

THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST: DAWGS BITE BUTCH'S (B)UT

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SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE

SEPARATED@BIRTH?



DEREK DOOLEY & DR. OZ

Is Troy the worst team ever to visit Sanford Stadium? They couldn't run or catch on offense, and, against a team that was already subbing liberally in the second quarter, couldn't stop anything on defense. As the score and stat sheet indicate, they were terrible, in spite of starting something like 18 juniors and seniors, according to the guys on the pregame radio show. I think we could have started 18 freshmen and still beaten the snot out of them. So, as much as I enjoyed the domination, and seeing the young pups romp throughout the game, it's hard to call this event anything to build hope on. At least we now know what it feels like to be Georgia Tech the week of the Presbyterian game.

Coveted Dawgmeister Game Balls go to Brice "The Camden County Cannon" Ramsey and Faton "The Albanian Bane O' Y'all" Fauta for getting solid reps and showing that we've got some nice options behind Hutson Mason, with very different skills at the position. One spectator in my section made a comment that would have gotten him suspended for a half-game at FSU, something about Ramses and Trojans, but I would never repeat it in a family-oriented medium like this one. Fortunately for the Dawg Nation, one of the two's protective shield didn't leak on Saturday.

It's hard to tell whether the increasing use of the jet sweep and wildcat were designed to divert UT's gameplanning, or constitute a new emphasis of the offense. I give Mike Bobo credit for adjusting his playbook to his personnel and finding ways to use McKenzie and Michel in space. As the post-game guys were wondering on the radio, how did anyone ever stop the American Heritage High School Patriots from scoring? Against stiffer teams, Bobo has opened with jet sweeps to open the middle for Gurley, then abandoned it as the game has progressed. It'll be interesting to see how he engineers the playcalling with the SEC schedule beginning in earnest next Saturday, and some fresh new talent getting its game legs steadier and on the move.

My heart goes out to Keith Marshall, by all accounts a super good guy who hasn't recovered his form and who was again set back on Saturday. Looks as though it'll be Gurley, Michel, Chubb, and Douglas in reserve as we get into conference play. I like the way the coaches resisted temptation to pad TG's stats (unlike Wisconsin against an equally wretched opponent) and got other guys, especially Michel, the game reps they need to contribute, while resting Todd, who looked slightly gimpy on Saturday, for a playoff run.

The main chatter in my section of the stands—notably bereft of Negatron, who I hope has decided to donate his ticket to a battered women's shelter in Baltimore and watch from home—concerned two shortcomings. First, the fact that Troy's receivers and backs couldn't catch footballs masked the problem that they were wide open, and in the same spots where S. Carolina's SEC WRs caught a ton of balls against us. We can't expect Tennessee to have receivers with hands of stone, and I suspect that our continuing lapses in covering those parts of the field has not escaped Coach Pruitt's notice.

The other is that Hutson Mason has not yet played beyond the Game Manager label, and looks less comfortable than Brice Ramsey dropping back and winging it. But after each game I've had the same feeling, only to read the stat line and see that he's had a very efficient game. One of my more corpulent compatriots in the stands said several times that any of us up in the crowd could hand the ball off to Gurley and look good, and surely that helps Mason out, but he's still three games in with no INTs and a lot of points on the board. But he also hasn't worked out back-shoulder timing with his WRs, and has yet to throw a serious pass downfield, which Ramsey seems quite capable of doing. I'm hardly questioning which should start, just noting that the passing game looks much livelier in Ramsey's hands than Mason's, while also noting that Mason has run the show well without being called on to go deep in the passing game.

After arriving home, I warmed up The Big Screen for Florida at Alabama. Now, nobody expected Florida to win, so losing at Alabama was not a stunner. Danielson said early in the broadcast that QB play would be a big difference-maker, and truer words were never spoken. Blake Sims of Gainesville, GA badly outplayed Jeff Driskel, who is having a Reggie Ball-like career at Florida after being the nation's top QB recruit out of HS, except without anyone called Megatron in his receiver corps. Florida has a thin roster and will wear down in second halves, probably increasingly so as the season goes on and depth matters more and more. I don't see how Will Muschamp survives this season.

Vern Lundquist's game narrative was based on Saban being Muschamp's mentor, which the whole announcing team attempted to foist upon viewers yet which both coaches downplayed. Muschamp was Saban's assistant long ago at LSU and then the Dolphins, and left Miami for Auburn before leaving Auburn for Texas, where he was anointed Mac Brown's successor before being named Urban Meyer's at Florida. Seems to me that Mac Brown is the more appropriate mentor, and it's showing. Kirby Smart must be wondering what he's got to do to land the kind of jobs that have fallen so easily to fellow ex-Dawg DB Muschamp.

