



Heisman Trivia

THE HEISMAN MEMORIAL TROPHY
AWARDED ANNUALLY TO THE OUTSTANDING COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYER IN THE
UNITED STATES BY THE DOWNTOWN ATHLETIC CLUB OF NEW YORK CITY, INC.

Did you know...?

Some Facts about the Heisman Trophy

- Designed by sculptor Frank Eliscu in 1934, the Heisman Trophy is modeled after Ed Smith, Eliscu's former high school classmate and star running back for the now defunct New York University football team.
- Regarding the Heisman Memorial Trophy, Frank Eliscu said, "It is not my best work but it turned out to be something like the Statue of Liberty. I always thought it was wonderful that I'll be able to leave something like this behind." Eliscu continued working until he passed away from a heart attack in 1996.
- The trophy is made of cast bronze, stands 13.5 inches (34.3 cm) tall and weighs 25 pounds (11.3 kg).
- The first Heisman Trophy was awarded to Chicago's Jay Berwanger in 1935. Initially, it was known then as the Downtown Athletic Club Award. After John Heisman, the legendary college coach and DAC athletics director, succumbed to pneumonia in 1936, the award was renamed in his honor.
- Initially, the Downtown Athletic Club Award was given to, "the best college football player, east of the Mississippi." Once the award was renamed the Heisman Trophy, the geographical limitations were removed and players of all colleges, from coast to coast, were eligible to win the award.
- In 1935 Jay Berwanger did not have any room in his home for the trophy and gave it to his Aunt. Berwanger's aunt was not familiar with college football and did not realize that the trophy meant her nephew was the best player in college football, so she used it as an extravagant doorstop. Today, Berwanger's trophy is now on display in the main lobby of the University of Chicago's Gerald Ratner Athletics Center.
- After winning the Heisman Trophy in 1994, Rashaan Salaam boarded a plane with his Heisman wrapped in a blanket.
- While at the airport in 1995, Heisman winner Eddie George's trophy was damaged when he put it through the x-ray machine at the security checkpoint.
- From 1936 to 2001, the Heisman Trophy was presented at an annual gala at the Downtown Athletic Club in New York City.

Did you know...?

- The Downtown Athletic Club was located four blocks from Ground Zero. As a result of the damage suffered during the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001, the facilities were permanently shut down and the 2001 Heisman Trophy announcement ceremony was held at the Marriot Marquis in Times Square.
- Members of the Downtown Athletic Club were offered the opportunity to join The Yale Club as an alternative. As a token of their appreciation for the Yale Club's generosity, the DAC board of directors voted to hold the Heisman Trophy announcement ceremony at the Yale Club in 2002 and 2003.
- In 2004 the announcement ceremony moved to the New York Hilton and from 2005 through today, the Heisman Trophy announcement ceremony has been held at the Playstation Theater (formerly the Nokia Theater & Best Buy Theater) in New York City's Times Square.

Some Tidbits on the Winners

- 1935 winner, Jay Berwanger, was also an accomplished track and field star and turned down an invitation to compete in the 1936 Olympics as a member of the US decathlon team.
- Jay Berwanger once made a 70 yard touchdown run against Ohio State where he reversed field four times and was nearly forced out of bounds on both sides of the field before finally reaching the end zone, that is still mentioned as one of the wildest plays in college football history.
- After his playing days, Jay Berwanger became a college football official and worked several Rose Bowl games.
- 1936 Heisman winner, Larry Kelley was another multi-sport athlete who excelled in basketball and baseball as well as football. Kelly's Yale teams beat rival Princeton so frequently that a poem with the last line, "there is joy in Princeton; Larry Kelley won't be back" was penned.
- It was not unusual for Heisman winners to wear specially designed equipment during games. Jay Berwanger earned the nickname, "the Man in the Iron Mask," for a facemask he wore to protect a broken nose. Larry Kelley used a special pad to protect an injured shoulder, and 1941 Heisman winner Frank Sinkwich drew national attention with his helmet that featured a special chin strap designed to protect a broken jaw.

Did you know...?

