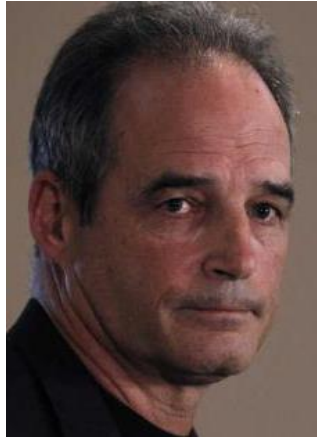


**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
DAWGS POO ON MIZZOU**

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SEPARATED@BIRTH?



**CAGEY, HE
GARY PINKEL**



**& KGB
MATTHEW RHYS**

SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE

“We had a few penalties, some negative plays. We just weren’t as clean as we wanted to be” ~Jake Fromm

“We probably had our most undisciplined day as an offense.” ~Elijah Holyfield

“We were sloppy at times organizationally . . . and we got some silly, stupid penalties early on offense.” ~Kirby Smart

Not to throw shade on the team after a blowout, but it’s hard to get excited about destroying a team we are built to destroy. It was a fun ‘n’ easy day at the stadium, but I hope our collective memories are short enough to know that whomping MTSU is something to expect, not something to celebrate as a great triumph. If we do to Missouri what Alabama did at Mississippi on Saturday, then I’ll be singing and dancing down Broad Street with the rest of y’all. But I can’t puff my chest out too far over blowing out a team we knew we’d blow out on the day the mismatch was announced.

Our opponent next week is Missouri, who on Saturday barely beat 0-3 Purdue. Their 3-point win including a thorough torching by Purdue QB David Blough, who has never been compared to Drew Brees, and who yet went 39-55 for 572 yards and 3 TDs on Saturday. Purdue has lost to Northwestern, which has now lost to Duke and Akron; and to Eastern Michigan, loser on Saturday to Buffalo. I think Missouri has problems on defense, even as all we’ve heard about is their devastating passing attack. I suspect we’ll clean up the sloppiness in the film room and on the practice field and be ready to ball out on Saturday.

So now to the good news. You would not call me a film room junkie, but I do watch the highlights on YouTube, and man, do our wideouts block like men possessed on the perimeter. I suspect that Demetris Robertson's slow start is a consequence of the fact that at Cal he never had to block, or from what I can tell from reading and watching some highlights, never had to work to get off the line of scrimmage on a route. But Riley Ridley, that guy's a beast in every facet of the game. Some of Hardman's big plays have come when Ridley, or Tyler Simmons, or other less-heralded but ferocious WR takes out defenders so Mecole can turn on the jets without getting touched or challenged. I suspect that the coaches are using Ridley's or Simmons' all-around game as the ideal to shoot for in this offense. You need to be more than fast and shifty to get reps in this rotation, and to earn a seat on the traveling bus. You've got to do the dirty work of opening up the perimeter for backs when they run wide and wideouts when they are ahead of you in the progression, or you'll be watching someone else, someone who understands what this team is about, doing it instead.

[Paul Finebaum](#) considers Georgia under Kirby Smart to be more or less upset-proof, although the Scowlmeister still frets about our readiness, and for that matter, whether the sun will rise in the morning. I think he's right, in part because we've got a ton of outstanding players who are coached up at high levels. But mainly because there is so much internal competition on the team simply to get onto the field, and for away games, to get on the bus. Every practice is a tryout for the next game for pretty much everyone on the roster. Assuming that you play the way you practice, that gives every rep and play of every practice and game a sense of high urgency. The guys running second team know they can get on the field by playing harder, smarter, and better, so they are constantly pushing themselves, their competition, and the players on the other side of the line of scrimmage to be better. And the guys on the third team are desperate to play their way onto the 2-deep, and practice like hell to prove they deserve the shot. I think that the daily internal competition for reps, as much as anything, helps to explain why we always show up to play and don't have letdowns. You'll lose your job if you don't compete at your highest level, and then some, every day, every down; and when practice is over, you'd better study harder than the other guys in the meeting room to be prepared for the next practice rep and shot at game day snaps.

