

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

WWW.THEDAWGMEISTER.COM

[THE DAWGMEISTER ON FACEBOOK](#)

SEPARATED@BIRTH?



**BOSS WHO
TROUBLES YOU
JACKIE SHERRILL**



**LOST TO
W
JOHN KERRY**

SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE

There were some vacant seats up by the Scowlmeister, Foghorn Bullhorn, and the lovely Mrs. Bullhorn on this lovely Saturday evening, so I enjoyed the game from their section of the stadium. My ears are still ringing from such proximity to the only sound in the stadium louder than the scoreboard's incessant thumping and pumping of sponsor messages, but the company was excellent, when we could hear each other over the latest commercial interruption or exhortation to be loud above the deafening scoreboard cacophony.

Of course, it was a gratifying evening, a "great win" according to the postgame show guys, although in my view, such superlatives should be reserved for opponents who have a chance of actually winning the game. We pretty much did what we felt like doing, both on the field and in the stands. The runners ran, the receivers (mostly) caught, the line blocked, the defense stifled, the kickers boomed, the fans applauded. It helps that the competition was designed for such a process and outcome, but we all went home happy. And no new injuries.

The one question we had about the Dawgs up in our section was, Do we still have tight ends? Are we not throwing to them in order to set up defenses for a big surprise once the SEC gauntlet begins? Or have we once again just forgotten about them? We heard so much in camp about how that slot position would be productive with TEs flexing out and taking over the middle of the field, but we haven't seen it happen yet. I hope they have been decoys who'll be exploited soon, because there's a lot of talent in that unit that appears to be under-employed.

Before the Samford game, the big debate among the Dawgnation seemed to be: Is Nick Chubb OK? He'd been running well, but not like the Adonis we saw before his

catastrophic knee injury, it seemed. All this was before he dominated an overmatched Samford team on Saturday. I suspect that his big game will not end the question on whether or not he is back, given that our personnel was decidedly superior across the board. But next Saturday, against a rocking and rolling SEC team, should help us see if Samford was a turn in the right direction.

Let's take a look at the pre-Samford productivity that had raised questions among the faithful. After two games, here's how the running game was shaping up:

NAME	CAR	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Sony Michel	29	160	5.5	44	2
Nick Chubb	28	159	5.7	30	2
D'Andre Swift	8	73	9.1	40	0
Christian Payne	3	12	4.0	7	0
Brian Herrien	6	11	1.8	7	0
Mecole Hardman	2	7	3.5	7	0
Totals	87	406	4.7	44	4

I'm a little puzzled about the questions about Chubb. Nobody was saying, what's wrong with Sony Michel? The stats were virtually identical between them, with only Swift having outsized numbers, and I think it's because teams haven't yet begun to scheme against him, which will change as he continues to make big plays.

But Chubb, is he OK? Has he lost explosiveness, as Studs McMachoman wondered? Forget the Samford game, where Granny Butts could have averaged 9.1 yards per carry. What is up with Nick and his measly 5.7 yards per carry against App State and ND?

First, that's not so bad, really, is it? It was in the [national top 50](#), as of last Friday, and most of the gaudiest stats went to guys who had yet to play a serious competitor. It seems to me that Chubb has been running hard and fast, but generally into opposing bodies in his own backfield, which was his problem last year too. In other words, the problem is more our ability to block schemes that are designed to prevent Nick Chubb from exploding through the secondary. When he's had holes, he's looked powerful and impressive. When he hasn't, he's gone down like any other back facing top competition (OK, App State was lesser competition, but they stacked the box with what they had).

Without a downfield passing game yet—and Jake “Le Grande Frommage” Fromm had shown more in the short and quick passing game than the downfield game before Saturday's lark in the park—teams will continue to pack the line of scrimmage. We are apparently dedicated now to running 35 different sets per game, and maybe that will provide some defensive adjustment and confusion and give our RBs the space they need to get downfield. The passes seem to be quick darts over the middle or to the outside, both opening up the box, but nothing like the deep game can do, and we got a glimpse of

it Saturday, albeit against the worst team on our schedule. Will the OL and Fromm continue to develop, mature, and become threats? We'll know next week.

