

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
DAWGS ZIP JACKETS**

WWW.THEDAWGMEISTER.COM

[THE DAWGMEISTER ON FACEBOOK](#)

SEPARATED@BIRTH?



**AVENGER
OF THE NERDS
PAUL JOHNSON**



**&
DISTEMPERED
AND EATS TURDS
PLUG-UGLY DOG**

SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE

Rock historians have observed that through their early albums, Led Zeppelin was a power trio with a singer. But by their 4th album, they became a tight 4-man band that kicked ass as a unit.

At the beginning of the season, when Jacob Eason was getting eased into the QB position, it often looked as though we had 10 guys and a quarterback on offense. In that he was essentially learning a new position in a pro set, his movements were deliberate and a bit mechanical as he worked whole new techniques and movements into his repertoire. He looked most comfortable in the shotgun and just slinging. Center snaps seemed to be much less comfortable and natural for him, no doubt because he'd never taken one in HS.

And now, by his fourth album—11 games in Dawg years—Eason seems to be a pro-set quarterback. We've seen Jacob Ice, and Jacob Clock-Killer. On Saturday, I saw Jacob the Smooth Operator. A couple of plays were indicative of his recent comfort levels in the pro set. I don't think he'd have executed I-Mac's opening TD run, with misdirection to Chubb and a toss to the Joy Stick, earlier in the season with nearly the fluidity that enabled him to sell the fake pitch. The second play was his TD pass to Nick Chubb, on which Chubb was way down in the progression and required a quick checkdown under pressure. Jacob wasn't reading the field that quickly or efficiently until recently.

If there was a third play that showed what we've got in this kid, it came when Eason had retired to the sidelines and Greyson Lambert got to run out the clock. Lambert threw a deep out that seemed to be in the air forever. If you're acclimated now to Eason's arm,

and anticipated one of his scorches coming off Lambert's arm, it was almost shocking how different the passes are in velocity. It's easy to see how the coaches wanted to make the change early. This cat can play. Does he make mistakes? Sure. But so does Matthew Stafford, and he makes \$22 million a year and is about to make a whole lot more.

So why would I focus on the offense when it's ranked 10th in the SEC and the defense is ranked 14th nationally? Because I think we already knew that we've got an exceptional defense, the 4th quarter notwithstanding after we subbed so far down into the depth chart.

I'll confess that the Day Job had me on the road Saturday, and so I watched the game on tape Sunday. On my trip, I had the immense pleasure of working with The Owlmeister. I've been avoiding Temple updates because they seemed out of place when our season was circling the drain in mid-season. But now that we've got our mojo working, it's time to note that the Owls are 8-3 and in first place in their division. Hoot hoot! And let's not forget Brother Willie's Princeton Tigers, in a first place tie in the Ivy League. I do have to support my most loyal of all 6 of my readers.

GETTING THE MEASURE OF NICOLAS CLAXTON

When Nic Claxton committed to Mark Fox, I looked around to see what I could find about our newest Hoop Dawg. What I found out is that you should never take the first information you come across as reliable. There is consensus that he's a 3-star recruit, and that he's from South Carolina. After that.....

Ht 6-10 Wt 180

Ht 6-9 Wt 195

Ht 6-10 Wt 285

Ht 6-9 Wt 205

Position: Combo Forward

Ht 6-9 Wt 190

Position: Wing

Ht 6-8 Wt 200

Position: Power forward

Ht 6-10 Wt 190

Position: Small Forward

Claxton was listed as both the 37th ranked small forward in the country and 28th ranked power forward.

DAWGMEISTER GOOD WORKS OF THE WEEK

The Weekend Forecast is offered as a free service to its readers; neither the Dawgbone nor The Dawgmeister profits financially from its publication. If you read the Forecast and want to contribute something back to our communities, please consider making a donation to this week's featured Good Works service. There are many people living in needy circumstances, and every dollar helps to support them through another day, week, month, and year. This week's featured Good Works organization is

Lindsey's Place Camp, a Savannah-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization designed to enrich the lives of individuals with special needs by creating a residential experience that promotes self-esteem, self-confidence, and independence. Its focus is to provide experiential programs that promote personal growth in a nurturing environment that is challenging, creative, social, and positive. Lindsey's Place Camp offers various Year-Round Recreational Programs for Young People Ages 7-30.

