

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
DAWGS CRUSH CROCKS**

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SEPARATED@BIRTH?



**WOUND WAY TIGHT
WILL MUSCHAMP**



**HOUND MAY BITE
RABID DOG**

SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE

With 2:56 left in the game, our freshman QB took a snap in the endzone, pulled back to pass, thought better of it, and then thought worse. Tennessee pounced, and took its first lead of the game, one that looked forbidding. The guy who sits next to me shook his head, said “See you next time,” and headed for the exits. I pity the fools who followed him. There was more football to come.

That freshman QB wasn't quite done yet. He threw an interception on the next series and then, with hope expiring along with the clock, the defense held and the coaches managed the clock to give him one more shot. Jacob Eason, the former high school sensation playing on the biggest stage of his life with the season on the line, then drove the team 80 yards in less than a minute, culminated by the best pass thrown in Sanford Stadium since Aaron Murray ran the huddle, gave the Dawgs an incredible win with 10 seconds remaining. In the stands we were going absolutely bananas. The SEC East was now ours, and the hated visitors in their pale orange uniforms would be sent home with their hound dog tails between their legs, with just a *pro forma* kickoff and desperate attempt to get back in the game.

But wait, what? A flag? Unsportsmanlike conduct for celebrating this incredible comeback and spectacular throw and catch on the most perfect afternoon ever created for fall football? What's this? 15 yards on the kickoff, and then 5 more for offsidess? Suddenly UT had a shot—a long shot that nobody in my section thought they had a prayer of completing.

I'll let you tell the rest.

Every coach replaces his deposed predecessor stating that he's inherited a dysfunctional culture that will take time to reshape into a winning program. Mark Richt has done the same at Miami, which was believed to be in much worse shape than the UGA program he left behind. On the postgame radio show, Coach Smart was bemoaning the culture of the UGA program that he stepped into, and how it must change in order for Georgia to become a perennial contender for championships. Not only, as he's said since arriving in Athens, do we lack talent, our players lack discipline and the willingness to be coached. We had repped the play that ended the game weekly, and did not execute it. Part of the culture he's trying to create does not allow for good coaching to be undone by players who do not practice what the coaches preach.

I'm not in the locker room or at practice, so I'll take his word for it. But I would like to wrap up my assessment of Saturday's incredible, unfathomable, thrilling, and crushing game by offering two cultural artifacts from the program's past: Hunker down, boys. And Finish the drill.

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 these Good Works services. There are many people living in difficult circumstances, and every dollar helps to support them through another day, week, month, and year. The Dawgmeister pledges \$10 to each organization featured for its Good Works throughout the football season. Please consider doing the same yourself.

The Food Bank of Northeast Georgia is a network of friends working to feed the ill, needy, seniors, and children of northeast Georgia. Their mission is to work toward ending hunger as part of an overall community effort to alleviate poverty.

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DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ "I'm looking forward to whippin' his ass." ~Will Muschamp on playing Kirby Smart's Georgia Bulldogs
- ☞ I spent last week in Mexico, working with both wall construction companies and government officials about how they will engineer and finance the border barricade. I tell you, those Mexicans are getting desperate about this immigration thing. Now they're talking about making that wall 50 feet high and coating it top to bottom with coils of barbed wire. Damn, they will do anything to make sure that Jeff Schultz stays in *el norte*.
- ☞ They tell me that there was a debate while I was gone. It got bitter at times, and a lot of fact-checkers earned their keep breaking down the falsehoods and distortions from the speakers. The critical point in the dispute might be boiled down to this: What the heck is the deal with the UGA football team this year?

- ☞ We answered a lot of those questions on Saturday. The running game was restored, the OL played well against a tough DL, the team took the field ready to play, we played the consensus East frontrunner on equal terms, Eason showed incredible talent and moxie in driving the team after two horrific turnovers, the receivers caught the ball, and the defense did everything except consistently pressure the quarterback. Tennessee's best plays came when Joshua Dobbs did what he does best: Escape the pocket and improvise. Aside from those last infuriating four seconds, it was a great day to be a Georgia Bulldog.
- ☞ Actual news item: LSU economists have found that the juvenile court judges who are LSU grads give harsher sentences on weeks following a loss by the LSU football team, especially in seasons when LSU's team is nationally ranked.
- ☞ Mexican officials also released the shocking discovery that the public safety advocate Felina, previously believed to have been assassinated by the drug cartels whose evildoing she fought via Twitter, is now known to have been murdered by the notorious Aaron "El Gatoro" Hernandez.