- Nearly all of the early Heisman winners were “60-minute men,” who played both offense and defense and rarely, if ever, came off the field during a game.
- 1937 Heisman winner Clint Frank of Yale was also a military aide to General Doolittle, who led the Tokyo raid in 1942, during World War II.
- In 1938, Davey O’Brien became the first Heisman winner to play in a post-season bowl as his TCU Horned Frogs beat Carnegie Tech in the Sugar Bowl.
- Davey O’Brien is not only the smallest Heisman winner, standing just 5 feet, 5 inches tall and weighing about 140 pounds, but he is also the first winner to get an official reception from New York City, as Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia greeted him on the steps of City Hall.
- 1939 Heisman winner, Nile Kinnick of Iowa was one of the last practitioners of one of football’s lost arts, the drop-kick. During his Heisman winning season, Kinnick scored a touch-down against Notre Dame in the final minutes and drop-kicked the extra point, giving his Hawkeyes a 7-6 victory. In describing the game, famed announcer Bill Stern said it was, “one of the most exciting games he had ever broadcast.”
- Nile Kinnick also played Junior Legion baseball with future Major League Baseball Hall of Famer, pitcher Bob Feller. Sadly Kinnick, a courier pilot, was killed in a 1943 plane crash. In 1972, the University of Iowa renamed its football stadium, “Kinnick Stadium” in his honor.
- 1940 Heisman winner Tom Harmon was also a standout baseball player in his hometown of Gary, Indiana. Before ultimately deciding to play football for Michigan, the New York Yankees offered him a contract to play baseball. After graduating from Michigan, Harmon enlisted in the Army Air Corps as a pilot and was awarded the Silver Star for his actions as a member of the 449th Fighter Squadron. He survived two plane crashes and was married to actress Elyse Knox in 1944. The silk parachute that saved his life was used as the material for her wedding dress. Harmon is also the father of prominent actor and former UCLA quarterback, Marc Harmon.
- In 1941, Bruce Smith became the first Heisman winner from the University of Minnesota. The former Golden Gopher great was only 47 when he was diagnosed with cancer in the spring

Did you know...?

of 1967. The cancer quickly ravaged Smith's body as he lost over 100 pounds in a matter of months. Despite his weakened condition, Smith courageously accompanied Reverend William Cantwell comforting and entertaining youngsters also suffering from the disease. Smith ultimately succumbed to the disease in August of 1967, but only after surviving far longer than doctors had predicted. Smith's wife Gloria later said, "He forced himself to live three months longer than any medical man said he would because he wanted to spend the summer with his kids." Reverend Cantwell, who was unaware of Smith's athletic accomplishments, nominated Smith for sainthood in the Roman Catholic Church and continued to invoke his intercession on behalf of young cancer patients long after his death.

- Bruce Smith was also the first Heisman winner to have his number retired when the University of Minnesota placed his "No. 54" jersey in their trophy case.
- 1942 Heisman winner, Frank Sinkwich from Georgia, was in the Marine Corps when he won his Heisman, but he was discharged soon after due to flat feet.
- Frank Sinkwich did not receive a trophy because wartime restrictions precluded the use of the metal necessary to create one. Therefore, Sinkwich and all other wartime winners received certificates to honor their accomplishments instead. Once the war was over and the restrictions were lifted, the actual trophies were created and given to the winners.
- In 1943, Angelo Bertelli was not able to attend the initial trophy presentation in early December due to his Marine Corps training. The ceremony was rescheduled and Bertelli accepted his Heisman on January 12, 1944 in New York City.
- 1944 Heisman winner Les Horvath of Ohio State is one of two dentists to win the award. Billy Cannon of Louisiana State is the other.
- 1945 Heisman winner Felix 'Doc' Blanchard was known as Army's "Mr. Inside." While his teammate and 1946 Heisman winner, Glenn Davis was known as, "Mr. Outside." Together the two formed one of the most lethal rushing attacks in college football history and from 1944 to 1946 they lead Army to a 27-0-1 record.

Did you know...?

