

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:  
DAWGS CAN TAKE KENTUCKY**

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**SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE  
SEPARATED@BIRTH?**



**SHOOTS AND  
BOARDS  
ANTHONY DAVIS**



**HOOTS AND  
HOARDS  
NIGHT OWL**

By now this game has been dissected more assiduously than a frog in a science class. By most accounts, the problem is the quarterback. People were pretty surprised when Greyson Lambert got the starting job in camp; Brice Ramsey had been wearing the “quarterback of the future” crown since he signed as a senior at Camden County HS, the man with the powerful arm who, although he’d rarely thrown the ball for Jeff Herron, was destined for stardom as a dropback QB at UGA. After a slow start, in games where we seemed to be holding back the explosives, Lambert had a magical afternoon against what turned out to be a bad South Carolina team, a bunch so disappointing that Steve Spurrier walked away from the game rather than trying to keep teaching it to them.

And then, things went downhill. Starting with the Alabama game, people began to wonder if we’d seen a mirage that glorious day in Sanford Stadium where Lambert was unstoppable. Beginning then, every time Coach Richt walked off the field at halftime, whoever stuck a mike into his face asked, “Coach, are you thinking of making a quarterback change?” No, said Coach, we’ve got to block and tackle better.

After the Missouri game, with two weeks to prepare, the rumor got out just before the Florida game that UGA would go into the weekend with Faton Bauta having earned his shot at QB1. To Chip Towers, the most dependable source of Dawg information, starting Bauta would be “the most radical coaching move by Mark Richt since he sent the entire team onto the field to celebrate a first-quarter touchdown against Florida in 2007.” Added the less dependable Mark Bradley, “If Bauta does start, it will be Richt’s boldest move as Georgia’s coach—and his most desperate. But desperation has been known to be the mother of invention, has it not?” The Scowlmeister, anticipating catastrophe in

his role as Chairman of the Board of the Pessimists' Club, implored The Almighty to help Bauta out: "Let's pray that he does well. If this blows up in our faces it's going to be pretty ugly." Brother Willie was less oriented to disaster scenarios, simply saying, "Wow, that is a shocker! That is a pretty big stage for a first-time start."

Jack Daniels—a Florida grad and not a beverage served at General Beauregard's in Athens—coached Bauta in high school, and said: "I think if there's anybody who can handle that moment and hasn't been in that moment before, I think it's Faton. There's really something special about him that I hope everybody finds out about tomorrow. It's about how his teammates will play for him, how he'll never quit. . . . I think there's a special quality he has that hardly anybody I've coached has had."

And finally, back to Chip: "If Bauta, who has never started a game—nor even had a meaningful snap in a meaningful game—fails miserably against the Gators' stout defense, the coaching staff will be criticized for throwing an inexperienced quarterback into a situation for which he was not prepared. If Bauta comes through and plays well, the coaches could be questioned for not evaluating the competition better earlier in the season."

And so, as Coach Richt headed off the field after a dismal first half on Saturday, sideline reporter Megyn Kelly corralled him and asked: "Coach, are you thinking of making a change at quarterback?"

The answer: No, we've got to block and tackle better.

What's wrong with this team this year? We're almost out of quarterbacks to change to; maybe AHB cub reporter Fletcher Page will finally get his wish and we'll try Brice Ramsey, he of the strongest arm. But will that change anything?

Although I know as much about football as Brian Schottenheimer's left big toenail, I am prepared to offer my analysis of the situation. For the last 5 years or so, UGA has successfully recruited the RB position better than any program in the country. Although Isaiah Crowell was a knucklehead, he was a gifted runner, and is showing his ability with the Cleveland Browns. Then came Todd Gurley, currently performing as the best RB in the NFL and holder of the greatest start an NFL running back has ever gotten off to. When he went down, in stepped Nick Chubb, who wasn't as gorgeous an athlete as Gurley—who is?—but was almost identical in production. In the midst of these studs, Keith Marshall played outstanding football until injuries took away his explosiveness.

Having RBs who are always a quick twitch away from busting a long run can make you dependent on their abilities and make you forget what you need to do when someone else is back there. And that's where we stand now. Sony Michel is a terrific player but putting the 22-carry burden between the tackles on him isn't right for his body type. Brendan Douglas is a banger but not a workhorse. Marshall, I assume, has never gotten his game back, although looked good in relief on Saturday. A.J. Turman has never beaten his foot injuries enough to get game time. Trae Crowder is redshirting, and presumably not the answer.

