

A look at another unpredictable Heisman Trophy race

Photo: UT Athletics

nything can happen. I have one more chance, right?" were the words of Florida's 2007 Heisman Trophy winner, Tim Tebow, last year when he placed third in the Heisman balloting. Well, anything did happen, with Oklahoma's Sam Bradford missing a large chunk of the season with a shoulder injury suffered in his team's opening game. Having already won college football's most prestigious award, and being on a team that has won two consecutive national championships and doesn't show any signs of slowing down, Tebow has to be considered the favorite. But not so fast! The runner-up in the Heisman balloting last year, Colt McCoy of the University of Texas, is also back in the race - and his Longhorns are also a favorite to be in the national championship game. Seriously, when Florida and COLT MCCOY, QB University of Texas The Longhorns outscored their opponents 198-61 in their first four games, with quarterback Colt McCoy making his contribution to the cause with a 71 percent pass completion rate. Being the runner-up last year in the Heisman, and with Tebow and Bradford having health issues, McCoy looks

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like the front-runner for college football's most prestigious award.

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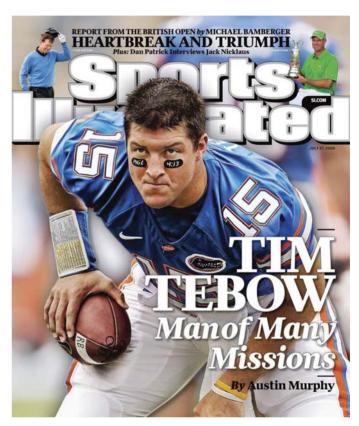
Texas play anyone else on their schedule, the oddsmakers are not so much concerned with the question of *if* they will win as by *how much*.

Although Tebow and Colt seem to be a two-person race, there are other worthy challengers. Case in point: Jahvid Best, a running back from the University of California. He gained some early attention by the Heisman voters when he scored five touchdowns in one game against a worthy Minnesota team, and there is the possibility that some of the votes between Tebow and Colt will be shared. So, consider Best the Ralph Nader of college football.

Then there is Ole Miss quarterback Jevan Snead, who last year led his Rebels to a 31-30 upset over Florida in Florida. Ole Miss doesn't have the overall talent of Florida or Texas, but they are putting up impressive numbers on the scoreboard, so Snead could be a dark horse.

With this in mind, here is a pictorial essay of these three candidates for the Heisman Trophy. Of course, there are many other great candidates, such as quarterbacks Jacory Harris from Miami, Case Keenum of Houston and Jimmy Clausen of Notre Dame. As Tebow says, "Anything can happen!"





TIM TEBOW, QB

University of Florida

Despite illness and a concussion, Tebow is certainly in the running for the Heisman. And it doesn't hurt that his team has been ranked #1 in the polls since day one.

CASE KEENUM, QB

University of Houston

How do you throw for 536 yards and five touchdowns and still lose the game? If the Heisman voters can overlook the University of Houston's troubles on defense, Keenum should finish well when the final votes are tallied.

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JAHVID BEST, RB

University of California

With his team suffering two big losses, it will be tough for California's Best to win the Heisman. However, few would dispute the fact that this young man is one of the most talented running backs in college.

JEVAN SNEAD, QB Ole Miss

Snead was a preseason favorite to do well in this race, but a tough loss to South Carolina took the Rebel's quarterback off the Heisman watch radar of most sports writers. Still, a few strong performances in the later part of the season could help him finish high.



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HEISMAN HISTORY

One of the most coveted awards in college sports is the Heisman Memorial Trophy Award. The Heisman, which was first awarded in 1935, is given at the end of the regular season to the young man considered the best player in college football. The award is presented at the end of the year by the Downtown Athletic Club of New York City.

The Heisman is named for John W. Heisman, the first athletic director of

the Downtown Athletic Club of New York City. As for the voting process, the nation is split into six sections (Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, South, Midwest, Southwest, Far West), each consisting of 175 media voters culled from the print, radio and television ranks. Also, every past Heisman winner casts a vote as well. Each elector casts a ballot listing his top three choices, with the top choice receiving three points,

the second receiving two and the third receiving one. This method was adopted with the idea of eliminating regional favoritism, and the player receiving the highest number of points across all six sections is the winner.

Here are the past recipients of all Heisman Trophies. Many names you will recognize as athletes who have gone on to successful careers in the NFL.

