

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
DAWGS RAISE THE VOLUME, LOWER THE VOLS**

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SEPARATED@BIRTH?



**WAFFLE HOUSE
CONNOISSEUR
PHIL FULMER**



**AWFUL BOSS
ENTREPRENEUR
KRUGER**

SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE

It was a Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day. I took in the game on The Big Screen here in the Dawg Cave, and I saw what you saw. I can't think of a first-half beat-down of the Dawgs this bad since I joined the Dawg Nation two decades ago. And instead of folding this time, Mississippi came out and scored to open the second half and send the crowd home happy.

Greg McElroy did color on ESPN and hammered several themes. Georgia's offensive line does not block or protect at a competitive level, and the problem is a lack of talent. Our WRs are too small and can't get open, and drop the ball when it's thrown their way. Our playcalling is problematic. We don't put pressure on opposing quarterbacks the way Floyd and Jenkins did last year, and our defensive backs are too small for a jumbo set of WRs like Mississippi's. Eason has talent, but lacks mobility and so can be pressured to throw inaccurately off his back foot in the pocket. As expected, he is learning the demands of the SEC and of overall game management, and making mistakes in the process that a quality opponent can exploit. And there's not a placekicker who's reliable beyond the PAT.

The good news? Both freshman RBs looked very promising against Mississippi's backups, and that fake punt conversion was pretty nifty. And if guys could catch his

passes the way Mississippi's did Kelly's, Eason would have had a good game, if not a winner.

The general consensus of the broadcasters, in the booth or in the studio, is that Georgia has glaring personnel problems that can only be addressed through recruiting. That opinion corresponds with that of Coach Smart, who has been less than effusive about what the Richt staff left him. Much of the broadcast after halftime concerned Georgia's future under Kirby, given how grim the program looks after Saturday, when our shortcomings were so glaringly exposed.

If you're reading The Dawgmeister in search of solutions, you're confusing me with [Jeff Schultz](#). With a humiliating loss to raise his glee and snideness measures to Code Red, he's got to be the happiest man in the state this week.

And yet, we are 3-1 and coming home for a big SEC East elimination game. Our players are universally regarded as hopeless, and yet last year, we went 10-3 with these same guys, with a coaching staff regarded as stale and unfit, and with Greyson Lambert at QB and Nick Chubb on the sidelines. One of those losses was at Tennessee, a game that looked like a laugher at the outset for UGA, then turned into a howl.

The Scowlmeister and I got together last week, and he was saying that so many of our recruits, including Trenton Thompson and John Theus, have come in as elite national studmuffins and left without dominating. Theus's term as 4-year starter without a redshirt season did not impress The Scowlmeister; he didn't dominate and was a low (5th round) draft pick. A bit of a disappointment.

I wonder, though, if what Theus did here was more impressive than it appeared. Big John and Kolton Houston were multiple-year starters when UGA was running the ball with exceptional consistency, and are the only changes from last season. Even though people thought that the unit underperformed last year, it opened a lot more holes than this year's OL has. It's hard not to notice the difference in personnel and performance. Maybe John was better than the overall performance of the OL last year would suggest.

The Scowlmeister and I also discussed Eason, of course. Eason is not too athletic, said The Scowlmeister, a point corroborated by McElroy throughout the broadcast in his comparison between the very mobile Kelly and the pocket orientation of Eason. It's safe to say that this season Jacob is not going to beat Lamar Jackson in many of the NFL Combine events. But he's also 18 years old and 6'-6" tall and not necessarily done growing. I think that he's still growing into his body and will eventually mature into a pretty good athlete. As a firm believer in potential through human development, I like to think of this as a stage he's in as a pretty tall young guy whose figure has already been changed by the strength and conditioning program and who isn't done filling out in size or agility yet. So view his current level of mobility as a developmental stage, not his lifetime fate, and stop hoping for the arrival of Jake Fromm to bail us out of this frightful set of circumstances.

To The Scowlmeister's credit, he also said that Chad Kelly scared the bejeezus out of him, and worried that he'd have a great game on Saturday. Chalk one up for the glass half full crowd.



The saddest story ever known

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 YWCA Victim Advocacy Program (VAP) of Knoxville, TN, the only community-based non-shelter program in Knox County, the only program with advocates in both criminal and civil courts, and the only program with bilingual/bicultural advocates (Spanish/English). The YWCA offers support groups to women who have experienced domestic violence and female family members. The YWCA is an onsite partner at the Knoxville Family Justice Center. YWCA advocates provide comprehensive victim support, including safety planning and crisis intervention, education on victim's rights and victim compensation, navigation of the justice system, accompaniment to court, referrals for and assistance accessing essential services, referrals to support group, and follow-up services.

