THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST: DAWGS BASK IN THE BYE

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SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE

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ADDAZIO

JESSE VENTURA



I don't know about you, but this game worried the snot out of me. Arkansas seemed to be a team on the rise, coming close a couple of times in a row against some of the nation's best teams and hungry for a breakout win. I was a bit concerned that the Missouri game might have offered false promise: Teams often rally around the loss of their star in one spirited effort, then have a difficult time sustaining their high level of play in subsequent games. Playing on the road, in a game in a special location (assuming you consider Little Rock to be special), with the adrenalin that carried us through the Missouri game having abated, against a team with a brutal running game: This one had me worried.

The game's opening drive confirmed every concern I had entering the game. Arkansas played Grown Man Football, hammering it on the ground and moving the ball downfield with authority for a score. How would we respond? I felt like the Scowlmeister after a bowl of stewed prunes, uncertain of what would happen next and a bit anxious about finding out.

Ray Drew began the turnaround by penetrating deeply against the extra point to bat it away before it got into its trajectory. A good return gave Hutson Mason a short enough field to let 'er rip and give us a lead that, by half's end, had the broadcasters—several of whom had picked Arkansas before the game—in shock. The second half was a bit flat and we did a lot of clock-burning that helped Arkansas get momentum of their own, but it was too little, too late. In a season in which the West has thoroughly dominated the East, chalk one up for the Good Guys.

The Lamestream Sports Media has missed an interesting stat from most of the season: We always seem to get dwarfed in time of possession, and often don't outgain other teams by a ton, yet have a clear advantage on the scoreboard. Our turnover-generating defense has a lot to do with that, giving us short fields while the opponent tends to start much deeper in their own territory. We also have had a number of very fast drives that produce points without running clock, including the occasional scoop-'n'-score and special teams return. Yesterday's stats:

	UGA	ARK
1st Downs	18	29
3rd down efficiency	5-11	8-15
4th down efficiency	0-1	1-2
Total Yards	386	422
Passing	179	296
Comp-Att	10-17	28-45
Yards per pass	10.5	6.6
Rushing	207	126
Rushing Attempts	39	37
Yards per rush	5.3	3.4
Penalties	9-101	7-79
Turnovers	0	4
Fumbles lost	0	2
Interceptions thrown	0	2
Possession	25:06	34:54

Once Arkansas fell behind, they had to play out of character by passing far more than running, although they also seemed to abandon their ground attack after their impressive first drive. Somebody needs to tell their coordinator that they are much harder to beat when they do what we do, and use the run to set up the pass. After they recovered our onsides kick—a strategy I liked, even though it didn't work—instead of pounding it, they tried passing plays that resulted in 3rd and 33 after our pressure sent them backwards. Their offensive coordinator knows 1,000 times more about football than I do, but I just don't see 45 passes and 37 runs doing it given their talent distribution, even as they had to air it out after falling so far behind.

Last week I made the case that Hutson Mason could be the best QB in the SEC East. I think that I can say that now with greater confidence. Vandy and Florida have major QB problems, and from what I have seen of Tennessee, Kentucky, S. Carolina, and Missouri, their QBs are too inconsistent to stake a claim to the honor. Mason has some unappreciated talents that I think have helped carry the team through the Gurley-less part of the schedule. He's an excellent ball-handler, especially in play-action fakes. He throws the ball away instead of into trouble—our turnover ratio in relation to opponents is outstanding, with of course the defense helping out with some crazy ballhawking. He's an effective runner when he needs to be, helped out with his ballhandling skills that make the run-option work. He makes the right checks and is now throwing the ball with greater authority and confidence. I think we're in mighty good hands, and was wrong to doubt him through the season's first 5 games.

On many occasions in the last three seasons, I've called Todd Gurley a one-man army. <u>Another guy</u> has called him "an evolutionary leap over everyone else on the field," and with Gurshall a distant memory, how about The Evolutionary Leap for a nickname for **72**? In his absence, we now have come together as an 88-man army, and every guy seems to be helping to fill the void.

A Coveted Dawgmeister Game Ball goes to walkon freshman Christian Payne, from Prince Avenue Christian, who stepped in and played some pretty good fullback with Taylor Maxey injured. I'm not sure where Detric Bing-Dukes stands in the current fullback mix—recall he'd been shifted from linebacker to fullback when Hall's career ended in camp. I suspect we'll be hearing more from Payne down the road, and I hope the same for Bing-Dukes back on defense.

How to Say what You Want to Say

It is what it is. ~John Locke We do what we do. ~Kevin Sumlin I am that I am. ~Yahweh That that is, is. ~Clown, Twelfth Night, William Shakespeare I am what I am. ~Popeye the Sailor Man A man's got to do what a man's got to do. ~John Steinbeck Que Será, Será, whatever will be, will be. ~16th century English heraldic motto Keep on keepin' on. ~Curtis Mayfield It depends on what the meaning of the word "is" is. ~Bill Clinton The way to stop discrimination based on race is to stop discriminating based on race. ~ Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts If it's in the game, it's in the game. ~EA Sports Marketing Genius You've gotta believe in what you believe in. ~Mike Bobo Whatever happens happens. ~Nick Chubb

DAWG DOOTS

• Courtesy of Little Woolly: <u>Tim Jennings mic'd up vs. the Falcons</u>.

