

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
DAWGS' PREPOSTEROUS SEASON ENDS ON A HIGH NOTE**

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**SEPARATED AT BIRTH? ARCHIVE
SEPARATED AT BIRTH?**



**BO PELLINI
OF NEBRASKA**



**& THE SCARECROW
OF OZ**

preposterous [pri-pos-ter-uh s] *adjective*

Meaning: contrary to nature, reason, or common sense; absurd, senseless.

Etymology: from Latin *praeposterus*, literally, in the wrong order; from *pre* (before) + *post* (after), meaning that what should go first goes last, and what should go last goes first.

Example: Quoth The Messiah, "The last shall be first, and the first last." Saith [Nick] Satan, "Preposterous."

What a great, preposterous season. This was the year that Aaron Murray would lead us to the Promised Land, but injuries derailed that plan and put what should have gone last (Missouri, Auburn) first. We have had other seasons where we lost double-digit players to injuries, but never one, I think, where we had so many key players at skill positions lost for the season. Nonetheless, we came close to realizing the dream: tight losses to top-ten teams Clemson and Missouri, taking on the latter after the injuries had reduced our capabilities on offense; a game where we wuz robbed by the officials at Vandy, playing with and even thinner lineup than we put on the field against Missouri; and that game at Auburn that required an immaculate deflection for us to lose as the clock ticked down and as Auburn's charmed season begat one of its two most extraordinary, outlandish, preposterous, and game-winning plays. 2013 will always be the season that should have been, but that wasn't. We can only hope that it motivates the team to rally behind Hutson Mason in Jacksonville, through the offseason workouts, and into the fall to wipe out all the memories of blown-out knees, twisted ankles, tight hamstrings, and other injuries that made this year's seniors unable to achieve their ultimate goal of playing for the national championship.

**A VERY SPECIAL DAWGMEISTER TRIBUTE
TO THE COACHES OF THE BIG 10**

"I would play for Bo Pelini against Satan himself and the demons of the world. I love coach Pelini."
~Nebraska WR Kenny Bell

“Fuck him, too. Fuck him. That's what I'm going to tell him. He wants to walk out after my press conference? I'm gonna say, 'Get the fuck away from me. I'm done with you, motherfucker.’”~Bo Pelini, speaking of *Omaha World-Herald* columnist Tom Shatel

“It took everything in my power to not say, 'Fuck you, fans. Fuck all of you.' Fuck 'em'. Our crowd. What a bunch of fucking fair-weather fucking—they can all kiss my ass out the fucking door. 'Cause the day is fucking coming now. We'll see what they can do when I'm fucking gone. I'm so fucking pissed off.” ~ Bo Pelini, speaking of one of the nation’s most loyal fan bases

“You guys have chose to make a story of it all year. It's impacted our football team. It's hurt our football team. Let's call a spade a spade.” ~Bo Pelini blaming the Lamestream Sports Media for Nebraska’s record

“I positively respect, appreciate and support our football student-athletes, coaches, and staff, as we do everyone in the Husker family. We very much look forward to our upcoming bowl game and Coach Pelini continuing to lead our program in the future.” ~First-year Nebraska Athletic Director Shawn Eichorst

“I hear Lane Kiffin is available.” ~Little Woolly



Classy Urban Meyer player Marcus Hall exits Michigan's stadium after ejection for foul play

[Urban Meyer press conference following the Michigan game](#)

“What a tough, gritty win by Michigan State. Meyer proved yet again that he is a world class A-hole in his press conference.” ~The Scowlmeister

"I've never, no, I've never handled it well. Awful loser. I guess I'd rather be known as that than as a good loser. . . . Perception isn't something that drives me." ~Urban Meyer

“When Meyer took over for Ron Zook in 2005, he repeatedly told the players, *I inherited a real bag of shit*. . . . Meyer may have been talking about the program in general, but Zook’s leftover players saw the statement as an example of what soon became a double standard in the way Meyer treated players: Good players got away with more than worse players did, and Meyer’s recruits got away with more than Zook’s did. In retrospect, the [Aaron] Hernandez- [bar manager Michael] Taphorn incident looks like a good example of this. Hernandez was Meyer’s recruit, and poised to be a superstar. If he was disciplined for throwing the punch, which he admitted to police that he had done, that discipline did not remove him from the Gators’ lineup. He played all 13 games in the

