

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:  
DAWGS HANCHER DOWN ON 'DORES**

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SEPARATED@BIRTH?**



**EX-SAN DIEGO  
MAYOR BOB FILNER**



**THE JOKER**

Enough carries for you?



I rewatched the game on the Big Screen on Sunday. With 12 minutes to go in the fourth quarter, the broadcasters were talking about the game's emerging storyline: the remarkable game that UT RB Jalen Hurd was having after he'd become the first true freshman at Tennessee to go over 100 yards since Jamal Lewis. There was little mention of Georgia's running game, because our star, Todd Gurley, was having a rather ordinary game to that point, about 85 yards total and about 5+ yards per carry, with nothing to

suggest that within a few minutes, he'd be the Heisman Trophy frontrunner. UGA got the ball back with about 10 minutes to go, and things changed fast.

On my way to the game, I listened to the pregame radio show. One of the guys said that today would be the day that we get to see Hutson Mason's downfield game, that we'd be unleashing the hounds and throwing to the endzone. That never happened except on a lob downfield that was intercepted. Throughout the game, broadcaster Brian Griese was critical of Mason, who said repeatedly that Mason needs to become more than a game manager and emerge as a threat, and UGA needs more production out of the QB position.

Studs McMachoman, my companion for the afternoon, is not an SEC guy and so provides dispassionate views of the games. Like other people in my section, he takes a rather grim view of our starting QB, and doesn't think that a downfield game is possible with Mason under center, given that Hutson's ball doesn't have any snap on it, an opinion [shared by others](#) out there in Dawgland. The faithful would like to see what Brice Ramsey can do, and complain that Mason's absence of armstrength won't matter even when Mitchell and Scott-Wesley return.

Only Little Woolly wonders what our rushing attack would do with a runner like Faton Bauta operating from a wildcat formation so that the QB is more of a threat and so that the RBs would have more space to work in. The wildcat we have run with Michel and McKenzie thus far has two options, jet sweep handoff or faked jet sweep handoff and dash up the middle. With Michel now out, Bauta could run packages that give us all that and more.

"It's amazing we won going 1 for 10 on third down. Pretty lucky, pretty blessed whatever you want to call it and still find a way to win. We've just got to better in the passing game all around, for me and everybody else." ~Hutson Mason

On Saturday, Gurley was a one-man army, but the consensus from most observers is that our QB needs to be more of a threat if we want to win the East, even with Todd Gurley playing such magnificent football.

My section has been remarkably devoid of haters this season. Coach Knute "Bear" Lombardi was raptured at halftime of the Auburn game a few years ago, and Negatron does indeed appear to have donated his ticket to a battered women's shelter in Baltimore so he can rage at the games on TV, or perhaps over in your section of the stadium. Another of the approximately 90,000 head football coaches in the stands, however, continues to share his wisdom, that being Secundus Guesser, who shakes his head every time a play doesn't work and explains the play we should have run and what would have happened instead, if only our coaches weren't such complete idiots with no understanding whatsoever of the very simple game of football.

I'm sure that other people have noticed this, but you could predict pretty accurately what would happen on UT's drives by paying attention to first down. If they got under a couple of yards, they had a difficult time converting because we were able to rush the passer. If they got more than 5 yards, they had a bigger playbook and their intermediate

game worked extremely well. Studs McMachoman has followed Butch Jones since he was at Cincinnati and spoke highly of his ability to design a passing game reliant on wideout screens and short passes. It works best with a successful first down play, but not so well otherwise. It also struggles in the red zone where the field is more compressed and what is normally the deep coverage moves up into the short passing lanes.

In watching the replay, I saw how our strategy changed when Worley got hurt and Peterman replaced him. Worley played a terrific game, I thought, and in retrospect we're fortunate that he sat out a quarter during which we put blistering pressure on the backup and kept him on his heels and on his back. When Worley returned, we dropped the pressure into coverage, and they did a lot better. I'm sure that their scouting of QBs found that Worley gets rid of the ball quickly and so is hard to pressure, but the pressure on Peterman was devastating and completely stopped their offense.

Jordan Jenkins and Leonard Floyd may well be the best OLB tandem in the nation, but when we rotate in Lorenzo Carter, there is no dropoff whatsoever.

A Coveted Dawgmeister Game Ball goes to the coaches for going for it on fourth and short well on our half of the field early in the game; and then going for it again on fourth and three on our final drive. Gutsy calls and the right plays at the right times.