- Add <u>Stephen Garcia</u> to the list of <u>moral exemplars</u> standing up for Todd Gurley by claiming that selling autographs is a widespread practice among college football players.
- "In the fourth quarter, some fans started chanting, 'Fire Muschamp.' 'Our fans have been great,' Muschamp said. 'I really appreciate their support.'" ~gatorsports.com
- Many people blame Urban Meyer for leaving Muschamp with a toxic locker room from which the program has never recovered. You would never know from the fine citizens who have emerged from Florida's Meyer era—mass murderer Aaron Hernandez, <u>locker room pariah</u> Percy Harvin—that such a thing could happen.
- In speaking of Kenny "Trill" Hill of TAMU, one of the broadcasters noted that you shouldn't trademark a nickname after a couple of good games, because the decision might look a bit premature after a few games more.
- Speaking of nicknames, whenever I see Lorenzo Carter my mind reverts and thinks Reuben "Hurricane" Carter. I think that Hurricane Carter is a great nickname for Lo, given his whirlwind style of destructive play.
- Tusk, the Arkansas live wild boar who appears to gorge nonstop in his cage throughout Razorback games while frightening young children and sensible adults, has won the Coveted Dawgmeister Most Mangiest Mascot Award for this season.
- Where is PETA when you need them?
- From Home Construction Tips from the Logistically Impaired: "Everything starts in the foundation on offense and defense and that's kind of like building a house – it all starts up front and they are our foundation." ~Bret Bielema
- Have you noticed that teams are really starting to have a lot of bad luck against our defense? That's a sign of a great defense, I think.

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

The Tereshinski family has provided the Dawg Nation with one of its most generous legacies. Four Tereshinskis have worn the Red and Black, and today we honor the fourth-for the time being, of course. Joe Tereshinski III prepped at Athens Academy and had a number of options for college ball after a career in which he was named an AJC Super Southern 100, Top 50 in Georgia, Super 11, Class A All-State his junior and senior years, and Prepstar All-American. Harvard made a strong run at him as their QB of the future, and they only allow dubious academic admissions in basketball. But Joe decided to stay in the family business and committed to the G. He attended UGA during one of the greatest run of QBs in program history, with David Greene and D.J. Shockley getting snaps in his first four years and, in his redshirt senior year, following a severe ankle injury, Matthew Stafford stepping in to replace him as starter. Fans like to think of Stafford's ascension as inevitable and perhaps overdue, but Joe had won the job to open the season, and it was his to lose. Perhaps his most notable game came in defeat when, as junior, he replaced the injured D.J. Shockley and caught a pass from Thomas Brown for the Dawgs' only TD of the game. As a student in the Terry College of Business, Joe earned the Scott and Elizabeth Kelly Endowed Football Scholarship and Wallace Butts Football Scholarship, and was named to the SEC Academic Honor. After

graduating, Joe took advantage of his degree in Risk Management and Insurance/ Finance to catch on as a consultant, and soon took a job as managing consultant, with Protiviti's Atlanta office, serving them in their global corporate development work. But football was still in his blood. In 2010 he enrolled at Wake Forest and worked as a graduate assistant with their defense. Within a year he was promoted to tight ends coach, and a year later moved over to the offensive side, becoming the inside receivers coach at UNC-Charlotte. I suspect that his brainy approach and mentoring with Coaches Richt and Bobo will serve him well as he ascends the coaching ladder. Although his career as a player never quite met the promise of his high school achievements, he's not done with football yet. I expect great things of this Dawg, and hope to see JT4 in the Red and Black before long.



THE FORECAST

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: TEMPLE AT CENTRAL FLORIDA

After a seemingly endless series of Separation Saturdays, this week is a bit thin in highend games. So to keep the Owlmeister happy, I'll feature his beloved Owls this week. Few know this true fact, but the Weekend Forecast began as a weekly email to the Owlmeister during the 1990s, expanded when Little Woolly learned to read, added Brother Willie and The Scowlmeister to enlighten their appreciation of the game, and then moved on to The Dawgbone from there so that Foghorn Bullhorn and his lovely wife, Mrs. Bullhorn, could have access, along with their son, the Young Foghorn. Temple took a loss last week and is headed into a tough match against the O'Leary Curriculum Vitae. Can the Owls do it? Here, it says yes, which doesn't bode well for Temple. Owls, 28-20.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: LSU OVER OLE MISS

Part of me is still waiting for the Mississippi bubble to burst. LSU seems to be coming together, and is at home. Don't bet on it, but I've got the Bengal Tigers, 21-20.