

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
DAWGS DESTROY 'DORES**

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



**FANTASIZING
'DORE MAT
DEREK MASON**



**& FANTASTIC
FOUR MATE
SILVER SURFER**

There's a major cover-up going on in Athens. Lightning in the area? Ha. Local meteorologists were fooled, not anticipating what it's like to have Foghorn Bullhorn at full volume, imploring the Dawg D to keep the Warhawks from scoring on three straight possessions. Mistaking the thunderous volume for major climactic disruptions, they cleared the field and by implication the stadium. Meanwhile, the team got the message, freshman D'Andre Walker blocked the Hawks' punt with his shoulder pad upon resumption, and the universe was restored to its customary state of stability.

I re-watched the game down in the Dawg Cave on The Big Screen because I can't always tell who's in the game or see plays at the other end of the field very clearly. Some things I picked up from watching with commentary, close-ups, and replays, in conjunction with keen observations from the stands:

- Jackson Harris played a lot at TE, maybe even more than Godwin played outside. He's a tough blocker who really holds his blocks till the whistle. He seemed to play a lot more than Jay Rome. I'm guessing he's pretty good.
- The Scowlmeister's son, the Young Scowlmeister, who is as optimistic as his dad is pessimistic, has been talking about Trent Thompson as though he'll be like King Kong in the middle of the line, throwing blockers into the stands and eating the ballcarrier whole and raw. From the stands, where I was free of strewn bodies, it was hard to tell if he was in the game or not. People around me—and I should note that with Negatron not in attendance, there was no one to mock the playcalling or the substitution patterns—were asking if

anyone had seen him in the game, but nobody had. When he finally got in in the third quarter, he played fine but the earth didn't shake from his presence. He'll be mighty good, but might not dominate as quickly as people have expected. Remember, everyone, these are still kids.

- Ⓜ Meantime, Chris Mayes made the best defensive play of the day. Their QB got through the line, and Chris hustled his newly-svelte 330 pounds downfield and caught him from behind about 20 yards downfield.
- Ⓜ If anyone looked like King Kong, it was Leonard Floyd, now playing exclusively at ILB while Bellamy backs up Jordan and Carter. We are pretty loaded at LB, I think. I did see Roquan Smith out there, but with Floyd likely to get a lot of snaps in the middle, it'll be hard to find time for Smith, Patrick, Kimbrough, Carter, and Ganus all to play a lot. Ganus did live up to his rep as a guy who makes a lot of tackles. He looked like an SEC player to me.
- Ⓜ Somewhat under the radar was an excellent game by Collin Barber, both with punting and kickoffs while Marshall nurses a groin injury.
- Ⓜ The game plan was vanilla with extra white, so it's hard to evaluate Lambert's potential. But that back-shoulder TD pass to Malcolm Mitchell was pretty impressive. Last year, after starting to take the technique for granted because Murray threw it so well, we had to jettison the back-shoulder pass for Mason because it requires a level of zip he didn't quite have. I think it's back.
- Ⓜ Little Woolly noted that during Brice Ramsey's series, he seemed to be deliberately losing yards early in each set of downs so that he could rear back and chuck it on third down. That plan worked pretty well.
- Ⓜ When the depth chart came out, I was surprised that there were 4 true freshmen in the 2-deep of the secondary. Upon reflection, what should have surprised me was that Rashad Roundtree, whose commitment was a major event during recruiting. But he did get in the game, along with 18 others from last year's signing class.

This week's Coveted Dawgmeister **CHUTZPAH!** award goes to UL-M defender Gerrard Johnson for his pre-game trash talk about shutting down Nick Chubb. Maybe next time.

“Barring injury, Brice Ramsey is going to start for Georgia in 2015. I'll really quickly rehash how we know this—he was Hutson's Mason backup exiting spring a year ago. He was Mason's backup after fall camp. He had a series designated for him in the first half of the Vanderbilt game. There were whispers about Ramsey taking over after the Florida loss. He finished off the Belk Bowl win when Mason left with a concussion. Bauta and Park were on the roster during all of this. Ramsey stayed ahead of them. And we've seen nothing the last few months that changed our minds. . . . Georgia has its starter.” ~Fletcher Page, Athens Banner-Herald, May 29, 2015, after the Lambert transfer was announced

Inevitability, ain't it grand? Just ask Hillary Clinton in 2008, and Jeb Bush (and maybe Hillary Clinton) in 2016. Being anointed by the press just isn't what it used to be. Reality can really trump your expectations.

