

The Dawgmeister's Weekend Forecast Week 7: Bye Week/Kentucky

"It gives us another thing to play for. We're playing for Mike." ~ Amarlo Herrera
"Poor Mike." ~Mrs. Butts

"What's goin' on?" ~Marvin Gaye
"I can't explain." ~The Who

I saw the game. You saw the game. Everyone watching on TV saw the game. We got killed at the line of scrimmage. I've got nothing to add to the Scowlmeister's postgame review: "I think even you will be hard-pressed to have something positive to say about this wretched performance. We were outcoached, outhustled, outeverythinged. One of the most disappointing losses in a long time." Even the Boise State game? "Much much worse." Even Brent Musburger got his panties in a knot about our level of play, which is only exceeded when Marv Albert gets his panties in a knot and starts biting people. I don't recall Coach Musburger being this indignant [since he chastised Tommie Smith and John Carlos for being "black-skinned storm troopers"](#) following their fisting on the medal stand at the 1968 Olympics.

As always, when my teams let me down, my first order of business is to make sure that I'm doing my own job as well as possible, and I've got a long ways to go before I reach that standard. So, in addition to giving my fingers and knuckles a much-needed break during the bye week, it's time to do some soul-searching and see if I can elevate my own game at The Day Job. Until I do, I can't be too critical of how other people are playing theirs.

No Coveted Dawgmeister Game Balls were awarded on Saturday.

Dawg Good Guy of the Week, Aaron Murray. Murray, a fourth-year junior who graduated with a degree in psychology and is pursuing a doctorate in industrial and organizational psychology, and likes to play chess. Aaron struggled against immense pressure against SC on Saturday, but is still the kind of person our program is proud to attract and cultivate. His leadership skills will be tested the remainder of the season as questions about the program will have an opportunity to simmer and stew in the next two weeks. But this feature is about the person, not the player, and Aaron is a guy who makes our institution proud.

Dawg Doots:

- "We're losing a guy that I personally think helped the toughness of our unit the way he went about his business, even when he was redshirted. Just a tough, hard-nosed football player, a guy who was going to make a tough catch, a guy that was going to block, a guy who was going to practice with a lot of intensity." ~Coach Richt on Michael Bennett, whose absence probably didn't matter on Saturday, unless he could somehow block Jadeveon Clowney. Well, at least now I know why little kids are scared of clowns. After Clowney hurdled Keith Marshall and nearly tore off Aaron Murray's head, Little Woolly hid behind the couch for a half-hour, hoping that we had a circus elephant that could get in his way and maybe step on him. But we didn't.

