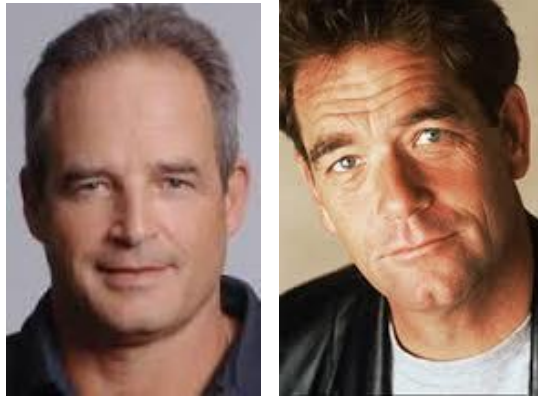


**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
DAWGS MESS UP MIZZOU**

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SEPARATED@BIRTH?



**PLAYED NOT & PLAYED WITH
TO LOSE THE NEWS
GARY PINKEL HUEY LEWIS**

SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE

There was so much red in the stands that I thought I was mistakenly watching a replay of the Notre Dame game.

The score was 45-14, but it never really seemed that close.

I had really hoped that we could keep the Commodores from blowing the Admiral, but then they scored to end the first half. Who knew that there was a third base in football? And their 4-play, 1-yard drive for their second score? That sucked.

The broadcasters and I were in agreement on one thing: Our offensive line was the real MVP of this game. Granny Butts could have gotten through most of those holes and shimmied her way downfield. Those guys have really manned up this year, and they mostly aren't even the guys that everyone thought would win these jobs. Damn impressive.

On the other hand, even though I agreed with them on the performance of the OL, Tuberville and Patrick did not appear to have studied the roster ahead of time, given how often they butchered our players' names or called the wrong player, e.g., going on and on about Hardman's drops after Trey Blount let one slip away—4 and 14, who can tell the difference? Nobody knew it could be so hard to tell them apart. Nobody.

But Hardman's drops, I imagine he knows he's got some work to do to be a reliable receiver here.

I wondered how our D would play with Carter and Patrick out, and Taylor and Rice in. Mostly, pretty well. Monty Rice, 3 stars, headed for stardom. I wonder if our coaches know more than the recruiting gurus? On the other hand, the coaches were not pleased with the overall defense: “[In the first half] We didn’t play worth a crap on defense. Horrible,” said Coach Smart. After the game he was no more pleased: “Did not play as well defensively as we need to. Don’t think we got better this week. Just don’t think we executed first or second half to the level of what our standard is.” So heading into next week’s game against Missouri, we are 7-0, ranked 4th I assume, and it’s back to the trenches this week to get our game on straight.

Overall, this team keeps thumping everyone yet gets ignored by the Lamestream Sports Media. Saturday, the nation was treated to losses by Oklahoma and Michigan, some wacky events across the spectrum, a late game-winner in Miami and a missed PAT in Florida, a 7 OT, 71-68 thriller, a Tom Petty tribute, and something called “baseball,” which apparently is being played this month in a few select cities; UGA, meanwhile, remains an afterthought in the national sports news. The UGA steamroller and Red Menace stadium-occupying force is just a bit too boring for the national news, even as the Dawgs are poised to shift into the coveted top 4 ranking that points them toward the playoff. The Lamestream Sports Media is not exactly rat-poison toxic to our team’s attention span, as it is to Alabama’s; it’s only the local press that seems to notice what we’re doing on Saturdays, and way too much for Coach Smart’s taste. Maybe we need to play closer games, although that would surely displease the coaches. But I’m happy with what we’re getting from these guys. Mighty happy

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:

The mission of The Ark is the same today as it was when it first opened its doors back in 1989: to continue to fulfill the vision of its founders by being an efficient, effective way for the religious community to pool resources and help people find self-sufficiency with hope and self-respect in the face of economic hardship. The Ark acts as an advocate for “neighbors” (the term used for The Ark’s clients) and offers help using its own funds, as well as monies, services and resources from other social service agencies and private charities in the community. The assistance our neighbors receive from The Ark prevents homelessness and loss of utilities. The Ark serves the low-income citizens of Athens Clarke and surrounding counties who are facing financial emergencies and are struggling to meet life’s basic needs. These include people who are working in one or more low-wage jobs, disabled or elderly and living on fixed incomes, facing increasing costs of living, stagnant wages and a lack of affordable housing and often without a network of support. Many of our neighbors live paycheck to paycheck, making difficult choices on a daily basis among rent, utilities, food, health

care, day care and so much more. An unexpected expense can throw these families into financial crisis. When that happens, many of these people turn to the Ark. Since opening in 1989, the Ark has provided over \$1,000,000 in financial assistance to over 35,000 individuals and families in need and continues to serve as an extension of over 30 local religious congregations representing different religious traditions. These congregations support The Ark with financial and human (volunteer) resources.