2007 season. Hernandez also failed at least one drug test, with only minor repercussions. Meanwhile, fullback Eric Rutledge, one of Zook's recruits, tested positive for marijuana and was removed from the team with one game left in his senior season and then banned from Florida's Pro Day, thus limiting his chances to audition for the NFL. Rutledge and two teammates say it was the only rules violation of his four-year career. 'If it really was the first time he got busted for it, I think it's bullshit that he got kicked off the team,' says Jim Tartt, a captain under Meyer who made 33 starts at left guard. He says several other players routinely smoked marijuana, 'and they were still on the team, and they were superstars, and Urban was talkin' [positively] about 'em every day.'" ~[Thomas Lake](#)

"After Michigan State had finished harmin' Ohio, the Buckeyes bagged 'Carmen Ohio.' At a school that takes its traditions seriously, that will be considered sacrilege by some fans. Under former coach Jim Tressel, the ritual was non-negotiable: Win or lose, the team would gather postgame before the marching band and sing the song, written more than a century ago by an Ohio State student. For 24 games under Urban Meyer, that continued. Game ended, players gathered, song was sung. Meyer, a self-proclaimed lover of Buckeye lore, was always front and center, flanked by players on either side. Made for a nice photo op, at the very least. Of course, for 24 games there was never a loss, never a chance to test the commitment to tradition in a time of adversity. Saturday night, that changed. . . . There were no Ohio State players singing, no Urban Meyer photo op. The Buckeyes exited quickly to the locker room and left the song to the band and the cheerleaders and some of their crestfallen fans." ~ [Pat Forde, Yahoo Sports](#)

DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ **Coaching genius update:** Remember how excited Florida was when they hired Charlie Weiss, and then Brent Pease, to run their offense? Anyone out there shaking at the prospect of Kurt Roper?
- ☞ And Monte Kiffin—once considered the greatest defensive coordinator in the NFL, and once also the highest paid—has in the last two years coached Southern Cal and the Dallas Cowboys to among their worst defenses in franchise histories.
- ☞ Henry Josey, the Missouri RB, was one of college football's great stories this year in that he worked his way back from a career-ending knee-injury to once again become a dominant rusher. To me, he's admirable simply because he's named Henry. There are probably more college football players named [Shitavious](#) than named Henry, and for that, he is a recipient of a Coveted Dawgmeister Game Ball.
- ☞ I've checked, and every football player whose first name is Heath is white.
- ☞ Nick Marshall was a great college football story in 2013. Like Cam Newton before him, Marshall was recruited by UGA to play a position other than QB. So was Bacarri Rambo. A couple of years ago, a program guy told me that Rambo was the best option QB in the country; that when he was redshirting, he ran the scout team when we were preparing for a running QB and was unstoppable, always better than the guy we were preparing for. Makes me wonder how Rambo would have done if he'd played QB in college. Those other guys turned out to be pretty good.
- ☞ According to Chris Spielman, who called the Oklahoma-Oklahoma State Bedlam game, one of the QBs "literally threw a frozen rope" of a pass. C'mon, man, it was cold in Stillwater, but not that cold.
- ☞ Russell Wilson was a winner at North Carolina State and Wisconsin, and now is known as the best player on the best team in the NFL. He's a great example of the fact that you don't have to play in a power conference in order to make it big at the next level.

- ☞ “[Marlon Brown] plays bigger than 6-foot 5.” ~ Joe Flacco
- ☞ “[Marlon Brown] is not done yet. He plays like he’s been in the league for a while. He doesn’t play like a rookie.” ~Ravens’ tight end Ed Dickson
- ☞ Jeff Schultz’s prediction of a Tech win over UGA: “I’m just not sure this game is that big of a deal to [UGA]. And Aaron Murray is out of the game. And Georgia hasn’t stopped anybody on defense all season, unless you count Kentucky, which they don’t even in Kentucky. Where’s that limb? Here I crawl. Give me the 3½ points, but I’m going Tech in a straight upset.” What does it say about the state of Georgia Tech’s program that many of us now hate Vandy as much as we hate GT? But not as much as we hate Jeff Schultz.
- ☞ Todd Gurley II dominated the overtimes against GT about as much as a player can dominate a series of overtimes. I really hope that the people out there who hate on Will Friend were paying attention when Danielson broke down **T2**’s game-winner. The blocking scheme was ideal and executed to perfection, which got Gurley through the line untouched and into the secondary, where he did the rest.
- ☞ When Little Woolly grows up, he wants to be just like [Max Copeland](#).
- ☞ I about dropped my teeth when I read this bowl game forecast: [Music City: Ole Miss draws great crowds, and Nashville's close enough to Atlanta that Georgia Tech should have a good crowd](#). Georgia Tech fans won’t walk across the street to watch their team at home, and Nashville’s close enough of a drive to see them lose another bowl game over the holidays?
- ☞ Cultural icon Phil Robertson has riled the nation over statements he made in an interview with *GQ* magazine.
- ☞ So, this guy is now *GQ* material?



