THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST: DAWGS IMPEACH GOVERNORS

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"Be a real butthole on the field."

~Kirby Smart on how he encourages his players to avoid the rat poison of excessive praise and complacency

Welcome to Season X of The Dawgmeister! This weekly feature is the home of Fake Football News made up by a genuine Butthole on the couch. Thanks to Deke and the Dawgbones for once again hosting my butthole excretions at their otherwise well-informed site. All four of my readers send their gratitude as well.

Last season Kirby Smart Made Georgia Great Again, relying on some of the greatest, and last, of Mark Richt's players to take us within one busted play of untold glory. With a team now made largely of his own more highly rated recruits, can he Make Georgia The Greatest Again?

We all think so. We all expect so. Will this be the year? Will we be the last team standing in January? Will Foghorn Bullhorn be audible on Venus when we hoist the trophy at Levi's Stadium?

Hell yes. It's time to kick this thing off and see what we've got. I think we've got a lot. We are <u>bigger</u> and <u>more athletic</u> than any time in recent memory, and that doesn't count the talent or coaching. This is one loaded team.

Saturday won't tell us much other than how much better we are than a smaller roster of guys Vandy wouldn't stoop to recruit. But hey, ya gotta start somewhere. Bring it on, Peay.

My main source of confidence this year rests on the dominance I anticipate from the offensive line. The OL is so big, so athletic, so deep, so talented, and so well coached that we will score a ton of points no matter who's not there anymore. Add a ridiculous array of playmakers, and you've got a scoreboard-spinning offense. And we have so many talented first and second year defenders that we will likely be deeper than last year's team, if less dynamic perhaps, at least in pockets and situations.

But to me, it's that OL. The Scowlmeister and I could get at least 2 yards a carry behind those guys, and get us to a very makeable third and six. Our backs should do even better, our pass protection ought to give those playmakers on the outside and in the box plenty of room to get open, and we should have a hell of a fun time this season watching these guys dance in the endzone.

You no doubt have been wondering what I think regarding the Herrien vs. Holyfield playing time question. Herrien got more snaps of substance last year, while Holyfield dominated the mopup work. I think the problem for Holyfield was that he's similar to Nick Chubb, and Chubb got all the meaningful carries for a back who runs with what the Cleveland Browns' coaches now call Chubb's "violent" approach to the game. Herrien is more versatile and so had more opportunities in more sets, especially in passing formations.

I don't think the issue will be Herrien vs. Holyfield. Holyfield will have the jackhammer role all to himself this year. But Herrien will be challenged by Cook for plays designed for their skill sets, and Cook by all accounts is electrifying, one of the most dynamic players in camp. So it's more Herrien vs. Cook for snaps, and I think that's where Herrien will get fewer plays. Last year at times we had 3 RBs in on the same snap, without one being a fullback. So playing time, I think, will depend on what sets we run and how we scheme particular opponents, rather than following an old-school depth chart, which is an obsolete idea, given how personnel packages schemed for particular defenses matter more than an established pecking order on a piece of paper. Getting on the bus, to use Coach Smart's term for making the 70-man travel roster, will be situational and a function of factors well beyond where a player is listed on a depth chart.

Speaking of playing multiple people of the same position at once, what might Georgia learn from the Princeton Tigers? Princeton has broken the huddle with three quarterbacks, who then lined up at different positions. We've heard a lot about a Fromm/Fields rotation, but how about huddling with both, and then going into formations, sending QBs in motion and changing positions, and making the defense react on the fly? I recall Urban Meyer using athletic QBs like Jordan Reed—who played at Florida and has never been arrested—with other QBs in the huddle and then snapping a play fast to get an advantage on the D, which can't adjust to the shifting personnel, schemes, and positions.

Coaches, please let me know if you want to discuss all my great ideas, and I'll try to set aside the time.

Perhaps it's time for reporters to stop saying, every time James Cook is mentioned, that he is Dalvin Cook's younger brother. And Jeez, Riley Ridley still gets identified as Calvin Ridley's younger brother. C'mon Lamestream Sports Media!

