THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST: DAWGS ROAST WAR EAGLES IN THANKSGIVING APPETIZER

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NICK FAIRLEY BAKED

NICK FAIRLEY STRAIGHT

The Scowlmeister was so distraught over the Florida game and our season's prospects that he went down into his bunker the next day and lived on cold canned corned beef hash and crackers all week. The solution: Score on the opening kickoff and never look back.

The coaching staff expressed disappointment all week in the team's punting game. The solution: Score on every possession so you don't have to punt.

The coaches were displeased with the play of Leonard Floyd, considered the top linebacker in the 2015 NFL draft, based on his inability to tackle Florida ballcarriers; and Floyd's injured shoulder kept him sidelined for most of the game. The solution: Unleash true freshman Lorenzo "Hurricane" Carter and let him terrorize the Kentucky backfield for an afternoon.

Throughout the first half, the broadcasters were openly questioning Hutson Mason's ability and wondering if Brice Ramsey would be brought in to salvage the game and season should Mason not move the team and put points on the board, a concern that has

endured in spite of the fact that he's led the league's highest-scoring offense, in spite of having Gurley available for only half the games. The solution: Have Mason play an impeccable game, with major assists from his skill guys, but ultimately a game that followed his lead under center; and have Ramsey mop for the entirety of the fourth quarter.

Dawg fans have rightfully fretted that losing Todd Gurley would result in a lost season and frustrating, sputtering offense. The solution: With only Brendan Douglas otherwise available, with Keith Marshall out, and with Sony Michel injured for several games, roll out Nick Chubb and find that he goes for 150 yards just by showing up. The broadcasters talked about how much faster and shiftier Michel is than Chubb, but I think that those observations obscure the impact of Chubb's speed and the burst of Michel's power between the tackles. Chubb could probably start for the Falcons right now, although began the season fourth string in our backfield.

All week Mark Bradley questioned whether Mark Richt can coach and made the case that he should be on the hot seat after one loss, albeit a big one, albeit badly. The solution: Win a blowout away SEC game that had a lot of Dawg fans worried that we just didn't have it in us to pull off after the disheartening loss in Jacksonville. Many of the faithful were concerned that Kentucky was a team on the rise and would pile on after the indignities in Jacksonville—an illusion, it appears, of a belief in the impact of improved recruiting rankings, a hard-fought loss at Florida, and what was now clearly a weak early-season schedule.

Unfortunately, there's no solution to how bad a writer and thinker Mark Bradley is. The AJC trots him out week after week, no matter how much of a frontrunner he is, jumping on and off teams' bandwagons with no memory of last week's opinion, oblivious to the fact that he's an imbecile and convinced, like AJC sidekick and fellow numbskull Jeff Schultz, that he knows sports better than the people who coach and play them.

So, how does a team play so well in two consecutive road wins, then get manhandled by a team struggling to compete, and then absolutely destroy a team that took the same Florida team into 3 OTs? I think a lot of it has to do with Florida's talent base, which is actually quite good, even as program and offensive leadership have been quite bad, at least until they finally changed QBs. Florida's recruiting classes have been as good as ever, a fact disguised by their play on the field. Against us, they put it all together on a day when we brought our D game. In Lexington, we brought our A+ game, aside from some shaky ball security in the first half.

On Saturday in Athens, the stadium will experience the return of Todd Gurley, now set to redeem his season and career and give the offense a boost beyond even what it produced against Kentucky. You thought the Blackout Game of a few years back produced a thrill? Saddle up and get ready then. If Sanford Stadium had a roof, Saturday's crowd would blow it off. This game should be one for the ages.



WAR EAGLE ATTEMPTS TO PECK OUT THE EYEBALL OF AUBURN CHEERLEADER; MISSES WIDE RIGHT

DAWG DOOTS

- Needless to say, the OL had a spectacular game on Saturday.
- Lost in the justified excitement over our offensive production for the most part this season: You can't have a dominant running game without wide receivers who are clearing out defensive backs. Great job by Tony Ball and the underappreciated receiver group, both in hauling in passes when called upon and playing physical football downfield to make space for the RBs.
- Pearl has given a second chance to 7-foot-1 center Trayvon Reed, who signed with Maryland out of Shiloh HS but was unable to enroll after getting arrested and is now attending prep school. He committed to Auburn when Auburn officials won him over with the promise of a second chance. According to Reed's AAU coach, Winfred Jordan, "That's what the president of the school and the athletics director told Trayvon—they were like, 'Auburn is the second-chance university.' They gave Bruce Pearl a second chance. The athletic director said they gave him a second chance. That's what life is about—giving people second chances and believing in them. Auburn is giving Trayvon a chance to proceed in life and become a better man."
- In a list apparently compiled by coeds in Tallahassee, FL, Heinous Jameis Winston was named as one of the 10 most terrifying players in college football.

