

## The Coveted Dawgmeister **WAGGIE**©s—2012 Season

As both of my readers undoubtedly are aware, in past years I've folded the Coveted Dawgmeister Media Awards into a late posting, but this year I'm expanding the awards beyond mere media and giving them their own space. I put together a blue-ribbon committee consisting of Little Woolly, Mrs. Butts, The Scowlmeister, and Wags, the family bulldog, to come up with a name for these much-desired awards, and we hope you are pleased with the **Coveted Dawgmeister WAGGIE**©s. This year's winners:

**The Coveted Dawgmeister WAGGIE**© for the **Best Internet Site for Dawg Fanatics** goes to The Dawgbone, host of the Dawgmeister's Weekend Forecast (a winning formula for this award if I ever saw one) and a free source of all information that every good Dawg fan needs to know. The Dawgbone's great work includes the decision **not** to provide links to Sports & Grits, self-described as "Banned by a Few for Content, Hated by Many for its Realness, Feared by More for its Truth, Respected by All for its Balls" in one of the most self-delusional comments ever made, by a guy too cowardly to trash everything in sight under his own name. Some balls there, numbnuts.

**The Coveted Dawgmeister WAGGIE**© for the **David Hale Award for Best Dawg Coverage**, is a tie between Chip Towers and Michael Carvell of the AJC for their daily recruiting updates, and Leather Helmet for their extensive efforts to keep us informed. Newcomer of the Year goes to the Lady Sportswriter, who goes beyond the deceptively overblown headlines of most bloggers that seem more designed to generate hits than provide us with news, and writes pieces of relative substance. It's great to have a thoughtful person blogging about football and not another person just fishing for controversy or looking solely to encourage traffic and thus personal gain built on the back of the guys working so hard on our behalf.

**The Coveted Dawgmeister WAGGIE**© for the **Coach Knute "Bear" Lombardi Sanford Stadium Jackass of the Year** goes to the pathetic cretins who vandalized Aaron Murray and Christian Robinson's residence after the South Carolina game, providing a lesson to us all about how not to react to a midseason setback, but instead to be patient and let the schedule play out. Also to take care of our own lives first and not take out our shortcomings on people of high visibility who perform at the highest levels, if at times not quite the level we expect of them, if not of ourselves, if only we had the talent to generate high expectations.

**The Coveted Dawgmeister WAGGIE**© for the **Sanford Stadium Voice of Reason** goes to Foghorn Bullhorn, who, at halftime of the Mississippi game where we faltered briefly on our way to a blowout, leading many in attendance to boo our own players, observed that "The people in this stadium do not deserve this team." Damn strait.

**The Coveted Dawgmeister WAGGIE**© for the **Jeff Schultz Award for Worst Sportswriting, All Categories**, goes to Jeff Schultz for his snide, self-serving, and just plain idiotic opinionating on football and anything else that passes through the vacant space between

his ears. Schultz is the consummate frontrunner, hating on the Dawgs when they're not rolling and jumping on the bandwagon as though he was there all along when they are winning. How this clown is a featured sportswriter for the biggest news outlet in the South, when there are far better writers on the AJC's own staff, not to mention the much smaller papers in Athens and Macon, is an ongoing mystery to me.

**The Coveted Dawgmeister WAGGIE® for the Bob Davie Award for Worst Broadcasting of Games** goes to Brent Musburger, who establishes a game narrative before the game begins and sticks to it no matter what, typically calling the game from the framework of the team whose narrative he has concocted and interpreting everything through that lens, regardless of what is actually happening on the field.

**The Coveted Dawgmeister WAGGIE® for the Gary Danielson Award for Best Color Commentary** is vacant this year. This award is Danielson's to lose, and he lost it with his obsequious, Sabanolatrous performance during the SEC Championship game. Danielson's still the best announcer in college football, but needs to dial back on his unabashed fealty to "Nick" at the expense of other mighty fine coaches and their players. David Pollack talked himself out of the award when he kept arguing that Florida should be ranked ahead of UGA, even after we beat them to win the SEC East, which as I understand it is how these things are decided.

**The Coveted Dawgmeister WAGGIE® for the Lou Holtz Award for Worst Studio Anchor** goes to Lou Holtz for his fawning opuses to Notre Dame all day, every day for five months, with more on the way. Fortunately, it's not possible to understand what he is actually saying, what with his lips sewn to his tongue and all, but just as it's possible to understand Donald Duck on occasion, one can discern "Notre Dame" in every sentence he squawks, based on pattern recognition software analysis.

**The Coveted Dawgmeister WAGGIE® for the Best Studio Anchor** goes to everyone who is not Lou Holtz or Mark May.

**The Coveted Dawgmeister WAGGIE® for Distinguished Faculty Service to Football** goes to Dr. David Gattie of UGA's College of Engineering, who is known for his fire-and-brimstone pregame speeches to recruits and is the only faculty member I've ever heard of who is personally responsible for a commitment, that being Quincy Mauger, who bypassed the coaches when explaining his reasons for Committing to the G and went straight to the DG.

**The Coveted Dawgmeister WAGGIE® for National Jackass of the Year** goes to Steve Spurrier, who in spite of becoming SC's winningest coach of all time this season and coaching them through devastating injuries to a wildly successful season, responded to nice-guy Dabo Swinney's gracious remarks about the loss of Marcus Lattimore with a 2-bit insult that degrades and negates all of his other remarkable accomplishments this season. Swinney's measured response: "I'm embarrassed for him." Me too.

**The Coveted Dawgmeister WAGGIE® for Dawg Play of the Year** goes to Shawn Williams, who backed up his challenge to his teammates by summoning his Inner Alpha Dawg to stop Florida on a 4<sup>th</sup> and 1 with a lightning tackle that nearly defied the laws of physics in reversing the momentum of a fast-flying object. This play could have changed the outcome of the game, and thus the season, had he been a nano-second later and a hair less ferocious. With that incredible effort, Shawn let everyone know that he'd come to play, inspiring his teammates to perform in kind. Runner-up: Jarvis Jones's inspired strip of Jordan Reed at the goal line that saved the Florida game. A historic play, but Williams's stop altered the entire tone of the game at a point where it had to happen.

**The Coveted Dawgmeister WAGGIE® for RS4 Dawg of the Year in honor of Richard Samuel** goes to the Senior Class, from walkon to studmuffin, for their outstanding contributions to the program through summer workouts, fall practices, game days, and life everafter. A lot of these guys could have left for NFL dollars after last season, but returned to finish business, producing an SEC East championship, immense leadership, a lot of thrills, and almost, almost an SEC championship and shot at the national title. Thanks, guys, for all you accomplished in your great careers in Athens.

**The Coveted Dawgmeister WAGGIE® for International Human Being of the Year Award** goes to Coach Mark Richt, the greatest coach in UGA football history, finest person in the game, and in an era of widespread corruption in college sports, a man who works in the spirit of UGA through his dedication to his maker.