

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
DAWGS MESS WITH MASS**

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**TAKES A 3
DR. J**

**& TAKES A KNEE
COLIN KAEPERNICK**

[SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE](#)





News Headline: [Spanking is harmful and ineffective, pediatricians warn.](#)

The Dawgmeister: Spanking Auburn is healthy, and effective, too.

Second quarter. Score: Auburn 10, Georgia 6. I had felt good going into the game, but was getting worried after two more meltdowns with first-and-goal. Auburn had moved the ball well to that point. We had moved the ball everywhere except into the endzone. Was this going to be a game where Roddy Scholarship needed to go 8 for 8 for us to win? Were we ever going to figure out how to score from inside the 5?

Third quarter, late, discussing the great issues with Brother Willie, on his annual visit to Sanford Stadium: We were remarking on how D'Andre Swift often breaks games open with big runs in the 4th quarter. That's when a defense is a little fatigued, and he explodes past them, assisted by 1650 pounds of offensive linemen who've been wearing them down for 45 minutes, and a receiver corps hell-bent on wiping out defenders in the open field.

Fourth quarter: See Third quarter, late.

But let's get back to the second quarter. After the game, Coach Smart said, "We were a little confused early. When you play [Auburn], traditionally you try to survive the first script and the first three or four drives, and you make adjustments as you play. We did not play real well early. ... We played better the second half defensively."

Making adjustments. That really matters, and it may be why Mel Tucker may be Auburn's head coach next season, local protestations to the contrary (see the post-game quote board below). On the radio show that we caught in the Dawgmobile heading home, they said that we began the game in a scheme that allowed Stidham to complete short passes to the sideline.

The adjustment: moving to Cover 2 and taking those passes away. It probably helps when you've got Deandre Baker, who took the great Darius Slayton out of the game, same as he's done with every NFL prospect he's covered this year: 1 catch, 8 yards. The rest, for the rest of the way, was strictly dink and dunk. Ryan Davis caught 13 passes for 72 yards, good for 5.5 yards per reception. Throw in a run game that got mostly stuffed, and those early 10 points were all Auburn could manage. That's some adjusting.

A big concern going in was Auburn's defensive front, stocked with guys that Georgia desperately wanted as recruits. Tracy Rucker lost his job here because Rodney Garner persuaded those big cats to continue their studies at Auburn, and as I understand it, many of the books in the Auburn library have now been colored in, thanks to their enrollment. But on Saturday, my concern was more how they'd perform at the line of scrimmage. Would we be able to run the ball, or move it at all against that front, with a young, beat-up offensive line?

Yah, we did that, unless we were inside the Auburn 5. We still are playing for the most part without Ben Cleveland, but keep on chopping wood. For the game, we punted twice. Otherwise, we moved the ball in the air, on the ground, and across the sea. Just not inside the 5.

The RBs will rightfully get credit for their role in the win, but they don't do it by themselves. The OL cleared the space for the initial surge (note: this remark is not applicable to plays run inside the 5). The replay of Swift's backbreaker show how Nauta and Holloman took out defenders once Swift got to the second level, then the third. These guys are absolutely selfless and team-spirited all the way.

I also think that Swift really benefits from having Holyfield start the game as a banger. Defenders need to hunker down and prepare for a collision in their acclimation to the run game when Holyfield starts. Swift will hit you too, but if a defender is positioned for a big hit, Swift will explode past and down the field.

And I continue to admire Brian Herrien, who never gripes, always plays hard when called on, and is very productive in the shots he gets.

The game did the Dawg Nation one big favor. All year, the coaches in the stands and on the couch have been antsy for Justin Fields to take over at QB because Jake Fromm's 21-3 record as a starter just won't cut it. Goal line solution? Bench #11 and get the dynamic runner in there because he'll punch it in every time.

Now I love Fields and all he'll do in Athens. But on Saturday, given some pretty big opportunities, he looked human, and like a freshman. Can we now lower our hopes and expectations about playing Fields over Fromm because.....Tua is so good at Alabama?

I hope so. Fromm threw one bad pass on Saturday, otherwise was terrific running the show and making the throws. Jake "Can't Convert on Third Down or Win Big Games" Fromm moved the chains 8 times out of 14 on third down, compared to 27.3% for Stidham, going 6-for-8 through the air for 106 yards and a touchdown; and also delivered a TD to Godwin on 4th and 2 with the game clock winding down.

Maybe the coaches know what they're doing after all.

POST-GAME QUOTE BOARD

From the Auburn newspaper: "Malzahn is now 6-12 as a head coach at Auburn against its three main rivals. . . . Malzahn is 2-5 against Georgia, 2-3 against Alabama and 2-4 against LSU. . . . Auburn athletic director Allen Greene reiterated Tuesday that Tigers head coach Gus Malzahn is Auburn's coach 'for the future,' while affirming plainly that Malzahn will coach the Tigers' team next season. . . . When he was asked about Malzahn, through a question that posited that school officials hadn't yet outright said that Malzahn is the team's coach for the future, Greene responded clearly. "He's our coach for the future," Greene said. Later, when he was asked, Greene went on to say that Malzahn will coach the Tigers in 2019."

"The AD doth protest too much, methinks." ~Little Woolly

"The environment created tonight was electric. That probably has a lot to do with the fact that we were playing a top-25 team and we had a night game. But you can't find a better place to play college football. Our players love it, coaches love it, recruits love it."
~Kirby Smart



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 **Oconee Rivers Audubon Society**, a group of people brought together by a love of birds and nature. Our chapter consists of over 350 members representing a diversity of ages and birding skills. We strive to promote conservation and provide a voice for environmental issues. We also provide a forum for the exchange of information via monthly newsletters and meetings. Oconee Rivers Audubon organizes several local conservation projects each year, such as putting up nest boxes for various species. We also give monthly public presentations on subjects related to birds, nature, and conservation.

