

THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST: DAWGS AT DEVOLVING VOLS

www.thedawgmeister.com

[The Dawgmeister on Facebook](#)

SEPARATED AT BIRTH? ARCHIVE

SEPARATED AT BIRTH?



Tyler Bray & The Biebs

Awaken the Nation!

What a great, great, great, great game! Alongside the historic 2007 Blackout game vs. Auburn, Saturday was the most electrifying stadium experience I've had in 200 years of attending sporting events. "I'm just honored to be a part of something like that," said Mark Richt. Me too, Coach.

I rewatched the game Sunday on the Big Screen, and for those who attend the games, recording and watching the game later can be very informative, both for Danielson's analysis and for what you can pick up on your own. It's easier to see who's in the rotation, for example, especially on the interior, and it's clear that Chris Mayes has taken over at NT with John Taylor getting snaps and Mike Thornton out of the picture. It happens every year: A guy is slated to start and another guy plays past him, as Floyd did with DeLoach, who was written about as a breakout star yet who's hard to spot on the field with Floyd's emergence as a star.

Also much clearer: Murray's interception was actually a well-thrown timing pass that Keith Marshall would have gotten a ton of mileage out of if the LSU DL hadn't seen something and dropped back into the passing lane and made a great play on. In general, though, Danielson was pretty critical of the defenses of both teams, mostly for being out of position, which accounted for many of the game's big plays. He did a great dissection of how Mettenberger caught Quincy Mauger—another guy playing his way into a lot of snaps—showing blitz too early on a TD pass in the first half that left single coverage on the WR. So, all that stuff about inexperience was right on target—these guys are talented, but aren't always in the right place. Lots for the coaches to work on in practice this week.

Danielson was also hugely impressed with the QBs, as were we all. He described the Thursday workout run by Murray as the best-run session by a QB since he saw Drew Brees run one at Purdue, and compared the two in very complimentary ways. Among his observations was that Murray cares about football in much the same way as Brees, which accounts for the thoroughness of his preparation and his leadership in getting everyone doing the right thing on every alignment.

One recurrent term throughout the broadcast was how much of a MAN's game this was, how Gurley is a Man, how the trenches were for Men Only, etc. It reminded me of how, about a decade ago, Pat Dye had to challenge UGA about whether or not they were Man Enough to compete with Alabama, and that was when they were coached by someone other than their current God. People used to wonder that about UGA: Are they Man Enough? Not anymore.

The one drawback to the broadcast was the way they absolutely beat the Murray/Mett narrative to death. They could have handled it at the top of the show and let it be, but just kept rolling out detail after detail, mostly involving a lot of repetition (yes, by the fourth quarter, we were well aware that they roomed together for a semester 5 years ago). *Ad nauseum*, etc., and so on.

Before the season began, I was a little worried that we didn't have enough guys who could catch the long ball as well as Tavares King, who excelled at locating and catching the deep throw. I thought that Bennett could fill the role, and knew that Malcolm Mitchell was primed for a great year of dancing in end zones. After the first quarter of the first game, though, we were reduced a bunch of untested guys for the most part when it came to going long. After four games, I don't worry about that anymore. Reggie Davis can catch a high, deep pass, and Chris Conley too; and who knew what a weapon Justin Scott-Wesley would become? Their development is no accident. Coach Tony Ball really does a great job with the receivers in every aspect of the position.

A Coveted Dawgmeister Game Ball goes to the crowd, whose game-long intensity, thunderous support, and red-out rabbleroxing gave us a Death Valley-level advantage and left my ears ringing well into Sunday.

A Coveted Dawgmeister Game Ball goes to hoops coach Mark Fox, whose jumbotron appearance with the Spike Squad gave the crowd a boost, and that's saying something given how amped up we were to begin with.

A Coveted Dawgmeister Game Ball goes to Marshall Morgan, who had his best game in one of his biggest games and put a lot of snafus behind him with a perfect afternoon.

A Coveted Dawgmeister Game Ball goes to Brian McClendon, who managed to recruit 3 running backs in the 2013 class even with Gurley and Marshall returning for 2-3 more years, and has already gotten critical carries out of Green and Douglas in two of the biggest games of the season.

A Coveted Dawgmeister Game Ball goes to the offensive line, which seemed spotty a week ago against North Texas but controlled the line of scrimmage all day against one of the most rugged

defenses in the nation, even though Danielson felt that LSU's DL seemed to have less impact on the game than last year's NFL-bound version.

Dawg Doots:

- "Our quarterbacks can't make catastrophic mistakes. They have to eliminate the catastrophic plays. ... Throw the ball away. Leave no doubt. Sometimes punt's the only play. Let's get to fourth down and play field position." ~Butch Jones on the Tennessee offensive strategy
- Does Butch change jobs often? I report, you decide:

1990–1991	Rutgers (GA)
1992–1994	Wilkes (OC)
1995–1997	Ferris State (OC)
1998	Central Michigan (TE)
1999–2001	Central Michigan (RB)
2002–2004	Central Michigan (OC)
2005–2006	West Virginia (WR)
2007–2009	Central Michigan
2010–2012	Cincinnati
2013–present	Tennessee

