

Heisman Fever 2012



The best of the best in college football today

One of the most predictable aspects of college football is its unpredictability. Take for example, Utah State and the University of Utah.

Twice in recent years the Utes had undefeated seasons and yet were kept out of the national championship game due to the peculiarities of the college playoff system. While Utah had proven that it could win, Utah State was finding that it could not, having suffered 13 straight losing seasons dating back to 1998. This year the Aggies prevailed in overtime, 27-20, to break a 12-game losing streak. Such is the nature of college football.

Just as no one saw this Utah/Utah State upset coming, the Heisman Trophy race is often full of surprises. Take, for example, Houston's Case Keenum.

The Heisman is awarded to the player who is considered the best in college football, and it usually winds up going to a quarterback or running back. In 2011 Houston's Case Keenum finished his college career with 19,217 yards, which is the all-time NCAA career passing record, and his Cougars were 12-0 going into their bowl game. Despite Keenum's success, he did not make the final cut for the presentation at the Downtown Athletic Club of New York City.

Another example is Alabama's Mark Ingram. As a freshman he rushed for 728 yards, 54 receiving yards and 12 touchdowns, and his eventual NFL combine numbers were not exceptional – a 4.62 forty and a 31.5 vertical jump. But as a sophomore he set Alabama's single-season rushing record with 1,658 yards and 334 receiving yards, scored 20 touchdowns and played a key role in helping Alabama win its 13th national title in 2009. He deserved the Heisman that year and got it, and seemed a shoe-in to repeat in 2010, but after a knee injury in the off-season he limped through the season with 875 rushing yards and 282 receiving yards.

Going back a few more years, in 2004 Adrian Peterson of Oklahoma was the runner-up to Matt Leinart for the Heisman – as a freshman! All the experts predicted Peterson would run away with the Heisman in 2005 (and we even put him on the cover of *BFS*), but he was injured early on and couldn't put up Heisman numbers; likewise, in Peterson's junior year an injury to his collarbone forced him to sit out seven games. On the positive side, Peterson was drafted by the Minnesota Vikings and became a NFL superstar – among his many records is the single-game running record with 296 yards, which he set on November 4, 2007, against the San

Diego Chargers.

Who will win the Heisman this year? South Carolina running back Marcus Lattimore was a front-runner last year until a knee injury cut short his season, but he is back and has been putting up some impressive numbers. De'Anthony Thomas, a running back and wide receiver for Oregon, has been dubbed "The Fastest Man in Football" by *Sports Illustrated* and is a front-runner. Quarterback Geno Smith of West Virginia along with Florida State's quarterback EJ Manuel are certainly contenders, and Matt Barkley of USC is still in the running despite being upset by the Stanford Cardinal early in the season.

As for Michigan quarterback Denard Robinson, who was on the cover of *Sports Illustrated* this year and also on the cover of *BFS* in 2009, early season losses to Alabama and Notre Dame have probably taken him out of the Heisman race. Even so, Robinson is a huge talent, and you can expect to see this speedster (4.32 forty!) light up the scoreboard on Sundays in the NFL.

Who will win the Heisman in 2012? We'll just have to wait and see – and have fun watching while we do! **BFS**



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Matt Barkley of USC was a preseason favorite to capture college football's most prestigious honor.



Athletes in this year's Heisman race who have appeared on past covers of *BFS* magazine include South Carolina running back Marcus Lattimore and Michigan's Denard Robinson.



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, and Far West), each consisting of 175 media voters culled from the print, radio and television ranks. Every past Heisman winner casts a vote as well. Each elector casts a ballot listing their top three choices, with the top choice receiving three points, the second receiving two points and the third receiving one point. 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 all the past recipients of the Heisman Trophy. Many names you will recognize as athletes who have gone on to successful careers in the NFL.