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DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ Trivia Quiz: What do the following people have in common: Jacoby Brissett, Ryan Mallett, Johnny Manziel, A.J. McCarron, Zach Mettenberger, Cam Newton, and Dak Prescott? Scroll down to this week's final Dawg Doot for The Answer.
- ☞ Police in Boulder, Colorado have announced, in a shocking press conference, that the murder of JonBenét Ramsey has conclusively been traced to Aaron Hernandez.
- ☞ See here for a shot of [Bad Hair Hall of Famer and Tennessee RB Jalen Hurd](#)
- ☞ In the Florida vs. Tennessee game, I was pulling for Florida. I like Jim McElwain, and I don't like Butch Jones. McElwain came up in coaching the hard way, with a whole lot of stops to get a head coaching job. And he seems to be a genuinely good guy. Jones, in contrast, Bro-Coded one of his players who took the side of a woman who'd been assaulted by his teammates, invoking the "Bros over Hoes" injunction and mantra that is the backbone of the Bro Code. Jones tried to bully the player into changing positions so that these goons could stay eligible. Not on my watch.
- ☞ What do Jacoby Brissett, Ryan Mallett, Johnny Manziel, A.J. McCarron, Zach Mettenberger, Cam Newton, and Dak Prescott have in common? Each was an SEC QB during Aaron Murray's UGA career, and each has started at least one NFL football game.

THE COVETED DAWGMEISTER GOOD GUY OF THE WEEK AWARD



This week's Coveted Dawg Good Guy of the Week is former tight end **Kirk Warner**, now halfway into his second decade as the Head Ball Coach at Liberty County HS in South Georgia, where he coaches Athens-bound football and basketball wunderkind Richard LeCounte III. During his stellar high school career in Bleckley County, Kirk was a hotshot recruit himself, getting offers as at the beginning of his junior year—late in today's game, when it's never too early, but the earliest time possible in 1983. Before his senior year, he committed to the **G**: Ray Goff, that is, a former star quarterback at UGA, a Vince Dooley assistant and Dooley's eventual successor, and the Dawg recruiter for his region. While making the 1984 Class AA All State team as a tight end, Kirk also played some mighty fine basketball, averaging 20 points and 12 boards and being named Class AA Player of the Year as a senior. As a Dawg, Kirk played in 42 games and was the team's leading receiver as a senior in 1989. After graduating, he played briefly in the NFL for Washington, retiring following a knee injury. As Liberty County's coach for all but one year of the current century, Kirk has endured a reclassification that put his squads up against teams with bigger and deeper rosters, leading to an overall losing

record. It's a testimony to his character and ability that his administrators have stuck with him during this period, recognizing that winning is only part of what matters in developing young men in sports. Perhaps recent seasons with stars like LeCounte and Ohio State sophomore Raekwon McMillan will turn the program's fortunes in the record book. But with Kirk leading the program, it will remain a success in every other measure of performance. You can follow Kirk on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/dawgnation83>, and his handle shows he's still all Dawg. From his role in establishing the tight end as a weapon in Sanford Stadium, to his task of making Liberty County a powerhouse in one of the state's toughest regions, Kirk is a man to admire and most worthy of Good Guy recognition.

GOOD GUY ARCHIVE

THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. TENNESSEE

We've now come out flat in four straight games. As Lorenzo Carter said: "You really never know how you're going to come out and play. They came out and were ready." I don't know how you generate a frame of mind that is both technically sound and emotionally juiced, but I hope the team can figure out how. "I can promise you they will show up and give an 'A' effort next week," Coach Smart told reporters after the game. Georgia has now started all four games on his watch without the readiness and passion of our opponents. With the honeymoon now officially over, it's time to see what this staff and team are really about.

Last year's game was a fullblown tragedy. Nick Chubb went down on his first carry, and everyone knew immediately that he was done for the year. But Michel carried us to a big lead until we started dropping the ball, enough to lose a close one in their stadium. It was a game where Greyson Lambert might have been viewed as a hero, a guy with the heart of a champion, the undoubted leader for the Florida game, if Reggie Davis had caught a perfectly thrown touchdown pass. And the game, in which we blew a huge lead through turnovers and drops, might have been an early nail in Mark Richt's coffin, if The Scowlmeister's view reflects the thinking higher up the food chain.

Tennessee comes into town after playing a game in which their line didn't protect and their receivers didn't catch. Much like us. They couldn't stop Florida, and couldn't generate a thing.

Then the second half began, and Joshua Dobbs did to the Gators what he did to UGA last season. Wow, did they look good.

I just don't know what to expect of this game. Finally, we're home, where we have played only Nicholls, a school I still can't find on a map and that almost took us down. I hope that we bottomed out in Oxford and can now only get better. Am I nuts to pick UGA? Damn right. Good Guys, 21-20.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: LOUISVILLE OVER CLEMSON

What a game. The two best QBs in the country, probably the two best players in the country. Facing the loser: possible elimination from the Final Four, all in mid-September. Both teams are talented and well coached down the line. A major difference: [I can't stand Bobby Petrino](#), and [Dabo Swinney](#) is one of my favorite opponents' coaches. And yet, I can't bet against Lamar Jackson. Cards, 48-45

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: MISSOURI OVER LSU

Missouri sure played us tough, and LSU just can't find a quarterback. It'll be interesting to see if LSU can run against Mizzou, something we couldn't do. I think that the game will be won on the matchup between LSU's OL and Missouri's DL. I'm going to put my imaginary money on the Tigers—I mean, the Tigers from Missouri, 28-24

Damn those Nerds, messing up my upset forecast last weekend. When I used my Ouija Board to conjure up the forecast, I stopped when it said "Georgia Tech." But later, I realized it went on to say, "Georgia Tech sucks."