

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
CAROLINA GOES SOUTH AGAINST RABID DAWGS**

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SEPARATED@BIRTH?



**COCKS' FANATIC
FRANK MARTIN**

**VOX FANTASTIC
WAILING BANSHEE**

SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE

“There’s a lot of things I see in Georgia where they can be beaten Week 2. That’s something I’m going to guarantee, that South Carolina gets the win at home. Yes. In Williams-Brice in front of 80,000, on CBS. It’s a primetime game. The Gamecocks will be ready.” ~Tori Gurley

Thank you Tori. If the coaches don’t get the players’ attention this week in practice, I’m sure you will.

I have read all 2,000 articles about our game and the rest of the national schedule, and any point I might make here has already been made many times, so I’ll refer you to your local sports pages for wisdom and insight on how the Dawgs managed to get the W on Saturday. Aside from Tennessee, the SEC did its job of establishing which conference is at the top. The Big 10 had an opening weekend that I’m sure Urban Meyer would like to forget, even as his Buckeyes played with all the frenzy of Zach Smith loaded on dope at a strip club, albeit without the presence of either (Urban or Zach, that is; the jury’s out on the latter). The Pac 12 went down in its games of consequence. The Big 12, aside from Oklahoma and West Virginia, played as well as they can count membership teams.

Between the Hedges, things went about as expected. Every player got his jersey dirty, and though the coaches will have plenty to work on, we took care of business till the bench emptied in the third quarter and the barrage slowed. At that point it was a matter of trying to figure out which uniform number meant which new guy, and what the sequence meant about who stood where on the depth chart. We’ll really learn something next week when only 70 guys fit on the bus to SC, and when the depth chart starts indicating real determinations about who’s seizing the day in practice.

It's hard to do much personnel predicting for next week other than that James Cook won't play in the first half. I will be surprised, though, if Fields gets the extended shot next week he got on Saturday. He played well and showed his stuff, but also made a couple of rookie mistakes that might have cost us in a league game: throwing a flare that could easily have been picked, bolting the pocket after the first read wasn't open, little things that can become big things against SEC competition. His abandonment of the progression reads to leg it downfield often produced touchdowns in HS, and so was considered a good play, but SC ain't a HS team. We won't play one of those till November 24. Fields, I'm sure, will get some serious coaching on what his job is at this level, and as Coach Smart has said, his job is to do his job, not to do his thing. I see Fromm getting the bulk of the snaps as long as the game is competitive, which it might be all the way to the last whistle. Next Saturday, every guy has to earn every snap. This one's for real.

So enjoy this one for another day or two, and then get ready for the exhibition season to end and the league games to start. On Saturday we kept everything simple and gave SC little to scout other than personnel. I imagine they'll practice stopping the jet sweep; the question is, will we run it the same, or were we giving them looks to practice against that they won't see on Saturday? One reason I love football is that it's so complex and requires intelligence to play. Players and coaches might do dumb things off the field, but executing between the lines requires smarts, reps, and dedication within the bounds of a complicated system. I sure do look forward to seeing what this team will do next weekend on hostile ground against an opponent that is talented and well-coached. Beating the snot out of an overmatched opponent makes for an easy afternoon at the stadium, but isn't what makes a season exhilarating. Just ask anyone who followed the Dawgs last year.

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 Atlanta Community Food Bank works with more than 600 nonprofit partners—including food pantries, community kitchens, childcare centers, night shelters and senior centers—to distribute over 60 million meals to more than 755,000 people in 29 counties across metro Atlanta and north Georgia. ACFB is a member of Feeding America, the nation's leading domestic hunger-relief charity.

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DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ You can't spell Franklin American Mortgage Music City Bowl without G-A-M-E-C-O-C-K-S.