- 🏈 A Coveted Dawgmeister Game Ball goes to Keith Marshall for running hard and into the end zone, and earning the biggest cheers of the day from the crowd. He went through a lot of grueling rehab and it's great to see a good guy like Keith return and look as if he'll be in our great rotation of RBs this season.
- 🏈 A Coveted Dawgmeister Game Ball, national edition, goes to the Temple Owls for beating Penn State for the first time since before the bombing of Pearl Harbor. I suspect that Penn State fans believe that losing to Temple is the far more catastrophic of the two events. The Owlmeister is one happy fellow.
- 🏈 A Coveted Dawgmeister Game Ball has been awarded this week to Joe Tereshinski II, who retired this week after a lifetime of playing for and working with the UGA football program in a variety of capacities. Thanks Joe, and all the best for the rest of the journey.

Speaking of JT2: The changes in college football this century are evident in the emphases in the strength and conditioning program. When Mark Richt arrived from FSU in 2001, he brought with him the pioneering Hall of Famer Dave van Halanger, who was a former Falcons DL and believed much more in strength than conditioning or nutrition. His arrival was met with great exultation among the faithful, and he had an immediate impact. This is a guy who absolutely loved the weight room: the camaraderie, the teamwork involved in pushing one another to greater feats of strength, the clanging of the bars and grunts from guys who hoisted them, the smell of sweat and workout clothes. But then the game got faster, and Dave was stubborn about maintaining his emphasis on power. In a move that must have torn him up inside, Mark Richt had to demote his very close friend, dating back to 1985, to director of player welfare, replacing him with JT2, who changed the approach to emphasize the speed and conditioning required to cover the ever-spreading offenses and quick snaps that came into vogue. With spread, up-tempo offenses now the rule rather than the exception, Mark Hocke was brought in this year to slim guys down so that they can run to fill the huge gaps and spaces available to spread offenses. Has the game stopped evolving? I doubt it. It should be interesting to see how the game continues to change and how our approach to strength, conditioning, and nutrition—now a bigger part of the program than ever—adjusts to the requirements of the schemes on both sides of the ball.

DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ From the Friday morning papers: “There were 54,147 people at TCF Bank Stadium on Thursday night, ***the most ever on hand for a Minnesota football game.*** The temperature at kickoff was ***82 degrees, the third-hottest game-time reading*** in the building’s relatively short history.”
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- ☞ It’s quite amazing that Archer HS has more D-1 players on its roster than do most states west of the Mississippi River. Take out Texas and California, and it’s a near sweep.
- ☞ Toward the end of the Penn State-Temple broadcast, announcer Brock Huard made the uncomfortable observation that under Bill O’Brien, Christian Hackenberg looked like the Next Big Thing, and under James Franklin, he has been mediocre, in spite of high draft projections, which seem to be diminishing. Something, he implied, is seriously wrong in the Nittany Lions’ offensive strategy

room. And the PSU alumni players are pissed. Should be interesting to follow that one.

- ☞ Remember all that hype about the Pac-12 passing the SEC as the nation's top league? Poof! After one week, all gone.
- ☞ While watching the USA! USA! Women's soccer team win the World Cup last summer in a historic blowout, I wondered why the men still can't compete at this level. But then, I thought, what if NFL skill players had grown up playing soccer instead of football? What would Barry Sanders, Deion Sanders, and guys like that had started playing soccer at age 3 and played nothing else? What if Calvin Johnson and A.J. Green were goalies? I think we'd be pretty good.