Speaking of which, Coach Smart is developing a view of the media reporters that is rivaling that of the POTUS, minus the tweets, leading Chip to write that the press is not the enemy. I see Kirby's demeanor as part of the Alabamazation of the program, where reporters get no more than what the head coach allows. That's the cost of doing business in an era where winning games allows the coaches to work entirely on their terms. Kirby's performance following Scrimmage #2, especially when answering questions about White's injury, was pretty testy. Maybe it was a dumb question (whether White should have been covering a punt). Maybe he gets more dumb questions than we'll ever know. Maybe, as Chip contends, Kirby's approach to access is not in accordance with all of the rules, and perhaps his direct way with reporters is unnecessarily combative. I report, vou decide. I do think Chip and the AJC do a great job of covering the team, so I won't take sides. I like the winning and Kirby's general approach to building an internally competitive culture, even when it is accompanied by an internally-controlled message with only a few, and primarily one, conduits to the world outside the locker room. I like news too, and I get much of mine from the AJC. I guess from my perspective on the couch, I'll take what I can get, however granted and interpreted, and focus on enjoying the games.

I tend to be late to every party, so only recently caught up on QB1, featuring Jake Fromm in Season 1 and Justin Fields in Season 2. Fromm gets a lot of attention for managing the game, getting guys in the right position, calling the right play, and being gung ho. But after seeing him in QB1, I'd say one of his greatest assets is his competitiveness. This guy just can't stand to lose, and is maniacally intense about competing. He plays rec room ping pong as though the loser will be put on a spit, roasted over a Florida Homecoming bonfire, and forced to play for Georgia Tech. [Note: A Georgia Teach Homecoming bonfire would not have been big enough to crisp him up.]

I imagine that his dedication to the film room is part of his drive to be great and win games. And he sure does. When a talented QB is also that intensely competitive, and inspiringly so, it has a ripple effect—make that a tsunami effect—on the rest of the team's dedication to winning. We've got a guy taking first-team snaps who went shirtless on QB1 more often than Vlad "Rad Mad Nads" Putin riding the range, and can fire up a team the way the POTUS stokes the crowd at a rally. If David Pollack played quarterback, he'd be Jake Fromm.

This is not a comparative statement relative to Justin Fields, who talks about his great competitiveness on QB1 in Y2, plays lights out, and is just as much a winner and leader. Fromm's competitiveness just sizzles more on the surface. Fields comes across as more reserved and perhaps more cerebral. He does have one weird moment in QB1 when his

team is behind by under 2 touchdowns with a couple of minutes to go, and he tells his coach that the game is out of reach, and so he should pull the starters and play reserves the rest of the way to avoid injury. It's hard to imagine Fromm coming up with that idea. It's hard to imagine Granny Butts coming up with it. I recommend that Fields not propose that plan to Coach Smart toward the end of a game.

"It's not your job to make those plays. It's your job to do your job." ~Kirby Smart

- Coveted Dawgmeister Game Balls are awarded to recent graduates Kevin Butler, Economics, John Courson, Psychology and Biology; Reggie Davis, Sociology; Brendan Douglas, Consumer Economics; Alexander Essex, Real Estate; Sean Fogarty, History; Daniel Harper, Management; Jordan Jenkins, Risk Management and Insurance; Miles McGinty, Management; Johnny O'Neal, Sociology; Sam Vaughn, Finance; Shakenneth Williams, Sociology; Isaiah Wynn, Human Development and Family Sciences.
- A Coveted Dawgmeister Game Ball is awarded to Rian Davis, who said upon committing, "I have decided to continue my academic and athletic career at The University of Georgia. Go Dawgs." See you in the classroom, my good man.

