

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
DISPOSING OF THE CLEMSO-TRASH**

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SEPARATED AT BIRTH?



Dabo Swinney & Kenneth

“New year. New team. One dream.”

“I’m just going in, me and my teammates, and I forgot the motto, but we got our little motto, and we’re going to stick together. One team, one dream ... no, one team, new year ... I don’t know, I’m going to get it before camp is over with.” ~Todd Gurley

It’s about time!! I’ve been waiting for this weekend since we hammered Nebraska back in January to cap one of the greatest seasons in program history. And now Clemson, picked by Gary Danielson to play Alabama for the national championship in January. Sorry Gary, wrong on both counts.

This game is so big that the Scowlmeister himself is hunkering down for a trip to Memorial Stadium, packing a combat helmet and Kevlar vest to protect himself from battery-throwing Clemso-trash. He prepared for this mission over the summer by reconnoitering up to enemy territory and conducting an archeological dig, taking a specimen from their sacred Scrotum Pole, which is rubbed lovingly by all Tiger players on their way to battle to get the blood rushing to their heads and stiffen their spines, by which he hardened himself for the experience.

*“If we come out and beat Georgia, not just beat ‘em but **beat the mess out of ‘em like we should,** I don’t see no problems in getting started in the right direction. I don’t have disrespect for them or for nobody else, I just believe we can be just the kind of team we want to be, the talent is here, we know how to win.” ~Sammy Watkins*

Thanks there, Sammy, and congratulations to your high school English teachers for getting you this far. What I’m especially waiting for is when [the best WR on the field, Malcolm Mitchell](#), shows the nation what they’ve been overlooking for the last two years as he’s split time on D and

battled injuries. He's now a fulltime WR and ready for end-zone dances while Watkins wonders how UGA's young backfield is better than the ACC defenders he's accustomed to beating the mess out of. My forecast is that by game's end it'll be Clemson's DBs who resemble a Paula Deen deep-fried bacon-wrapped mac-'n'-cheese delicacy: boiled in oil and fried to a crisp.

Back when Aaron Murray getting his Dawg career off the ground, when things looked bleak, I predicted that UGA would win a national championship before he graduated, because I believed in his ability and leadership. We might have gotten that last year if the Bama defender hadn't made a great play and tipped his pass to Chris Conley short of the endzone. I stand by that forecast: UGA takes home the BCS trophy in January.

Here's another forecast: In spite of moaning about Nkemdiche, Foster, and Lawson going out of state and complaints that UGA doesn't sign all 200+ D-1 prospects in Georgia every year plus the best players from Florida and the Carolinas, I predict that this year's freshman class will be one of the most productive recruiting classes that the Dawg Nation has ever seen, more so than the Dream Team of two years ago. The size of the class almost equals the number that Alabama brings in each year before the greyshirting begins, and the talent base looks immense and deep to me. Good times ahead between the hedges as these guys begin filling in the openings this season and grow into the rotation over the next 5 years. Some are concerned about the lack of experience as we break in new defenders, but there are just too many talented guys for us not to find a 2-deep that can win the SEC. In spite of concerns that last year's D underperformed, Grantham's guys have improved in points-per-game every year he's been here. We do it again in 2013 in spite of massive graduation attrition and the annual bevy of training camp injuries as we reload on the field and unload on the opponents.

Dawg Doots:

- "The bit was ill advised." ~[Steve "Steak" Shapiro](#)
- According to Brent Musburger, the critical difference between SEC schools and Notre Dame is as follows: SEC players' girlfriends are real, and they're spectacular; while Notre Dame players' girlfriends are fake, and might even be men.
- **Disgraced & Dysfunctional Ex-SEC Coach News Roundup:** The real story behind Bobby Petrino's motorcycle accident: A man was standing at the side of a rural road in Arkansas, talking to a disgraced ex-Tennessee basketball coach, when he looked up and saw Petrino coming toward him with his Student-Athlete Development Coordinator clutching his heaving torso from behind as they headed down the road on "Hawg Wild," Coach Petrino's pimped-out Harley Davidson. Outraged that neither of the amorously interlocked couple was wearing a helmet, as required by Hawg Law, just as the Harley approached, the man pushed the ex-Vol coach in front of the vehicle, causing it to crash. Turns out there's a name for this law enforcement method: Casting Pearl before Swine.
- Following the incident, the Arkansas state motto, **Regnat Populus**, was changed to **Repugnant Porkulus**.
- Best new variation on "Do bears excrete in the woods?": "Can God save a hooker?"~ Baylor safety Ahmad Dixon, when asked if the Bears could win this year's Big 12 title
- According to this guy, football is a dumb, 19th century game similar to dog fighting and should be banned:



According to the Owlmeister, the world's greatest hirsute authority, this dumb-ass should be banned because it looks as though Ron Mexico combed his hair with an electrified pit bull. It turns out, however, that he got a text from Carlos Danger, and this is his reaction.

