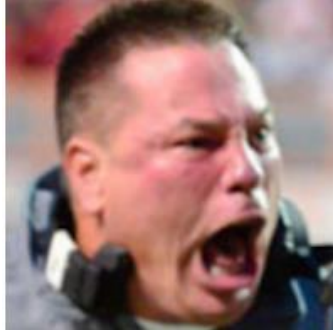


**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
DAWGS TOP TENN**

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SEPARATED@BIRTH?



**HORSE'S ASS
BUTCH JONES**

**& LARGEMOUTH BASS
FISHY CHARACTER**

SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE



MSU'S BULLDOGS BARK, BUT NO BITE BY: JOEL COLEMAN

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A little under an hour before kickoff Saturday at Georgia, Mississippi State players were heading back to the locker room after pregame warmups. MSU staffers formed a line to herd their players into its tunnel while several State players pointed and jawed at Georgia's brand of Bulldogs as they loosened up. Mississippi State was full of bark. Once the game began, there was little bite from the Bulldogs of Starkville.

"They've got a ridiculous amount of talent." ~Dan Mullen

Damn straight, Dan. We sure do. The pregame show, which I caught on the radio heading to the stadium, was all about the Fearsome Fitzgerald, the home state kid who got away and had Mississippi State averaging 47 points a game, as Todd Grantham's team was holding opposing offenses to under 10 points. What became clear throughout the game that their approach only wins if they get a lead; if that D of theirs can stop the opposition from jumping out front. They just don't have a play of over 10 yards in their playbook, at least not one for our defense. In the fourth quarter, I couldn't figure out which team was trying harder to run out the clock, because without a lead, they are left with running plays that get about 4 yards and lead to clock-chewing sustained drives, if they can sustain them. When they tried to pass their way back into the game, our season interception total went from zero to two in a hurry.

The game, I believe, turned on our first defensive play, and our first play on offense. I thought that Carter's annihilation of their first play 7 yards in their own backfield both produced the first of their several 3-and-outs, and set the tone for how we came to play. Then the very brilliant call by the coaches for the first-strike flea-flicker put MSU behind, which is not where they ever want to be against a defense that is schemed to stop their running game, which is all they've got, in spite of all the pregame chatter in the booth and at the Blind Pig about Fitzgerald's improvement as a passer.

The post-game show was all about the defense and the continued improvement of Jake "Le Grande Frommage" Fromm, both worthy of attention. Jake was downright masterful all night, looking like a fifth-year senior running the show. But I'm surprised that people aren't talking more about the offensive line. Perhaps they are still the program whipping boy. But we are seeing holes this year that I don't remember watching our line open, not for a few years now, it seems. Granny Butts could have taken Chubb's wildcat score to the house on a beautifully designed and blocked play. Even The Scowlmeister wrote, "My cup runneth over!" in the aftermath, and his cup tends to run toward the half-empty.

And the fans, 93K Day in September, sounding like 193K. It sure is different from last year, when fans often left the stadium disgusted and angry over our play. The fans are attacking the day the way the players and coaches are. And it makes fall a whole lot more fun for everyone who bleeds red and black.

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:

Athens Area Homeless Shelter provides collaborative, comprehensive services to homeless individuals and families working toward sustainable independence. The Athens Area Homeless Shelter, Inc. (AAHS) is a

501(c)(3) non-profit organization serving homeless individuals and families in Athens-Clarke County, Georgia. AAHS was established in 1986 and was formally incorporated in 1990.

[DONATE HERE](#)

DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ “Maybe our program just has great character and grit. This is a football program built on character, it’s built on grit, it’s built on belief and we found a way to win when we didn’t play our best.” ~Butch Jones, expert on character, following Tennessee’s win over Georgia Tech; no comment on the Florida game
- ☞ “The only five-star that we even concern ourselves with is a five-star heart.” ~Butch Jones upon landing the SEC’s 7th ranked recruiting class
- ☞ I was shocked, shocked I say, to learn that Jeffery Simmons, Mississippi State’s top defender, while a 5-star high school superstar, was [filmed beating up a woman](#) who was already getting beaten up by another woman. When they signed him anyhow, MSU AD said, "Based on conversations our staff has had with school, community and church leaders in Noxubee County, this incident appears to be uncharacteristic of Jeffery. *It's a highly unique circumstance to administer discipline to a student for an incident that occurred prior to that individual joining our university.* However, it's important that Jeffery and other potential MSU students understand that these type of actions and poor decisions are not acceptable. We expect the structure and discipline Jeffery will be a part of in our football program to benefit him. Jeffery will be held accountable for his actions while at MSU, and there will be consequences for any future incidents." It's the Mississippi State Way. If they did it before they arrived in Starkville, it never really actually happened.
- ☞ The 2016 class brought in sure-fire All American Ben Cleveland, and at the very end, what sounded like a joke, a 360 pound unknown, Solomon Kindley, the sort of super-sized guy Sam Pittman loved, but outsized and fat even by the Coach’s standards. Now, in their second year, Kindley has slimmed down to a svelte 330 lbs., his athleticism is more apparent, and he’s considered the key to the running game while Cleveland, who is still young enough to be eligible for HS ball and is probably still growing into his enormous body, is trying to play his way on the field. Ya just never know.
- ☞ Matt Ruhl left a Temple program on the rise to take over a Baylor program on the skids. Now both programs are terrible, Baylor’s competitive showing vs. Oklahoma notwithstanding. The Owlmeister mourns Temple, and nobody mourns Baylor, especially the women raped, beaten, and bruised by their players and told by coaches and administrators that they matter a lot less than the thugs who assaulted them to the honor of the great Baptist institution.

THE COVETED DAWGMEISTER GOOD GUY OF THE WEEK AWARD

GOOD GUY ARCHIVE

Dawg fans have been clamoring for **Jeb Blazeovich** to get more touches. The TE came to UGA from Charlotte as a top national prospect and caught a lot of balls for Mike Bobo

while here, but his productivity has been sacrificed to the running game. Whether he ever catches another pass for UGA or not, however, Jeb's a winner. He was named to the 2016 Allstate AFCA Good Works Team as one of 12 FBS players, only 2 from the SEC, selected based on their commitment to community service. Across several coaching staffs, the Dawgs have produced more Good Works honorees since the award was introduced in 1992, including five in the last six years. Jeb has also been inducted into the UGA's Leadership Education and Development (L.E.A.D.) program, showing that his good works follow from his array of personal qualities. While doing it in the classroom and being a stalwart between the hedges, Jeb has been involved with the "Learn, Play, Excel" program designed to educate and provide leadership for elementary and middle school students; spent time with cancer-stricken children at Camp Sunshine; volunteered for Countdown to Kickoff (a benefit for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, the Georgia Transplant Foundation and the UGA College of Education); and been involved with Extra Special People, an organization assisting individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, among other charities. In the classroom, he's earned a slew of scholarships, including the James E. & Peggy A. Hickey Memorial Scholarship, a pair of Michael A. Kahn Football Scholarships, and two appointments to the J. Reid Parker Director of Athletics Honor Roll. They just don't get much better than this guy, and we're lucky to have him proudly wearing the G.



THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. VOLS

Last year's game still stinks, and that stench should provide some high-motor motivation for UGA to take the field with a vengeance as Butch Jones goes through his annual last gasp to keep his job. Last year, we allowed him to hang on another season with that fukn Hail Nary pass that crushed our souls. Not again. UT has one solid RB and some very erratic QB play, and that's not enough for this year's D. I do believe that we are a level or two above the competition provided Saturday by "UMass," whatever that is. We might not break any scoring records in Knoxville this weekend, but we will come home with the W. Good Guys, 24-10.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: MISSISSIPPI STATE OVER AUBURN

Every year I hear that Auburn is the team with the best chance of beating Alabama, and just about every year, they don't win the West. OK, same with us the last decade or so. But the times, they are a-changin' in Athens, while on the Plains, time has stood still, and not when Bo Jackson or Cam Newton was wearing blue and orange. I'm going with those other Bulldogs this weekend. One of the findings from my reading of the Starkville newspaper this morning is that "In Fitzgerald's mind, MSU's struggles didn't actually start Saturday. He said they began in practice leading up to the game. 'We saw (a lack of execution) in practice, having to redo a lot of plays and we were kind of messing up a lot,' Fitzgerald said. 'It kind of rolled over into the game.'" I think they will execute in practice after getting utterly destroyed in every phase of Saturday's game, and come out playing. MSU takes an early lead and holds it. MSU 38, Auburn 31.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: VANDERBILT OVER FLORIDA

Florida has looked pretty shaky thus far, while Vandy, aside from the recent execution at the hands of the Bane of the West, has come to play. If the Dores win this one, it will be the least upsetting upset in the history of this series. But I think it's about to happen. Vandy 21, Gators 20.