

# Winning the Heisman Trophy....Playing for a National Champion

By Tex Noel/1<sup>st</sup>-N-Goal; StatHistorian/SEC SportsFan.com

Two of the most asked questions on the minds of college football fans; more so, SEC fans and definitely Florida Gator fans:

- Will Florida repeat as the national championship?
- And will Tim Tebow become the second player to win the Heisman Trophy, twice!

Tune in SEC and football fans...

Here is a bit of history on players that have accomplished both.

Checking Pre-1950 Heisman Trophy winners that were members of at least 2 AP National Championship teams were: Bruce Smith, {HT: 1941}, Minnesota, 1940-41; Johnny Lujack, {HT: 1947}, Notre Dame, 1943-46-47; Felix "Doc" Blanchard {HT: 1945} and Glenn Davis {HT: 1946}, both Army, 1944-45; Leon Hart, {HT: 1949}, Notre Dame, 1946-47-49.

Single National Champions prior to 1950...Davey O'Brien, TCU, HT/NC; {1938/1938} and Les Horvath, {1944/1942}

Below is a list of *Heisman Trophy* winners that were members of a National Champion\*, since 1950; but it must be noted, without actual rosters, there is no way to determine if the players were even actually on the team when the school was No. 1! More than likely a player was at least on the squad in years prior to being awarded to "bronze statue."

Players listed in italics won played for a National Champion and won the Heisman Trophy in the same season.

## Year---Heisman Trophy, Player Team...Year of National Championship\*

1952 Billy Vessels, Oklahoma...1950  
1955 Howard Cassady, Ohio State....1954  
1959 Billy Cannon, LSU...1958  
1961 Ernie Davis, Syracuse...1959  
1964 John Hurate, Notre Dame, 1964  
1968 O.J. Simpson, USC...1967  
1972 Johnny Rodgers, Nebraska...1970-71  
1976 Tony Dorsett, Pittsburgh...1976  
1978 Billy Sims, Oklahoma...1975  
1979 Charles White, USC...1978  
1981 Marcus Allen, USC...1978  
1982 Herschel Walker, GA...1980  
1986 Vinnie Testaverde, Miami FL...1983 (redshirted that season)  
1992 Gino Torretta, Miami FL....1989-91  
1993 Charlie Ward, Florida State....1993

1994 Rashaan Salaam, Colorado....1990  
 1996 Danny Wuerffel, Florida...1996  
 1997 Charles Woodson, Michigan, 1997  
 2004 Matt Leinart, USC...2003-04  
 2005 Reggie Bush, USC...2003-04  
 2007 Tim Tebow, Florida...2006-08

\*National Champions as selected by AP, UP/UPI, FWAA, NFFHF and USA Today, 1950-2008.

### AP Ranking of Heisman Trophy Winners

WLT	Year	HT Winner	School	Position	AP Rank
4--4--0	1935	Jay Berwanger	Chicago	RB	No Poll
7--1--0	1936	Larry Kelley	Yale	END	12
6--1--1	1937	Clint Frank	Yale	QB	12
11--0--0	1938	Davey O'Brien	TCU	QB	1
6--1--0	1939	Nile Kinnick	Iowa	RB	8
7--1--0	1940	Tom Harmon	Michigan	RB	5
8--0--0	1941	Bruce Smith	Minnesota	RB	1
11--1--0	1942	Frank Sinkwich	Georgia	RB	2
9--1--0	1943	Angelo Bertelli	Notre Dame	QB	1
9--0--0	1944	Les Horvath	Ohio State	QB	2
9--0--0	1945	Doc Blanchard	Army	FB	1
9--0--1	1946	Glenn Davis	Army	RB	2
9--0--0	1947	John Lujack	Notre Dame	QB	1
9--1--1	1948	Doak Walker	Southern Methodist	RB	10
10--0--0	1949	Leon Hart	Notre Dame	E	1
6--3--0	1950	Vic Janowicz	Ohio State	RB	14
9--0--0	1951	Dick Kazmaier	Princeton	RB	6
8--1--1	1952	Billy Vessels	Oklahoma	RB	4
9--0--1	1953	John Lattner	Notre Dame	RB	3
7--2--0	1954	Alan Ameche	Wisconsin	FB	9
8--2--0	1955	Howard Cassady	Ohio State	RB	5
2--8--0	1956	Paul Hornung	Notre Dame	QB	UR
8--3--0	1957	John David Crow	Texas A&M	RB	9
8--0--1	1958	Pete Dawkins	Army	RB	3
9--2--0	1959	Billy Cannon	Louisiana State	RB	3
9--2--0	1960	Joe Bellino	Navy	RB	4
8--3--0	1961	Ernie Davis	Syracuse	RB	14
9--2--0	1962	Terry Baker	Oregon State	QB	8
9--2--0	1963	Roger Staubach	Navy	QB	2