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DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ The current OL has 2 starters/top rotation players who started out on the DL (Baker, Gaillard), and they are the only seniors (there are no juniors) playing when the points matter. Now Netori Johnson is going the other way, moving from OL to DL. I think it speaks to the differences in recruiting priorities between coaching staffs. Mammoth OL were an immediate priority. Insiders felt that one reason we struggled in Y1 of the Smart Era was the OL were small and not suited to Kirby's power running game. He addressed that issue with a couple of classes that panned out immediately and left only converted DL from Richt's classes. Now our DL needs some beef, so wide bodies like Johnson, recruited for the OL, are getting a look, especially when the quality at the OL position makes those jobs so competitive. And this thing is only just beginning.
- ☞ You heard it first here: Tom Crean's Hoop Dawgs, picked to finish next-to-last in the SEC this year, will exceed expectations.
- ☞ I watched a bit of Ohio State-Michigan State in the noon slot. Michigan State has the stankiest offense I've seen in a good while from a ranked team, or an unranked one. Their quarterback is named Lombardi. He plays like a block of granite.
- ☞ While I watched OSU-MSU, Brother Willie was locked into the Princeton-Yale game, won 59-43 by his beloved Tigers, now 9-0 and headed for their greatest season since the Cosmo Iacavazzi Era. (That's Princeton, for y'all down here.) I

think it was their ground game that did the trick.

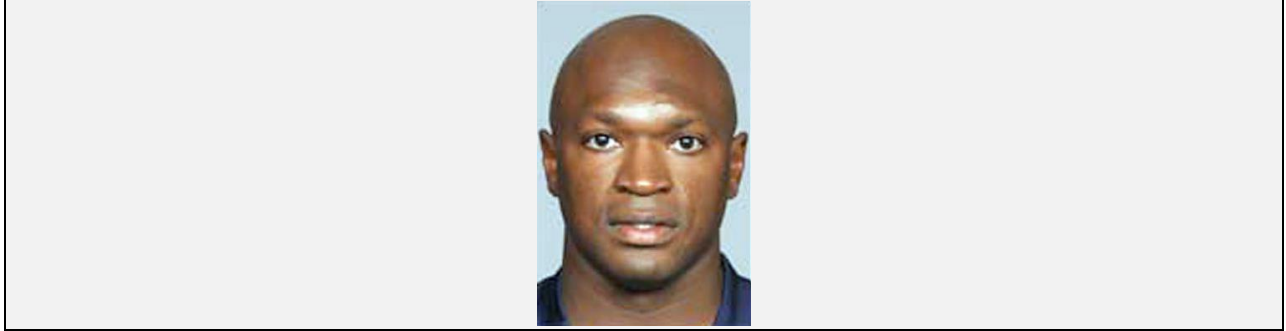
Rushing

Player	Car	Yds	Avg	TD
Collin Eaddy	25	266	10.6	3
Ryan Quigley	11	113	10.3	2
John Lovett	20	110	5.5	2

- ☞ Then I caught the first half of Oklahoma-Oklahoma State before heading out to Sanford Stadium. OU fired Mike Stoops, but they still can't play defense. And Mike Gundy still has great hair.

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

Randall Godfrey played for the Dawgs in the mid-1990s during Ray Goff's coaching tenure, graduating in 1995. He was a south Georgia product from Lowndes HS in Valdosta, where he starred in football, basketball, and track and being named to All-American, All-State, and All-South teams. He was also named Player Of the Year in the State of Georgia. At UGA he became the first true freshman in school history to lead the team in tackles (114) while being named SEC Freshman of the Year. He continued to develop his game, making All SEC as a sophomore. Injuries reduced his playing time in his final years, but he was still impressive enough to be taken in the NFL's second round by Dallas. He went to the NFL as a proud UGA alum, with a BA in Housing and Consumer Economics at a time when academics were not necessarily the focus of the UGA student-athlete. He played until 2007 with the Cowboys, Titans, Seahawks, Chargers, and Redskins. That's when he founded [The Randall Godfrey Foundation](#) back home in Valdosta, which sponsors The Randall Godfrey All-Star Football Camp. There Randall and company teach the fundamentals of football for both newbies and experienced players looking to hone their skills and knowledge of the game. Randall went through a crisis in 2005 when his sister, Deidre Miller, was shot and killed after a wreck following a chase by her former boyfriend. Ironically, earlier that year Randall had founded [Godfrey Funeral Home LLC](#) in Valdosta. His commitment to the people of his hometown extends from youth to the grave, and his community spirit raises the whole city and its families. You can't get much better than that, and though he's far from campus, he's never far from home.



THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. MASSACHUSETTS

Bring on the Minutemen, and a minute is about as long as this game will be competitive. Not much to say here except that Fromm's baseball cap should be in place by the third quarter. Dawgs 55, UMass 6.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: TEXAS OVER IOWA STATE

This is one lousy weekend for marquee games. So I'll go with a game with conference implications, if not national. I would actually pull for the Cyclones here, but don't think they'll win. So I'll take the sober choice: Longhorns win, 35-31.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: OKLAHOMA STATE OVER W. VIRGINIA

This is the best I can do on a weekend when every favorite might win. OSU has had a disappointing season, WVU a breakthrough behind ex-Gator Will Grier, who got out of Dodge just in time for the program to fall apart. But why not? Okie State can score points, at least against teams that don't play defense. Will WVU's D show up on Saturday? Not enough. Pokes 48, 'Neers 45.