YEAR ..	NAME	COLLEGE	POSITION
2011	Robert Griffin III	Baylor	QB
2010	Cam Newton	Auburn	QB
2009.....	Mark Ingram, Jr.	Alabama	RB
2008.....	Sam Bradford	Oklahoma	QB
2007.....	Tim Tebow	Florida	QB
2006.....	Troy Smith	Ohio State	QB
2005.....	Vacated		
2004.....	Matt Leinart	Southern Cal	QB
2003.....	Jason White	Oklahoma	QB
2002.....	Carson Palmer	Southern Cal	QB
2001	Eric Crouch	Nebraska	QB
2000.....	Chris Weinke	Florida State	QB
1999.....	Ron Dayne	Wisconsin	RB
1998.....	Ricky Williams	Texas	RB
1997.....	Charles Woodson	Michigan	DB/WR
1996.....	Danny Wuerffel	Florida	QB
1995.....	Eddie George	Ohio State	RB
1994.....	Rashaan Salaam	Colorado	RB
1993.....	Charlie Ward	Florida State	QB
1992.....	Gino Torretta	Miami	QB
1991.....	Desmond Howard	Michigan	WR
1990.....	Ty Detmer	Brigham Young	QB
1989.....	Andre Ware	Houston	QB
1988.....	Barry Sanders	Oklahoma State	RB
1987.....	Tim Brown	Notre Dame	WR
1986.....	Vinny Testaverde	Miami	QB
1985.....	Bo Jackson	Auburn	RB
1984.....	Doug Flutie	Boston College	QB
1983.....	Mike Rozier	Nebraska	RB
1982.....	Herschel Walker	Georgia	RB
1981.....	Marcus Allen	Southern Cal	RB
1980.....	George Rogers	South Carolina	RB
1979.....	Charles White	Southern Cal	RB
1978.....	Billy Sims	Oklahoma	RB
1977.....	Earl Campbell	Texas	RB
1976.....	Tony Dorsett	Pittsburgh	RB
1975.....	Archie Griffin	Ohio State	RB
1974.....	Archie Griffin	Ohio State	RB
1973.....	John Cappelletti	Penn State	RB

YEAR ..	NAME	COLLEGE	POSITION
1972.....	Johnny Rodgers	Nebraska	WR
1971.....	Pat Sullivan	Auburn	QB
1970.....	Jim Plunkett	Stanford	QB
1969.....	Steve Owens	Oklahoma	HB
1968.....	O.J. Simpson	Southern Cal	HB
1967.....	Gary Beban	UCLA	QB
1966.....	Steve Spurrier	Florida	QB
1965.....	Mike Garrett	Southern Cal	HB
1964.....	John Huarte	Notre Dame	QB
1963.....	Roger Staubach	Navy	QB
1962.....	Terry Baker	Oregon State	QB
1961.....	Ernie Davis	Syracuse	HB
1960.....	Joe Bellino	Navy	HB
1959.....	Billy Cannon	Louisiana State	RB
1958.....	Pete Dawkins	Army	RB
1957.....	John David Crow	Texas A&M	RB
1956.....	Paul Hornung	Notre Dame	QB
1955.....	Howard Cassady	Ohio State	RB
1954.....	Alan Ameche	Wisconsin	FB
1953.....	John Lattner	Notre Dame	RB
1952.....	Billy Vessels	Oklahoma	RB
1951.....	Dick Kazmaier	Princeton	RB
1950.....	Vic Janowicz	Ohio State	RB
1949.....	Leon Hart	Notre Dame	END
1948.....	Doak Walker	Southern Methodist	RB
1947.....	John Lujack	Notre Dame	QB
1946.....	Glenn Davis	Army	RB
1945.....	Doc Blanchard	Army	FB
1944.....	Les Horvath	Ohio State	QB
1943.....	Angelo Bertelli	Notre Dame	QB
1942.....	Frank Sinkwich	Georgia	RB
1941.....	Bruce Smith	Minnesota	RB
1940.....	Tom Harmon	Michigan	RB
1939.....	Nile Kinnick	Iowa	RB
1938.....	Davey O'Brien	TCU	QB
1937.....	Clint Frank	Yale	QB
1936.....	Larry Kelley	Yale	END
1935.....	Jay Berwanger	Chicago	RB

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