And so, with all the spectacular recruiting and talent we've brought in at RB—enough so that Hutson Mason was able to put together a successful senior season without having any distinctively outstanding abilities—we've been just as badly undermined by a long succession of injuries. I think that the offensive players may have felt that when Gurley and Chubb took it to the house time after time, they had a lot to do with it, and so lost the edge of fury that teams need to stay sharp and prepared. When you've got guys that good who are bailing you out over and over, you start to think that you've got something to do with it, and don't improve as much as you might with lesser talent in the backfield.

As a result, we don't have a dependable running game, and teams can adjust their coverage to take away whatever passing game we can get from a set of quarterbacks who have not seized the position. As much as anything, I think that our RB situation helps explain our QB situation, but nobody is asking Coach Richt if he's thinking of changing the RB, even as they keep assuming that if he changes the QB, there's another guy on the roster who is great, but outside the vision of the coaching staff. Is Ramsey the guy? I'm guessing we'll see before the season's out. But you'd think that they'd have given him his shot before now if he were so good that he'll change the offensive dynamics.

One other seemingly small problem that has become magnified: the hamstring injury to Isaiah McKenzie. His returns were a big part of our field position, and the guys who've replaced him have not only broken few returns, they've turned the ball over deep in our territory. As those of us who watched the game from the couch know, 30 seconds after Gary Danielson said that with neither team able to advance the ball the game would be decided on turnovers, Reggie Davis muffed a punt that Florida covered in the endzone. After that, it was all downhill.

Undoubtedly, the trolls will be out in force calling for Coach Richt's scalp this week and for the rest of the season. This year is the third straight where we've been predicted to win the East, only to let it slip away. Losing Nick Chubb has had a lot to do with our predicament, but the Head Coach always gets the blame. Schottenheimer I'm sure is also getting creamed out there—he's Fletcher Page's whipping boy day after day, and Fletcher is almost ready to start shaving—even though it's hard to say that the defense is keeping us in games this season, a carryover from last year in spite of the Pruitt Effect.

I always ask of the haters who want to fire the coach after every loss: Who've you got who's guaranteed to be better than they coaches we've got now? Mike Bobo's offense lit it up for years in Sanford Stadium, but he's having trouble filling Jim McElwain's shoes at CSU. Matt Ruhle? Ask Miami how their last Temple coach worked out. Lane Kiffin anyone? Jeremy Pruitt? Not based on how our defense has played this year (and I'm a Pruitt admirer). Beware what you wish for; you just might get it. Just ask Tennessee fans who screamed for Phil Fulmer to go, and have put up with mediocrity ever since.

Let's assume, however, that the powers that be decide to change coaches. I think that the current political climate offers some important lessons on choosing leaders. During the primaries, the voters have steadfastly rejected establishment candidates in favor of

people from outside the political system. I believe that is the way to go, and offer the following annotated list of candidates for UGA's next football coach:

Paul Prudhomme, celebrity chef: Would make great meals for the team, and would be an outstanding **SEPARATED@BIRTH?** match with Dom DeLouise.

Rahm Emanuel, mayor of Chicago: Would bite opposing players in the neck if they went out of bounds on our sideline.

Sarah Palin, unemployed: Shoots grizzlies, SEC sportswriters should be no problem; zingers forthcoming.

Wags, the Family Bulldog: Loves to lick balls, which would prepare us for rainy-day games. (Incidentally: Recently, Little Woolly noticed Wags licking his balls, and he said to Granny Butts, "Wow, I wish I could do that"; to which she wisely replied, "Well, I suggest that you pet him first.")

Condoleezza Rice, Denning Professor in Global Business and the Economy at the Stanford Graduate School of Business: Has faced down Putin, should be prepared for scrutiny from the *Athens Banner-Herald*.

Jeff Schultz, sportswriter who knows nothing about sports or writing: Ideal as the consummate outsider.

Meria Carstarphen, Superintendent of Atlanta Public Schools: If she can fix Beverly Hall's mess, she can fix anything.

Orville Redenbacher, popcorn entrepreneur: Wears bowtie, could double as dean of College of Education.

Rachel Maddow, TV host: Educated at Oxford and Stanford, could go toe-to-toe with Ed Orgeron in battle of wits.


Kim Jong-Un, Supreme Leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea: Would have Dawgs goose-stepping to his tune or be shot.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States: Knows the law, would help our opponents make judicial decisions when considering signing guys who beat up women and drive around with weed and a Glock under the seat.