- “Fatigue is for cowards.” ~Coach Tony Ball
- There’s much speculation within the Dawg Nation over who’ll succeed Aaron Murray at QB. Hutson Mason is the presumptive starter for 2014. After that: Will Christian LeMay realize his great potential and maintain the high standard set by Aaron Murray? Is Parker Welch really the team’s third-best QB, or were coaches just giving him 3rd team reps in the hopes that LeMay will start to take this thing more seriously? Will Brice Ramsey be able to make the transition from running Camden County’s wing-T ground game to going deep in UGA’s pro-style passing game? Is Jacob Park truly among the elite HS QBs and precocious enough to start early in his career? Here’s what nobody except me, Little Woolly, and [Faton Bauta](#) is asking: What about Faton Bauta? How do you [pronounce](#) Faton Bauta? The assumption is that The Albanian Bane o’ Y’all will be switched to linebacker or tight end, and he’s plenty built enough to play either position. But he came in as a QB and hasn’t been switched off yet, which means he’s showing something under center, even as he struggles with a shoulder injury in fall camp and continues to run the scout team in Aaron’s final season. Maybe one of the other guys will indeed win the job, and I want the best guy possible taking snaps. Just don’t rule this competitor out of the race yet. Can Faton do it? Can God save a hooker?
- Fellow Dawgbone blogger Darrell Huckaby [wrote this summer](#) about his meeting with T.J. Stripling, expressing his amazement that a guy with such long hair and beard could be anything but a thug. Well Huck, may I introduce you to my bearded, long-haired friend, and his name is not Dakota Manny Cullars:



- “I’ve seen Coach Richt so mad one time that he almost said a cussing word. He said fiddlesticks.” ~Garrison Smith
- Upon learning that Isaiah Crowell is doing well at Alabama State, Brother Willie wondered how it’s possible that a dismissed UGA knucklehead is not starting at QB for another SEC team this season.
- For a good time, take a minute or two and watch [Todd Gurley’s high school scouting tape](#). His video isn’t too much different from the high school highlights of Marcus Dupree (the subject of a terrific *30 for 30* documentary). Then read a report on the [Top Running Backs in the 2012 Class](#), where he isn’t even listed among the “watch these guys too” RB prospects. Now, keeping in mind that he added 15 pounds of weight-room muscle since last season, go see his [freshman highlight reel from UGA](#) where he runs over, around, and through SEC defenders as though they’re kids from rural North Carolina high schools. Now wonder why we put so much stock in what the gurus think of prospects. (Note that 2-star signing day emergency offer Tim Jennings, who went with UGA over South Carolina State, is now listed [#69 among the top 100 players in the NFL](#).)
- “Our freshmen, they’re good. This is Georgia. This is the SEC. They’re not going to hire no sorry players.” ~Kennar “K.J.” Johnson
- “Hire? Young man, y’all attending Georgia, not Auburn.” ~Granny Butts
- At latest count, 5,493 people have claimed that they were the first to come up with the name Gurshall, which Todd Gurley and Keith Marshall want to get away from so they

can establish themselves individually. I'm going to get ahead of the game and come up with something for incoming RBs Sony Michel and Nick Chubb. As is often the case, my prototypes in this venture were OK, but not good enough: Chubby, Nixon, Chubbelle, that sort of thing. Then, one afternoon while Little Woolly and I were walking the Butts family bulldog, Wags, I found my muse and the name for our nascent RB duo came to me in a vision-dream: Sonic the Hedge Dawg.

- Korey Harris, a West Virginia DL, was arrested in July for a home invasion during which he wore his practice sweatpants bearing his jersey number, 96, also the number of tears he shed for his wardrobe malfeasance.
- “Many people have asked me what I hope to accomplish as the 22nd President of UGA. My focus will be very direct and very clear: I will focus on our students and the core academic mission of the University – if our academic core is very strong, the entire university also will be very good. I plan to ask anyone who brings an idea or initiative forward to me, seeking state or private support from the University, to answer one simple question: How will this proposal improve the academic quality of our University or how will it improve the learning and education of our students?” ~UGA President Jere Morehead.
- “Right on, Brother Jere.” ~Mrs. Butts

Meet the Kickers:

