

THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST: A HEROIC COMEBACK, A STAGGERING LOSS

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



**RIK PITINO & THE DEVIL'S
ADVOCATE**

It was one of the greatest games in one of college football's oldest and greatest rivalries. It took a miracle to win it, and I sure do hate it when someone else's miracle comes at my team's expense.

Rarely have I felt so discouraged at the end of a game's first quarter. We got dominated on both lines of scrimmage and seemed to have half the energy of Auburn. The only question after 15 minutes was how high Auburn would run it up on a team that inexplicably was unprepared to compete on this Saturday afternoon.

The second quarter we showed signs of life, but Auburn kept attacking. The one glimmer of hope came from our success at keeping them out of the endzone and in field goal mode, one of which we blocked and the rest of which kept the game within reach, if only faintly.

Our scoring drive to open the second half raised my hopes to a reasonable level, only to have them sliced to bits when Auburn scored yet again. At the beginning of the third quarter, Danielson had put his feet up and started talking about the Iron Bowl as the biggest game of the year, matching unbeaten Alabama against one-loss Auburn in a game filled with anticipation. What would it take for UGA to take the lead? They'd need three possessions, but the clock suggested time for only two. The only way, he speculated, for UGA to win the game was to succeed on one, maybe two onside kickoffs following no-nonsense drives that preserved enough time for us to get on the board with three more TDs. Very unlikely, it seemed; and we appeared to be headed for a very depressing loss in which we were not only outplayed in virtually every facet of the game, but out-prepared and out-hustled from top to bottom.

And then the comeback began. The offense clicked, and the defense finally began causing the short possessions we needed to get back in this thing. One score, two...and suddenly we had the ball with the chance to take the lead, with Murray on a roll and Auburn on its heels. One

magnificent drive later, capped by Murray's power scramble in which he willed himself just into the endzone, put an exclamation point on one of his greatest games in his great career as a Dawg. Suddenly, our problem changed from having too little time, to scoring too early and giving them time to mount one final drive.

Three downs for Auburn produced minus five yards, and our defense was playing with fire and ready to seal the win with one last stop. And then, the luckiest bounce I've ever seen gave Auburn the lead and a highlight that they'll be playing on their jumbotron for the next hundred years. Twenty-five seconds to go... not enough time to do much except hope for a miracle of our own. But Murray, as he did against Alabama last year, got the team down the field for one last play, 3 seconds to go from the 25 yard line....but the play we needed so desperately never materialized, and one of the most extraordinary games I've ever seen ended in defeat and immortality in the annals of the season and the UGA-Auburn series.

I remain elated by our comeback, crushed by the loss. An inch here or there at so many points of the game, different calls by officials on fumbles and spots—any number of hair-breadth shifts in any number of facets of the game, and it might have been different. But it's in the books as an L. Life can be so cruel.

Dawg Doots:

- “I stand by my Nick Saban prediction. He's a leaver. He leaves. Whenever he's telling you he's not going anywhere, he's already shopping for a house in the next town. Ask Michigan State, LSU, and the Miami Dolphins. As for this “Scowlmeister's” assessment that Alabama will match the offer... He is correct. But Saban's ego will dictate that he move on and build another dynasty. Plus, if you were making \$10mm per year, would you rather live in Tuscaloosa or Austin? Actually, if you were making \$10mm per year, would you rather live in Tuscaloosa or literally any other place in North America?”
~Studs McCachoman
- "I've covered a lot of stories in my career, but I will say that this is the most manufactured, fabricated, idiotic and insane story I've ever covered. It really drives me crazy on the air trying to say he's not going there. I cannot guarantee that Saban will stay at Alabama. He may retire. He may go do something else. But—I probably shouldn't be doing this—I will put my entire career and what little money I have to say that he is not going to the University of Texas." ~Paul Finebaum
- “I hear Lane Kiffin is available.” ~Little Woolly
- The officials who pulled off the Braves' move to Cobb County ought to be in charge of national security.
- [Some impressive names](#) scheduled for this big game.
- News item Wednesday: “Georgia starting left guard Dallas Lee was not practicing for a second straight day, with freshman Brandon Kublanow continuing to work in Lee's place with the first team. Lee has an elbow strain.” Kublanow must be pretty good. He's played his way past a whole lot of guys who've been around much longer.
- After getting rebuffed by Mrs. Butts, [Aaron Murray has rebounded well](#).
- Of all the fine 30 for 30 documentaries, [this one is the best](#).
- Former S. Carolina running back Kenny Miles, contrary to his initial report to police that he'd been shot in the arm, in fact shot himself in the arm, leading local police to expend

