

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
DAWGS FLOG TECH'S JOHNSON**

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SEPARATED@BIRTH?



**GUT CHECK
PAUL JOHNSON**



**& WHAT THE HECK
GROUCHO GLASSES**

SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE

Trivia Quiz #1: Todd Gurley is the best RB in the NFL. Nick Chubb and Sony Michel are 2 of the top 3 rookie RBs in the NFL. All three played together at UGA. The Question: Who was the highest rated RB coming out of high school?

Answer: Keith Marshall.

Trivia Quiz #2: Georgia Tech is known for its unstoppable ground-pounding running attack. Of the 10 GT players in the NFL in 2018, how many are running backs?

Answer: The same number as the number of dunks The Dawgmeister has on Zion Williamson.

Trivia Quiz #3: Of the 10 GT players in the NFL, how many played offense?

Answer: 2 (one OG, one WR)

Trivia Quiz #4: How many players from the Mark Richt Era are now in the NFL, before our recruiting took a major upturn?

Answer: 30.

Trivia Quiz #5: How do you know these things?

Answer: I have the google. http://www.espn.com/nfl/college/_/letter/g

Trivia Quiz #6: What are GT's chances of winning on Saturday?

Answer: The same as the chances of The Dawgmeister dunking on Zion Williamson.

Oh yes, there was a scrimmage at Sanford Stadium on Saturday in which the varsity played against the JV before a packed house. At times, it looked as though the JV wearing White was playing the freshman team in Red. The freshman team won.

These games remind me of why I find statistics to be misleading indicators of how good a team is. First, not everyone plays the same schedule, and comparative statistics assume the common denominator of opponents' competitiveness and ability. But even the same team is never the same opponent from week to week; see our Florida/LSU/UGA-rock/paper/scissors games this season. Conferences differ greatly in their emphasis on offense and defense (see the Big 12 and PAC-12 where defense is optional). UMass could score 50 points on Oklahoma, though might give up 80.

But then some teams, such as UGA, rotate reserves in heavily once a game is in hand, or out of hand; and take the air out of the ball so as not to embarrass opponents when a rout is underway (one exception: running trick plays against teams we're beating the snot out of when their coach has trash-talked us in previous years). Other programs just keep running it up against an overmatched opponent. Who cares what stats you produce when you're beating a weak team by 40 points in the 4th quarter? Yet those numbers are solemnly entered into the equation and are considered important in pundit-land. But not here.



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

American Red Cross November 2018 Wildfires Response. Deadly wildfires are burning in both northern and southern California, threatening residents, homes and businesses, forcing entire communities to evacuate. The American Red Cross is on the ground, providing shelter, food and comfort for people forced to leave their homes with little notice. The Camp Fire has burned more than 11,300 acres and is 25% contained. This fire has been called the most destructive in the state's history based on the more than 6,400 structures destroyed. The fire still threatens 15,000 additional homes.

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DAWG DOOTS

☞ You can't spell Cheribundi Tart Cherry Boca Raton Bowl without T-E-C-H.

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

D'Andre Walker attended Fairburn's Langston Hughes HS, where he was a consensus 4-star prospect, an All Stater, and a U.S. Army All American. Langston Hughes was known as a poet, but he was also one tough hombre, fighting for Civil Rights in the 1930s as Harlem Renaissance pioneer. D'Andre has lived in that spirit, substituting the defensive scheme for the rhyme scheme, and playing a key role in the Dawgs' rise to glory under Coach Smart. It's hard to be a more productive backup than he was before 2018, getting snaps in the midst of his NFL-bound teammates. But his teammates know his value might well. After 2017 he was one of four defensive players to win Most Improved Award, and was named the team's defensive winner of the Physicality/Head-hunter Award after spring drills to go along with his Coffee County Hustle Award for exhibiting the most desire during spring drills. In the classroom he's excelled as well, earning a Leavy Family & the Brunswick News Publishing Co. Scholarship, DeVore Family Football Scholarship, and Larry Munson Football Scholarship. The Mass Communications major is now a dominant force on the DL and making a name for himself after mostly subbing his first three years in the program. With the qualities behind his hustle and desire awards and academic scholarships, it's no surprise that he makes the most of his opportunities and abilities. Fighting for playing time has made him into an exemplary teammate for the young All Americans who might not realize how much work it takes to get on the field in this program, and that makes the whole team better. But for a team-oriented guy like D'Andre, maximizing potential is a way of

life, and it's great to see the outcome as he demolishes opponents' backfields and maintains the tradition of greatness in UGA defense.



THE FORECAST **DAWGS VS. GEORGIA TECH**

There's a huge talent difference between these two teams that no amount of gimmicks on Tech's offense can overcome. Heading into last weekend, here are some stats that would sure alarm me if I rooted for a team named after a common garden pest:

PASSING STATISTICS								
NAME	CMP	ATT	YDS	CMP%	YDS/A	TD	INT	RAT
TaQuon Marshall	39	80	718	48.8	8.98	4	4	130.6
Tobias Oliver	6	12	166	50.0	13.83	2	0	221.2
Totals	45	92	884	48.9	9.61	6	4	142.5

RUSHING STATISTICS						
NAME	CAR	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD	
Tobias Oliver	133	781	5.9	65	12	
TaQuon Marshall	159	751	4.7	45 (TD)	11	

I think that Mel Tucker can work out a scheme designed to stop a team so centered on mediocre quarterbacking, apparently mediocre RBs, and cut blocking, which amazingly remains legal in an era of increased safety.

Then there's Tech's defense, ranked #42 nationally against an ACC schedule. That's just ahead of Tennessee and just after Florida, teams we scored on when we felt like it, and they play SEC schedules. I think we'll keep doing it, with a little extra hate to make it oh so sweet. Good Guys 42, GT 21.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: W. VIRGINIA OVER OKLAHOMA

This one's on WVU's home floor, and I think that gives them the W. OU's defense is awful, and WVU can run it up, even though they didn't run it up quite enough on Saturday. So can the Sooners, but how long can they play with fire before they get burned? OU's Final Four chances go up in flames on Saturday in the Big 12's own version of rock/paper/scissors, albeit one played without the benefit of defense. Mountaineers 60, Sooners 52.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: USF OVER UCF

I am mainly doing this so UCF shuts the hell up about romping through a generally weak schedule, their win over Temple notwithstanding. But, and with apologies to the Owlmeister and my reader in Ohio, the Bearcatmeister: When Temple and Cincinnati are the most ferocious opponents on the season, you can't claim you're national champs because you won the games. USF ain't great, but they may be competitive. I'll be pulling for them on Saturday. Tampa 35, Orlando 34.