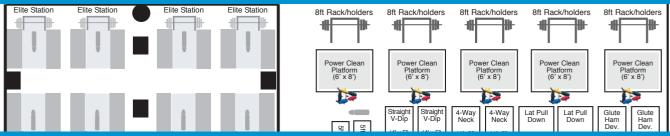
YEAR NAME AND COLLEGE	POSITION	YEAR NAME AND COLLEGE	POSITION
2008 - Sam Bradford, Oklahoma	ОВ	1971 - Pat Sullivan, Auburn	ОВ
2007 - Tim Tebow, Florida	ОВ	1970 - Jim Plunkett, Stanford	ОВ
2006 - Troy Smith, Ohio State	ОВ	1969 - Steve Owens, Oklahoma	НВ
2005 - Reggie Bush, Southern Cal	RB	1968 - O.J. Simpson, USC	НВ
2004 - Matt Leinnart, Southern Cal	ОВ	1967 - Gary Beban, UCLA	ОВ
2003 - Jason White, Oklahoma	QB	1966 - Steve Spurrier, Florida	QB
2002 - Carson Palmer, Southern Cal	ОВ	1965 - Mike Garrett, USC	НВ
2001 - Eric Crouch, Nebraska	ОВ	1964 - John Huarte, Notre Dame	ОВ
2000 - Chris Weinke, Florida State	ОВ	1963 - Roger Staubach, Navy	ОВ
1999 - Ron Dayne, Wisconsin	RB	1962 - Terry Baker, Oregon State	ОВ
1998 - Ricky Williams, Texas	RB	1961 - Ernie Davis, Syracuse	НВ
1997 - Charles Woodson, Michigan	DB/WR	1960 - Joe Bellino, Navy	НВ
1996 - Danny Wuerffel, Florida	ОВ	1959 - Billy Cannon, Louisiana State	RB
1995 - Eddie George, Ohio State	RB	1958 - Pete Dawkins, Army	RB
1994 - Rashaan Salaam, Colorado	RB	1957 - John David Crow, Texas A&M	RB
1993 - Charlie Ward, Florida State	ОВ	1956 - Paul Hornung, Notre Dame	ОВ
1992 - Gino Torretta, Miami	ОВ	1955 - Howard Cassady, Ohio State	RB
1991 - Desmond Howard, Michigan	WR	1954 - Alan Ameche, Wisconsin	FB
1990 - Ty Detmer, Brigham Young	ОВ	1953 - John Lattner, Notre Dame	RB
1989 - André Ware, Houston	ОВ	1952 - Billy Vessels, Oklahoma	RB
1988 - Barry Sanders, Oklahoma State	RB	1951 - Dick Kazmaier, Princeton	RB
1987 - Tim Brown, Notre Dame	WR	1950 - Vic Janowicz, Ohio State	RB
1986 - VinnyTestaverde, Miami	ОВ	1949 - Leon Hart, Notre Dame	END
1985 - Bo Jackson, Auburn	RB	1948 - Doak Walker, Southern Methodist	RB
1984 - Doug Flutie, Boston College	ОВ	1947 - John Lujac, Notre Dame	ОВ
1983 - Mike Rozier, Nebraska	RB	1946 - Glenn Davis, Army	RB
1982 - Herschel Walker, Georgia	RB	1945 - Doc Blanchard, Army	FB
1981 - Marcus Allen, USC	RB	1944 - Les Horvath, Ohio State	ОВ
1980 - George Rogers, South Carolina	RB	1943 - Angelo Bertelli, Notre Dame	ОВ
1979 - Charles White, USC	RB	1942 - Frank Sinkwich, Georgia	RB
1978 - Billy Sims, Oklahoma	RB	1941 - Bruce Smith, Minnesota	RB
1977 - Earl Campbell, Texas	RB	1940 - Tom Harmon, Michigan	RB
1976 - Tony Dorsett, Pittsburgh	RB	1939 - Nile Kinnick, Iowa	RB
1975 - Archie Griffin, Ohio State	RB	1938 - Davey O'Brien, TCU	
1974 - Archie Griffin, Ohio State	RB	1937 - Clint Frank, Yale	
1973 - John Cappelletti, Penn State	RB	1936 - Larry Kelley, Yale	END
1972 - Johnny Rodgers, Nebraska	WR	1935 - Jay Berwanger Chicago	RB

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