

## **THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST: THANKS TO THE SENIORS/BIG THANKS TO #11**

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**SEPARATED AT BIRTH? ARCHIVE**

### **SEPARATED AT BIRTH?**



**PAUL JOHNSON & THE PENGUIN**

The competition was weak, but the performance was exceptional. Thanks to the team for getting past the devastating loss to Auburn, preparing as if this game mattered, and executing with near-perfection to close out the SEC schedule.

The Day Job had me on the road this weekend, leaving me to catch the game on tape on Monday afternoon when all had been said and done for a couple of days. Nothing here to add to the verbiage and encomium, except to say that it's such a shame that we've seen the last of the great Aaron Murray between the hedges. Is he the greatest QB ever to play at UGA? I think it's hard to say. It's pretty much impossible to have a greater career than Fran Tarkenton had, and probably not greater than Johnny Rauch had; and it's just as impossible to compare players who competed 50-65 years apart. Tark and Rauch played in a segregated league at a time when the best Black players were at Grambling and Prairie View A&M; in contrast, Murray has competed against the top players of his generation, concentrated into the best league in the nation. I'm not prepared to say that Murray has had a better career than David Greene; both were magnificent players and leaders and immensely respected by their teammates. Better than Matthew Stafford? Another difficult comparison, given that Stafford started 2.5 years, including his true freshman year, and left as the #1 pick in the NFL draft. Undoubtedly Murray had a greater career, but a very different one. Here's what I can say: Nobody has had a greater career at UGA than Aaron Murray. And that's good enough for me.

“It's the same thing that I've been preaching forever: You're in a great city, you can get a world-class education and you play on the highest level: the BCS level football. There are very few schools that can offer that, that can consistently win games ... 15 straight bowl games and all that. It's a great opportunity, that would be the general message. When you're finished playing and you're trying to get a job, what do you want your degree to say? As long as it says 'Georgia Tech' on it, you're in pretty good shape. It doesn't guarantee you're going to be successful, but it sure does open a lot of doors for you. And that's what we try to sell. We try to sell our school. We try to sell Atlanta. I think Atlanta

is a great town. There's always stuff going on. And we sell the football, too. It's successful, and you can come in and have the opportunity to play at the next level. If that doesn't work, you've got the world-class education to fall back on and set you up for life. Even if you do both, you're going to need both. The average NFL career is 3.5 years. Unless you're Calvin, when you're finished playing, you've still got to work. That's what we try to sell." ~Paul Johnson

GT's illustrious record in those 15 straight bowl games that Coach Johnson believes is a selling point to recruits:

W	01-01-1999	<a href="#">Gator Bowl</a>	<a href="#">Notre Dame</a>	35	28
L	01-01-2000	<a href="#">Gator Bowl</a>	<a href="#">Miami</a>	13	28
L	12-29-2000	<a href="#">Peach Bowl</a>	<a href="#">LSU</a>	14	28
W	12-27-2001	<a href="#">Seattle Bowl</a>	<a href="#">Stanford</a>	24	14
L	12-31-2002	<a href="#">Silicon Valley Classic</a>	<a href="#">Fresno State</a>	21	30
W	01-03-2004	<a href="#">Humanitarian Bowl</a>	<a href="#">Tulsa</a>	52	10
W	12-21-2004	<a href="#">Champs Sports Bowl</a>	<a href="#">Syracuse</a>	51	14
L	12-29-2005	<a href="#">Emerald Bowl</a>	<a href="#">Utah</a>	10	38
L	01-1-2007	<a href="#">Gator Bowl</a>	<a href="#">West Virginia</a>	35	38
L	12-31-2007	<a href="#">Humanitarian Bowl</a>	<a href="#">Fresno State</a>	28	40
L	12-31-2008	<a href="#">Chick-fil-A Bowl</a>	<a href="#">LSU</a>	3	38
L	01-05-2010	<a href="#">Orange Bowl</a>	<a href="#">Iowa</a>	14	24
L	12-27-2010	<a href="#">Independence Bowl</a>	<a href="#">Air Force</a>	7	14
L	12-31-2011	<a href="#">Sun Bowl</a>	<a href="#">Utah</a>	27	30
W	12-31-2012	<a href="#">Sun Bowl</a>	<a href="#">USC</a>	21	7

The only coach Paul Johnson has beaten in a bowl game while at Tech: Lane Kiffin.