- There were so many empty seats at Tennessee's game against S. Alabama on Saturday that I thought I'd mistakenly tuned in to a Georgia Tech game.
- Even with the crowd behind the team in a historic uproar, Negatron still found the occasion to complain about Aaron Murray after a play that didn't work. And, of course, when Marshall Morgan went out to kick his 55-yarder, he rained abuse on the coaches for having no idea of what they're doing.
- Leading receiver for Detroit in their win over Chicago on Sunday: Kris Durham.
- [The Deseret, Utah football coach](#) suspended the entire football team for cutting class, cyberbullying, and acting in other mean and selfish ways, then gave the players the opportunity to earn their way back by participating in a character education program. Those who refuse to go through the program are enrolling directly at Oklahoma State.
- According to Studs McMachoman, after the game Lou Holtz said that Mark Richt is his favorite coach. Either that, or he said, Mark, it's time to change my diaper. It can be hard to tell.
- Sonic the Hedge Dawg update: Nick Chubb ran for 370 yards and five TDs in the Cedartown's 42-28 win over Southeast Whitfield, with about 150 more called back by penalties, giving him 1,359 yards on the season. Here's [Sony Michel's season stat line](#) after 5 games: 80 carries, 421 yards, 5.26 yards per carry, 6 TDs, 3 receptions for 47 yards.
- What could possibly make this weekend any better? How about Georgia Tech and Notre Dame both losing, and Southern Cal getting routed so thoroughly by a mediocre opponent that they let the Kiffer go?
- Speaking of old friends, I saw that Reggie Ball is now the offensive coordinator at Stephenson HS. I assuming he's coaching his QBs to throw the ball 10 feet over his receivers' heads, just in case they get another Calvin Johnson who has the proper elasticity to catch it.
- Congratulations to Watts Dantzler for making the [Sports Illustrated Twitter 100](#).

- Little Woolly found [this treatise](#) by great Georgia native and Squidbilly stalwart Early Cuyler (a.k.a. [Unknown Hinson](#)) on an LSU website. It's out of date by now, but well worth reading for Dawg fans who crave a finely crafted essay.
- Paul Oliver, R. I. P., and our dearest sympathies to his wife, children, and extended family.

The Coveted Dawgmeister Dawg Good Guy of the Week Award goes to **Chris Burnette**. After redshirting his first year on campus, Chris has been in the OG rotation for four years, pretty much owning the position for the last three and being a consensus 2nd Team All-SEC offensive lineman as a junior. Chris has been a great citizen of the university while holding down a brutally physical position on the football team, a rare combination of mind and matter. He's been a fixture on academic honor listings throughout his enrollment at UGA while majoring in Finance. Chris has made multiple appearances on the Athletic Director's Honor Roll, Dean's List, and SEC Academic Honor Roll. He's been supported by several scholarships, including the Susan and Mark Tomlinson Scholarship, Davis Family Foundation Football Scholarship, and Robert E. Dicks III Athletic Scholarship; and he's been honored with the Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar Award and Copas Leadership Award and inducted into the UGA's Student-Athlete Leadership Academy, L.E.A.D (Leadership Education and Development). The David Jacobs Awards criteria sum up the reasons that Chris has so consistently risen to the top of whatever field he enters, defining recipients like Chris as those members of the team who, by example, portray courage, spirit, character, and determination. These qualities have led to his appointment as one of two UGA student-athlete representatives on the UGA Athletic Board. Chris and his wife Arielle just celebrated their first anniversary. [His proposal at their church](#) is quite touching. Take a look and get to know this great Dawg a little better, and be proud to know he's one of us.

The Forecast: People at Texas who want to get rid of Mac Brown should really study the Tennessee program. UT-Knoxville fired Phil Fulmer, who won a national championship and always had the Vols in the top 20 or more, because the program took a dip coincidental with Mark Richt's arrival at UGA and a few years later Spurrier's hire at SC. It probably didn't help that he looked like the guy tending the hashbrowns at the Waffle House, but he had a ton of success, and usually took his pick of Georgia high school stars before Coach Richt changed the state's recruiting culture. The Deciders at Tennessee, though, thought, Let's fire Phil and bring in Lane Kiffin, who had coached the Oakland Raiders to a 5-15 record before being fired by Al Davis, who called him "a flat-out liar" and "disgrace to the organization," leading Kiffin to file a grievance because, he believed, he was fired without cause. Kiffin lasted one year at UT, going 7-6, with one of those wins pretty much ending Willie Martinez's UGA career as defensive coordinator after his defense made Jonathan Crompton look like Peyton Manning. After Kiffin took his career 12-21 record to Southern California, Derek Dooley was brought in after coaching Louisiana Tech to a 17-20 record in his three years as head coach. Derek did deliver on his promise to [beat Vandy](#) for the most part, but three years and a 15-21 W-L record later, Dooley was gone. Now they have turned to Butch Jones, late of Cincinnati, the cradle of football coaches just as surely as UGA is the graveyard of basketball coaches. They should have hired Casey Jones, because this program is a train wreck. Hey Texas, Lane Kiffin is available, and Texas is about the only elite program he hasn't run into the ground yet. Anyhow, Tennessee just stinks. We won't blow them out as hideously as Oregon didn't, but we're not a team that runs it up like that. We will, however, win. Dawgs, 45-17.

National Game of the Week: Best matchup appears to be Washington at Stanford. I don't watch those West Coast games all that often, because after a day of watching SEC teams, it's a bit of a letdown. So I am not basing this forecast on any tangible evidence from my own empirical investigations. Having said that, I'll take Washington in a mild upset, just because I think it'd make life more interesting for the Talking Heads on Fox Sports 1, when the network takes a break from showing NASCAR and WWE. Huskies, 28-21.

National Upset of the Week: What the heck, how about Maryland over Free Shoes University? The Turtles come in after a bye week and who knows, one of my upsets might actually work out this time. Terrible Terps over Noles, 31-28.

Note for those who Wager: The Dawgmeister's Forecasts are based entirely on his prejudices and hopes and have no relation to what might happen on actual football fields.