- "Why should we have to go to class if we came here to play FOOTBALL, we ain't come to play SCHOOL classes are POINTLESS." ~ Ohio State third-string quarterback Cardale Jones in a Tweet that perhaps he should develop into an essay for his English class. His remarks reflect Urban Meyer's new academic focus at OSU, as illustrated by the [new fight song he has the squad sing before every practice](#). Ohio State killed Nebraska yesterday, by the same margin SC beat us. Meyer can coach, but he recruits some people who just don't belong in college, and finds ways to keep them happy and eligible. Sound familiar?
- In consecutive weeks, a Georgia Tech fan fell from the stands at historic Paul Johnson Field at venerable Bobby Cremins Stadium during a Yellow Jackets football game. A fan fell 35 feet from the stands during the loss to Miami, and a freshman student fell 15 feet from his seat as Georgia Tech got blown out by Middle Tennessee State. If I tried to follow GT, I'd jump too.
- The ESPN 30 for 30 series has a whole lot of good programs. I hope that every kid who aspires to be a pro athlete watches "Broke," which details the many, many stories of guys earning millions and being broke and busted within a few years of retiring, often in their 20s, because they support scores of family and friends (as long as the money's there), make horrendous investments (often at the insistence of family and friends with no business experience), spend every nickel from their net salary without realizing that it gets taxed at high rates, and spend lots of nickels they don't have in the pursuit of excess, women, excess, and more excess (and more women). Sobering stuff, and I hope a Scared Straight tale for young people who come into seemingly endless piles of cash before they have any sense of what to do with it. I hope our program helps to educate our guys about money while at UGA. One of the complaints of the people interviewed on the show is that universities have not done their job when it comes to preparing players for life after college. I do know that we have programs that teach kids how to do things like conduct themselves at banquets, given the poverty that many come from and the likely lack of experience at knowing which fork is the salad fork and whether the salad comes first or the soup, either of which would be welcome in a home where finding food is a daily challenge. We prepare kids for their futures in many ways, and I hope that a financial education is among them.
- Probably not the case at Arkansas, where coach John L. Smith has amended his bankruptcy filing, listing \$40.7 million in debts, up from \$25.7 million just last month, earning him the Coveted Dawgmeister "What a Guy" Role Model Award for the month of October.
- Speaking of Arkansas, I watched the second half of the Arkansas-Auburn game. By then, Kiehl "The Green Mile" Frazier, the USA Today 2010 Offensive High School Football Player of the Year, had been benched in favor of Clint "Cain't" Moseley, who is easily the most immobile quarterback currently not named Mettenberger in the SEC. Auburn has had excellent recruiting classes under Chizik, but is just terrible, and I suspect that without Cam Newton, he's leading Auburn to the heights to which he took Iowa State before being hired away by Bobby Lowder University. Arkansas, Kentucky, and maybe Auburn and Georgia Tech will be looking for new head coaches after this year, and it'll be interesting to see which ex-Saban assistants will get the jobs.
- Speaking of the Arkansas-Auburn game, the play-by-play announcer was Beth Mowins. Football broadcasts have long featured woman sideline reporters (e.g., Jim Gray), but

they've struggled in the booth (e.g., the much-maligned Pam Ward). Mowins, I think, is at least as good as Mark Jones. And that's saying something, although that's about all.

- On Saturday, with all the great games on, the networks kept providing updates on "MLB," a game apparently also played at this time of year. It seems that they are having "playoffs," although I never was able to get any more information than what they provided on the scroll.



- Yes, this photo is of Justin-Bieber-Wannabe Tyler Bray. It may not be so well known here in the Southland, but The Owlmeister is the world's leading authority on bad hair. I subjected him to this photo to get his opinion, and he opined: "That's the worst case of helmet hair I've ever seen. And it's not even clear to me that he had been wearing a helmet. Yikes. Makes me glad I'm going bald so I'm not even tempted to try that 'do. Not that there's anything wrong with it." Yes Owlmeister, there is.

The Forecast: Dawgs at Kentucky. Excellent scheduling to get a bye week to prepare for the mighty Wildcats. We should get back on track if we can shake the incredible disappointment of the SC game in two weeks' time. Starters should be gone by the fourth quarter, along with the UK fans, whose attendance matches my readership of three people. This game should produce the football equivalent of putting the white guys in at the end of a basketball game, which is probably what UK will do when they play us in hoops this year. But first, football. Dawgs, 52-10, unless Jadeveon Clowney transfers to UK in the next couple of weeks.

National Game of the Week: A bunch of great games, including SC/LSU, but the traditionalist in me goes with Texas-Oklahoma in Dallas. I usually go with OU, but I dunno, something about Landry Jones just gives me pause, and Big Game Bob Stoops has lost a lot of big games in the last decade since their surprise championship season early in his tenure. So, I'm going to go with the Bevo Boys, 31-28.

Upset of the Week (in which a ranked team loses to an unranked team): Keeping it in Texas, Baylor over TCU. Don't ask me why. Bears, in keeping with nobody's ability to play defense out there, 41-35, and I'm only picking such a low score for the opponent of the team that held WVU to 135 points because TCU may be replacing their suspended QB with the next guy down the chart, who I hope attends class more often than the guys backing up Braxton Miller so they have somebody taking snaps. Note that last week I picked Miami over Notre Dame as my upset. Final score: ND, 41-3. What a day. At least Tech lost.

My name is Wally Butts, and I approve of this message.