

THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST: #3 SKIDOO FOR MIZZOU

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SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE

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MARK MANGINO & THE BLOBFISH

“Todd Gurley is just another running back in the SEC we're going to have to tackle. I feel like given the strength and given the size of our defense, we are going to be able to handle that quite properly.” ~Vanderbilt linebacker Caleb Azubike in mid-week

“We want to minimize [Gurley’s] long runs as best we can. Anytime you can stop a running back from breaking long runs or having explosive runs, that's what you want to do.” ~Vanderbilt coach Derek Mason before the game

“But did you know he could pass?” ~ Little Woolly

I've got to give Vandy credit: They did scheme Gurley so that he never broke one of his thrilling 50+ yarders, and he ended up with a more or less human 6.5 yards per carry. But on a weekend when just about every other preseason contender for the Heisman took a loss, **TG2** managed to handle Saturday quite properly. Marcus Mariota getting Pollacked by Arizona's Scooby Wright to seal Oregon's loss was a thing of beauty. Sunday morning brought news of the West Coast upsets piled on top of the historic day of shockers in the East. No wonder that, in spite of the cheating, the bad behavior, the injuries, and Tim Tebow's continuing ubiquity, college football remains such great spectacle.

Perhaps the national indignities suffered on Saturday should help us appreciate a conference blowout win, even at Vandy's expense. They beat us last year, albeit through dubious officiating and a Dawg roster with more crutches under armpits than bones on helmets, so could not be taken too lightly. We needed the win, we got the win, and now it's on to Mizzou for what should be the East's biggest game of the season, until the next one.

Dawg fans have been unsettled by our QB play, and if letting 'er rip involves hitting one wind-aided bomb per game, then that's at least an improvement. But if you look around, what SEC East team has great QBing? In fact, you could make the case that Mason is the best QB in the East. The main competition comes from Maty Mauk, Dylan Thompson, and Patrick Towles. Vandy's rotation of backups got them nowhere, and Florida has

benched the hideous Jeff “Young Reggie Ball” Driskel in favor of a freshman, and that freshman is not program savior and celebrated recruit Will Grier, who according to Trent Dilfer [“dominated” in yoga](#) at the Elite 11 camp. Treon Harris is now viewed as the next big thing in Florida after completing 2 of 4 passes for 17 yards and running for 24 more on 4 carries after Driskel was benched during perhaps the worst game of one of the worst careers ever for a prospect ranked as the nation’s top HS QB (and #1 overall recruit, to some). The 5-11, 175 lb. Harris’s primary quality, [according to the Gainesville press and Florida players](#), is that he is calm.

Mason might not be lighting it up, but has anyone in the East taken charge except Towles, who has not played anything approaching UGA’s schedule to this point?

The West has a much more impressive set of QBs: Marshall, Prescott, Sims, Hill, and Wallace; but also a few who’d fit right in or be backups in the East. This is such an interesting season in so many ways, including the fact that UGA’s longest pass completion this season was thrown by Todd Gurley.

Like a lot of young bucks, Brice Ramsey hoped to show off his great arm during his series on Saturday, and in the process fired some passes well beyond his receivers. It’s perhaps instructive to keep in mind that Ramsey has never in his life run a passing attack in a real game, having played exclusively as a Wing-T QB for Jeff Herron in Camden County, where he primarily handed the ball off, even as he dazzled in college camps with his arm. So to assume he’ll just step right in and be a great QB out of the pocket because he’s got a cannon in his right arm socket is perhaps optimistic. Getting him several series a game might be the best way to help his transition to the demands of Mike Bobo’s system.

The guys on the postgame radio show interviewed Coach Richt, who was fairly muted in his praise for the team’s play. In particular, he said that we need a much better punting game. When Chuck noted that balls were held up by the stiff wind, Coach dismissed the excuse and said that this facet of our game needs to improve fast.

A Coveted Dawgmeister Game Ball goes to Malcolm Mitchell. A warm Dawgmeister Welcome back to the team’s resident literary scholar.

DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ The state of Missouri has lethally injected 8 Death Row prisoners in 2014, and a total of 10 in the last year. According to sources, this predilection for the execution of violent criminals has nothing to do with Dorial Green-Beckham’s decision to transfer to Oklahoma.
- ☞ Aaron Hernandez is now, according to the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, a suspect in all ten of these executions.
- ☞ The state of Oklahoma is now [revamping its own execution procedures](#), so Dorial, be careful out there.
- ☞ The Owlmeister wondered earlier this season why Missouri gets so little love from the national media, given that they are a pretty good story following their Eastern title last year. My own view is that their uniforms are so hideous that they

have no national charisma. It looks as though they're wearing Vanderbilt's J.V. team uniforms. Plug ugly unis, no national love. That's how it works.