9--1--0	1964	John Huarte	Notre Dame	QB	3
7--2--1	1965	Mike Garrett	USC	RB	10
9--2--0	1966	Steve Spurrier	Florida	QB	UR
7--2--1	1967	Gary Beban	UCLA	QB	UR
9--1--1	1968	O.J. Simpson	USC	RB	4
6--4--0	1969	Steve Owens	Oklahoma	FB	UR
9--3--0	1970	Jim Plunkett	Stanford	QB	12
9--2--0	1971	Pat Sullivan	Auburn	QB	5
9--2--1	1972	Johnny Rodgers	Nebraska	RB	9
11--0--0	1973	John Cappelletti	Penn State	RB	5
10--0--1	1974	Archie Griffin	Ohio State	RB	4
11--1--0	1975	Archie Griffin	Ohio State	RB	4
12--0--0	1976	Tony Dorsett	Pittsburgh	RB	1
11--1--0	1977	Earl Campbell	Texas	RB	4
11--1--0	1978	Billy Sims	Oklahoma	RB	5
11--0--1	1979	Charles White	USC	RB	3
8--4--0	1980	George Rogers	South Carolina	RB	UR
9--3--0	1981	Marcus Allen	USC	RB	14
11--1--0	1982	Herschel Walker	Georgia	RB	4
12--1--0	1983	Mike Rozier	Nebraska	RB	2
10--2--0	1984	Doug Flutie	Boston College	QB	5
8--4--0	1985	Bo Jackson	Auburn	RB	UR
11--1--0	1986	Vinny Testaverde	Miami (FL)	QB	2
8--4--0	1987	Tim Brown	Notre Dame	WR	17
10--2--0	1988	Barry Sanders	Oklahoma State	RB	11
9--2--0	1989	Andre Ware	Houston	QB	14
10--3--0	1990	Ty Detmer	Brigham Young	QB	22
10--2--0	1991	Desmond Howard	Michigan	WR	6
11--1--0	1992	Gino Torretta	Miami (FL)	QB	3
11--1--0	1993	Charlie Ward	Florida State	QB	1
11--1--0	1994	Rashaan Salaam	Colorado	RB	3
11--2--0	1995	Eddie George	Ohio State	RB	6
12--1--0	1996	Danny Wuerffel	Florida	QB	1
12--0--0	1997	Charles Woodson	Michigan	CB	1
9--3--0	1998	Ricky Williams	Texas	RB	15
10--2--0	1999	Ron Dayne	Wisconsin	RB	4
11--2--0	2000	Chris Weinke	Florida State	QB	5
11--2--0	2001	Eric Crouch	Nebraska	QB	8
11--2--0	2002	Carson Palmer	USC	QB	4
12--2--0	2003	Jason White	Oklahoma	QB	3
13--0--0	2004	Matt Leinart	USC	QB	1
12--1--0	2005	Reggie Bush	USC	RB	2
12--1--0	2006	Troy Smith	Ohio State	QB	2
12--2--0	2007	Tim Tebow	Florida	QB	13
12--2--0	2008	Sam Bradford	Oklahoma	QB	4