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. There are many people living in needy circumstances, and every dollar helps to support them through another day, week, month, and year. This week's featured Good Works organization is

Build for Devon provides financial support for Devon Gales, Southern University football player who suffered a terrible injury in Sanford Stadium that left him paralyzed. UGA fans have adopted Devon as a Dawg for Life, yet his needs extend well beyond emotional support. Marshall Morgan's mother Dana has said: "Georgia Nation showed their support in a big way after the accident. Those funds went to paying for living expenses such as an apartment in Atlanta, for Tish and Devon. They needed to be near the Shepherd Center. Then six months after the tragedy, two brothers stepped up and presented Devon with a promise at a UGA press conference. They looked at the Gales and said, "We are going to build you a house." They also said in the same press conference (which can be viewed on YouTube), "we're not going to leave you." One year later they broke their promise and they did leave them....and the Gales never said a word. After the brothers backed out... a house fund was started. The non-profit fund has approximately \$130,000. in it. To build the kind of house Devon needs require it is estimated to be in the \$500,000. range. This G-DAY can we make this home a reality for this family? I believe with all my heart we can if everyone gives whatever they are able to give. No gift is to small...this house needs to happen. Please don't wait for someone else who has more money to do it because that someone else may never do it." Please help

his recovery by making a donation below and helping to give him a shot at the best possible life.

DONATE HERE

DAWG DOOTS

- One of our coolest new traditions is using cell phone flashlights to start the 4th quarter when the sun's gone down. I imagine every crowd is doing this, so doing it in away stadiums probably only helps out our opponents. So I've downloaded a red screen light for to light up away stadiums with our colors, and might give it a try at Sanford too.
- Saquon Barkley believes that he should be the face of the New NFL. To Saquon Barkley I say: **Humble yourself**.
- This is not Fake News: Austin Peay (pronounced AWS-tin PEE) students' traditional chant to arouse their team is Let's go Peay!!!. During the school's principal period of sports glory, when James "Fly" Williams played basketball, the crowds would yell, The Fly is open, let's go Peay! We're going to Peay on you! This slogan is now a licensed trademark of the university, because, you see, they were concerned that someone else would want to say it.
- Shortly after the NFL draft, *Chicago Tribune* resident jackass <u>Steve Rosenbloom</u> wrote a moronic column critical of <u>Good Guy Roquan Smith</u> because someone broke into his car, which Roquan had the audacity to own and operate after becoming wealthy. I checked with one of my Chicago friends about Rosenbloom, and he essentially said: He's the Jeff Schultz of the *Tribune*. I guess every paper has a butt-hole on the sports staff willing to slam anyone, any time, over anything in order to advance his own click rate.
- If you missed it, or if you didn't, by all means, take a look at the <u>2018 Summer Separated@Birth Special Edition</u>.
- "Last year [UGA] would take anybody with under a 20 on their ACT. This year they are starting to recruit a different profile kid. The new thing I hear from them now is that everyone has to fit the mold of being a real student in the classroom with what they are doing now." ~ Tymon Mitchell
- After Jameis Winston, I always wondered, What does it take for a talented player at Florida State to get suspended or booted from the team under Jimbo Fisher? Answer: Be Malik Henry. Malik went from 5-star to 3-star after transferring to this year's Last Chance U, and the footage of him working against his coaches can't be helping his redemption. He is actually a pretty smart kid, but just can't take coaching, possibly a function of his depression, but damn. He just won't be coached.
- I hear Lane Kiffin is interested.
- **Door of THE SUMMER:** "[Sideline headset limitations are] kind of like mouse manure when you're up to your ears in elephant doo-doo." ~ Nick Saban

THE DAWGMEISTER'S WORLD CUP SPECIAL EDITION

I was in England during the World Cup and caught several matches on the telly. I noticed certain differences between football announcers and futball announcers.