- Marshall Morgan, returning starter who will probably sit out the opener, penalized for showboating.
- Collin Barber, superb sophomore punter who apparently can kick, but I find no record of him as a kicker at Cartersville HS.
- Patrick Beless, 5-foot-9, 162-pound sophomore from the Marist School where he played soccer and was the football team's kicker as a senior in 2011 when he won the Iron War Eagle Award once and earned Special Teams Player of the Week during his senior season. He played on the 2009 AAAA state champion soccer team, was a member of the National Honor Society, and graduated as an AP Scholar and a National Merit Commended scholar.
- Thomas Pritchard, a 5-10, 164-pound redshirt freshman from Jefferson County High School in Louisville, GA, where he earned All-State honors as a punter his senior season and all-region and all-area mention. He kicked the longest punt and field goal in school history and was the school's valedictorian.
- Adam Erickson, from Clarke Central HS in Athens, a 5-foot-10, 168-pound redshirt sophomore who came in as a punter but can also kick. Primarily played soccer at Clarke Central and was team captain but broke his foot his junior year and did not get a college scholarship offer. Gets endorsed by Blair Walsh for the Clemson game.
- Todd Gurley. No, not as a kicker, but as the guy we hand it to on 4th and short. He is not 168 pounds.

Coveted Good Guy of the Week: I began celebrating UGA Good Guys because too much football coverage focuses on the thugs, deadbeats, cheats, swines, and scumbags of the gridiron world. I've compiled an archive at <http://www.thedawgmeister.com/GoodGuys.htm> where the Good Guys I've honored are enshrined. This week's good guy: Kolton Houston. Kolton could have left the program and the university a long time ago because of the endless discouragement

that followed from the persistence of a medical intervention in his bloodstream. But he stuck it out and is finally going to see the field this year. Says teammate Watts Danzler: “To come back this strong speaks testament to his will power and what kind of person he is. He never gave up. There were some low times for him where we had to encourage him and that’s built the relationship of the O-line. I can’t even imagine working out and going to practice knowing you’re not going to play. I don’t know how he’s done it, but I’m happy he’s back.” Often when guys are idled by injury or suspension, they find innumerable ways of getting into trouble, and for some reason, a bag of weed and a Glock find their way into their cars for their evening excursions around town. Sometimes they go off the chain altogether and kill people, or attend Kenny Chesney concerts. Kolton managed to stay entirely out of the news except for reports of the latest evidence that he just couldn’t flush the meds he was administered in high school from his system. A great Dawg, and a guy we’ll surely cheer when we hear his name over the PA system this fall and beyond. Welcome back Kolton, and G.A.T.A.!

The Forecast: Dawgs start off the season with one rugged September, and the coaches will have the boys ready to play some ball. I suspect that our D will yield a few points while getting adjusted and while Clemson trots out what LSU learned is a good O, albeit minus many of the weapons they had last year, Sammy Watkins’ belief in their almightiness notwithstanding. But I think our O is just going to roll and score plenty enough to give us the W. I see the RBs, by whatever name, going for 250+ as a unit, and Aaron getting 250 more in the air, all behind a deep and experienced OL, a monster fullback, and some tight ends who could open a hole in the Great Wall of China. ABC will be mighty glad that they picked up the day’s best and most entertaining game. Swanny gets 2 picks to tilt the game our way, the Leonard Floyd era begins with a few batted passes, and the Dawgs begin their historic season, beating Clemson, 42-38.

National Game of the Week: Week 1 is mostly Cupcake Week—too many games like William & Mary at West Virginia. Looks as though the SEC powers’ games are the best thing going. In addition to UGA-Clemson, Alabama plays at Virginia Tech and LSU visits TCU—all on the road against good competition. For the National Game, I’ll go with Alabama-VT, because I’m not sure if TCU was a team on a permanent rise or temporary spike in competitiveness with Andy Dalton under center. Logan Thomas might be a ton bigger than Andy Dalton at 6-6, 260, but I don’t think that’s quite enough for him not to throw 3 picks against Alabama. This game won’t be quite the blowout that the Notre Dame scrimmage was for Satan’s spawn, but should be pretty routine for them. *Alabama*, 28-10.

Upset of the Week: So much temptation here: Elon (what, Presbyterian wasn’t available?) over Georgia Tech? Toledo over Florida? Austin Peay over Tennessee? Hawai‘i over Southern Cal? I’d love to see them all. But I’m heading out to South Bend and taking Temple over Notre Dame. Last year’s most over-rated team (well, last decade’s most over-rated team) will end all speculation by underestimating the Owlmeister’s Boyz and tanking in Week #1. All of the ND Haters on earth—i.e., all people on earth—will be in a state of joy over not having to hear about Notre Dame all year as if they have any business in a BCS game, much less the championship. Owls, 27-24.