Well, perhaps not so different from this guy:



THE COVETED DAWGMEISTER GOOD GUY OF THE WEEK AWARD
GOOD GUY ARCHIVE

Perhaps fittingly, this week's Good Guy is both a senior, and a guy who's had trouble getting on the field with injuries. T.J. Striping came in as a 4-star recruit with a boatload of high school accolades: 2009 *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* Top 50, Super 11, Class AAAA Defensive Player of the Year, Class AAAA All-State First Team, #4 defensive end nationally, #45 overall player nationally, #2 overall player in Georgia, and a few others earned at Southwest DeKalb High. He wasn't quite college-ready, though: a guy so tall and skinny that it seemed certain that he'd need a lot of time in the weight room before he could possibly make a difference as an outside linebacker. But there he was as a true freshman, working his way into the lineup and getting into the mix on special teams. In just his fifth game in Mark Richt's only losing season, however, T.J. ruptured his patella tendon on a kickoff at Colorado after taking a helmet to his right kneecap, an injury so severe that he told Coach Richt, "It's over. I'll never play again." Supported by his teammates and trainers, however, T.J. indeed began his laborious, painful recovery and got himself back on the field. He never turned into the tackling machine and pass rusher that had been anticipated of him when he committed, in part because he was set back by the injury, in part because he just couldn't seem to add muscle mass to his slender frame, and in part because by the time he'd rehabbed, guys like Jarvis Jones, Jordan Jenkins, and Leonard Floyd came into the program and took command of the OLB positions. At the beginning of T.J.'s junior year, Damian Swann said of him, "He's very smart and he's learning a lot by playing behind one of the best players in the country [in Jarvis Jones]. That's going to be very big for him when his time comes." T.J.'s time never quite came on the football field, but his intelligence and dedication, along with his charming personality, are such great personal assets that, as a proud holder of a UGA diploma in Consumer Economics, his time will come soon. At UGA he earned a number of academic distinctions, including the Teka and John Adams Football Scholarship, Col. Robert L. Jackson Family Scholarship, Bill & Jane Young Football Scholarship, and a spot on the Athletic Director's Honor Roll. That's one heck of a great Dawg, one who found the football door mostly shut but who's used his UGA education to open up many more, and a guy who'll make us proud for many years to come.



THE FORECAST

Gator Bowl

Nebraska fans, apparently caught up in Bo Fever, have been saying that there's a "been there, done that" feel to this year's game. By that, I assume they mean, "played Georgia last year, got our asses kicked." Playing Nebraska again is fine with me. Last year's blowout featured two QBs who will watch from the sidelines this year, and I think that our new guy will outplay theirs. Gurley might be a wee bit irritated by not making First Team All SEC, and out to show the nation that he's the best RB in the land and ready to saddle up for a Heisman run in 2014. Works for me. Good Guys, 37-28.

National Championship Game

This season, like every one before it, has reinforced the idea that you just can't assume anything in college football. Everyone had penciled in Ohio State for the championship game, but forgot that they had to beat a team with a powerful defense, one of the few Urban Meyer had coached against in the Big Ten and its endless schedule of Indiana, Purdue, Illinois, and other programs who can't convince good football players to attend their universities. The humility that Auburn learned by being terrible in 2012 helped them to play through a lot of adversity and tough opponents and make their way into this game. Meanwhile, FSU has pretty much blown out everyone who's shown up. The game will feature two QBs who've had some challenges following the law, while excelling at the game plan. I can't see Tre Mason carrying the ball 46 times against FSU, but then again, he just might. SEC over ACC, 58-57.