

The Dawgmeister's Weekend Forecast: Dang

The Recap: Pity the poor Scowlmeister. On one of the biggest days in program history, and no doubt the biggest since the Hershel Walker era in the early 1980s, on Saturday he was.....at a wedding. That began at 4PM. In Cleveland.

All this punishment for a guy who has only missed games in the last 33 years when he couldn't physically make it to the stadium, and who always stays till the glorious end of every game, no matter how deep in the depth chart we substitute as the clock winds down.

As for the game itself, not much for me to add to what's been written. We played a valiant game against a very tough opponent and came up 5 yards short. They ran at will against our defense, which suggests that their OL is every bit as good as advertised. Eddie Lacy was beastly, and I doubt if many Falcons fans would say that if offered a straight-up trade of Lacy for Michael "The Burner" Turner right now, they'd turn it down. (Yeldon or Gurley too, for that matter.)

So, one hell of a run in 2012, just a wee bit short of what it took to get into the championship game. [Even Lamestreamer Mark Bradley was impressed](#), even though [career knucklehead Chuck Oliver](#) suggested in as cowardly a way as possible that the game proved that Richt and Murray can't win big games (so how then did we get here if not by winning big games????), and I'm proud of Coach Richt for immediately addressing Oliver's pathetic bullsh!t for what it was.

We are one of the nation's top two teams, and that's pretty good. We've got a lot to be proud of, and one hell of an offense to look forward to next year. The defense will lose its major contributors, but there are a lot of guys prepped and ready to move into their spots. I'm proud of these guys, and appreciate the way they played this year.

So, on to the Capital One Bowl vs. Nebraska.

Dawg Doots:

- What do Tyrann Mathieu and Baccari Rambo have in common? Both are SEC defensive backs; both have been named All Americans; both are available in the 2013 NFL draft; both are remarkably instinctive ballhawks; both have a fondness for the wacky tobacky. Draw your own conclusions.
- During the game, the broadcasters promoted next week's Army-Navy game as among "the grandest spectacles in all of sports." I'd put it right up there with the "Spell G-E-O-R-G-I-A cheer," or perhaps slightly below, in terms of what gets me stoked about college football.
- If you hate Notre Dame, [enjoy](#).
- If Georgia Tech can't get any fans to drive an hour out to Athens in their rivalry game, what makes the Sun Bowl think any will fly to El Paso for their game against Southern Cal, which must have experienced one of the most ignominious falls from respect in college football history to end up in a post-season game against a team with a losing record in a third-tier bowl game, following their absurd preseason #1 ranking by the Lamestream Sports Media?

- Should Aaron Murray go pro? That's up to him, and I'm hoping that he returns and takes care of unfinished business. But jeez, he's got to be better than Christian Ponder, Mark Sanchez, Ryan Tannehill, and a half-dozen other guys currently starting in the NFL (although Sanchez might finally have lost his job to an ex-SEC QB—no, not Tebow, but Greg McIlroy).
- I have to say that, as much as I admire Gary Danielson's understanding of football and ability to explain it to those of us on the couch, he does have a bad case of Sabanophilia that almost rivals Lou Holtz's Notre-Dame-olatry. He and The Duck repeatedly got our guys' names wrong, often using an Alabama first name and a Dawg last name to identify one of our players, or at times, calling our guy entirely by one of their guys' names, or completely muffing a name (Houston Mason, or Hudson Mason, etc.). And how many times did Danielson refer to something that "Nick" had told him before the game (countless), and how many times did he refer to "Mark" (zero)? Pretty disappointing to hear the game called through such a pervasive Saban filter. Even when we were ahead in the second half, they called the game as if it was Alabama's to lose, not ours to win. [The Lady Sportswriter](#) called them out on this matter before the game, and I've got to tip my hat to her for getting it right.