- ☞ Georgia Tech is the first program in the nation to allow spectators to pay for snacks and drinks using bitcoins. Their next goal is to find fans to pay with US dollars to enter the stadium so that they can take advantage of this great advancement in finance.
- ☞ The New York Times explains [here](#) why the Big Ten has become a mid-major.
- ☞ And [here](#)'s an indication of why football needs to restrict all violence to the field of play.
- ☞ Charlie Sheen is being sued for punching a dental hygienist in the chest during an office visit. Johnny Manziel has reached out and offered to counsel him on how to manage life in the public eye with greater subtlety, grace, and beatitude.
- ☞ When asked which team benefitted most from the weekend's tumultuous outcome, Coach Doctor Pope Lou Holtz said with utmost, unambiguous clarity, "FxxstzfsfsNotreDamezxfsvhvzsqwstzfsNotreDamezfsthgfwqszfNotreDame."
- ☞ Somebody told me on Saturday that the baseball season is still going on. Really?

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

Following last week's tribute to Good Guy Olandis Gary, how about saluting a fellow Dawg, the man he replaced in Denver, **Terrell Davis**, the man who made the salute his signature gesture to Broncos fans? Davis was a native of Southern California who played many positions, including kicker, at Lincoln Prep HS. He originally committed to play for Long Beach State under former NFL legend George Allen, but Allen died following Terrell's redshirt freshman year. After playing one year, he transferred to UGA when Long Beach State cancelled its football program for financial reasons. His career at Georgia was up and down. He started out on the bench while Garrison Hearst got the carries, then fought injuries in his remaining time on the team, only exceeding 450 yards once, when he rushed for 824 as a junior. The Broncos nonetheless took him in the 6th round, where he started out as a 6th stringer with few prospects of sticking. Yet he rose like a meteor through the depth chart, beginning with a [special teams](#) play in the preseason. He subsequently got carries and showed enough to start the first game of his rookie season, ultimately becoming the catalyst for two Super Bowl champions and racking up a historic series of awards: three-time Pro Bowler, three-time first team All-Pro, two-time NFL Offensive Player of the Year, NFL MVP, AFC Player of the Year, Super Bowl MVP, and 1990s NFL All-Decade Team, to name a few. TD is one of seven players in NFL history to rush for 2,000 or more yards, and from that group, one of five never to have served jail time. If you saw him on the Jumbotron during the Troy game, you know he looks as though he could still suit up and spell Gurley for a few series, and if things keep up, he might need to. He was, however, implicated in the 2001 Atlanta Gold Club federal prostitution, fraud and racketeering trial, found innocent of all charges except having sex with a Club dancer, leading Campbell's Soup to drop him as their spokesjock—the first NFL player in history ever to cavort with a stripper. He's also had occasional incidents with the assorted bouncer or two—not quite the right stuff of Good Guy material, but part of his journey, and a step up in legal class from fellow 2,000-yard-club members O.J. Simpson and Jamal Lewis. Since football ended for him

following the injuries that derail so many RBs, [Terrell](#) has done well by doing good. He's the impetus behind the nonprofit Terrell Davis Salute the Kids Foundations and founder of Terrell Davis Foods. They say he makes quite a good [barbeque sauce](#), which y'all should keep in mind for your next cookout. He's also signed as a broadcaster with Headline Media Management, after having dabbled with the microphone on and off with the NFL Network. Terrell's a great example of a guy who's fought through a lot of adversity, made mistakes in his personal life, and come through on the other end in great shape. Life's not always easy for these kids, and when they become exceptional men, it's something we should salute.



THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. MISSOURI

Nobody thought that this would be the East's biggest game, but here we are, and the winner takes charge of the division. Got to admire Pinkel for getting his team in this position, especially with most of his big playmakers from last year's team playing on Sundays or watching from the sidelines at Oklahoma. Maty Mauk is a good, resourceful QB who provided a seamless transition when Franklin was hurt last year against us. But we've got Todd Gurley. Wait till the fourth quarter, and we'll be fine. Dawgs, 35-31.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: OREGON AT UCLA

No, not Mississippi at TAMU, or Auburn at Mississippi State. No magnolias for you. Got to get out and see the world every so often. The fact that each team lost over the weekend makes Oregon at UCLA absolutely critical for each team. . This game features the likely top two QBs in the 2015 NFL draft, and so should be a winner. But only one team wins. Bruins quack the Ducks, 49-48.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: ARKANSAS OVER ALABAMA

Have you seen Arkansas yet? Those cats can run the ball. That approach might well be the ticket vs. Alabama. I thought the Hogs would beat TAMU, and they really should have. This one's at Arkansas and a lot of pigs will be out oinking the House of Swine on, along with the rest of the nation. Arkansas, 31-28, for a rare and delicious two-game losing streak in Tuscaloosa.

Note: Use the bitcoins left over from your trip to the Flats for all wagers based on Dawgmeister forecasts. Do not, under any circumstances, bet your hard-earned US-Treasury-issued currency.