

Sports

Alabama’s Smith wins Heisman

■ Crimson Tide star the first wide receiver in 29 years to win college football’s top award

By Ralph D. Russo
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NEW YORK — On an Alabama team stacked with stars, DeVonta Smith emerged as the best player in college football while playing a position that rarely gets that kind of recognition.

Smith became the first wide receiver to win the Heisman Trophy in 29 seasons Tuesday night, breaking the monopoly quarterbacks have had on the award by beating out three of them.

“Just to be one of the very few that played receiver to win the Heisman, it means a lot to me,” Smith said.

Smith finished with 447 first-place votes and 1,856 points to easily outdistance Clemson’s Trevor Lawrence (222, 1,187), Alabama teammate Mac Jones (138, 1,130) and Florida’s Kyle Trask (61, 737).

Crimson Tide running back Najee Harris finished fifth in the voting, making No. 1 Alabama the second team in the 85-year history of the Heisman to have three of the top five vote-



Tom Pennington/Getty Images-TNS

Wide receiver DeVonta Smith (6) of the Alabama Crimson Tide won the Heisman Trophy on Tuesday, Jan. 5.

getters. Army did it in 1946 with Glenn Davis (first), Doc Blanchard (fourth) and Arnold Tucker (fifth).

“I want to thank my teammates,” Smith said during his acceptance speech. “With team success comes individual success so without you all, I wouldn’t be where I’m at today, winning this award.”

Smith is just the fourth receiver to win the Heisman, joining Michigan’s Desmond Howard in 1991, Notre Dame’s Tim Brown in

1987 and Nebraska’s Johnny Rodgers in 1972.

Quarterbacks had won 17 of the previous 20 Heisman trophies, including the last four.

Smith was presented the award in a virtual ceremony orchestrated by ESPN. The usual trip to New York for the finalists was called off because of the pandemic and the winner was announced later than it had ever been before.

Smith accepted the trophy in Tuscaloosa, Alabama,

decked out in a deep crimson jacket and shiny black bow tie.

He got a big hug from his quarterback, who told Smith that he loved him and was proud of him. Then Smith held back tears during his speech, recalling how many thought he was too small to become a football star.

“To all the young kids out there that’s not the biggest, not the strongest, just keep pushing. Because I’m not the biggest. I’ve been doubted a lot because of my size and, really, it’s just comes down to you just put your mind to it, no job’s too big,” said the 6-foot-1, 175-pound Smith.

Meanwhile, his parents watched from a community center in his hometown of Amite, Louisiana, where a socially distanced watch party was held.

“We love him. Everybody here is supporting him, we’re so proud of him. Continue being humble. Let God lead him. And we are here to support him every step of the way,” Smith’s mother, Christina Smith-Sylve, said to ESPN.

SCOREBOARD

NBA					WESTERN CONFERENCE				
EASTERN CONFERENCE					Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB		W	L	Pct.	GB
Philadelphia	6	1	.857	—	New Orleans	4	3	.571	—
Boston	5	3	.625	1½	Dallas	3	4	.429	1
New York	4	3	.571	2	San Antonio	3	4	.429	1
Brooklyn	4	4	.500	2½	Houston	2	3	.400	1
Toronto	1	5	.167	4½	Memphis	2	5	.286	2
Southeast Division					Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB		W	L	Pct.	GB
Orlando	5	2	.714	—	Utah	4	3	.571	—
Atlanta	4	3	.571	1	Denver	3	4	.429	1
Miami	3	3	.500	1½	Portland	3	4	.429	1
Charlotte	2	5	.286	3	Okla. City	2	4	.333	1½
Washington	2	5	.286	3	Minnesota	2	5	.286	2
Central Division					Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB		W	L	Pct.	GB
Indiana	5	2	.714	—	L.A. Lakers	6	2	.750	—
Milwaukee	4	3	.571	1	Phoenix	5	2	.714	—
Cleveland	4	3	.571	1	L.A. Clippers	5	3	.625	1
Chicago	4	4	.500	1½	Golden State	4	3	.571	1½
Detroit	1	6	.143	4	Sacramento	3	4	.429	2½
Today's Games					Friday's Games				
L.A. Lakers 94, Memphis 92					Phoenix at Detroit, 4 p.m.				
Denver 123, Minnesota 116					Charlotte at New Orleans, 4:30 p.m.				
San Antonio 116, L.A. Clippers 113					Oklahoma City at New York, 4:30 p.m.				
Chicago 111, Portland 108					Washington at Boston, 4:30 p.m.				
					Brooklyn at Memphis, 5 p.m.				
					Orlando at Houston, 5 p.m.				
					Utah at Milwaukee, 5 p.m.				
					Chicago at L.A. Lakers, 7 p.m.				
					L.A. Clippers at Golden State, 7 p.m.				
					Toronto at Sacramento, 7 p.m.				