

The Dawgmeister's Weekend Forecast
November 27th Edition: Dawgs vs. Tech for best 6-win team in Georgia

Weekend wrap-up: Well, the jury is in. Cam Newton is the most dominant college football player I've seen in memory, and given the state of my memory, that takes us back at least a couple of weeks. Robert Smith said on Saturday that Newton is the most exciting player in the college game since Adrian Peterson. Gary Danielson said that in his two decades of covering college ball, he's never seen a player more valuable to his team; other great teams had 15 NFL draft picks surrounding their big stars, but Newton doesn't and still is unstoppable. Mrs. Butts said that she didn't think it was fair to have that big man out there playing with all those little boys. General Petraeus thinks that Newton's a one-man army and hopes to see him enlist when the season's over. Tim Tebow has told his mama he wants a set of Cameron Newton pajamas for Christmas. You can see why Auburn played him in spite of the controversy, and what do they have to lose? If he's ineligible, as I think that eventually he will be, they'll forfeit the whole season anyhow. So why not play him until they absolutely can't?

Tony Barnhart has taken the amazing position that people are innocent until proven guilty and so has been steadfast in pressing people to hold judgment on Newton until unassailable facts are in evidence. But TB gave a prepared speech before the game broadcast on CBS that made it sound as though the more he learns, the more concerned he is of foul play in Newton's recruitment, if not by Cam himself then surely by His Holiness the Rev. Cecil Newton. I think Newton will win the Heisman in spite of the signing bonus unless something much more tangible breaks soon; there's nobody even close enough for people to start bailing with their votes without proof that Cam himself was involved in any exchanges of cash, church renovations, or other discouraged activity. However, Little Woolly has already made it known that it'll take more than a scholarship to get him to attend any preschool.

Fortunately for the purposes of this blog, I write for the Fake News community and so don't need to be concerned with such nuisances as facts. Tony and his "journalist" friends can harp all they want about "journalistic integrity" and such foolishness. That's pretty boring to those of us in the business of manufacturing news and opinion, and he's welcome to that beat, if he wants it.

Greg McGarity said following the game that he expects Coach Richt to be back next season, and I was happy to hear him say so, even if many Dawg fans believe that we have faced the End of Days, that a hopey-changey thing is in order, that Richt has irreversibly sent the team spiraling downward to the depths of the abyss, and that UGA VIII should be immediately put down and out of the considerable misery he is causing them. I don't think so. Next year Newton will be playing for Buffalo or Arizona or some other decrepit NFL franchise—he's too good and the recent unpleasanties have created too many risks for him to return—and Ryan Mallett will be playing for one of the others. McElroy of Alabama also graduates, and LSU wins in spite of their QBs. After that, Steve Garcia will return for his 18th season at S. Carolina (unless he bolts as this year's Jevan Snead Award winner), and he and Murray will be the league's top QBs. Both will have many of their weapons returning (aside from A.J. Green, who is irreplaceable as we know) and I think that we'll duke it out with them and no doubt Florida for the SEC East next year. I know that many in the fan base want Mike Bobo replaced, but he called a heck of a game on Saturday in my view; we didn't lose because of a shortage of points, and have put up quite a few

in quite a few games this season, protests from the couch notwithstanding. It'll be interesting to see what CMR does with his staff during the offseason, and I suspect that he already knows, as he did last year when the sword fell swiftly at season's end. Heads do seem to roll when teams play beneath expectations. I prefer stability to change for the most part, but stability only follows from winning, and only winning half of your games doesn't satisfy the fan base that remembers that one national championship that UGA won with the greatest RB in college football history carrying the team. (If you count those shared or split national championships from the old days when there was no consensus champion, then you'd might as well give Richt one for our #2 finish during Stafford's sophomore year.)

