

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
DAWGS WIN BATTLE OF LEXINGTON**

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SEPARATED@BIRTH?

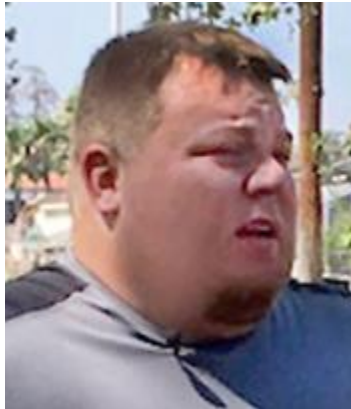


**LORD OF THE
RING-DINGS
JARED LORENZEN**



**LORD WHAT A
STINKY THING
BLOBFISH**

ALTERNATE TAKE



**PILLSBURY
THROWBOY
JARED LORENZEN**



**PLEASE BURY,
OH BOY
BLOBFISH**

SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE

The narratives entering the game all pointed to a Florida win. Georgia, according to the media, had played a soft schedule, had failed its only test, and had flunked it badly. Jake Fromm couldn't win big games or convert on third and long. Our coaching staff was making poor personnel decisions, not running Holyfield enough or giving Justin Fields the snaps he needed for Georgia to compete with teams playing other young wunderkinds, Clemson and Alabama. Our defense was soft and vulnerable to a strong

running attack of the sort we'd find in Jacksonville, and Florida's defense was stout against the run and ready to control the line of scrimmage.

Meanwhile, miracle worker Dan Mullen had jumpstarted his rebuild in Gainesville and had revived the program to the point where they were on track to dominate the East. An early loss to Kentucky had long been atoned for, with a win over mighty LSU and a general march through their schedule to the tune of 5 straight wins, once Mullen had established his winning culture and his team had bought completely into it. Quarterback-whisperer Mullen had taken the erratic, overrated-during-recruiting Feleipe Franks and made him into an SEC quarterback to reckon with.

And after reading these narratives for two weeks, a lot of us in the Dawg Nation entered the game apprehensive and wondering just what sort of team we had. And then we found out.

We are not yet a great, great team. But we're damned good. Jake Fromm played one of his best games on the heels of easily his worst. I at times was antsy to see some Fields back there, especially during Florida's heroic, epic, goal-line stance for the ages. Our inability to get less than a yard many times over both speaks to Florida's front seven's quality and grit, and our own lack of push up front when we needed it; and who knows, maybe a QB of Fields' athleticism could have made a difference on one of those snaps.

But it's hard to fault the coaching in this one. Our team was prepared and Florida's was not. After the game, Florida WR Freddie Swain acknowledged that Florida was overconfident to the point of mailing it in during their two weeks of practice: "Practice was lackadaisical. The effort wasn't there. It showed. The execution today was poor. I don't think the better team won today. The execution part is what gave (Georgia) the lead and the momentum." Sure 'nuff Freddie, just keep thinking you're better, and keep preparing as if you are, even when you get your ass kicked. See you next year in Jacksonville.

After a first half in which Florida gifted us a small lead, the second half started nervously, then it was all Dawgs. Fromm's TD passes could not have been thrown better. Aside from our goal-line frustrations, the backs ran strong, and it appears that Swift is now healthy, and what a difference that makes. Both teams averaged 4.6 yards per carry. According to my calculator, aside from the goal-line stand when we got zero yards on 6 carries, we averaged 5.4 per carry against a team known for its run defense. That will move the chains a lot, especially when Jake Fromm's game is on in the pocket.

Part of the extensive Excuse Bag rolled out by Florida after the game was Dan Mullen's lament that Fromm was able to carve them up because "Two of the best players on our team are our two corners (C.J. Henderson, Marco Wilson), we like to play man coverage, they were both out, and that's a struggle." Dawg fans might recall that one major problem with Todd Grantham's defenses—he's now 0-3 against us since his departure—is that he played his starters primarily and never builds depth by rotating backups in. So you reap what you sow, Dan. You hired a guy who doesn't play reserves, and when they

have to play because of injuries, they struggle because they don't play enough. That's not a problem with injuries. That's a problem that you created with your hire.

The studio broadcasters felt that the QB position made all the difference. Franks made some good plays, and far more awful plays. Fromm was consistently excellent, especially on those gorgeous TD passes. Fromm's record as a starter is now 19-3, with one of those losses in the national championship game that he took into overtime. If he can't win big games, we must not play many of them.

Coach Smart said afterwards that the players showed a lot of character in tuning out all the negativity and focusing on getting better during the bye week. He also acknowledged that even with a win, a 7-1 record, and a chance to wrap up the East in Lexington next Saturday, "We are most undoubtedly a work in progress because we still have a lot of areas to improve in. We've got to continue to play better on defense but we created some turnovers. We've got to cash the ball in on offense, especially when it counts, and not kick field goals."