[DONATE HERE](#)

Little Woolly has released his 2016 All-NFL Team

OL: Ben Jones, Fernando Velasco, Clint Boling, David Andrews, Cordy Glenn

WR: A.J. Green, Chris Conley

TE: Benjamin Watson

RB: Todd Gurley

QB: Matthew Stafford

DL: Geno Atkins, Charles Johnson

DE/OL: Jarvis Jones, Justin Houston

LB: Alec Ogletree, Dannell Ellerby, Thomas Davis

S: Rashad Jones, Shawn Williams

C: Brandon Boykin, Damian Swann

P: Drew Butler

K: Blair Walsh

DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ Evidence continues to mount that our senior class is light on talent. According to Sports Illustrated's ranking of the [top 10 draft-eligible players at each position](#), Georgia has two possible draftees: Greg Pyke as #8 Guard, and junior Nick Chubb as #9 RB.
- ☞ When he was a prospect in Texas, Alabama QB Jalen Hurts was ranked as the [#61 player](#) in the state.
- ☞ Is it just me, or is Deandre Baker starting to play a bit like Bacarri Rambo?
- ☞ Speaking of DBs, Aaron Davis came in as a walkon and started as a freshman. Since then, we've had a makeover of the coaching staff and a ton of other DB recruits trying to take his place. But no matter who's coaching or in the meeting room, this guy just keeps earning his playing time. Pretty impressive.

- I tend not to like black as a primary uniform color. But with a red helmet, a power G, and silver britches, it looks pretty sharp to me.

THE COVETED DAWGMEISTER GOOD GUY OF THE WEEK AWARD



Clint Bolling was a great prospect coming out of Chattahoochee HS in Alpharetta—in basketball. Well, he could play some football too, with All State recognition and a rare All-Area Player of the Year award as an OL. With 6’-5” hoops players being a dime a dozen, football seemed to have more growth potential for him, and he accepted a scholarship to play on the OL between the hedges as a 3-star prospect. At about 250 lbs., he might have been a hoss in 1970, but he would not have made much of an impression on Sam Pittman. Clint appeared to be headed to the weight room for a few years to get big and strong enough to play in the 21st Century SEC. Yet as a true freshman, Clint became a starter, a tribute to his talent and willingness to be coached. By year’s end he was named to several Freshman All-America First Teams. By the time he was a senior in 2010, he was up to 310 lbs. and was named a Pro Football Weekly All-American, then taken as the 101st player in the 2011 NFL draft by Cincinnati, where he’s started since his arrival. He was a highly respected man around the Butts-Mehr complex, with a pair of Wallace Butts Football Scholarships and the Leon Farmer Award for dedication to the strength and conditioning program to his credit, along with many accolades for his play on the field. As a personality, Clint keeps it pretty simple: “I like to just kind of stay private, live my own life. I don’t have Facebook or Instagram. I have a Twitter page, but I like it for the news.” That’s what consistently turns up when looking for information on Clint. When asked to assess him before the 2011 draft, Scott Howard said, “Not a real vocal guy. He’s a good kid. He doesn’t jump off the page at ya, like ‘wow, look at that guy,’ because he was just kind of quiet and went about his business and was rock solid for four seasons.” He’s been that way with the Bengals too, and if you’re looking for evidence of his value, they recently ponied up and re-signed him in 2015 to the tune of 5 years and \$26 million, beating out the Vikings and others who think that rock solid is a valuable quality in an OL. Low key family men like Clint tend to be valuable team players, and having a lot of ability and a head for the game doesn’t hurt. It’s easy for a guy like Clint to go underappreciated because he doesn’t draw attention to himself, but I’d take a guy like him on my team any day.

THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. GEORGIA TECH

And now, enter the Nerds. A pair of 7-4 teams face off with the state of Georgia on the line. I like our defense against their offense, given that we've got speed. I think that Roquan Smith will be the key player because of his extreme mobility. The broadcasters on the SEC-II network were also touting Carter and Bellamy as edge rushers vs. ULL, and their speed will have a lot to do with our containment of GT's 1935 high school offense. Mark Richt owned Auburn and Tech throughout his time in Georgia, and it's Kirby Smart's turn to score his first double of these old rivals. Dawgs finish strong and take down the Jackets. Because you can't spell St. Petersburg Bowl without GT. UGA 24, GT 17.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: MICHIGAN AT OHIO STATE

Unfortunately, this game will be on during ours. It's one I'd like to watch because it pits two of the best, and two of the most egotistical, coaches in football. I could never pull for either one, and here they are in what might be the first of many epic showdowns. I learned not to pick against Meyer a long time ago. I'm going with the Bucks in a brutal game of hate, talent, egomania, and Midwestern winter weather. OSU 28, UM 24.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: FLORIDA OVER FLORIDA STATE

With apologies to Rachel, I'm going once again to pick against FSU. I like McElwain, and can't stand Jimbo Fisher. And the SEC East brand needs a status upgrade after this season. Florida's defense is mighty fine, and that's what I'm seeing as making the difference. Gators 14, Seminoles 13.