Years as Head Coach for First National Championship for Hall of Fame Coaches

Basketball

Dean Smith, North Carolina: 21st year
 Roy Williams, North Carolina: 17th year
 Jim Boeheim, Syracuse: 28th year
 Jim Calhoun, Connecticut: 27th year
 John Wooden, UCLA: 18th year
 John Calipari, Kentucky: 24th year
 Jerry Tarkanian, UNLV, 29th year

Football

Tom Osborne, Nebraska: 22nd year (bonus: bowl record, 12-13; and [Osborne is every bit as guilty of covering up sexual assaults in his program as Joe Paterno ever was—maybe it was OK for the Nebraska faithful because it was women getting assaulted, rather than little boys](#))
 Mack Brown, Texas: 20th year
 Bobby Bowden, Florida State: 23rd year
 Steve Spurrier, Florida: 16th year
 Duffy Daugherty, Michigan State, 13th year

Legendary Hall of Fame coaches with zero national championships

Bo Schembechler, Michigan, football
 Barry Alvarez, Wisconsin
 Frank Broyles, Arkansas
 Hayden Fry, Iowa
 Most others

[Note: the [complete list of HoF coaches](#) raises questions about what it takes to be inducted, in that it includes Jim Donnan, Lloyd Carr, and others who had winning records but nothing I'd

call historic careers; and also includes an alarming number of guys whose teams won under 60% of their games, including the great Tuss McLaughry, who at Westminister (PA), Amherst, Brown, and Dartmouth had a losing record over 39 years.]

Mark Richt Profile

Years as Head Coach: 12

Record: 117-40 (.750)

Bowls: 7-4

SEC Coach of the Year: 2002, 2005

SEC Championships: 2002, 2005

SEC East Division Titles: 2002, 2005, 2011, 2012 (plus 2 years where UGA tied for the title but lost the tiebreaker)

UGA SEC East Division Titles before Mark Richt: Zero

SEC Schools and their overall football prowess:

School	Last Conference Title	Number of SEC Titles	Number of Divisional Titles
Alabama	2009	23	8
Tennessee	1998	13	6
Georgia	2005	12	7
LSU	2011	11	8
Florida	2008	8 (+1 vacated)	12
Auburn	2010	8	7
Mississippi	1963	6	1
Kentucky	1976	2	0
Mississippi State	1941	1	1
Arkansas	1989 (Southwest Conference)	0	4
Missouri	1969 (Big 8)	0	0
South Carolina	1969 (ACC)	0	1
Texas A&M	1998 (Big 12)	0	0
Vanderbilt	1923 (SoCon)	0	0

Dawg Good Guy of the Week: This week's Good Guy is one of our great seniors, Christian Robinson. Christian did not arrive in Athens with the fanfare of Isaiah Crowell, A. J. Harmon, Marquis Elmore, or other 5-star guy who was sure to lead the Dawgs to the Promised Land. (Note: these three respectively were dismissed, quit, and played as a reserve.) Depending on the rating service, he was a 2 or 3 star linebacker from Greater Atlanta Christian, the small private school that also sent us another program savior, 5-star Army All American RB Caleb "The Next Hershel Walker" King. Christian took a redshirt, then began contributing as a RS-F and has played his way up the depth chart and into our hearts for all four years of eligibility. What always stood out with Christian—and no doubt what led our coaches to recruit him—was that he

was a brains and character guy, more than an elite athlete. Of course, he's elite enough as an athlete to be an SEC regular on the football field, so emphasizing his other attributes is not faint praise. Rather, it's a statement of what has made him valuable as the defensive quarterback (middle or inside linebacker) and what will no doubt sustain him well beyond his college football career. Said Aaron Murray, "It's just football smarts. He picked up Coach Grantham's defense, which is extremely hard, he picked it up pretty fast. I think he was one of the first guys to learn the whole defense, to know all the checks. And I know everybody on the defense trusts him when he makes the calls." Christian will try to catch on in the NFL, and who knows, with his approach to the game, he just might be one of those guys who nobody thinks can make it but ends up beating out guys with much more gaudy résumés. When he's done there, he hopes to coach, and he's got every asset needed to succeed: smarts, knowledge, integrity, preparation, a great personality, and the understanding of how to win within the rules. "He's just very good at identifying things and trying to communicate it with his teammates," said Coach Richt; "He's always there with a smile on his face and ready to go to work. He's just a great guy." He's a great Dawg now and will give us much to admire down the road. Thanks, Christian, for all you've done for us in Athens.

The Forecast: The Forecast is that I'll do something else till late December or early January, when bowl games that don't sound like jokes (real bowl games: The Famous Idaho Potato Bowl, The S.D. County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl, The Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl, The Beef 'O' Brady's St. Petersburg Bowl, etc.) start popping up on the Big Screen.