- ☞ “[Anonymous sources are] gutless. . . . I know DJ Durkin. He worked for me for four years at the University of Florida. He is an outstanding football coach. He’s also an outstanding husband and father. He treats people with respect. . . . I know DJ Durkin personally. I know what kind of man he is. I know what kind of person he is. I don’t think it’s right.” ~Will Muschamp on the culture of respect created and overseen by suspended Coach DJ Durkin at the University of Maryland
- ☞ Georgia Tech President G.P. “Bud” Peterson accepted blame for “lax management and unethical behavior” by several former top Techsters and vowed, “I’m going to fix this,” referring to four high-ranking administrators who got a school vendor to pay for a football suite they used largely for friends and family.
- ☞ “How else were they going to get anyone to occupy the suite?” ~Little Woolly
- ☞ I wonder if, at this time next year, everyone will be asking if there’ll be a special package for [John Rhys Plumlee](#)?
- ☞ Ever late to the party, I only learned this week that Jeff Schultz no longer works for the AJC. After 29 years of wretched writing, he’s now writing for something called The Athletic. Praise the Lord and pass the gravy.
- ☞ Chip Towers has provided a [video tour of the new facilities](#). They are not quite as luxurious as what you’ll find in the College of Education’s Aderhold Hall, but it’s still pretty nice.
- ☞ Is Dominick Blaylock special, [or can these guys just not tackle](#)?
- ☞ I did some channel-flipping during the noon games on Saturday, and the announcers were talking about how huge the Oklahoma OL is: 4 are a little over 300 lbs., and the other is about 320. Um, sure.
- ☞ We have an interesting pattern when bringing in 2 stud RBs the same year: The lower-ranked of the two always gets off to a much better start. Marshall was rated over Gurley, and Gurley started better and ended better and is still getting better. Michel was rated over Chubb, but Chubb got reps much earlier, and always started the games; the draft evened things out enough to ultimately call it a draw. Holyfield was ranked well above Herrien, but an injury set him back, Herrien got his shot, and remains an important guy in the rotation; moving forward, I think Holyfield will get a much greater load and recover his advantage. And now James Cook, through no fault of Zamir White’s, will be the first out the gate in making a contribution.

THE COVETED DAWGMEISTER GOOD GUY OF THE WEEK AWARD

GOOD GUY ARCHIVE

Ronnie Harris played for the Dawgs during one of their most glorious periods, helped by the presence of a guy wearing #34 in the backfield. He lettered in 1981 and 1982 and, as a defensive back, picked off a couple of Dan Marino passes in the 1982 Sugar Bowl, a game that has left Pitt offensive lineman and ESPN broadcaster Mark May bitter to this day. Ronnie has been an educator for many years now, and was recently named the Oglethorpe County Patriots head football coach after coaching the county Middle School team for several years. “The community is very excited right now,” said Oglethorpe AD Bill Sampson at the time of the hire. “We put the word out on social media and there’s already a lot of buzz about it. There are a lot of positive things to look forward to. Ronnie has wanted to do this a little while and we felt like this was the right time. He knows the community and he’s worked with our kids at the middle school level, so we were anxious

to give him a shot to work with the kids he's worked with before." Harris takes over a program desperate for success, going 4-45 in the last five seasons and seeking its first winning season since 2005. Ronnie said upon taking the job, "I've always gone places where there were challenges. And we've always found a way to make things happen. I'm looking forward to doing the same things here at Oglethorpe County. At the middle school, we found a way to win and a way to compete, and we can find a way to compete here." Not everyone is built for a challenge of this magnitude, but Ronnie Harris looks like the right guy to right this program. We look forward to following the Patriots on his watch and seeing them reach new heights of excellence on the field and character off it.



THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. SOUTH CAROLINA

OK, here we go. Will will have his team ready, but I think that our team knows that they've got to win to meet their goals, and they know how to win. Our frightful OL needs to open up the middle of the line of scrimmage more forcefully than they did on Saturday, but the coaches I'm sure will point out their insufficient domination in the film room this week. We need them to control the line of scrimmage to control the ball and the scoreboard. We got a pretty solid game from the defense against Austin Peay, even as it was hard to tell what that really means in terms of stopping SEC athletes. But we appear to have plenty of depth, enough to make earning a seat on the travel bus a sign that someone has studied film and the playbook, busted his ass in practice, and worked on strength and conditioning over the summer. The Scowlmeister and I discussed the redemption narratives of Gibbs and Patrick and how nice it is to see them put the pipes away and get serious about dedicating themselves to the reason they were offered 5 years of free education to attend UGA. They should at least provide depth to positions loaded with talent, but also loaded with youth and inexperience, all in need of wise heads and leadership. I think we come home 2-0 with a solid win over a tough opponent that will go in expecting to win. Dawgs 34, Cocks 21.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: STANFORD OVER THE OTHER USC

USC will start a true freshman QB. I don't think you can just say that because Fromm excelled in his second game on the national stage in 2017, their freshman will in 2018. That's not the way math works, except in the imaginations of the optimistic among us. I think he'll make just enough mistakes for Stanford to get the W. Cardinal 24, Trojans 21.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: KENTUCKY OVER FLORIDA

It'll be interesting to see how Dan Mullen transforms his roster while facing what's become one of the most stable programs in the league. Stoops may never be able to

recruit well enough to compete for championships, but his team shows up to play. I'll believe Florida can compete when they can recruit and develop a quarterback down in Gainesville. The best one they've had in memory now plays for West Virginia. I'll also believe they can compete when they recruit people who are more likely to end up in the NFL than behind bars. I'll go for continuity over revolution in program building, and take the Wildcats: UK 28, UF 24.