Jameis puckers up for his next conquest:



- "There's another false report, and that's amazing how things happen. Whoever has sources, whoever has rumors, needs to check who they are talking to -- because that is about as far from truth as there is. It's funny. That guy, who's a tremendous kid, a tremendous ambassador, I don't even know where that [suspension report] would come from. It kind of caught me off guard like 'Whoa.' Karlos has been wonderful." ~Jimbo Fisher, articulating his views on the ongoing domestic violence investigation into his starting tailback's home life
- "Wayne Walden is the most ethical person I know. Some of the things he did have been paraphrased . . . and it's made him look bad. I hate that for him. His pride in his own morality is as high as anyone I've been around." ~Roy Williams in reference to the academic adviser he brought with him from Kansas to UNC, who was found to have steered players into bogus classes
- "I think we all want to know, 'What does God want me to do?' But I think God is more concerned about *how* we do what we do—and whom we do it for. [Assaulting a woman] is just not acceptable behavior, so [Jonathan Taylor] lost his privilege of being here. Do I still love him? I do. I'm hoping he learns from it and moves on and never lets that happen again, which will bless his future wife and children." ~Mark Richt
- "Bless whom?" ~Michael Sam

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

Brad Register played at UGA from 1996-2000, earning his B.S. in Microbiology before heading off to the medical school at Johns Hopkins University and, in 2004, becoming Bradley C. Register, M.D. He played guard on the OL at UGA, earning three letters. He was one of the university's academic stars, with appointments to the Leadership UGA Program, Dean William Tate Society, Gridiron Secret Society, and the Student-Athlete Advisory Council/V.P. Social Interaction group, in which he remains active. His work in the classroom earned him 3 Academic All-Southeastern Conference recognitions, 3 Scholar Athlete for UGA Football awards, and 3 National Football Foundation Scholar Athlete notices, along with awards for being the Peach Bowl Scholar Athlete, the Peach of an Athlete Role Model Award recipient, the Bernard B. Ramsey Endowed Scholarship for Academic and Athletic Excellence awardee, the Joel Eaves Award for top Male UGA Senior Student-Athlete winner, and admission to three Honor Societies: Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, and Golden Key. Now a surgeon at the Athens Orthopedic Clinic, where he tops the charts in his satisfaction ratings from his patients, Brad has also served terms as the Assistant Team Physician for the U.S. Ski Team and U.S. Snowboard Team. In his copious spare time, he authors scientific papers such as "Rate of Hinge Healing after Open Door Laminoplasty" and other topics related to his work. Here's how <u>he's described</u> by one of his patients: "Dr. Register is one of the best doctors I've ever seen. He knows what he's talking about and is caring and sweet. He spent a lot of time with me, making sure I understood what was wrong and how he was going to fix it. He took an interest in me as a patient and made me feel at ease. He remembered me when I saw him afterwards in a public location, which was nice because I'm sure he has many patients. Great doctor, great person. Highly recommend." Couldn't have said it any

better myself. Next time you blow out your knee or other major bodily joint, give the good doctor a call and treat yourself to exceptional treatment from an exceptional Dawg.

THE FORECAST DAWGS VS. AUBURN

Prologue: True confession: I like Gus Malzahn. I like Jeremy Pruitt, and Art Briles too. These are not guys who got coaching jobs because they have the right name—Derek Dooley, Skip Holtz, Lane Kiffin, Steve Spurrier, Jr., and many others come to mind—but because they started out as high school coaches and worked their way up by achieving. Malzahn began as defensive coordinator at Hughes HS in Arkansas in 1991, was head coach from 1992-1996, then became HC at Shiloh Christian in 1996. In 2001, Malzahn moved to Springdale High School, then joined the Arkansas staff in 2005 in what at the time seemed a move to get Mitch Mustain, who played for Springdale and was ranked ahead of Matthew Stafford and Tim Tebow coming out of high school, to commit. Mustain ended up transferring to S. Cal and never starting; Malzahn has been a star everywhere he's been, and losing to A&M doesn't make him a bad coach, though I'm sure that Mark Bradley has now put him on the hot seat. Malzahn has built this career on ability and commitment, with no brand name recognition to jump over people with better qualifications. Got to admire that.

FORECAST: Nick Chubb has been a revelation this year, and on Saturday the starter returns, and Chubb will run fresh with every carry, as will Gurley. Michel looked completely recovered against Kentucky, and we even saw Jonathan Rumph out there at last. Auburn scores on everyone, but aside from the Florida flop, so have we. On a huge national stage, the Dawgs have an opportunity to put their two losses behind them and take out a team that may well have had their own Florida game against A&M on Saturday—if not in degree, perhaps in spirit, especially with a key WR now injured. I don't think we'll be saying after the game that we underestimated them. I think we'll be saying that we handled them. There will be no repeat of last season's Disaster in the Pasture. Good guys, 48-45.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: MISSISSIPPI STATE AT ALABAMA

I can't say that I pull for Mississippi State. I hate their cowbells, their cruddy town, their drab uniforms, and their historic mediocrity. The Lamestream Sports Media loves their narrative this year, and that works against my rooting interests as well. But if they can keep Alabama from winning the West, then I'm hopping on the bandwagon if for no other reason than it'll be one less season to hear about how invincible Nick Saban is.

Alabama has lost big games at home during his term, and here's one guy hoping he loses another. Other Bulldogs, 28-27.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: MIAMI OVER FSU

Miami's got a good team this year, and FSU has had some weak games. This one's in Miami's bandbox stadium, where the crowd occasionally almost fills the seats, but I'm giving them the home field advantage. Canes, 35-31.

Disclaimer: If you use The Dawgmeister's advice as your source of information when placing wagers, please seek help from a trained professional.