

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

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SEPARATED@BIRTH?



**HORNY ALUM
NEIL DEGRASSE TYSON**



**CORNY APLOMB
SINBAD**

SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE

SAT Test item #1: Who is the speaker in the following quote?

"They're going to have to match our intensity. Shit, for 60 minutes straight. If you hit a motherfucker in the mouth and then they ain't doing what they're regularly doing, putting up 50 points, they start to get a little distressed. Now you got them where you want them at, and then you fucking choke their ass out."

- A. Mahatma Gandhi
- B. Stormy Daniels
- C. Neil DeGrasse Tyson
- D. Kathy Richt

OK, that was a trick question. The correct answer is: DeMarcus Lawrence, Dallas Cowboys, after his defense shut down Drew Brees and the New Orleans Saints in late November.

But Mr. Lawrence's observation embodies the major tension for the postseason: In the games that matter, will the shut-down defense or the high-octane offense come out on top?

Now, for the Sugar Bowl, that's not quite the issue. Texas doesn't have an incredible offense, unless they're playing Oklahoma, against whom the Athens Academy volleyball

team could put up 40 points. Playing in the defense-optional Big 12, they weren't in the nation's top 50 in offensive productivity. That doesn't bode well against the #2 SEC defense, one where subbing far into the 2-3 deep in the third and fourth quarters no doubt cost the team in terms of stats-for-show.

SAT Test item #2: What do Chad Pennington, Giovanni Carmazzi, Chris Redman, Tee Martin, Marc Bulger, and Spergon Wynn have in common?

- A. Each has Stormy Daniels in his rolodex
- B. All have a first, middle, or last name beginning with the letter C
- C. Each wanted to be Paul Johnson's offensive coordinator, but failed the test when they couldn't explain the difference between an A-back, B-back, C-back, D-back, or E-back, and thought the D-back was a snake.
- D. All endorsed Green Party candidate Jill Stein in the 2016 presidential election

Answer: This was another trick question. All 6 were selected ahead of Tom Brady in the 2000 NFL draft.

SAT Test Item #3: Which is fair, Geoff Collins bailing on Temple after 2 years to coach Georgia Tech without penalty; or Justin Fields bailing on UGA after 1 year with a required year of inaction because we can't just have players leaving programs and being eligible their first year, which would be so disruptive to their program of origin?

Answer: If Collins can do it, why not Fields, as long as he doesn't transfer to Georgia Tech?

SAT Test item #4: What in the hell is Jeff Driskel doing starting for an NFL team when Aaron Murray has settled for the Atlanta Legends of the Alliance of American Football?

Answer: Helping Cincinnati lose every game he's played in, unless Jon Gruden is the opposing coach.

SAT Test item #5: Which of the following incoming players is the clear favorite among current roster occupants?

- A. 5-star DE/OLB Nolan Smith
- B. 5-star DT Travon Walker
- C. 5-star WR Dominique Blaylock
- D. 5-star OL Clay Webb

Answer: Sorry, another trick question. It's 2-star QB Stetson Bennett. I don't think I've ever seen a team so excited about a guy whose most compelling competing offers were from UMass, Kent State, Samford, and Louisiana-Lafayette. But then, Bennett ripped them apart in practice every day before going Juco for a year. The team knows exactly what they're getting with this kid, and they can't wait to have him back.

THAT CURSED ALABAMA GAME

There's been so much said about the SEC Championship Game that my latter-day thoughts probably matter little. The fake field goal was bad in hindsight, but they'd repped it enough to be confident in it. They just didn't get the ball snapped fast enough, and maybe a timeout would have re-assessed the situation. Maybe putting a running QB in the backfield ostensibly to block was a tip-off. Maybe we should have just punted and tried to pin them deep, although our punter has had trouble dropping them short of the endzone, one of the few consistent inconsistencies this team has had this season.

But these insights are a lot easier from afar and from the couch than in the heat of the moment. I do appreciate the gutsiness of the call, and if it'd worked it would have been a historic play. And perhaps it is nonetheless, if for reasons we hate.