- Glenn Davis and Doc Blanchard are the only Heisman winners to appear in a film together. They played themselves in "The Spirit of West Point."
- Doc Blanchard is not only the first college junior to win the Heisman Trophy, but also the first college football player to win the James E. Sullivan Award, given to America's best amateur athlete.
- Doc Blanchard, who remained in the military and served with distinction, was selected as an honor guard for President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's funeral in April 1945.
- Glenn Davis was pursued by baseball's Brooklyn Dodgers, but stuck with football and played with the NFL's Los Angeles Rams before his career was cut short due to a knee injury suffered in 1952.
- Glenn Davis was briefly married to actress Terry Moore and was also engaged to actress Elizabeth Taylor.
- The fabled scoreless tie between Army and Notre Dame at Yankee Stadium in 1946 featured four Heisman winners. Army's Doc Blanchard and Glenn Davis faced off against Notre Dame's John Lujack, while Notre Dame end Leon Hart watched from the sidelines.
- 1947 Heisman winner John Lujack of Notre Dame was the first former professional football player to become a color analyst on television. 1940 Heisman winner Tom Harmon was the first to do so on radio.
- 1950 Heisman winner Vic Janowicz decided to play baseball instead of football and eventually played two seasons with the Pittsburgh Pirates before he returned to football as a tailback with the Washington Redskins. In 1956 Janowicz was partially paralyzed due to a severe brain injury suffered in an automobile accident. His athletic career was over, but Janowicz eventually made a full recovery and returned to Ohio State as a broadcaster for Buckeye football games.
- In 1951, Dick Kazmaier won the Heisman Trophy and was also named Athlete of the Year, beating out other notable athletes like, Stan Musial, Joe Walcott and Ben Hogan. Kazmaier, a Princeton graduate went on to become the Assistant Dean of the Harvard Business School. Influenced by his daughters, Kazmaier was a champion for women's athletics and even became President of the U.S. Field Hockey

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Foundation.

- 1952 Heisman winner Billy Vessels was the first Heisman winner to play in the Canadian Football League. Johnny Rodgers and Doug Flutie also played in the CFL. Flutie was named the league's Most Valuable Player six times.
- John Lattner of Notre Dame not only won the Heisman Trophy in 1953, he was also voted an All-American as both an offensive and defensive player.
- 1949 Heisman winner, Leon Hart of Notre Dame was the biggest man to win the Heisman. The outstanding tight end stood 6 feet, 5 inches tall and weighed 260 pounds.
- 1954 Heisman winner Alan Ameche of Wisconsin was nicknamed, "the horse," and following his victory, residents in Ameche's hometown of presented him with a number of gifts, including an actual horse.
- Alan Ameche was cousin to noted actors Don and Jim Ameche.
- 1955 Heisman winner, Ohio State's Howard Cassady, earned the nickname "Hopalong" during his very first game as a freshman. The Columbus sportswriters who saw him play said he, "hopped all over the field like the performing cowboy," a reference to the fictional character Hopalong Cassidy.
- Howard Cassady was also a star baseball player at Ohio State and after playing in the NFL for 9 seasons; he became a scout for the New York Yankees as well as the third base coach for their AAA affiliate, the Columbus Clippers.
- In 1961, Syracuse running back Ernie Davis became the first African-American to win the Heisman Trophy. President John F. Kennedy had followed Davis' career and requested to meet with Davis while he was in New York to accept the award.
- Later in 1963, Ernie Davis' home town of Elmira, NY held a celebration honoring the "Elmira Express" and President Kennedy sent Davis the following telegram: "Seldom has an athlete been more deserving of such a tribute. Your high standards of performance on the field and off the field reflect the finest qualities of competition, sportsmanship and citizenship. The nation has bestowed upon you its highest

Did you know...?

awards for your athletic achievements. It's a privilege for me to address you tonight as an outstanding American, and as a worthy example of our youth. I salute you."

- Ernie Davis also became the first African-America to be selected first overall in the NFL Draft when he was selected by the Washington Redskins in 1962. His rights were quickly traded to the Cleveland Browns, however, that same summer Davis was diagnosed with leukemia and tragically succumbed to the disease in 1963. Even though Davis never played a game professionally, following his death, the Cleveland Browns retired his number 45 jersey.

- 1962 Heisman winner, Terry Baker of Oregon State, is the only Heisman winner to also play in the "Final Four" of the Men's NCAA basketball tournament.

- In 1965, Southern California running back Mike Garrett became the first player from a California school to win the Heisman Trophy.

- After Steve Spurrier's Heisman victory in 1967, he gave his trophy to the University of Florida's President at the time, Dr. J. Wayne Reitz, so the entire school could enjoy it. As a result of Spurrier's generosity, the Downtown Athletic Club began its current practice of issuing two trophies every year. One trophy is presented to the individual winner, while the second is presented to the winner's university.

- 1969 Heisman winner, Steve Owens of Oklahoma, traded his Heisman Trophy cuff links with then President Richard Nixon for a set of his Presidential Seal cuff links. It was reported that President Nixon felt he got the better of the deal.