Dawg Doots:

- Roddy White is presently regarded as the NFL's most dominant offensive player, and he probably is. But I don't think he's any better than A.J. Green.
- A couple of years ago one of my pals expressed a fear that Urban Meyer would dominate the SEC forever because of his system and coaching greatness. Tebow ran it well, and who knows, he said, maybe Meyer was only beginning the run of countless championships because there were better athletes out there who might even be better than The Anointed One. Posh, said I. Little did we know at the time that Meyer already had that better guy in his own system, but that he'd transfer because he wanted to play and not sit behind a guy he thought he was better than, and was right. Imagine if Newton had stayed and only now were finishing his junior season at UF, which would be beating the snot out of everyone. Meyer would be as cocky and insufferable as ever, instead of relatively humanized by losing a few games this year, and we'd all be wondering if second place in the SEC East would qualify us for any postseason awards. This of course assumes that Newton would have remained eligible at UF, given the recent accusations of academic fraud, which is possible given that Meyer is very forgiving of indiscretions if the player is really, really good.
- Speaking of which, I urge you again to donate a few bucks to your local battered women's shelter to help protect them from that special Chris Rainey in their lives. See <http://www.usattorneylegalservices.com/women-shelters-georgia.html>
- [Buck Belue has offered his service to the coaching staff in the area of player evaluation and recruiting because he thinks that our players are bad.](#) If he can find another Hershel Walker out there, then our teams would be just as good as his were; but without Hershel, I wonder what kind of legacy ol' Buck would have left behind at UGA to give him this platform for evaluating other players. Back in the early 1980s, long before I began my affiliation with UGA, I thought that Belue was the Ringo Starr of college football—lucky to be surrounded by talent, but not so talented himself. So I wonder just what he's going to provide to the coaches that he thinks they currently don't have, except an opportunity to drool at your daughter when she walks by in a tank top, which is his major contribution as a radio analyst.

The Forecast: Next week the Day Job takes me out of town from Wednesday-Sunday, and we've got a bye, so this one will have to serve as the final regular season Dawgmeister report. And if we lose to Tech, I won't have anything further to say, and we won't be bowling, so conceivably this is my last entry for the 2010 season. We'll be playing for our postseason at home, and I think that we'll be pretty stoked for the game, the rivalry, and the opportunity to keep playing. I think

that there's a feeling on the team that this season has hinged on a short set of plays that went against us; that we've competed evenly in our losses except for key turnovers or misplays that took us out of close games. I think that our guys think that we're actually a pretty good team that has a mediocre record, playing in one tough league. Tech plays Duke next week which should bring them to 6-5, and we'll be playing to even up both records. I think we'll do it. Good Guys, 38-28.

National Game of the Week (week 12): Tuesday night, Ohio (7-3) at Temple (8-2) for MAC dominance. OK, perhaps not the game that SEC fans are salivating for, but I've got a buddy at Temple who actually reads my blog and I promised him one Temple game in the forecast, and this is a big one in the MAC. The Owls hope they're doing more than rehearsing Al Golden for the Penn State job when JoePa retires, but the cat can coach, and apparently is a good guy, too. I like the Owls at home in this one to go to 9-2, just a few years after they were the worst team on earth. Actually my man at Temple has led a charmed life. He taught at Wisconsin in the early 1990s, right when Barry Alvarez arrived to transform the program from doormat to powerhouse. Then on to Rutgers where Greg Schiano arrived to turn a state with no football tradition to one where every other car on the New Jersey Turnpike has a big red R on it. And now Temple from national laughingstock to annual bowl team. He insists that he himself is the charm, but then Jeff Schultz believes that he's a charmer too.

National Game of the Week (week 13): Always a great weekend with all the rivalry games. Of local interest is Auburn-Alabama. I think that the Newton Runaway Train Express continues to roll because the guy just can't be tackled and, at least against the Dawgs, his passes were about as well-thrown as an NFL QB could dream of pitching them. The SEC is one tough league, as we know, and Alabama will take its 3rd league loss, which will leave them in 3rd place in the West to match UGA's 3rd place finish in the East. Auburn, 41-35.