THE COVETED DAWGMEISTER GOOD GUY OF THE WEEK AWARD



Quayvon Hicks came to Athens from Blackshear, a small Georgia town of about 3,000 residents. [Blackshear](#) is “a community of friendly folks and good neighbors who are never too busy to stop, shake hands, and visit awhile.” Geographically, it’s not far from Waycross, a bit north of the Okefenokee Swamp, smack in the middle of South Georgia’s great football tradition. Quayvon played his high school ball at Pierce County High, and the way they talk about him back home says a lot about the quality of his character. According to former PCHS head football coach Mike Woodard, who coached Quayvon, “What a quality young man who comes from a great family. He is one of those feel good stories that you love to see perform well. I can't think of another person that has really programmed themselves mentally, physically, socially, and spiritually to be where he is. It's humbling, almost, to watch a person come into his own. There is nobody more deserving than Quayvon, as hard as he worked through middle and high school.” Not every high school star in a small town is humble; the constant attention can balloon one’s ego and sense of entitlement. Yet Quayvon was known for being a great teammate and community stalwart, even as a teenager. Like a lot of small classification stars, he seemed to play every position on the field, lining up at defensive end, nose tackle, linebacker, tight end, and running back. As the #2 ranked fullback prospect in the country, he got plenty of attention that could have swelled his head. But he maintained his team-based approach throughout his career. At UGA, Quayvon appeared headed for stardom as a blocker, runner, and weapon on pass plays, but between injuries and playcalling that distributed the ball elsewhere, he ended up being a solid contributor but not a superstar. He was, however, a three-time recipient of the Brad K. and Anissa H. Johnson Family Trust Football Scholarship, was a Richard Young Football Scholarship

awardee, and was named the program's 2014 recipient of the Charlie Trippi Most Versatile Player Award. Undrafted, he signed a free agent contract with the Tennessee Titans. Whether he sticks or not, he's got a bright future. This is one DGD to keep an eye on.

GOOD GUY ARCHIVE

THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. SOUTH CAROLINA

I like Will Muschamp. He was a walkon who fought his way onto the field and earned such respect from his teammates that by his senior season he was named the team's defensive captain. He then worked his way up in coaching the hard way, with one-year stints at Auburn, West Georgia, Eastern Kentucky, and Valdosta State, before landing at LSU, where Nick Saban promoted him to defensive coordinator, and then made him his assistant head coach when he went to the NFL's Miami Dolphins. But Will is a college guy, and he returned to Auburn and then Texas as defensive coordinator. From there he spent three years as Head Ball Coach at Florida where he was SEC Coach of the Year; and then back to Auburn for a season coordinating their defense before stepping into Steve Spurrier's shoes to lead SC. That's 11 jobs in 21 years, a long climb from entry-level jobs to the pinnacle of the profession. His rise reflects his ability, tenacity, and toughness. Will might go crazy every few minutes, but he's a Damned Good Dawg at heart.

Kirby Smart came to UGA on scholarship and had a great career in our defensive backfield. Like Muschamp, he immediately went into coaching when his playing days were done, first as a UGA administrative assistant and then at Valdosta State, where he coached defensive backs and, in his second of two years, added the job of defensive coordinator. To jump to the bigtime, he gave up his job as VSU to become a Florida State graduate assistant, a position that launched him into a series of one-year stints at LSU, UGA, and the Miami Dolphins. He then followed Nick Saban to Alabama for a lengthy term as defensive coordinator that, at last, led him back home to Athens this season.

And so, two old Dawg DBs who took the long and hard road to the top lead their teams into battle on Saturday. Each is running a program that is considered to be down in talent, although SC's deficiencies were much more obvious last year when even the estimable Spurrier walked away from his own train wreck in mid-season. UGA thought it was returning a strong talent base, yet Smart's term at Alabama led him to question its ability and depth as soon as he began to survey the squad. Both teams are reeling a bit trying to find their identities and to round, at mid-season, into mid-season form.

Who, then, wins this game? Seasoned Dawgmeister readers, all four of them, can guess what I think. I have personally coached up Foghorn Bullhorn to expand his lungpower with some new drills I developed over the summer, and I expect him be audible all the way up in Columbia to rally our boys to a tough road win. This is the Week of the Dawg: UGA 35, USC 31.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: FLORIDA STATE AT MIAMI

Mark Richt's first big test in South Beach arrives this weekend. Will his honeymoon be over, or will he go straight to heaven? All good Dawgs not only should go to heaven themselves, but should rally their support for one of the game's greatest men as he gets his *alma mater* back in the national hunt. Who knew that he'd have Miami positioned as the favorite over Florida State going into this game? Miami 24, FSU 23.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: LSU OVER FLORIDA

Florida is coming off a very tough win over Vandy, while LSU seems to be rallying to make Ed Orgeron their fulltime coach. I dunno, I've just got a feeling. That's something you really don't want to bet on. Bengal Tigers, 21-20.