Meanwhile, that defense will keep us in every game, whether we break any scoring records or not. That's quite a powerful tool to bring to a competition, one that keeps opponents off the scoreboard and the field tilted our way. If we are going to win the East, that's where it starts. I'm hoping that the RBs will eventually get the space they need to make the offense a threat as well, that the stable of tight ends returns to Coach Chaney's radar screen when he's dialing up plays, and Fromm's romance with his wide receivers in the last two weeks is a sign that he's getting increasingly comfortable with the harder, more penetrating throws.

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:

Read with Malcolm is a youth literacy initiative supporting Share the Magic Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the benefits of reading and book ownership among students in Title I schools and underserved communities. It advances the literacy celebration of Malcolm Mitchell, former Dawg and now Super Bowl champion representing the New England Patriots.

[DONATE HERE](#)

DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ “Georgia is a second half team, and they are going to need to be one, here in the second half.” ~insightful analysis from sideline reporter Kathryn Tappen after talking to Kirby Smart at halftime of the ND game
- ☞ One of the most dedicated of my 4 readers was chagrined to see that last week, my Separated@Birth pairing included the decidedly odious Jerry Sandusky, and wondered if I might avoid such distasteful presentations in the future, he being a pedophile, felon, and shameful human being in every respect, if not a problem in Joe Pa's eyes. So I looked back over the glorious **SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE** to see if Sandusky was more of a rogue and embarrassment to the human race than others I've featured, and found....Adolf Hitler.....The Unabomber.....Satan.....Jeff Schultz.....John Wayne Gacy.....Justin Bieber.....and looking ahead, Hitler's only genocidal competitor, Joseph Stalin.....Should I retire Sandusky from further inclusion? Or only use non-pedophiles, with mass murderers, terrorists, incompetent sportswriters, and dweebs being OK? Is this more a “too soon” problem than one of degree? It reminds me of something I saw on John Oliver, where NFL teams won't touch Colin Kaepernick because he kneels and fashions a 70s hairstyle, but will sign wife beaters, drug addicts, holdup men, deadbeat dads, rapists, and a wide assortment of other sociopaths and pariahs, as long as

they can score touchdowns, and fans will root them on and wonder if they've got any friends their team can sign. I shall continue to ponder this question for the ages, and of course anyone is welcome to weigh in on this matter at [The Dawgmeister on Facebook](#), where traffic is light, which is no surprise given that my readership is countable on one hand, with the thumb remaining idle.

- ☞ According to ESPN, "We won't bore you too much with No. 23 Tennessee's trip to No. 24 Florida other than to say that a) neither team deserves to be ranked in the top 25, and b) the losing team's head coach will wake up Sunday morning on the hot seat." Um, McElwain has won back-to-back East titles, has already won an SEC Coach of the Year award, and would be on the hot seat if he lost an early game in his third year at UF? I don't think so, although so far he's started as well at Florida as Will Muschamp did. And it's moot now anyhow, and seeing them do to Tennessee on Saturday what Tennessee did to us last year made me a Gator fan for a good five minutes.
- ☞ Butch Jones, on the other hand, might be ready for the electric chair. I'll be happy to throw the switch. And I bet I'd get Volunteers to help me from among the women Butch Jones's players have assaulted, whose crimes Butch tried to cover up.
- ☞ I know that the Dawgnation has been concerned about our offense, but after watching Florida play Tennessee, I don't think we are unique in the East in sputtering when in possession of the football. Apparently, Kentucky and Vandy are the teams we should really be worrying about this year.
- ☞ Remember when quarterbacks with tattoos were considered thuggish and questionable?
- ☞ Has there ever been a quarterback of whom it has not been said, "If he gets protection in the pocket, he'll pick you apart"? the problem being that since any QB fits that bill, it's the ones who perform under pressure who make a difference.
- ☞ "He is who he is and he does what he does well. He improved on that this week."
~ Kirby Smart on Jake Fromm

