

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
DAWGS ENJOY HOME COOKED CHICKEN BBQ**

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SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE
SEPARATED@BIRTH?



**ROUND MOUND & ASTOUNDING HOUND
OF SOUND
MERTON LAVERNE
"VERNE" LUNDQUEST, JR.**



**OF RENOWN
WAGS, THE
FAMILY BULLDOG**

"Personally, I would rather have Ralph Webb than Nick Chubb any day. He's Vanderbilt's running back, and he's going to get it done." ~ Vanderbilt Offensive Lineman Jake Bernstein

"Please, someone on South Carolina tell everyone how next Saturday you're going to turn Nick Chubb to chicken feed and run us into the turf." ~ Studs McMachoman

"Georgia is a big game for us. A lot of Georgia players on our team didn't get scholarship offers from there. So there's a lot of animosity behind it. So it's a game we look forward to." ~ Nigel Bowden of Macon, GA and Vanderbilt University

"Now we know why they didn't get scholarship offers from UGA." ~ Little Woolly

There was so much red in the stands, and so little gold, that I thought I'd accidentally tuned into our game against Georgia Tech.

Yes, another trip to Nashville, another descent into the vortex of doom that swirls around their wee little stadium when UGA comes to town. This mysterious, eerie force causes the ball to take fathomless bounces on onsides kicks, makes our dependable-as-the-tides placekicker to whiff on field goals he's hit a thousand times before, leads officials to make (or not make) calls that defy the laws of human cognition and the facts of the replay, and turns out talent advantage to mush. Although the outcome was never really in doubt, the ongoing events in the Bermuda Triangle, Vandy edition, made it far more uncomfortable a game than it should have been.

The Faithful see our quarterbacking as a questionable part of our game, and it's hard to defend what we saw in the first half out there. Indeed, [Fletcher Page](#) in the Sunday *Athens Banner-Herald* drew on his vast experience as a football player and coach to question the coaches' knowledge of their roster and how to manage it, wondering why they don't return his calls. That response appears to be resonating around the Dawg Nation this morning. Even though the coaches have watched practices and been in meeting rooms and have watched endless reels of practice and game film, according to those in the press box and on the couch, they haven't got a clue as to how to evaluate talent and win games.

Well, that first half was hard to swallow. Lambert looked a lot more like the guy who lost his starting job at Virginia than the guy who won the starting job at Georgia. His play to open the second half actually seemed to be a regression, until he miraculously evaded a rush with moves he didn't know he had, completed a pass for a first down, and suddenly began to move the team without needing his playmakers to build a lead.

Before that, we were saved by sensational plays by individuals. Chubb, I-Mac, and Michel each produced electrifying runs that put us in front in spite of a general sluggishness in keeping drives alive. Overlooked in Michel's fabulous TD run was a double-pancake block by Terry Godwin near the goal line that cleared the last space for Sony to finish the run.

The ample moaning about the QB-ing, and the late passing success that Vandy had against our soft coverage, should continue well into this week. I suspect that the Scowlmeister is wondering how we will even be able to get through the warmups next Saturday, much less compete in the always-tough SC game.

And yet, the moaning, groaning, pissing, griping, questioning sidesteps the fact that when our defense attacks, we have one superb unit that will keep us in games. There remain among the Faithful some who wonder why Trent Thompson's reps are not what they expected. When he signed, Dawg fans had visions of having a mountain of a man in the middle of the field who annihilates at least two blockers on every play and leaves runners crushed, bent, and ready to take up quilting.

It turns out that we have such a force, but his name is Chris Mayes. Gary Danielson put it well in the first quarter when he said, Chris Mayes is recreating the line of scrimmage on every play and stuffing the offensive line. He is one big, athletic guy who now, in his fifth year, has gotten his game on in a big way. Chris was not an immediate impact player at UGA, but has worked himself into a dominant player at the point of attack. Trent will get there eventually if he pays attention to Mayes and applies himself to the task.

Meanwhile, Leonard Floyd....There are occasionally guys of such superior physical ability that they are almost impossible to officiate. Shaquille O'Neill was said to foul, and be fouled, on every possession of every game he played in his life. Similarly, Floyd gets held on every single play because he cannot be blocked. On the play where Hurricane

Carter got ejected, you could see Floyd's jersey stretch out where the blocker grabbed on for dear life. Had that been called, the penalty on Carter would have been negated.

🏈 A Coveted Dawgmeister Game Ball has been awarded to David "Boss" Andrews, starting center for the defending Super Bowl champion New England Patriots. Due to a scheduling conflict, the Dawgmeister himself cannot be available for the presentation. In his place, Gisele Bündchen will present The Boss with his certificate of achievement in a ceremony at the steps of the Bunker Hill Memorial.

DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ Dawg fans are foaming at the mouth over the prospect of high school sophomore RB [Zamir "Zeus" White](#), already 6-1, 200+ lbs, maintaining his love for UGA over the next 3 years and playing between the hedges. And having another North Carolinian carrying for UGA sounds good to me. My concern: as a sophomore, he's getting [over 30 carries a game](#). Now, if I were his coach, I'd run him too. But that's a lot of mileage on those wheels, even though he doesn't seem to get tackled much. Lower-level coaches are infamous for riding their stars as hard as possible and ruining them at the next level; see, e.g., the thousands of superstar pitchers whose arms are burned out before they turn 20. Let's hope that they don't hand Zeus the ball so much that his legs are shot before he starts shaving.
- ☞ A big Dawgmeister Welcome to Monica Lebron, formerly the associate athletics director for development at the University of Mississippi, who has been named associate athletic director for development at UGA.
- ☞ On every Vandy score, the stadium resounded with a deep, resonant, boom of a sound that turned out to be Foghorn Bullhorn booing the Commode Doors and the officials for missing yet another hold committed against Leonard Floyd.
- ☞ Which would you prefer, Christian Payne or Jewish Guilt?
- ☞ Overheard during the Ohio State-Virginia Tech game, courtesy of Kirk Herbstreit: "Ohio State is literally running downhill at Virginia Tech!"
- ☞ I must note for the Owlmeister's benefit that Temple broke another losing streak and beat Cincinnati on Saturday.
- ☞ Whenever I see a QB called on to run the ball into traffic, I wonder why coaches would expose their key player to that kind of contact, where arms, shoulders, hands, legs, knees, and ankles might be rearranged by defenders. And sure enough, Notre Dame lost its QB for the season on just such a play.
- ☞ News item: During the Kansas State band's "Star Trek"-themed halftime show, some band members formed a KU Jayhawk while others formed the Starship Enterprise, which then performed a sex act involving the Jayhawk. I don't think that UGA could do that with Georgia Tech, given that the nerds would need to be first introduced to the notion of "sex" in order for it to work.

THE COVETED DAWGMEISTER GOOD GUY OF THE WEEK AWARD



Tony Gilbert came to UGA from Macon Central HS and had a tremendous career between the hedges. He led the team in tackles for three years, an unprecedented achievement, and served as defensive captain of the 2002 SEC championship team and its 13-1 record, Sugar Bowl championship, and #3 national ranking. Tony ended up as one of the leading tacklers in program history, ranking 10th, and was named second team All-SEC for his stellar senior season. He also became involved with the Phi Beta Sigma (ΦΒΣ) fraternity, whose motto, “Culture For Service and Service For Humanity,” indicates its orientation to good works and public service. Tony was drafted by the Arizona Cardinals in 2003 and before leaving the game in 2010, played for Jacksonville and Atlanta. He’s since begun to work his way up through the coaching ranks, beginning as an assistant in UGA’s strength and conditioning program in 2011-2012. After a short stint as a graduate assistant at Auburn, where he worked with the defensive front 7, he spent the off-season with East Mississippi Community College as a linebackers coach, then came home to Georgia where served as assistant coach of defensive backs for Georgia Military College. Along with the routine responsibilities of recruiting and coaching, he accepted the challenge to “Mentor young men,” a role for which he is decidedly well-suited. Mentoring young men continues to drive his sports and academic life in his latest role as Defensive Coordinator for the John Milledge Academy in Milledgeville. At UGA, Tony earned his bachelor’s degree in Special Education, and in addition to coaching, he is contributing to the school’s learning support program as a member of the faculty. In his spare time he coaches the Middle School boys basketball team and the Varsity and Middle School track teams. That’s one heck of a man, mentoring the next generation of Georgians into great citizens and, perhaps, into future Dawgs.

GOOD GUY ARCHIVE

THE FORECAST DAWGS VS. SOUTH CAROLINA

Last year we played under conditions in Columbia that threw the game into uncertainty. There was a lightning and rain delay of 90 minutes, and when the game finally started, it was played under monsoon conditions. People talk about how Marshall “Mr. Dependable” Morgan missed a short field goal that was a big factor in the outcome, but seem to forget that he missed it in a heavy downpour. The coaching staff also was

heavily criticized for passing at the goal line instead of handing off to Gurley, but also forgotten was an abysmal intentional grounding call on the play, even though the pass was easily in the vicinity of the receiver, albeit clearly thrown away. That call pushed us back and cost us the down as well, and the points we left on the field were a big part of the loss. If we were a high school team in Texas, [here's how we'd have responded](#) to such a horrendous call. All that, however, and still we ended up with a close 3-point road loss to a bitter, well-coached rival. I think that the Good Guys hunker down and win this one without interference from natural forces. I had really looked forward to Pruitt and Spurrier matching wits, but SC's offense was shaky against UNC, and they then lost their QB and the game at home against UK. If you're worried about UGA, just be thankful you're not a Gamecock fan. I also hope that we've really been keeping our deep passing game a big secret and that we'll be sending our burners long on Saturday. If we don't do it then, then I think we don't have the deep passing game that I thought that Lambert was supposed to provide. If we're going to keep the passing game short, then we might as well play The Albanian Bane O' Y'all, Faton Bauta, who is at least a threat to run. But I digress. Dawgs position themselves to take the East, beating SC, 28-13.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: AUBURN AT LSU

Well, I was sorta pulling for Auburn to lose to Jax State on Saturday, even with my understanding that it would undermine the league's claim to best on the planet. But having them and Arkansas lose to low-stratum teams would have been a bit much. Next weekend, I don't think they're so lucky. I was very surprised that Auburn and the national press believed that the guy who backed up Nick Marshall for two years would come in and be better than Nick Marshall. Turns out, he's got some holes in his game, especially when it comes to throwing to the right team. Can't do that against LSU at LSU. Purple and Gold Tigers over Blue and Orange Tigers, 28-24. War Eagle!

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: STANFORD OVER SOUTHERN CAL

When I originally planned this pick, I had Texas Tech over Arkansas. But now I think that Arkansas winning would be the upset. So how about Stanford USC. USC is annually the most overrated team in the country, except maybe Notre Dame. And their coach might not be ready for anything except the after party. I can imagine SoCal being pretty cocky after Stanford's loss to Northwestern, which will make this one all the more delicious for us Trojan haters. Cardinal, 17-14, in what amounts to the national game doubling as a bonus upset pick, and further demonstrates the PAC-12's place in the national picture.

Disclaimer: Even though I'm occasionally right, it's only because I'm lucky, not good. These picks are not designed to inform the betting public.