No argument here. I suspect that the coaches will have plenty of reminders during practice and in the film room about staying humble and underconfident when playing games that lead to championships. Not that Florida will be paying attention; they're still making excuses about why the best team lost in Jacksonville. Maybe that's what they're practicing for next year's matchup. It's what they did last year, and it's what they did this year, coaching change be damned. I guess it's just what they do in Gainesville.

It's great to be a Georgia Bulldog.

Rock: Florida 27, LSU 19

Paper: LSU 36, UGA 16

Scissors: UGA 36, Florida 17

THE POST-GAME QUOTE CENTER

"We felt like we were the better team, but we just didn't come out and execute the way we should have. We just reminded each other that it's one game and we have to keep moving forward." ~Florida defender Cece Jefferson

"I think it was just us being a little too confident and not really going into the game and executing or paying attention to detail like we always preach." ~Florida RB Jordan Scarlett

"I'm not proving anything to anybody, whether they think I'm a good football player or not. I'm playing because God put me on the planet to play football and worship him, that's the reason I play. I play for my family and I play for my brothers in the locker room. I'm not trying to impress anybody or anything." ~Jake Fromm

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

The **U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program**, which collects new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year, and distributes those toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in the community in which the campaign is conducted. The principal Toys for Tots activity which takes place each year is the collection and distribution of toys in the communities in which a Marine Corps Reserve Unit is located. In communities without a Reserve Unit, the campaign can be conducted by a Marine Corps League Detachment or group of men and women, generally veteran Marines, authorized by Marine Toys for Tots Foundation to conduct a local Toys for Tots campaign. Local Toys for Tots Campaign Coordinators conduct an array of activities throughout the year, which include golf tournaments, foot races, bicycle races and other voluntary events designed to increase interest in Toys for Tots, and concurrently generate toys and monetary donations.

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DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ You can't spell Franklin American Mortgage Music City Bowl without K-E-N-T-U-C-C-Y.
- ☞ Actual quote in advance of the Battle of the Techs: "Lane Stadium (capacity: 65,632) should sell out, or be close to it. The environment, often touted as the toughest home-field advantage in college football, figures to be typically boisterous." I guess 65,000 is one whopping stadium in the ACC. And man, they almost sold it out. Tough crowd. And it didn't even help them beat a mediocre team from Atlanta.
- ☞ Gary Danielson repeatedly referred to "Kirby's defense" and all the things Kirby Smart does to prepare his defense. Every time anyone says something like this to Kirby Smart, he corrects them and reminds everyone that this is Mel Tucker's defense, especially when it plays well. I thought Mel Tucker's defense played pretty well on Saturday.

THE COVETED DAWGMEISTER GOOD GUY OF THE WEEK AWARD

GOOD GUY ARCHIVE

Aron White is the rare Dawg recruited out of Missouri. The tight end was among the nation's most sought-after recruits, a 4-star prospect with hands and athleticism. Rivals rated him the nation's top tight end and he was named to the SuperPrep All-America and All-Midlands Teams. He had a solid career in Athens, if not quite the All American performance that his ranking would have predicted. He finished his career with 34

catches, 10 for touchdowns, and 512 receiving yards, then went undrafted and signed with the Falcons as a free agent but never caught on in the NFL. But he was a big personality in Athens, [speaking at the 2011 commencement](#) in what one news source called his “approachable and loquacious manner.” His definitely had his wits about him. He was one of 11 FBS student-athletes named to the 2011 Allstate American Football Coaches Association Good Works Team. At UGA he volunteered his time with Camps Sunshine and Kudzu, participated in the MLK Day of Service, built houses for Habitat for Humanity, visited kids at Egleston Children's Hospital and St. Mary's Hospital, played in the Bulldogs Battling Breast Cancer Golf Tournament, and talked with local youth at elementary schools and the Boys & Girls Club. "My parents always taught me to give back," White said. "They taught me that I'm just the same as anyone else. When you are blessed with stuff, it is important to give to those less fortunate. I think it is important to give back, so I try to give my best and give back to the community." In 2013 he was a finalist for the John McLendon Postgraduate Scholarship from the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics, which requires a minimum GPA of 3.2 and demonstrated leadership qualities on an institutional or community level. Aron earned a bachelor's degree in management from UGA in December 2010 and then pursued a master's degree in sports management with hopes of becoming an athletic director. I'd want this guy running my show, and I hope to see him leading the way for others before long.



THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. KENTUCKY

I think there's a pretty big talent gap between the two programs, and a pretty good experience advantage for Kentucky. But by this point in the season, everyone's experienced. So I'll go with talent. Good guys 38, Other guys 28.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: ALABAMA OVER LSU

I think that the overall talent difference and the huge difference at QB will tilt this one Alabama's way. That's not what I'm rooting for, but that's what I think will happen. Alabama 31, LSU 21.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: TEMPLE OVER UCF

It's been a quiet year for the Owlmeister, but it's time to call attention to their salvaging of their season to the point of being respectable. I think it's time for UCF to stop claiming to be the national champion at mid-season. Owls to the rescue: Temple 35, UCF 28.