

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
MAKE AUBURN CASTRATED AGAIN**

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SEPARATED@BIRTH?



**UNETHICAL
BRUCE PEARL**



**INCREDIBLE
THE HULK**

&

SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE

Back in August, I would have been pretty surprised to know that:

- ☞ The team that looked so out of sorts last year would go 11-1, produce one of the program's greatest regular seasons in history, and play for the SEC Championship and shot at the Final Four;
- ☞ The fan base that seemed so disheartened, dispirited, and disillusioned with the team last season would rally to fill opponents' stadiums and make us the home team just about every week, and make our home games an overpowering, intimidating force to the teams and their feeble fan followings;
- ☞ The team that seemed built around the potential of Jacob Eason, a popular prediction for #1 overall pick in the NFL draft after his junior season, would lose him early in the first game, replace him with a true freshman, and proceed to beat the living sh!t out of just about every team on the schedule;
- ☞ The team that couldn't run, pass, punt, block, or kick last year would excel in each phase of the game and end up with one of the nation's most effective offensive lines, built from scratch after heavy graduation and stocked with a cast of untested players, including three freshmen not named Isaiah Wilson;
- ☞ The coaches who seemed out of their depth last year would plan, practice, and perform masterfully all season long;
- ☞ The running back corps who have battled devastating injuries for years would emerge at the end in tremendous condition and free of injuries all season, with the #s 2 and 3 rushers in program history carrying the load but supported by an impressive cast of dynamic young talent;
- ☞ The tight ends who seemed to be our best returning receivers would catch only a handful of passes all season, and be happy about it;

- ☞ The team that lost heartbreaking games to Tennessee and Florida last year would destroy them to the point that their coaches' agents were working the job market within minutes of the beatdowns they experienced on our Revenge Tour of Fury;
- ☞ The one team that simply manhandled us would win the West and be our opponent in Atlanta to see who gets to compete for the National Championship.

Yes, call me amazed at what has happened with this program this season. And call me happy, thrilled, and excited about next weekend, next season, and the next era. It's been one incredible year, and ought to be the first of many with this staff in place. That's not a knock on the old regime, led by one of coaching's most admirable men who is writing a new history himself at his alma mater this year and beyond. It's simply a statement of confidence in what we've got going here. Thanks to the coaches, the seniors, the scout team, the staffers, the gameday hostesses, and the players from the top of the roster to the bottom for making this season one we'll never forget.

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, to which I am contributing \$10 to get the ball rolling:

Fernando Velasco's Right CHOICES program, standing for Christ Humility Opportunity Integrity Character Education Success. Right CHOICES seeks to connect youth with opportunities that promote academic excellence and character development through athletics. Right CHOICES desires to help all youth participants, but with special attention to middle and high school athletes, aiming to help youth prepare for their futures by understanding the choices they make and how they can impact their futures. The foundation believes that with the proper village, all of our youth can make positive choices that create a lifetime of success.

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DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ What would the world look like today if (1) Bear Bryant had stayed at Kentucky, and (2) Steve Spurrier had stayed at Duke?
- ☞ President Trump has now officially declared Alabama a terrorist state.
- ☞ A confession: The Day Job has again put me on the road, missing the game, which awaits me on my return from Mexico, where I have been in ongoing negotiations about The Wall. Our new plan has shifted from the original brick-and-mortar, to the replacement solar panels, and now to a gigantic magnifying glass so that even if people climb over, dig under, or try to run through it, they'll fry on the other side. Everyone agrees now that this is the best possible plan, but the earthquakes down here have made the Mexican people very selfish about their promise to pay for the wall. The people on the street corner where I set up shop as a bolero singer seem very reluctant to throw pesos into my hat. I've

composed some new songs to persuade them otherwise, but even though they like to dance to the tunes, they have been very stingy when it comes to making donations.

- ☞ I mainly mention this to excuse my lack of a Good Guy of the Week. I just haven't had time to write one up. How about if I declare The Fans this week's Good Guys, and try to do better next time.

THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. AUBURN

The Revenge Tour of Fury gets its last chance at vengeance, and with the only team that has made us look not only mortal, but mortified and mortician-worthy this season. That game has got to still be eating at this team, and I suspect that they will want this game as badly as they've ever wanted anything in their lives. Of course, Auburn is on an incredible roll, hammering us into the turf and then beating Alabama convincingly. We know who'll be the favorite in Vegas and among the Talking Heads. But I think we will come out as ready to play as a team can be. I don't think we'll wait till third-and-eight to pass the ball this time; we'll go for balance so that their DL doesn't stuff the run early in the count and then blow up the passing game on third down. At least, that's my plan, in case Coach Chaney calls for advice. Revenge goes to the worthy: Dawgs 31, Auburn 30.