THE COVETED DAWGMEISTER GOOD GUY OF THE WEEK AWARD

GOOD GUY ARCHIVE

The Coveted Dawgmeister Good Guy of the Week goes to one of the most interesting characters we've had between the hedges, WR **Malcolm Mitchell**. Malcolm came to Athens from Valdosta, a 4-star athlete who was on every team's short list of must-have recruits. And he hasn't disappointed on or off the field. His [TD against Florida](#) in 2012 remains an all-decade highlight play, one on which he eluded Bobby Purify, the Gators' best defender. Malcolm was always a team guy, shifting to DB when we were short there and making major contributions, then moving back to offense where he's been our most dynamic option on the outside when he hasn't been injured. His infamous TD chest bump of Todd Gurley following TG's incredible run against Clemson wiped out his 2013 season, resulting in a knee injury that required a year of rehab following surgery. And his junior season was the Year of the Run, one in which Gurley threw the team's longest pass of the season, reducing our receivers to bail-out options and blockers for most of the season as Gurley and Nick Chubb pounded the ball down the field. His involvement with a [literary book club with an Athens-based women's group](#) got Malcolm a lot of good press, and stands as a unique moment for any college kid, much less a likely NFL player with a tight academic and athletic schedule. He has since [taken his message to elementary schools](#) in the Athens area, where he encourages kids to read as a way to expand their minds. Toward that end, each kid gets a UGA backpack with a Read With Malcolm poster, something I'd love to have a copy of myself. When comparing football to reading, he acknowledges that he's a naturally gifted athlete but that "I had to work to read." A telling moment came when one of the kids asked if he'd rather read or play football for the rest of his life. Malcolm he answered, "If you'd asked me this last year, I probably would have said football. But now I will have to put a lot of thought into answering that question. Because reading does so much more for you than football possibly can." That's one thoughtful young man. And if you haven't heard yet, Malcolm is the proud author of a new children's book, *The Magician's Hat*, which promotes reading and all the ways it can enrich a child's life and imagination. Malcolm also has stuck with his teammates even with possible [NFL money awaiting him](#), with his fluke knee injury helping him to get a much bigger picture on what matters in life. As his engagement with reading suggests, Malcolm hasn't just been a football guy. His academics have earned him a brace of scholarships: the Charles G. Rood Football Scholarship and two awards of the Neel Family Scholarship. I'm looking for Malcolm to set the tone for this year's Dawgs and mentor his younger teammates in growing into better men, a major program value under Coach Richt. Great Dawg, great young man,

Malcolm Mitchell: Let's enjoy this guy one last season before he moves on to the rest of his promising life, football or not.



THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. 'DORES

First road game for all those freshmen in the 2-deep, and even if it's in Vandy's bandbox stadium, it's their first trip away from the friendly confines of Sanford Stadium. Oh yes, and Vandy is terrible enough to lose to Western Kentucky, which means that I probably won't have many more Derek Mason **SEPARATED@BIRTH?** features after today's pairing. Fortunately we have plenty of senior leadership throughout the lineup, and a QB with a lot of road games under his britches belt, so I think we'll do fine, and still keep that offense as simple as possible to keep SC's scouts in the dark about our playbook. Nick Chubb gives us such a furious run game that the Commodore Doors' home field advantage will be neutralized at the very least. Way too many additional weapons on O and a defense that is foaming at the mouth to play every game all-out, with no more Florida fiascos to raise questions about their focus. Dawgs take it to the undermanned 'Dores, 52-10.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: OU AT UT

There are only a couple of high-stakes games this week, Oregon at Michigan State and Oklahoma at Tennessee. I'll take the second of these two, because I don't know much about the first two and know a little about the second. OU is another school that looked as if it had a franchise QB when Trevor Knight ripped apart Alabama as a freshman to end the season, producing a Heisman campaign in his sophomore year, only to find himself on the bench as a junior. He lasted longer under the lights than Kenny "Trill" Hill, but as these guys show, one great game early doesn't guarantee a great career. Meanwhile, this is the year that the Butch Jones Approach should kick in at Tennessee, and we'll see if he and his system can get them back in competition for titles. Not quite yet. Sooners, 28-24.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: USF OVER FSU

The Bulls are feeling good about themselves, and a W here would legitimize them nationally. I think they come to win and leave Tallahassee victorious. Tampans, 17-16.

Note: Only the seriously deranged, unhinged, and delusional place actual cash wagers based on The Dawgmeister's game forecasts.