- <u>Those Brits</u> say stuff like "These lads are so knackered that at the half they'll fancy two cubes of sugar in their tea."
- Speaking of the World Cup, in futball if a team is down 1-0 with ten minutes left, the announcers are pretty much singing <u>Turn Out the Lights</u>, <u>The Party's Over</u>. And you thought it was hard to hit a baseball.
- If you can figure out what offsides is or why they call it, please drop me a line and explain it to me.
- Sometimes I think Maradona has taken a few too many futballs to the head.
- But seriously, CTE must be an epidemic for futball players. That's a lot of contact they take to the skull.
- Speaking of skulls, the <u>Dawgmeister's Bad Hair Hall of Fame</u> has been updated to reflect some of the 'do's on parade in Russia.
- From what I can tell, the most valuable skills a futball player can have are: (1) hitting the ball off an opponent near the goal to get a corner kick; (2) flopping near the goal to get a penalty kick; (3) falling down to get possession, ideally one that involves some sort of free kick on the goal. Otherwise, there seems to be no other way to score.
- We have now had several generations of kids raised on youth soccer programs, with a belief that inevitably it will surpass football as our football game of choice. Yet the US still can't field a men's team that can even make the World Cup tournament. Meanwhile, Croatia makes the Finals, and when their players were young and developing their games, they were part of the violent Yugoslavia breakup to the point that Croatia was always known as War-Torn Croatia. I suspect they didn't have soccer moms or Saturday morning games with ice cream afterwards. What's wrong with this picture?

THE COVETED DAWGMEISTER GOOD GUY OF THE WEEK AWARD

Marshall Morgan arrived in Athens as the heir-apparent to Blair Walsh as placekicker and kickoff specialist, and filled the role admirably over his four-year career. But his greatest legacy came from an incident after his foot made contact and the ball had landed. In the head-on world of kickoff coverage, he collided with Southern University's Devon Gales, leaving Gales paralyzed and facing a new, challenging life without the athleticism that had defined his identity for much of his time on earth. Like many in the Dawg Nation, Marshall adopted Devon as one of our own, with a special interest based on his role in the tragic injury. Marshall has taken on the cause of Devon's recovery and continued embrace of Georgia football for this tough young man whose life took a major turn in a game that was otherwise unremarkable. At a fundraiser to support Devon, Marshall said: "It's huge. Just to have this many folks out here, and so many people are here to give from their heart, it's just so great to see," Morgan said. "It's awesome. Originally the reason I came to Georgia is just the people are willing to help anybody, even if it's someone from another school, although it tragically happened here, and they're willing do whatever they can to make this happen. That's just huge." Devon himself has said: "I have nothing but love for Marshall...this was not his fault...I love him," and the rest of his family have been forgiving and gracious. Marshall's dedication to Devon's recovery extends to his participation in Build for Devon, a fundraiser supporting the construction of an Athens-area home for Devon and his mother designed for his recovery and life needs (see this week's Good Works feature). Marshall could

have walked away from this one, but he has signed on for the long term. That character makes him one Good Guy and a Dawg we can all be proud of well beyond his contributions to the team.



THE FORECAST DAWGS VS. AUSTIN PEAY

The new redshirt rule will help us clear the bench early in this one. If we have a 4th string QB, I think he might play, unless the idea is to get Fields as many reps as possible before we play a serious game. These games are truly ridiculous and don't help us much except to get in a scrimmage before hunkering down for real opponents, but it's what's on the schedule, so I guess we'll show up and play. Dawgs 61, Guvs 3.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: NOTRE DAME OVER MICHIGAN

Two of the most historically over-hyped programs in the country face off in the season's opener. Here is Paul Finebaum telling it like it is about Michigan. If I'm picking ND to win, you know I must really think little of the opponent. Harbaugh rivals Lane Kiffin for Biggest Dicknoramous in college football. People call him "quirky" because he believes that players shouldn't eat chickens because those critters are jumpy and will make anyone who eats one nervous. It would make me nervous to have a coach who believes that sort of chickenshit. I hate to see either of these teams ever win a game, but something's got to give here. Irish over Wolverines, 30-24.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: COLORADO STATE OVER COLORADO

Mike Bobo, this one's for you. He was a great QB at UGA and then became a toptier OC and QB coach before heading West. Time for his team to step up and win one for the ol' ball coach now that he's back on his feet. One thing we can be sure of: In an intra-Colorado game, lots of fans will have tailgated with the Grateful Dead on the stereo. This should be one mellow crowd. Here in the SEC, we get lubed with beverages that make us loud and angry, the way fans ought to be. Peace out Rams: CSU 24, CU 21.

SPECIAL BONUS FORECAST

Rafael Nadal will win the 2019 French Open.