Dawg Doots:

- In June 2013, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* reported two stories: the Miss Georgia competition, which included [four contestants who were students at Georgia Tech](#); and the winner of the [World's Ugliest Dog contest](#). Coincidence?
- Keeping good company: Only two college football teams employ pestiferous insects as team mascots: Buzzkill, representing the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets, and the mighty Boll Weevils of the U. of Arkansas-Monticello.
- Much has been made of Tennessee recently being named the [11<sup>th</sup> ugliest campus](#) in the nation. However, [Georgia Tech made a top ten list of its own for plug-ugly campus architecture and landscaping](#).
- Here's a handicapped ramp designed by Georgia Tech engineers on their beautiful campus:



- *Sports Illustrated* has published its college basketball preview issue. In their forecast for the March Madness tournament, they do not include Georgia, who lost at home to Georgia Tech, or Georgia Tech, who lost at home to Dayton, whose other wins are over the Indian-Purdue at Fort Wayne Mastodons, the St. Francis (PA) Red Flash, and the St. Francis (NY) Terriers. The point differential by which Dayton beat GT (10) in Atlanta is just below the average of the margin by which they defeated these other powerhouses in the Flyers' home gym in rural Ohio.
- The following schools *are* predicted to make the March tournament field: Georgia State, Stony Brook, Weber State, Wisconsin-Green Bay, Iona, Toledo, Eastern Kentucky, Wagner, Norfolk State, Northwestern State, Texas Southern, High Point, North Dakota State, Davidson, Florida Gulf Coast, Louisiana Tech, Towson, and over 50 other programs. Dayton is not expected to make the field.
- How can this be, when [the state of Georgia ranks 6<sup>th</sup> nationally](#) in Division 1 basketball prospects produced each year?

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

Like a lot of great high school athletes, Israel Troupe had to make a choice regarding which sport he'd play after high school. Drafted to play baseball, he elected instead to accept a football scholarship at UGA as a wide receiver. Israel never quite lived up to the promise of being a 4-star prospect, playing down in the rotation and making a few outstanding catches, but not enough to get greater attention from the coaches and quarterbacks in their ball distribution. He ended his UGA career in 2011, having served as a great teammate but leaving little imprint in the record book. He also, like so many of Mark Richt's players, dedicated himself to good works, serving as a counselor for Camp Sunshine, which was founded to help kids with cancer; helping to build homes for Habitat for Humanity; and serving as a mentor in the Big Brothers/Big Sister of America program. Israel graduated with a degree in the College of Family and Consumer Economics, with a focus on Real Estate and Property Management, a career for which he interned as an undergraduate. After college he undertook a number of work opportunities, working as an Inside Sales Agent for Keller Williams Realty, interning with the Athens Razors semi-professional American Basketball Association team, and working as a Sales Representative

at Veritas Inc. in Atlanta. He is currently working in two areas. He's a Project Coordinator at the Morris, Manning & Martin law firm, and has returned to baseball back home in Tifton, GA, as an instructor with the Diamond Exposure Academy, teaching kids the five tools of the baseball trade. Like so many who have played for Mark Richt, Israel has thus undertaken a life of giving back to others and dedicating his life to the greater good. In writing these profiles, I increasingly realize how many service-oriented careers our players undertake as teachers, coaches, ministers, and other professions that may be undertaken in order to help others make more of their lives. That's a testimony to the way the coaches approach their work and mission to teach and mentor, and a further testimony to the quality and character of the young men like Israel Troupe who are recruited in part because they have demonstrated such virtues and who in turn assimilate a disposition to care for others through their growth from boys to men at UGA.



## **THE FORECAST**

Welcome to the Hutson Mason era, with The Albanian Bane O' Y'all next up if Hutson goes down. Mason has played like a veteran every time he's gotten on the field, and I don't think that the 22,000 fans who pack Grant Field at The Flats near The Varsity will rattle him much. Dawgs continue their dominance of this rivalry: Good Guys, 41-31.

National Game of the Week: Hard to top the Iron Bowl for the week's biggest game, in spite of many others. I think that McCarron wraps up the Heisman Trophy in a game in which I find it impossible to root for either team. Tide, 31-21.

National Upset of the Week: Florida over FSU? Ha ha, just kidding. I doubt if it'll happen, but how about Michigan over Ohio State. OSU is much better, but it's at UM and they might be up for it. Wolverines, 41-40, even though OSU will probably win 65-3.