DAWG DOOTS

- ⊗ “Just because of the attention and the cases now in the public consciousness, the university would have been unlikely to take on a situation like that.” ~ Joe Castiglione, Oklahoma Athletic Director, on the decision he and Bob Stoops made to accept the transfer of former Missouri star Dorial Green-Beckham after he had broken into the home of his girlfriend by smashing through the drywall surrounding the door, pushed one of her roommates down a set of stairs, and then dragged his girlfriend out of the apartment by her neck. OU’s newfound sensibilities do not follow from their understanding that this is a brutally savage way to treat women, but because news of such conduct might result in bad publicity. In 2014, two other OU players have assaulted women, one sexually and one with a bone-breaking punch to the face. All three are really, really good football players. All three are still on football scholarships at Oklahoma, though have been suspended from football. I assume that their studies are taking top priority for all three in the Sooner Nation.
- ⊗ “I just hope the slap on his wrist was not on his throwing arm.” ~Brother Willie on rapist, vandal, thief, and spreader of Internet memes Brainless Jameis Winston after he was suspended for half of the Clemson game by the moral leaders at FSU, who later decided that "Based upon the results of our continuing investigation of Tuesday's incident involving Heinous Jameis Winston, we have decided to not play him for the entire game against Clemson on Saturday night."
The Entire Game.
- ⊗ “I hear that Lamest Jameis is being suspended for the half that Clemson has the ball.” ~ Granny Butts, upon learning of the original suspension
- ⊗ “Did Heinous Jameis get suspended without pay?” ~ Little Woolly
- ⊗ “FSU no longer respects Anus Jaimes’s constitutional right to free speech.” ~Studs McMachoman
- ⊗ “I do have a goal of treating these guys with respect and dignity and making them accountable for what we ask them to do and helping them be the best football player they can be and be the best human being they can be. I know for 18- to 22-year-olds, that time frame is just huge when it comes to the growth of a young man. ... I was talking to our seniors about that. In just a few short months it’s going to be on them. They’re going to be in a position where it’s time for them to be making decisions on their life and on marriage and thinking about how they want to lead their families and love their wife and love their children and all those kinds of things.” ~Mark Richt
- ⊗ “Wife?” ~Michael Sam

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

Brandon Burrows came to UGA from Walton HS in Marietta, recruited as defensive end but caught in the transition from Martinez to Grantham and not well suited for the new scheme: too small for an interior DE, not quite suited for the new linebacker positions. He looked the part of a football star, and talked the part of a professor—Brandon is one of the most intellectual of our recruits in recent memory, and people tell me he’s quite a hoot to follow on Twitter. He was the sort of player that the coaches and academic staff liked to put in front of people to make a good impression and put a nice

buff on the program's reputation. When [ABC TV's Dr. Richard Besser interviewed Coach Richt on concussions](#), Brandon was one of three players (along with Garrison Smith and Artie Lynch) to serve as the face and voice of the program for the interview. But in addition to his uncertainty over position, Brandon could never get healthy. In high school he tore his ACL and missed his senior year; and at UGA he had chronic shoulder problems that required surgery, missed a year following hand surgery, and suffered a concussion that sidelined him again. He rarely made the field, and even at one point decided to transfer, only to change his mind within a week to stay with his coaches and teammates and the Red and Black Nation. Football, however, was not his only option in life. Brandon tore it up in the classroom, majoring in Communication Studies and being a three-time recipient of the I.V. Chandler Memorial Football Scholarship and a one-time winner of the Jack Davis Honorary Football Scholarship while also earning the occasional spot on the Athletic Director's Honor Roll. Brandon ultimately made the ultimate sacrifice for his team, taking a medical exemption for his senior year, and now serving as an assistant in the program. And it's no surprise that he'll use this opportunity to continue taking courses, this time at the graduate level. Brandon's a great example of how college football can work for guys who, for whatever reasons, don't contribute on the field. With his Hollywood good looks, *basso profundo* voice, bright personality, and sublime intelligence, don't be surprised if you see him down the road in front of the camera again, in whatever role he decides to take.



THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. TENNESSEE

Dawgs host Vols in a big game for two teams that still think they can win the SEC East. Last year's game in Knoxville was scary for many reasons. The AP story after the game began with "Georgia's national title hopes kept shrinking as its injury list kept growing," which was the story of the season. Later in the story: "[Keith] Marshall injured his knee after taking a hit from Tennessee's Cam Sutton while reaching for an incomplete pass in the first quarter and was carted into the locker room. Wide receivers Michael Bennett and Justin Scott-Wesley and punter Colin Barber were knocked out of the game later. Georgia played the entire game without injured star running back Todd Gurley and safeties Tray Matthews and Connor Norman." It hurts me just reading that summary, and all I'm doing is sitting at my desk with family bulldog Wags drooling on the carpet. If I slip in it, maybe I'll need surgery too. I think that UT will try to do what SC and Troy did: throw intermediate passes between the LBs and safeties until we show we have got guys who can secure that part of the field. Against Troy we gave auditions to

about 15 guys, looking for a handful who can follow their assignments, and I hope that something clicks this week and enough DBs emerge to keep UT from moving the chains so easily. But I also think that our offense is finding its playmakers, and that they will make enough plays for us to win. Good Guys, 38-28.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: MISSOURI AT S. CAROLINA

A Mizzou win puts us back in control, and we really could use the help. But good god, losing to Indiana? I never saw that coming: a bottom feeder in a mid-major conference taking down a defending SEC division champ, and on Missouri's field to boot. I like Missouri's program because Pinkett throws his best guys off the team if they really screw up, much as Coach Richt does here; and who knows, if he were more like Jimbo Fisher, woman beater Dorial Green-Beckham might still be doing for Maty Mauk what Calvin Johnson once did for Reggie Ball, and Mizzou might still be undefeated. As much as everyone hates Spurrier, I've always liked him and he's obviously a historically great coach who might not keep his players on as short a leash as Pinkett or Richt, but never has his program investigated. So I have no moral basis on which to make a forecast, meaning I have to rely on my football acumen, of which I have none. Because we really need it, Tigers over Gamecocks, 41-38. *[Note: not for wagering purposes]*

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: NOTRE DAME AT SYRACUSE

Call it a feeling, but I'm taking Orange over Green. Actually, that feeling has a name: Hatred. Syracuse, 21-20. *[Note: As you always do, wager at your own risk]*