- 1970 was known as, "the year of the quarterback," and Stanford's Jim Plunkett beat out noted signal callers such as Notre Dame's Joe Theismann and Mississippi's Archie Manning to become the first Latino to win the Heisman Trophy.

- In an incredibly moving and heartfelt acceptance speech, Penn State running back John Cappelletti dedicated his 1973 Heisman Trophy to his ailing brother Joey. Cappelletti's speech remains one of the most memorable moments in college sports history. Joey passed away from childhood leukemia in 1976. The bond between the two brothers was chronicled in the book, *Something for Joey* by Richard E. Peck. The book would later become a made for TV movie with the same name.

Did you know...?

- Ohio State's Archie Griffin won the Heisman Trophy 1974 and 1975, making him the only player to ever win the Heisman Trophy twice. Griffin was also a member of four Big Ten Championship teams and was the first player to ever to start four Rose Bowls. Legendary Ohio State coach Woody Hayes said of Griffin, "He's a better young man than he is a football player, and he's the best football player I've ever seen."
- 1976 Heisman winner Tony Dorsett finished his career at Pittsburgh having rushed for 6082 yards. An NCAA record that would stand until 1998, it was surpassed by another Heisman winner, Texas running back Ricky Williams.
- The 1982, 1983, and 1984 Heisman Trophy winners, Herschel Walker, Mike Rozier and Doug Flutie, respectively, all began their professional careers in the newly-formed United States Football League (USFL).
- Even though Boston College's Doug Flutie was the first quarterback ever to throw for over 10,000 yards in college, most believe it was the classic "Hail Flutie" game against Miami, that won Flutie the 1984 Heisman Trophy; but actually, the votes were already in before that iconic game was played.
- In 1993 Florida State quarterback Charlie Ward won the Heisman Trophy by 1,622 points, which at the time, was the second-largest margin of victory in Heisman history. The following year Ward was selected in the first round of the NBA Draft by the New York Knicks and is still the only Heisman winner to play in the NBA.
- 1994 Heisman winner, Colorado running back Rashaan Salaam attended high school at La Jolla Country Day School in Southern California, where the future Buffalo got his start playing the less traditional, 8-man football.
- In 1996, Danny Wuerffel became the second Florida quarterback to win the Heisman Trophy. The first player to do it was Wuerffel's head coach, Steve Spurrier. The very first time that a former Heisman winner was coaching another Heisman winner when he won the award.
- Before winning the Heisman Trophy in 2000, Florida State quarterback Chris Weinke played minor league baseball for six seasons with the Toronto Blue Jays' organization.
- The 2005 Orange Bowl pitted 2003 Heisman winner Jason

Did you know...?

White's Oklahoma Sooners against 2004 Heisman winner Matt Leinart's USC Trojans. Such occurrence marked the first time that the two most recent Heisman winners played each other for the recently created BCS National Championship. Leinart and the Trojans thoroughly dominated White's Sooners, cruising to a relatively easy, 55-19 victory.

- In 2006, quarterback Troy Smith's Heisman win marked the seventh time that player from Ohio State had won the award. The seven wins tied Ohio State with Notre Dame for the university with the most Heisman winners. However, because former Buckeye, Archie Griffin won the Heisman twice, Ohio State has only had six different players win the award, whereas Notre Dame has had seven.

- In 2007, Florida's Tim Tebow became the first player to both rush and pass for twenty or more touchdowns in a single season. Tebow's spectacular season helped him become the first sophomore to win the Heisman Trophy.

- In 2012, Johnny Manziel became the first freshman to win the Heisman Trophy. The freshman quarterback broke the SEC record with 4,600 yards of total offense (previously held by 2010 Heisman winner Cam Newton). In all, Manziel led the Texas A&M Aggies to a 10-2 regular season and a Cotton Bowl Championship.

- Marcus Mariota won the trophy in 2014 and was the first Heisman winner from the University of Oregon and also the first Heisman winner from the state of Hawaii. Mariota received 90.92% of the total possible points which is the 2nd highest all time to Troy Smith (91.63%) Mariota was named on 95.16% of all ballots which is the highest all time.

- In 2016, Lamar Jackson became the fourth sophomore and first player from Louisville to win the Heisman.

- Baker Mayfield in 2017 became the first player to win the Heisman after starting his career as a walk-on (non-scholarship) player.



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