receptions, 147 yards; 1 TD pass; 455 KOR yards, 1 TD (12 games)

Elijah Howard, Central Connecticut State, Sr., 5-10, 185 (NEC Football)

188 carries, 1,078 yards (5.7 ypc), 11 TDs; 36 receptions, 296 yards, 4 TDs (11 games)

Rodney Nelson, Monmouth, R-So., 5-8, 195 (CAA Football)

293 carries, 1,802 yards (6.2 ypc), 18 TDs; 30 receptions, 229 yards, 1 TD (12 games)

L.J. Phillips Jr., South Dakota, R-So., 5-9, 225 (Missouri Valley Football Conference)

250 carries, 1,556 yards (6.2 ypc), 15 TDs; 25 receptions, 192 yards, 1 TD (12 games)

Josh Pitsenberger, Yale, Sr., 6-0, 220 (Ivy League)

255 carries, 1,238 yards (4.9 ypc), 15 TDs; 12 receptions, 87 yards (10 games)

Luke Yoder, Lehigh, Jr., 5-11, 205 (Patriot League)

187 carries, 1,329 yards (7.1 ypc), 15 TDs; 11 receptions, 96 yards, 1 TD (12 games)

Wide Receivers

Marquis Buchanan, Rhode Island, R-So., 6-4, 175 (CAA Football)

66 receptions, 1,123 yards (17.0 ypc), 5 TDs (12 games)

Joey Isabella, Duquesne, Grad, 5-9, 185 (NEC Football)

63 receptions, 839 yards (13.3 ypc), 13 TDs, 211 KOR return yards (12 games)

Bryce Lance, North Dakota State, R-Sr., 6-3, 209 (Missouri Valley Football Conference)

50 receptions, 1,001 yards (20.0 ypc), 7 TDs; 92 rush yards, 1 TD (12 games)

Jared Richardson, Penn, Sr., 6-2, 220 (Ivy League)

80 receptions, 1,033 yards (12.9 ypc), 12 TDs (10 games)

Michael Wortham, Montana, R-Sr., 5-9, 190 (Big Sky Conference)

58 receptions, 825 yards (14.2), 7 TDs; 46 carries, 273 yards, 6 TDs; 1 TD pass; 701 KOR yards (12 games)