I'm quite amazed that negativity about the program has spiked since the game. [Bill King's mailbag](#) produced a lot of people who are giving up on Kirby Smart and his staff. To which I say, Say What?? The Scowlmeister and I recently met to discuss the great issues, and he opined that Kirby Smart is the best thing to happen to UGA football since Hershel Walker. He arrived in Athens at roughly the same time as Walker, so he can't speak to the Fran Tarkenton or Charlie Trippi eras. But Walker makes a nice point at which to start Modern History.

With one of the nation's youngest teams, we outplayed Alabama on a neutral field. Alabama is considered by many to be the greatest team in college football history, one that had been over 4 TDs better than everyone on their schedule. That team will largely return for next year, along with what appears to be another spectacular group of incoming players. Alabama will graduate (or at least lost the eligibility of) its usual dozen or so draft picks, many on Day One of the draft. We lose Baker, Walker, and Gaillard, and possibly some others; the underclassmen haven't yet declared their intentions. But we return a team that should withstand a tougher schedule and be back in this game again next year. And the one after that, and beyond. It's a great time to be a Georgia Bulldawg, and anyone complaining about the coaching really needs to take stock of his own life performance and see how close to this level of excellence he's playing the game.

I'm looking at this program long-term. One huge advantage we have is that Chaney and Pittman like working together, and neither appears to want to be a head coach. Here's what Clay Web said about Pittman: "I love Coach Pittman. I like him a lot. His demeanor and his overall attitude about everything and his non-stop drive is just different. I like that so much about him." That seems to be the way kids respond to him. We just keep signing the nation's top OL prospects. High school running backs and quarterbacks tend to notice things like that, and other skill players too. I think we're in for a good long run on the offensive side of the ball. And though Kirby's not coordinating, I assume that building a dominating defense is part of the annual recruiting and coaching plan given his history.

We are in great hands. A botched fake punt and late collapse against a team of historic talent doesn't change that. It only sets us back a year. I can't wait for next fall already.

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:

U-Lead Athens is a group of United, Unafraid, Undeclared, Un(der)documented Leaders in Athens, Georgia. Our goal is equal access to higher education for students of immigrant families who are in or have recently graduated from high school. As U-Lead students we pursue that goal, along with our public school, university, and community mentors and allies, by 1) studying for college entrance exams, 2) applying to colleges and scholarships that will accept students of varying documentation status, and 3) finding financial support for attending institutions of higher education.

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DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ News item: Urban Meyer will teach a course in Character and Leadership in the Fisher School of Business at The Ohio State University. Guest speakers include Zach Smith, Jim Tressel, Chris Rainey, and Aaron Hernandez.
- ☞ Similarly qualified for the task at hand, The Dawgmeister will teach a course at The University of Georgia on How to Dunk on Zion Williamson. Guest speakers include The Owlmeister, The Scowlmeister, The Young Scowlmeister, and Tyrion Lannister.
- ☞ “When will the Urban Meyer pee tape be released?” ~Wags, the Family Bulldog
- ☞ “[Independence, Kansas] is just my home. It’s like I was planted like a piece of corn and now it’s time to harvest. I’m leaving all my roots behind.” ~Jermaine Johnson, nailing an extended metaphor the way he nails quarterbacks on the run
- ☞ “This is the last time I will ever write anything in red.... There will be no more red that will ever be written again in this organization.” ~Geoff Collins
- ☞ “Gooff, you’re at Georgia Tech. You know how they keep ledger books, right? Unless someone starts attending your games, there will be a lot of red ink in your future.” ~Brother Willie, CEO
- ☞ “This is a Red State, dipshit. Get used to it.” ~Jere Morehead
- ☞ “At UGA, we don’t have to forbid the use of pale yellow. That’s not a color. That’s my pee when I drink too much water.” ~Little Woolly
- ☞ “A lot of programs that we are going to recruit against don’t have the advantage of having the ability of having a meaningful degree ... to come to place where education matters.” ~Geoff Collins
- ☞ “Sorry, asshole. You’re going to have to play Clemson anyhow.” ~Granny Butts
- ☞ Following concerns expressed by Mrs. Butts, I have decided to retire “Baby It’s Cold Outside” as the Official Christmas Carol of The Dawgmeister.
- ☞ At her request, I am replacing it with “I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus.”

