THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST: DAWGS DON'T MISS

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SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE

In one of his most profound observations about college football, the great Lou Holtz would frequently observe, "Zzvffsctzzxpytrghpphffffasqwqwghfdvffft." According to the Holtz-to-English website that Little Woolly found, that means, "You never get the same football team twice." Thank heaven. If the guys who got outplayed by Nicholls, and outscored after the first possession of that frightful afternoon, had shown up against Missouri, we'd be pining for the Ray Goff administration.

The cats who showed up on Saturday in Columbia: I like those guys. Coming back all day and showing resilience and resolve, they pulled out a game that often looked lost, right down to 4th and 10 with the game on the line. That boy at QB played some Grown Man Football, and with the way we blocked the run game, he needed to. Eason got the ball to 9 different receivers, including 3 TEs. He did throw a pick and a whole lot of incompletions, and Jesse Palmer in the booth noted that he consistently underthrew deep balls, suggesting that he needed to show more in the deep passing game. The same thing happened with another QB fresh out of HS over the weekend, and the announcers said that he needed to adjust to college WRs' speed. Let's hope that, with continued reps, the coaches get these guys all synched up so that we don't throw 26 incompletions next time out. And let's hope that the JUGS machine is humming this week so that our guys catch the balls that come their way.

We just could not run the ball; all the excitement after the UNC game has experienced a deflate-gate in the two weeks since. On the other hand, Mizzou couldn't run it either: With 2.7 yards per carry, the Dawgs actually had the higher average. Stuffing the box might make it hard to run, but I like the open field it creates for the passing game. And this #10 kid can pass. No need to let the senior run out the clock anymore; that gamewinning TD pass shows that Jacob E can both run the huddle and make the plays.

LOUISVILLE-FLORIDA STATE REVISITED

Lamar Jackson is the best 3-star quarterback recruit I've seen since Johnny Manziel. But Johnny Football also was a 3-rocks-in-the-head prospect, and is now one of football's untouchables. I hope that Jackson is a more astute character when not playing football.

I just hate it that he plays <u>for a guy I always root against</u>, along with the rest of the world not ensconced in northwestern Kentucky. But Todd Grantham did a good job at UGA, and his defense really stuck it to FSU the whole game, with Harvey-Clemons one of the stars. Before the game, Herbie said that Lamar Jackson would be the best player in the game, but FSU's overall superior talent would be his first real test; after all, he said, this is FSU, not Syracuse. You'd never know that by the score. And by game's end, Herbie was revisiting his view of whose players were more talented, and wondering how FSU would do against Syracuse.

Louisville is a great example of how a university can sell its soul for great athletics teams. Bobby "The Swine" Petrino and Rick "Chalk my Cue Stick Baby" Pitino have cut corners for decades, but both are happily employed at Louisville. Meanwhile, the value of University of Louisville degree has as much currency as a box of Trump Steaks or Clinton Statement of Assurance. Is winning worth it? Only their Acting President knows for sure.

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

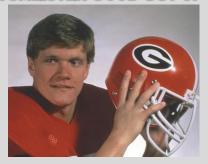
The Thomas Davis Defending Dreams Foundation, founded by UGA and Carolina Panthers defensive stalwart and Shellman, GA native Thomas Davis. As an NFL player, Davis has a passion for football but he also has a strong desire to help those in need and to make a positive impact on the lives of our youth. When Davis founded the TDDDF he made a decision to assist youth in realizing that their past does not determine their future and that they too can one day live their dreams. Their motto is Educate. Empower. Defend. The Thomas Davis Defending Dreams Foundation is built on these principles and strives to encourage students to develop the essential life and social skills that will make them leaders of tomorrow.

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DAWG DOOTS

- "You know, to just be grossly generalistic, you could put half of Louisville's supporters into what I call the basket of deplorables. Right? Now some of those folks—they are irredeemable, but thankfully they are not in the SEC." ~Granny Butts
- "I think he is one of top-5 ugliest (players) in the state. If they gave out stars for being ugly, then he would be a 7-star when it comes to being ugly." ~Mark Webb senior teammate Raheem Blackshear and Temple commit
- Five-star quarterbacks: They really get people excited. Yet when I saw a little of Cincinnati-Houston, former program savior Gunner Kiel was on the sidelines with headphones and clipboard, a third stringer behind younger players. He brought back fond memories of Willie Korn, Mitch Mustain, Ryan Perrilloux, John Brantley, Jeff Driskel, and many others I'm sure. I guess that's why we're after Fromm and Lawrence: You just never know how these guys will turn out.