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

Roquan Smith came to UGA from Montezuma and Macon County HS, after a flirtation with UCLA that was thwarted when news broke that the coach who recruited him had no intention of sticking around. Although he came across to many as a *prima donna* for his recruitment, his roots in rural Georgia in fact produced a humble, hard-working young man with a particular dedication to the game of football, at which he is seriously talented. Roquan's summer before college was spent on a well-drilling and water-pumping crew, which is some mighty dirty work, especially for the crew's lowest-ranking member doing the dirtiest, toughest, heaviest jobs in South Georgia summer heat. Said his boss on the rigs, Roy Yoder: "I'd adopt Roquan now if I had a chance. He's a super nice guy, a good Christian man, got a head on his shoulders, courteous, hard-working. I'd take him any day. This just gets him a little money and lets him know what the world is like outside of the classroom and the ball field." We all know that this kid can run and tackle; his background helps to explain why he does it so well. He's no slouch in the classroom, either, having earned a Tommy Lyons Football Scholarship in

both his freshman and sophomore years. Now a junior with an unlimited upside and key role to play in Georgia's championship drive, Roquan is set to take on leadership roles fitting a young man of his talent, intelligence, and humility. The sky's the limit, and it's mighty high for this great young Dawg.



THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. MISSISSIPPI STATE

And now, the fun begins. MSU has recruited all of the East Mississippi Community College players who are not in jail, but not their academic advisor, so that's a wash. If they can keep those guys eligible, then they are either dedicated to academics or cheating. But Saturday, everything changed in terms of how big this game suddenly got. From news accounts of MSU's thrashing of LSU:

Mississippi State dominated LSU in every phase.... They physically dominated the Tigers on both sides of the ball, pushing LSU around in front of a delighted crowd of 60,000-plus.... the Bulldogs had one long party at the Tigers' expense.... It was the largest margin of victory ever for the Bulldogs in the series.... The Bulldogs controlled every facet of the game..... It all started shortly after kickoff as the Bulldogs began asserting their dominance on the offensive and defensive lines.... MSU defensive coordinator Todd Grantham's unit put up its third-straight fantastic performance to open the season.... Grantham's motto to his team is "no mas," or "no more" in Spanish.... LSU players and coaches stood in a stoned silence on the visiting sidelines in the midst of well over 50,000 clanging fans.... Pressure from the defensive front made the biggest difference in the Bulldog's 37 -7 victory over LSU on Saturday night. This was an absolute beatdown from beginning to end.

They destroyed LSU in part by dominating the line of scrimmage and stuffing the run game, and preseason All American Derrius Guice. Our running game will be critical to how we do next weekend, and MSU's annihilation of LSU suggests they'll be harder to run on than Samford was. It doesn't matter to me whether they did it against Coach Eaux or Coach Emme. They whupped 'em good, and if we are to win, we've got to open holes the way we did vs. Samford more than the way we did to open the season. I'm ever-confident in our defense and think that in spite of how MSU ran up and down the field on Saturday, they won't do quite as well against us. I don't think this one will be high scoring, but it should be a great game. Good Guys, 20-17.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: TCU AT OK STATE

It's a cruddy weekend for big matchups, so I'll do a rare visit to whatever league these teams are in this week. I'm not much of a fan of either program. But I've got to pick a winner anyhow. I'll stick with the home team.....Pokes over Frogs, 48-45.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: CAL OVER USC

Why? Because I said so. The only player on Cal's roster that I've ever heard of is Demetris Robertson, and that's because we wanted him out of Savannah. For that reason, I'm going with the Bears. Plus, I hate USC. Northern Cal over Southern Cal, 27-24.

Note to readers: My predictions come from the gut, not from studying film or reading the latest injury reports from Vegas. You might as well conjure the future by reading diaper stains as get your intelligence from me on next week's games.