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:

Serving 53 counties and more than 4.6 million people, the **American Red Cross Eastern North Carolina Region** is comprised of the Cape Fear, Central North Carolina, Northeastern North Carolina, Sandhills, and Triangle Area Chapters.

Help people affected by Hurricane Florence.

[DONATE HERE](#)

DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ You can't spell Franklin American Mortgage Music City Bowl without M-I-S-O-U T-I-G-E-R.
- ☞ The Owlmeister was becoming concerned that head coach Geoff Collins might have brought a bit too much Gator Magic up to Temple, before they hammered Maryland, the nation's most enigmatic team, on Saturday.
- ☞ Have you noticed the way that the Lamestream Sports Media lists anyone who once took a breath near Nick Saban as part of his coaching tree? Jeremy Pruitt is on all the lists that CBS puts up during every SEC Game of the Week. But he's also part of the Jimbo Fisher and Mark Richt coaching trees, albeit grudgingly so with the latter, and perhaps the former, given Pruitt's charming personality and sudden and hasty departure after FSU's championship season. He also coached under Mike DuBose and mentor DB coach Curley Hallman at Alabama, under his father for 2 high school programs (maybe Jeremy's not the only "difficult" member of his family), under Rush Propst at Hoover High, and under Bobby Johns with the West Alabama U Tigers. But no, his year as Saban's coordinator makes him part of that tree, and that tree only.
- ☞ I keep reading about how UGA has taken a committee approach to the RB position on O and the front 7 on D, and probably a committee approach with the wideouts, and maybe the tight ends. Usually that means that nobody is standing out, but from what I can tell, on this team it means we have so many guys who can play that we can't keep them on the bench. Having fresh legs in on every play, that works for me. I think that the stability of the DBs is more a sign that we have fewer game-ready players in that unit than elsewhere, not that the DBs are so exceptionally good that we can't rotate them out. And OL is always a unit requiring chemistry and continuity, so if you've got an OL committee, you'll have trouble with timing and precision. But if this is Front 7 and RB By Committee, I'll take those committees over most teams' stalwarts.
- ☞ When Georgia Tech finally fires Paul Johnson at the end of the season, a lot of people will be happy they will never see the triple option ever again. Me, I'll be glad never to see cut blocking again. With all the attention to making the game safer, I can't believe that rinky-dink crap is still legal.
- ☞ Am I the only one who never thought he'd hear the words "Braves" and "magic number" in the same sentence any time soon?

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

“Monty Rice is a football player. He came to school every day—and he had a 3.2, 3.1 GPA—and he did well in school because he wanted to play football. Everything he does is to play football. A lot of people, it's the other way around. He did what he had to do on a daily basis to be a big-time football player. You didn't have to hold things over his head to get him to do something. He loves playing football.” So says Wade Waldrop, Monty's coach at James Clemens High School in Madison, Alabama, where for some reason, Rice was ranked as a 3-star linebacker. Tell that to the reams of universities competing for

