

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
DAWGS SEND WILDCATS BACK TO THEIR OLD KENTUCKY
HOME**

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SEPARATED@BIRTH?



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&



**CONVICTED
ROD BLAGOJEVICH**

SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE

It was a bad day to be a Georgia Bulldog.

We learned that UGA football was dead last among SEC schools in the NCAA's "graduation success rate" report cards.

Georgia Tech won.

Unbeaten Miami crushed Notre Dame with a coach we ran out of town for not winning enough.

People in Georgia were reported to be among the fattest in the U.S.

And we got our asses kicked up and down the field by Auburn.

A lot of the narrative heading into the game concerned Jake Fromm's performance in a hostile environment. That narrative focused on the crowd: How will the callow freshman, with his 9-0 record (counting the opener when he didn't start but played most of the game), respond to 87,000 hostile fans on enemy turf?

But the storyline should have been concerned with Auburn's defensive line, which destroyed our run game and put Fromm on the run whenever he tried to pass. The way they blew up our trick play, the handoff-lateral-back-to-QB play that worked like a charm earlier this year, summed up the afternoon: A wide open receiver ran free while Auburn's defense ran even freer in our backfield and blew up the lateral before Fromm

could even get set, much less spot Hardman downfield amidst the waves of blue jerseys he was engulfed within.

Auburn dominated both lines of scrimmage. You can point to dumb penalties, slippery footballs for receivers and punt returners, clock management, the reading of press clippings, a sensational game by Kerryon Johnson, a brilliant catch by almost-a-Dawg Darius Slayton, tremendous scheming by the Auburn staff, and a hundred other reasons we got hammered. But this game was won by Auburn's superiority in the trenches. The rest didn't help, but served mostly as intermittent problems. Play after play, with the brief exception of our deceptively easy opening touchdown drive, Auburn beat us at the line of scrimmage, and beat us badly. That's how you win in this league, and any other. We're a hell of a good team. We're just not quite there yet.

I have heard many people, upon being honored or awarded for their achievements, talk about how humbled they are by the occasion. Well I don't know about you, but when I win, I feel pretty damned good. I feel humbled when I lose, and especially humbled when I lose big. When I lose, I realize I'm not as good as I hoped I am, that I've got work to do, that I'm on the bottom looking up at people who've accomplished more than I have. That's humbling. This week, UGA football people—players, coaches, fans—ought to feel humbled. I sure do. Since I don't actually play or coach football, I need to roll my sleeves up and do my own job better, because I'm surely coming up short in areas where I need to be better. I'm sure the guys in the locker room and meeting rooms will do the same. Kentucky has got to be thinking that we are beatable, and they will come to play. It's time to hunker down, study the film, and fix the mistakes; and to say, never again will any team manhandle us the way Auburn did.

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:

Nuci's Space Our vision is to end the epidemic of suicide and to inspire a culture free of the stigma attached to brain illnesses and its sufferers by supporting a community-wide effort that focuses on education, prevention and access to appropriate treatment. Its mission is to prevent suicide.

With a focus on musicians, Nuçi's Space advocates for and helps to alleviate the suffering for those living with a brain illness and fights to end the stigma of mental illness. To accomplish our mission, Nuçi's Space maintains a health and resource center for musicians as a safe space to seek support and guidance, provides access to affordable, obstacle-free professional care, actively participates in treatment and educates about awareness, prevention and the risk factors of brain illnesses. Nuçi's Space, and all those who represent the organization, will champion a culture of kindness and support to all in our community and maintain the highest

DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ What a different place the world would be if (1) Bear Bryant had stayed at Kentucky, and (2) Steve Spurrier had stayed at Duke.
- ☞ How about if Tennessee had never fired Phil Fulmer? The Waffle Houses in Knoxville would be far more prosperous, and Vol fans would not have needed to suffer from rebuilding with, and rebuilding from, Derek Dooley, Lane Kiffin, Butch Jones, and whomever they hire next.
- ☞ How does Bruce Pearl still have a job??
- ☞ “How did a confirmed cheater like Bruce Pearl get a job in the first place?” ~Little Woolly
- ☞ “Auburn.” ~Granny Butts
- ☞ In Athens, Mark Fox’s 9th UGA basketball team is widely considered to be his most talented, competitive, and likely to make noise in the postseason. [Outside Athens](#), they are ranked in one representative poll as the nation’s #58 team, and are picked to finish 10th in the SEC. Should be interesting to see how this season turns out.

THE COVETED DAWGMEISTER GOOD GUY OF THE WEEK AWARD **GOOD GUY ARCHIVE**

Joe Cox was a high school wunderkind, a Parade All-American from NC who came to UGA as an Elite 11 QB camp star and seeming game-changer, but mostly backed up Matthew Stafford, serving as QB1 for only his senior season. Joe was always a good program guy and noted fisherman, seemingly able to catch fish in a desert. He was also, like many quarterbacks, a smart kid who excelled in the classroom. A 2009 graduate with a degree in psychology, Joe earned multiple Porter Otis Payne Football Scholarships and a Leavy Family and the Brunswick News Publishing Co. Scholarship, and was named to both the SEC Academic Honor Roll and Director’s Honor Roll during his studies. Joe’s team-oriented approach was also awarded a Coffee County Hustle Award for his spring practice contributions and, as a senior, he was named the team’s permanent overall captain. Joe was never a pro prospect, so life after football involved figuring out how to make a living. He began trying to sell things, first orthopedic products in Augusta, then scholastic supplies in Charleston. But Joe’s a football man, and got back into the game. He began as an unpaid assistant at Porter Gaud, a private school in Charleston, and then took a position as QB coach and then offensive coordinator on the staff of Mallard Creek High in Charlotte. When Mike Bobo, his position coach at UGA, got the head ball coach position at Colorado State and was filling his staff, he invited Joe to be an offensive graduate assistant. Joe and his now-wife Erica Smith headed out to Ft. Collins and Joe went to work signaling in calls from the sidelines. Joe says of this opportunity, “There’s nobody else I would’ve G.A.’ed for than Coach Bobo. As soon as I found out this was something he was doing, I didn’t care where he was going, I still would’ve followed. I know what I think he’s going to do as a

head coach and I want to be a part of it.” Someday a young aspiring coach will say the same of Joe Cox as he leads his own squad on the field.



THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. KENTUCKY

No more 45-0 picks for me. Kentucky’s season will be made if they win, and I assume that’s what they’re coming to town to try to do. I suspect that our practices this week will be intense, designed to correct the flaws that made Saturday such a disaster. I think we’ll do it: the running game will return, the DL will not allow a runner to do whatever he feels like doing, and we’ll get back on track. The season’s not lost, just sidetracked. Good Guys, 31-20.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: MICHIGAN OVER WISCONSIN

It’s another one of those late-season weekends with zero games involving 2 ranked teams. So I’ll head out to the Midwest, where the Big 10 can’t get out of its own way this year; or at least can’t get out of the way of underdogs. Since nothing is going true to form this season up in the land of snow and slush, I’ll take the underdog again, although Michigan was viewed in the preseason as the better of these two teams. Much as I can’t stand Harbaugh—the man who makes The Scowlmeister look like Willy Wonka—I have to give his team the edge here. Wolverines over Badgers in a battle of angry rodents, 21-20.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: UTAH OVER WASHINGTON

This pick looked more like an upset before Washington lost to Stanford. I’m going to take the mountain folk over the seaside residents as the Pac 10, or however many teams they have this week, gets even funkier. Utes, 40-38.