

# THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST: DAWGS

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SEPARATED AT BIRTH? ARCHIVE

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Jarvis Jones & Ziggy Marley

In the Fifth Game, Aaron led the scout squad to victory.

And on The Sabbath, Good God, did I need a rest.

Well, that was not at all what I expected. For some reason, Butch Jones had his guys thinking that they would win this game. The Butch pregame speech that CBS showed was as inspiring as a [Shurley grammar lesson](#), and they took the field ready to compete, even if one of their guys did get a taunting flag on the opening kickoff, perhaps so amped by Butch's call-and-response routine that he began celebrating early. We had to fight through the LSU hangover, the furloughing of most of our offensive skill players, and Vern Lundquist's endlessly repeated narrative about how Gurley and Marshall are roommates, to take a solid lead, then watch it start to drizzle away with a field goal that was a foot too far to the left and a punt that never made it past the rush, and suddenly the game was on.

Last year, when Marlon Brown, Michael Bennett, and then Malcolm Mitchell went down, Aaron Murray just kept firing away, and it didn't seem to matter if he threw it to Rhett McGowan or Granny Butts, the offense never lost a beat. This year, when Mitchell went down again, the same thing happened—no problem, just put Reggie Davis in his slot and the machinery keeps cranking out yards and points. Saturday, things got extreme, and we did occasionally sputter. But J. J. Green looked like A. J. Green in terms of performance, Rantavious Wooten came out of mothballs and made big plays, Brandon Douglas got stuffed a few times but also broke some huge plays, and Murray just kept putting up points until we had enough to get to OT and get lucky when their guy made a heroic effort that slipped away from him a couple of inches too soon.

I've also got to hand it to Mike Bobo. With his prized RB tandem out, and with a couple of guys who'd done well in spot duty suddenly having to do the heavy lifting, he never got away from

the running game. Green and Douglas got it done and gave Murray a little more room in the secondary to find guys he'd just been introduced to in the huddle. In a game destined to go the other way, we played through some mighty obstacles to keep the dream alive.

One of the primary narratives provided by the broadcasters was whether or not Keith Marshall can handle the full load as feature back. The answer: Yes, J. J. Green can carry the whole load.

The papers on Sunday all focused on the offensive losses and how we'll fill the many spots in the RB and WR rotations. I'm hoping that Blake Tibbs is ready to catch some balls in earnest, that Jonathan Rumph is on the mend, and that we don't lose Green and Douglas to injuries. Who knows, we may see Jay Rome lining his 260 lbs. up in the slot, and that's something I'd love to see a safety try to cover.

But what worries me more is the fact that the defense isn't progressing as well as I'd hoped. On Saturday we made a journeyman like Justin Worrell look like Aaron Murray, and he's just the latest QB to have a big day against our D. We've got some shortages on that side of the ball too, and it's a tribute to the O that we continue to outscore opponents. But our opponents keep trying to win these games, and I suspect that they've got plenty of film to show them how, even if I can't tell myself how we're coming up short. Some guys are playing lights-out. Ray Drew is doing quite a Geno Atkins imitation, Wilson and Herrera are tough in the middle, and the front seven rotation looks strong and athletic to me. The secondary is an easy target for blame, but I can't see what they're doing to give up yardage, so I don't want to jump to that conclusion. It's not quite clicking yet on that side of the ball.

We didn't seem quite as disorganized against Tennessee as we did against LSU, but I suspect that Coach Grantham and staff will introduce some urgency to this week's practices to keep Missouri from hanging 51 points on us, as they did to Vanderbilt on Saturday. I'm all for the sort of drama that might win Aaron Murray the Heisman Trophy he so richly deserves, but I'd also like for Foghorn Bullhorn to have a voice left by the end of the season. The Scowlmeister reports that his glass is presently half-empty given the shortage of players. I'm hoping that he's wrong again.

Dawg Doots:

- I wonder how much the Protestants are paying Lou Holtz to do those [Catholics Come Home](#) ads?
- If you think J. J. Green came out of nowhere, check out his [highlight reel](#) from Camden Co. and understand why, with Gurley and Marshall aboard, the coaching staff went hard after J. J. and his 160 pounds of mass.
- Mrs. Butts believes that if UGA team members had [heckled a dramatization of the brutal murder of a gay kid](#) in midweek, they'd have transferred to Mississippi by now. Instead, they have been required to "attend an educational dialogue session," which should sensitize them to Coach Freeze's satisfaction. No players were otherwise disciplined.
- Recruiting update: Arden Key has decommitted from S. Carolina, even after saying of their academic demands, "The academic part, it's like you have to try to fail," to [explain his interest in getting a college education](#) at a place less demanding. I hear Hugh Freeze is interested.

## The Coveted Dawgmeister Good Guy of the Week Award

### [Good Guy Archive](#)

This week we honor Rhonda Kilpatrick, Associate Director of Compliance and Student Services at the Rankin Smith Academic Center. Rhonda is a native Athenian, having graduated from Cedar Shoals HS in 1978 and UGA in 1982, where she played volleyball. Rhonda, hubby Kent, and their five kids bleed Red and Black, and Rhonda's been a stalwart for the Athletic Association since 1996, now providing academic counseling and leadership for football, gymnastics, and men's and women's golf while also overseeing National Letters of Intent and scholarships for all sports. Many people wonder [if athletics and academics can coexist](#) at major universities, and from Rhonda's standpoint, the answer is an emphatic YES. The Athletic Association and football coaching staff place a strong value on graduation of student-athletes, and it's people like Rhonda who make it happen. She's risen through the ranks to key administrative positions while also maintaining close personal ties to student-athletes and the tutors and advisors who see them through their academic programs. When you see the guys on the field and understand that football film is not the only thing they study at UGA, you have folks like Rhonda to thank; and I'm sure that a whole lot of athletes across the spectrum are now thankful to Rhonda and friends for making sure that they got a degree when sports couldn't pay the rent. A Dang Great Dawgette, and one who makes us proud to be part of the Dawg Nation.



The Forecast: Dawgs vs. Missouri. Remember all that “old man football” stuff from last year that morphed into Grown Man Football? Well, given the injury situation, get ready for Young Man Football between the hedges on Saturday. Aaron Murray has it going so well right now that might not matter if he's Gurley, Marshall, or Kyle Karempelis in the backfield or Little Woolly and Rhonda Kilpatrick at WR. This one won't be as easy as it looked a couple of weeks ago, and Missouri will come in mighty hungry and competitive. But Murray again just straps the team on his back and carries it to victory. Dawgs, 35-31.

National Game of the Week: Florida goes to LSU and finds itself way, way back in the SEC race after this one. They might need stretchers every five minutes to clean up the carnage at the line of scrimmage, because both teams are physical and desperate. The more desperate home team brings this one home, with Mett showing a hint of what Murray will do in a couple of weeks in Jacksonville. Tigers, 24-14.

National Upset of the Week: First, as a reminder not to use my forecasts for wagering purposes, some stats. Keep in mind I entered the weekend 0-4 in upset picks, and then picked Maryland

over Florida State. Cumulative score in my upset forecasts: Favorites, 202; Predicted winners, 50.

So, be wary with this week's pick, and keep your wallet in your pocket: Separation Saturday continues in the SEC East: How about Arkansas over S. Carolina? Arkansas is designed to run, run, run, which makes it harder for Jadeveon "Don't Put Me In Coach" Clowney to make a difference. This weekend all but ends the race to the SEC championship game, injuries notwithstanding. Arkansas, 28-27.