

RANDY PITTMAN JR. NAMED JOHN MACKEY AWARD - PLAYER OF THE WEEK

SMU Tight End Shines in Return to Tallahassee; Houston's Patrick Overmyer Earns Honorable Mention

Maryland — September 9, 2026 — Randy Pittman Jr. of SMU has been named the John Mackey Award - Player of the Week for Week 1 of the 2026 college football season. A season opener. A new uniform. A road game against his former team. And when SMU needed plays, Pittman delivered.

Pittman delivered one of the weekend's most impactful performances at the tight end position, catching **five passes for 75 yards and a touchdown** as No. 19 SMU opened its season with a dramatic **27-24 road victory over Florida State**.

But the numbers tell only part of the story.

For Pittman, the season opener represented a return to familiar territory. After spending the 2025 season at Florida State, Pittman transferred to SMU during the offseason only to make his Mustangs debut **back at Doak Campbell Stadium against his former team**.

Pittman responded with several of the biggest plays of the night.

Facing **third-and-9**, SMU quarterback Kevin Jennings connected with Pittman for **30 yards**, extending a drive and moving the Mustangs deep into Florida State territory. Later in the first half, Pittman struck again, hauling in a **10-yard touchdown reception** from Jennings to give SMU a 14-7 advantage.

The touchdown carried additional significance: in his first game wearing an SMU uniform, Pittman found the end zone on the same field he called home just a season ago.

Pittman finished the night averaging **15.0 yards per reception** and emerged as one of the key weapons in an SMU passing attack that helped the Mustangs overcome four turnovers and win a game that remained tied at 24 late in the fourth quarter.



The graphic is a vertical banner for the John Mackey Award Week 1 Honors. At the top, it features the John Mackey Award logo (a football player in a blue jersey) and the text "THE JOHN MACKEY AWARD EST. 2000". Below this, a list of criteria: VERSATILITY | PHYSICALITY | SELFLESSNESS | IMPACT ON WINNING. To the right is a statue of a football player on a pedestal. The main section is titled "WEEK 1 HONORS" with the subtitle "RECOGNIZING THE TIGHT ENDS WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE". Below this, there are two rows of information. The first row is for Randy Pittman Jr. of SMU, labeled "PLAYER OF THE WEEK". It includes his team logo (SMU Mustangs), his name in large red letters, his stats (6-2, 240 lbs, Panama City, FL), the game result (W, 27-24 at Florida State), and his stats (5 REC, 75 YDS, 1 TD). The second row is for Patrick Overmyer of Houston, labeled "HONORABLE MENTION". It includes his team logo (UH Houston Cougars), his name in large red letters, his stats (6-5, 240 lbs, Kingwood, TX), the game result (W, 33-20 vs. Oregon State), and his stats (6 REC, 84 YDS). The bottom of the graphic features a football field with a white yard line and the text "THE JOHN MACKEY AWARD EST. 2000".

Team	Player	Game Result	Stats
SMU Mustangs	Randy Pittman Jr.	W, 27-24 at Florida State	5 REC, 75 YDS, 1 TD
Houston Cougars	Patrick Overmyer	W, 33-20 vs. Oregon State	6 REC, 84 YDS

OVERMYER EARNS HONORABLE MENTION FOR HOUSTON

Patrick Overmyer of Houston earned John Mackey Tight End of the Week **Honorable Mention** following an impressive season-opening performance for the Cougars.

Overmyer entered the season as an important piece of a nationally ranked Houston team carrying significant expectations into the year.

The Kingwood, Texas native caught **six passes for 84 yards**, averaging **14.0 yards per reception**, as No. 23 Houston defeated Oregon State, **33-20**. His 84 receiving yards were second on the team as the Cougars produced **533 yards of total offense** in their season-opening victory.

Overmyer's ability to contribute in the passing game while handling the responsibilities that come with playing tight end provides Houston with another dimension offensively.

Week 1 offered an early glimpse of what that versatility can mean for the Cougars.

Houston has aspirations of being one of the teams to watch nationally this season, and Overmyer showed immediately that he can be an important part of turning those expectations into wins.

ABOUT THE JOHN MACKEY AWARD

The **John Mackey Tight End of the Week** is an honor distinct from the annual John Mackey Award. The weekly honor was established in 2004 to draw attention to outstanding individual performances by tight ends throughout the college football season.

The Tight End of the Week recognition does not have a direct bearing on the final John Mackey Award selection process. The weekly honor will continue through the announcement of the eight John Mackey Award semifinalists.

The **John Mackey Award** was established in 2000 by the Nassau County Sports Commission and is presented annually to the tight end who performs at the highest level on and off the field.

The John Mackey Award is a member of the **National College Football Awards Association (NCFAA)**, which encompasses the most prestigious awards in college football, dating back to 1935.

Media Contact

Benjamin Hazel, Executive Director

benjaminhazel@mackeyaward.com