THE COVETED DAWGMEISTER GOOD GUY OF THE WEEK AWARD



This week's Coveted Dawg Good Guy of the Week recognition goes to 2016 Circle of Honor inductee John Little. John came to UGA from Lynn Haven, FL as an All State quarterback. At UGA he redshirted in 1982 while undergoing a conversion to the rover position on defense, then occupied quite well by All American Terry Hoage. Injuries to Hoage and Charlie Dean in 1983 led Coach Vince Dooley to start Little for 6 games, and he was in the lineup to stay, starting from 1984-1986. John, although playing a position that combined safety and linebacker skills, packed under 200 pounds on a 6'-3" frame, but still tackled like a man. With 25 tackles against Georgia Tech in 1984, he's second on the school's all-time single game list; and for his career is 7th on the total tackles list and 4th on primary tackles. Following in Hoage's All America mold, he was All SEC and First Team All American in 1985 and 1986, and remains the most prolific tackler among Dawg defensive backs in program history. John also earned respect from teammates, being elected as permanent team captain in 1986. In the classroom, he was a two-time Academic All-SEC selection, earning his degree in Marketing in 1987. Those compiling All Time Dawg lists have always found room for John Little: Top 20 Defensive Players in UGA history, Top 25 UGA players from 1984-2009, Saturday Down South all-time Georgia Bulldogs football team, and SEC 2014 Football Legends Class. We may not be done with the Little family yet; his son Jack, a sophomore WR at Brookstone HS in Columbus, GA, appears to have inherited John's football genes. Congratulations to John Little as 2016 Circle of Honor inductee, and as the nearly as coveted Dawg Good Guy of the Week.

GOOD GUY ARCHIVE

THE FORECAST DAWGS VS. MISSISSIPPI

Based on what I've seen in the Sunday sports pages online, UGA vs. Ole Miss, a game we've had on our minds since the preseason, is a national afterthought. It's a noon kickoff, far from the limelight, a time that was scheduled even before the Rebs fell to 1-2 with another come-from-in-front loss. Funny about this noon slot. Last week, Louisville-FSU had it all to themselves and probably had the bulk of the early viewers. It makes me wonder why there isn't always a marquee game at noon. This week, there is another big noon matchup (my national game of the week, in fact). Maybe it's now part of the plan? We'll see.

Meanwhile, the Dawgs head in unbeaten and the Rebels come in wounded and needing a win after blowing leads to FSU and Alabama. I'd say that they've lost to two pretty good teams, but FSU got so badly dominated by Louisville that it's hard to say how good they are. In any case, this should be a pretty desperate game for our opponents. How will we prepare for such a showdown?

On the last two Saturdays, UGA has gotten stuffed at the line of scrimmage, once by a group of unknowns and once by a first-rate SEC DL. Alabama's OL beat Mississippi at the point of contact, but nobody's comparing our OL to theirs at this point, surely not our coaching staff or fanbase. Can we finally establish the run? Or will we again try to reel in WR commitments with 50 passes? I suspect that we'll mix it up a little more. But at least we now know that we can win a game in the air, a possibility that hasn't given us confidence in a couple of years. Eason can't help but benefit from winning at Mizzou. I think he'll keep it up.

Mississippi can score. Gary Danielson opined on Saturday that Kelly is probably the league's best QB, and he has yet another set of big and talented WRs, living the good life in Oxford on the boosters' dime. Will they go out early and then fade late? The Dawgmeister says yes. Bring your calculator; points expected. Good Guys go to 4-0: UGA 41, Ole Miss 40.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: WISCONSIN AT MICHIGAN STATE

Of local interest, it's Florida vs. Tennessee, but that game mostly matters in the region, I think. Somebody is getting eliminated early in the Big 10, and I think it's the Badgers. For a seemingly solid program, they've sure been through a lot of coaches lately, and apparently, facilities is a big part of the problem. Meanwhile Dantonio coaches classic Big 10 football based on blocking, tackling, and ferocious play in the trenches. I'll go with Sparty here: MSU, 21-20.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: GEORGIA TECH OVER CLEMSON

Don't ask me why. Just pay attention to my upset track record (Texas over ND, Arkansas over TCU [albeit not for the upset forecast], Louisville over FSU). And keep your wallet in your pocket. Nerds win! 35-31.

Note: In spite of The Dawgmeister's uncanny ability to pick upsets, are you really willing to wager your hard-earned cash on Georgia Tech?