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DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ How on earth does Bruce Pearl still have a job?
- ☞ Oh.....Auburn.....
- ☞ Rick Pitino is rumored to be the next president of FIFA.
- ☞ The planet's most vindicated man: Mark Fox.
- ☞ Remember how devastating it was to lose the state and nation's top prospect, Trevor Lawrence, to Clemson? Anybody still upset?
- ☞ I didn't watch Jim McElwain walk off the field after losing to LSU on a missed PAT—not just missed, by totally whiffed—but I did see him walking to shake Mark Stoops's hand after barely beating Kentucky a couple of weeks, and he looked like a man who just found out that somebody had poisoned his dog. Maybe Saturday, he looked as if his mom had had a date with Bobby Petrino. It couldn't-a been an easy handshake to walk across the field for, tho I'm sure Coach Eaux barked some words of consolation at him.
- ☞ Much has been made, and rightfully so, of Roddy Scholarship's touchbacks on kickoffs; but even when they get returned, they generally end up inside the 20. Yesterday was the first time I remember seeing a kickoff get returned beyond the 25, and it was only by a few yards. What a difference from last year to this.
- ☞ It's safe to assume that Isaiah Wilson will redshirt this year, making consecutive years in which a mammoth 5-star OL has been assumed to start and has taken the year to get ready.
- ☞ Speaking of Ben Cleveland, great hustle to prevent a scoop-and-score on Eason's blind-side fumble. The broadcasters went on and on about how he horsecollared the ball-carrier, but the refs didn't think so, and he clearly had his hand over the shoulder, not in the name plate or inside the jersey. Great to see a guy who has yet to break through play so hard when he gets his shot.
- ☞ Does anyone think that Nick Chubb is still trying to get his legs back?

THE COVETED DAWGMEISTER GOOD GUY OF THE WEEK AWARD

GOOD GUY ARCHIVE

Aaron Davis is a recent graduate of The University of Georgia, and also plays a little football. Although originally a walk-on, and not even preferred after tearing up his knee at Luella HS in Locust Grove, he has now been a starter through a series of coaching staffs. No matter how many 4-5 star recruits have come in to take his place, he keeps starting ahead of all comers, with 30 starts headed into his final season of competition.

As a smart kid, he also graduated in 4 years with a degree in finance, leaving him with a dilemma for his 5th year: to try to go pro, to come back for a final season, or to get on with life. He made the decision we'd all hoped for, returning for one last shot at a championship between the hedges. Perhaps the opportunity to continue using the scholarship he earned the hard way—by playing well once here, rather than in front of 200 fans in high school stadiums—to continue his interests in STEM fields helped him decide to return and earn additional academic degrees if the NFL proves a harder jump than he made from high school to college. Aaron's academic potential got him into UGA rather than his football skills, and his high school accolades include a 2012 Coca-Cola Academic and Athletic Excellence Award, Summa Cum Laude status, AP Scholar, and Beta Club and Student Council involvement. Not surprisingly, he's done well in college classrooms, with recognition on the Director of Athletics Honor Roll, SEC Academic Honor Roll, J. Reid Parker Director of Athletics Honor Roll, and multiple Coach Mike Castronis Football Scholarships, a CoSIDA Academic All-District appointment. It's great to see a kid come in here and earn his way onto the field and into a UGA degree with such distinction. It just don't get any better than this.



THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. MISSOURI

It says here (and everywhere else) that we head into the off-week 7-0 and ready for a showdown with Florida. Especially after the coaches use practice to repair the mistakes that put Vandy in our endzone a couple of times. Would you believe that the offense carried the defense for the first time in years last weekend? Can you believe it'll happen again? Dawgs put the hammer down and crush the Tigers: Good Guys, 48-0.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: MIAMI OVER GEORGIA TECH

Mark Richt had trouble with Florida while at UGA, but lord did he own GT. Why should I think that will change now? Got to go with a guy I hope we are pulling for to do as well there as we are doing after his departure from here. Canes 31, Nerds 28.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: BOISE STATE OVER SAN DIEGO STATE

Upsets are hard to pick, which is why all the smart money is on the favorites. It's especially hard when you've never seen the teams play. Why this one? First, although of course they always happen, it doesn't look like a ripe weekend for upsets. Second, why not? It's the best I can do. Broncs 48, Aztecs 45.

But don't bet on it.