- ☞ Actual news fact: The original 1952 recording of “I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus” was initially condemned by the Roman Catholic Church in Boston because it mixed kissing with Christmas. The ban was lifted after the 13-year-old singer of the recording, Jimmy Boyd, met with the Archdiocese to explain the song.
- ☞ The Dawgmeister’s film recommendation for the season: *Spotlight*.

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

Jackson Harris was a consensus 4-star recruit and consensus top ten prospect at tight end coming out of Columbia, TN, where he was a top ten state recruit. To achieve those rankings he had to have good stats, but the hidden value came in his [excellence as a blocker in both the running and passing games](#). At UGA he has been a solid contributor to the running game throughout his career in Athens, rarely targeted as a receiver on a roster with plenty of options. But the team’s reliance on blocking tight ends gave him plenty of reps, and he surely has had a role in the more visible running backs’ success the last four years. He just has his head in the game in every aspect of being a student-athlete at UGA. Jackson got the team’s Iron Dawg Award for extreme punctuality in everything related to football and academics. His reliability on the field is only part of what has made him a special member of the team. He’d been a [4.0 GPA student in high school](#). At UGA, he pulled a 3.74 GPA in his Mechanical Engineering course work; in two of his years in the program, he achieved the team’s highest GPA. That was good enough for recognition on the UGA J. Reid Parker Director of Athletics Honor Roll, the SEC Academic Honor Roll, and the Dean’s List. He’s won a slew of awards for his work in the classroom, including the UGA Athletic Association Academic Achievement Award, Louis S. Sohn, Jr. Football Scholarship, Ramsey Scholarship for Academic & Athletic Excellence, and Top-10 Caterpillar Scholar Athlete Award. The high regard in which he’s held is evident in his appointment to the UGA Athletic Association Leadership Academy. He leads by getting involved at the most personal level, especially with people who are sick or have special needs. He’s volunteered for [Camp Sunshine](#), [Relay for Life](#), [UGA Miracle](#), [Special Olympics Baseball](#), [Extra Special People](#), and various hospitals in Atlanta. Whatever he does next will surely bring more honor on his *alma mater*. Some people just have it. Jackson Harris is one of them.



THE FORECAST **DAWGS VS. TEXAS**

Texas just isn't there yet. I'd rather have drawn West Virginia for this game, but the committee lost my vote in the mail. I think our guys will be fired up and ready to play and end the season on a high note. I look for us to get into the endzone plenty and keep things in check when Texas has the ball. The seniors go out winners as the Dawgs roll, Fromm is wearing the baseball hat when the fourth quarter starts, the fans anticipate how Stetson Bennett will finish games next year, and the final score is 45-20.

FINAL FOUR: ROUND 1
ALABAMA OVER OKLAHOMA

UGA showed that Alabama can be scored on. Everyone showed that Oklahoma can be scored on. Both teams have terrific offenses, but Alabama's defense shut down everyone but us. I think they have enough going for them to outscore OU. Let's take the SEC team to occupy one of the spots in the finals: Alabama 52, Oklahoma 35.

CLEMSON OVER NOTRE DAME

Clemson pretty much ran up and down the field all season, albeit in the ACC. Notre Dame essentially won the Big 10, another league that came up short in 2018. With all the questions about who belonged in the Final Four, nobody questioned ND. We'll find out soon that maybe they should have. Tiger Paws 55, Irish 21.

FINAL TWO: CLEMSON OVER ALABAMA

I'm going to pick Clemson just because I'm sick of Nick Saban, Alabama, and the fact that they get penciled into this game in August every year no matter what their record is (see 2017 season when they finished second in their division to a team that got hammered in the SEC Championship Game). Both teams play some defense, enough so that nobody's going to hang half-a-hundred on anyone. I'll take Clemson to win it: Tigers 35, Tide 34.