several days of investigative time and resources tracking down the phantom criminal.
Kenny's college major: criminal justice.

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

Robert Edwards was recruited to UGA to play cornerback by Ray Goff. After starting at the position early in his career, he shifted to RB his junior year, finishing his career in what initially appeared to be the very promising Jim Donnan era. Robert was among the top players in the SEC when not injured, which happened often enough that he never played a whole year, even taking a redshirt season to recover from a broken hand. He nonetheless was the Patriots' top pick in the 1998 draft and rushed for 1,115 yards as a rookie before destroying his knee during an NFL rookie flag football game in Hawai'i during Pro Bowl week, an injury so severe that his leg was almost amputated and he was told he'd never walk again. But through a rigorous training and recovery regimen, he rehabbed to the point where he returned to the NFL, winning the Pro Football Writers Association Halas Award for his comeback with the Dolphins. He remained in the game, going to the Canadian Football League and playing four more years of pro ball for the Montreal Alouettes, for whom he had two 1,000 yard seasons and was twice named to the CFL Eastern Division All-Star Team. Since leaving the pro game at the end of 2007, Robert has stayed busy, primarily as a head football coach at the high school level. Robert was head coach at Arlington Christian School in Fairburn from 2010-2012 and now is head coach at Greene County HS in Greensboro. But that's not enough. He's also been involved in assisting former athletes with job placement and career development at All-American Resources and is the founder of the STAR Training Academy, which states its purpose as believing that "There can be no greater legacy for this organization than the creation of opportunities for young people to grow, mature and become better citizens through participation in athletic competition. We strive to build young men of character, demonstrate class and humility and bolster an atmosphere of hard work, effort, and discipline that permeates throughout our program. Accepting the idea that, "you deserve to be a champion." Their motto, WHAT YOU BELIEVE, DETERMINES WHAT YOU OVERCOME! is what you'd expect from a mentoring program designed by Dawg great Robert Edwards, given all that he's fought through and conquered himself.



THE FORECAST

Joker left UK holding a pretty bad hand, yet Stoops isn't folding. But he's holding a pair of twos, and we've got queens over tens. I imagine Kentucky will be more patient with Stoops than

Florida will be with Muschamp, even though Jeremy Foley supports Will “[1,000%](#),” adding, “This is not the quote-unquote dreaded ‘vote of confidence’” and reminding listeners that last year UF went 11-1 with Muschamp being named SEC Coach of the Year, losing only to UGA in the regular season—and Aaron Murray doesn’t win big games?? Anyhow, Dawgs should bear down for the conference finale and an opportunity for a better bowl destination, and will send the seniors out with one final W. Good Guys, 41-14.

National Game of the Week: Texas A&M at LSU: I must say that when all is said and done, Johnny Manziel is one fun football player to watch. He’s also dominant in a way that QBs with normal skill sets just can’t be, and his WRs are terrific, including the nation’s best in Evans. I think that he puts enough points on the board to win this thing, as Murray did in Athens. Aggs, 45-38.

National Upset of the Week: Oklahoma State at home over Baylor. Another mighty fun game to watch if you like offense. Baylor shut down Oklahoma with their D while their O searched for traction, but OU’s offense seemed to be shaky to begin with. Can they shut down OSU? I’ll bet 10,000 of Boone T. Pickens’ cow patties that they can’t, at least not enough to win. Pokes, 51-48.

Note: Neither cow patties nor actual dollars should ever be wagered based on The Dawgmeister’s forecasts, for football, the weather, or the economy.