## **DAWG DOOTS**

- ☞ [Tracy Rucker mic'd!](#)
- ☞ On a generally uneven day, Collin Barber made one of the game's biggest plays on the punt that Swann and Rankin downed at the 1, leading to a huge defensive TD for the Dawgs.
- ☞ Didn't see this coming: "By going on the road and beating South Carolina, Missouri is now in the driver's seat to win the East. The Tigers are no worse than Georgia, who struggled to put away Tennessee, and better off than Florida, who can't move the ball on offense. When you consider Missouri holds the all-important head-to-head advantage over South Carolina, there's nothing that says the Tigers can't repeat as East champs." ~ESPN website
- ☞ According to a statement released by the U. of Louisville athletic department, "We are not in the business of denying worthy people a second chance in life. One mistake should not end the life opportunities of young men who make a bad decision. We have therefore decided to offer a scholarship to Charles Manson."
- ☞ How generous with second chances is Louisville? When Michael Dwyer got kicked off Auburn for excessive marijuana consumption by Gene Chizik, who overlooked a lot to sign Cam Newton, his landing spot was the U. of Louisville. And that was under Charlie Strong, who has kicked 10% of his scholarship players at Texas off the team for failing to follow the [Strong Rules](#), which beleaguered NFL commissioner Roger Goodell wants to learn more about so that pro football players will stop acting like goons.
- ☞ Saturday's biggest surprise for me: Northwestern hammering Penn State in Happy Valley after PSU's brief revival under James Franklin.
- ☞ Tennessee's not quite there yet, but they're closer than Florida and I think win at home next weekend vs. the Gators if Worley can play. That makes Brady Hoke

and Will Muschamp the next guys to get fired so that their universities can pass over Kirby Smart for their next head coaches.

- ☞ Officials in Skopje, Macedonia are interested in interviewing Aaron Hernandez in the murder of Philip of Macedon in 336 BC.
- ☞ I suspect that Southern Cal will continue to be over-ranked and over-rated, even after losing to Boston College, who lost at home to Colorado State on Saturday.

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

**Olandis Gary** was a hard-nosed running back who arrived at UGA circuitously from Riverdale Baptist School in Maryland, just outside Washington, D.C. He initially went to Marshall, recruited by Jim Donnan, then transferred to UGA when Donnan was hired by UGA in the wake of Ray Goff's dismissal. Olandis made a shift from fullback to RB to help out the team and ended up being a highly productive player for the Dawgs. In addition to making it big on the field, #22 graduated with a business degree. His bruising style eventually made him a 1999 4<sup>th</sup> round draft pick, taken by Denver and plugged into the Broncos' Mike Shanahan-era ground game machine with great results. As a rookie, he stepped in when fellow ex-Dawg Terrell Davis got injured, rushing for 1159 yards for a 4.2 yards per carry average, and scoring seven touchdowns. Like so many NFL ("Not For Long") RBs, however, he injured his knee in his second year and was never the same. He stuck with Denver through 2002, played a year in Buffalo, and finished out with Detroit, retiring in 2006. His post-NFL career has shown that Olandis can do a whole lot more than bust his way between the tackles. He put his UGA business degree to work for him, along with the MBA he earned at Liberty University, to launch 1st Millennium Mortgage LLC. Two years later he founded another company in the Washington, D.C. area, [RePax Inc.](#), which provides environmentally friendly, reusable boxes that the company delivers for people to use instead of cardboard boxes for major moves. Good idea, good guy, and a great role model for young athletes to look up to.



## **THE FORECAST**

### **DAWGS VS. VANDERBILT**

The Owlmeister was mighty uplifted when Temple opened the season with a blowout win over Vandy, at Vandy. Even I was seduced by the manhandling, thinking that Vandy would be good because they had been on the rise with James Franklin and seemed to have made a good hire in Derek Mason; and thus thinking that the Owls might make noise this season. But it turns out that Temple's win was simply a sign of a tremendous, sudden downslide in Nashville, even as Temple's pounding of UConn leaves them 3-1

and further puts a smile on the Owlmeister's face. Vandy isn't as bad as Troy, but has returned to the level that made Vandy everyone's homecoming game not long ago, even if they did briefly give S. Carolina a good game a few weeks ago. Dawgs should have their day: Good Guys, 48-10, as we re-sort the RB rotation in light of injuries and with luck make some noise in the passing game.

#### **NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: LSU AT AUBURN**

I was mighty surprised to see LSU lose to Mississippi State at home. Their QB looked shaky and their defense looked beatable, and the latter is a continuation of a dropoff that began last season. With A&M up and Mississippi State and Arkansas on the rise, it might be a season of role reversal in the West. Leonard Fournette was supposed to be the next Adrian Peterson, but those comparisons are on hold for many reasons. And LSU's defense, which did not look like an LSU defense last year, looks less like one this year. Meanwhile, although Auburn is clearly not firing away the way they did last year with Mason getting carries and #2 overall pick Greg Robinson blowing open holes. I think Auburn will win at home in a close one. Tigers (of course), 24-21.

#### **NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: ALABAMA AT MISSISSIPPI**

The national games do have an SEC West flavor this week. Alabama is not quite as stout on either line of scrimmage as they have been in championship years, and somebody's going to beat them. Why not Mississippi? Rebs, 21-20.