Fifty Cent, rapper, actor, and social commentator: Would bring bad-ass attitude to team; his homeboy Da Biebs could perform at halftime.

Keegan Michael Key, comedian: Can recruit guys with outlandish names, could be substitute teacher in Athens schools as backup plan.

Let the conversation begin.

 A Coveted Dawgmeister Game Ball is awarded this week to Que, recently named to ascend to the title of UGA X.

## **DAWG DOOTS**

☞ There's a nice story on Mike Bobo [here](#).

## THE COVETED DAWGMEISTER GOOD GUY OF THE WEEK AWARD



**Terrence Edwards** came to UGA as a super recruit. His brother Robert had recently graduated from the program as one of the team's leaders and a #1 NFL draft pick of the Patriots, and reached the pinnacle of his career by being named the [Coveted Dawgmeister Good Guy of the Week in 2013](#). Robert and Terrence are the first brothers ever to be recipients of this internationally-coveted honor. Terrence played WR and occasionally ran the ball out of the backfield for the Dawgs from 1999 to 2002, catching 204 passes for 3,093 yards and 30 TDs, with the yardage an SEC record and his 204 career receptions 2<sup>nd</sup> all-time in conference history. Based on his performance, Athlon Sports named him the #7 SEC WR in the BCS Era. Even with this impressive career, Terrence went undrafted. He made the Falcons roster as a free agent, completing his NFL career with a single pass reception while hampered with a groin injury. Terrence sat out the 2004 season and then signed with Toronto of the CFL. The Argonauts released him, and he signed with Montreal, for whom he played for two seasons of modest productivity. Terrence's patience and hard work paid off for him when he signed with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers in 2007 and his career took off. In Winnipeg he was annually one of the CFL's top players, a three-time divisional All Star and two-time league All Star in a career that ran through his retirement in 2014. During his 7 seasons in Winnipeg, Terrence performed at a very high level, ending as the Blue Bombers' 4<sup>th</sup> all-time leader in receiving yards and 10<sup>th</sup> best player in yards from scrimmage. Terrence had five 1,000-yard seasons in Winnipeg and 24 100-yard games, second most in team history. Team GM Kyle Walters said upon his retirement, which Terrence announced following the accumulation of injuries that come with playing WR through the age of 35: "Terrence will retire today as one of the best receivers in the history of this franchise. He was a leader of the club's offence for many years, and players like him simply do not come along every day. He was a special player in our league, and we thank him for everything he has done for our organization." To Bomber President Wade Miller, "Terrence Edwards has been a consummate professional for the Winnipeg Football Club throughout the past seven years, and I would personally like to thank him for representing our club with class, hard work, and a burning desire to be successful. He may be hanging them up but he will always remain a member of the Blue Bomber family." With his playing career now over, Terrence has turned to teaching the game. He currently works as a WR trainer and Outside Sales

Representative for TSC Team Sports in Athens. That's a guy I'd want on my team: a Damned Good Dawg for the ages.

**GOOD GUY ARCHIVE**

## **THE FORECAST**

### **DAWGS VS. KENTUCKY**

Kentucky got blown out at home by Tennessee, which barely took us down in Knoxville in a game notable for Nick Chubb's season-ending injury and catastrophic muffs on returns and TD passes. In fact, had Davis caught that TD ball, we might be marveling about what a winner Lambert is, leading us to close wins in hard-fought league games, rather than wondering who the hell will be taking snaps till Jacob Eason arrives in January (assuming that all this fire-the-coach talk comes from fans and the Lamestream Sports Media, and not administrators). Kentucky is having yet another fast-start, slow-finish season, and I hope that the downward trend continues on Saturday. Will UGA find the endzone? I'm less sanguine than I once was, given that we have such an iffy backfield at the moment. But I'm sticking with my guys, and picking a Dawg win: UGA 12, UK 10.

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

Florida State-Clemson? Give me a break. (And take Clemson.) Alabama has, as it has every year, the best players. They have the #1 recruiting class every year, oversign to provide such an overabundance that they then get rid of the ones they don't like once they go head-to-head in practice, and get good coaching and competition in practice. But this year, they take a second loss in a game that takes them out of the national title picture and into the Cotton Bowl. With Chubb out, the league's best two RBs will square off, and perhaps the nation's best, depending on which league you prefer. Here, we like the SEC. Tigers take down Tide: 24-21.

### **NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: CINCINNATI OVER HOUSTON**

It's that time of year when teams that have had their way find that they can't do it every week. It's Houston's turn. Bearcats, 41-40.