his enrollment, the coaches at LSU who thought they had him wrapped up, and the 4-star kids now playing behind him or transferring out because they can't play through him on the UGA depth chart. Although he loves the game and aspires to play in the NFL, he's more than a student-athlete. Monty has taken up the cause of excessive force used by police, especially when it comes to those whose mental health makes their engagement with others problematic. Now, I realize that many in the Dawg Nation are against athletes who take a stand on police brutality, but to Monty, it's no abstraction. He doesn't express his views through sideline spectacles, but instead has used social media—his Twitter account [@RiceMonty](#) and a [Facebook page](#) he set up—to explain the source of his dedication: Monty's older cousin [Horaesheo Rice](#), who was killed by police in 2017. Horaesheo died following his own violent behavior tied to his struggles with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder and the long list of conflicts and violations on his record, including a possible murder the night he was killed in a standoff with police. Monty plays in honor of his memory, believing that his mental disturbances did not merit death, and convinced that people like his cousin should get care and treatment and not punishment and loss of life. Monty's inborn intensity takes on another level of competitiveness as he seeks to validate his cousin's life with on-field productivity. No matter what your stand on how police interact with the public or on mental health issues, understand that Monty's personal relationship with someone who didn't survive one confrontation gives him a driving incentive to play hard and work for a better awareness of mental health treatment. I can get behind that, and when I cheer for Monty on Saturdays, I know I'll be pulling for more than just a football player.



THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. MISSOURI

Another Lamestream Sports Media Trendy Upset, right? Missouri may well put a few scores up on us; we've got talent in Tyson Campbell, but he's shown he's a rookie enough for them to go deep on us a time or two, which is what they do well. And the coaches appear to view him as the #2 corner after Baker, who is playing with incredible intensity and physicality on the boundary this year. Let's say they get behind Campbell a time or two and make it to the endzone. Even Middle Tennessee managed that once. I don't think, though, that Missouri's defense will be up to the task of playing 4 quarters against our OL, our backs, and another Fromm day at the office. I'm a little surprised that the Lamestream Sports Media keeps trying to manufacture a QB competition at UGA, or that fans are impatient for Fields to become the starter, because nobody manages a team or the line of scrimmage better than Fromm. Fields is doing better at

reading the defense and going through his progressions before bolting the pocket, but has a ways to go before matching Fromm's mastery of the pre-snap line of scrimmage or the post-snap decision-making once the ball's in play. I think he'll play next Saturday, but as long as Fromm's healthy, I don't see any movement on the depth chart at QB. I think we'll score plenty of points, give up a few, and pave the way to another East championship and date with Alabama. Dawgs 48, Tigers 21.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: FLORIDA OVER TENNESSEE

Actually we are playing the national game of the week in the noon slot, but I've already explained that one. The national schedule isn't great in terms of matchups, so how about the second most intriguing SEC East game for the week's best match, featuring two programs with proud histories that haven't been great lately—and for UT, it's been almost two decades—each with a new coach trying to bring them back and struggling to do so. Tennessee entered the season as an acknowledged train wreck in the wake of the Butch Jones experiment in trying to find the second coming of Phil Fulmer, this time with Fulmer picking his own man after being turned down by everyone else. Florida started the season ranked, based on history and the excitement generated by the hire of Dan Mullen (career record at Mississippi State: 69-46 overall; 33-39 in the SEC). I guess that having once been the QB coach for Tim Tebow means that your record doesn't matter in Gainesville. Wherefore art thou, Ron Zook?

Fast forward to Week 4, and both teams are an embarrassment to their fan bases. Recall that in his first year in Athens, Kirby Smart inherited an excellent roster of players recruited to play a different sort of game. The mismatch between scheme and personnel produced a shaky year of adjustment before last year's spectacular breakthrough, and many wondered in Year 1 whether we'd made a mistake in making the coaching change, a sentiment that has been substantially tempered now that Kirby's restructured the roster in his own image and according to his own priorities. Pruitt and Mullen have inherited bad teams that they're trying to convert on the fly to something else, and it's not clear that they have the ability to do so even if they get the players they want, which they may not be able to do. Butch Jones left the cupboard bare at UT and McElwain drained the Swamp at UF. Both are looking up at Kentucky and maybe Vandy.

It's not going to be pretty in either Gainesville or Knoxville this year, the next, or the one after that, and those are very impatient fan bases. So who'll win? Florida presently has better players, even if they're not as good as Kentucky's. The game's at Neyland, but Rocky's bottomed out. I'll take the Gators in a game that only a mother would love. Florida 17, Tennessee 14.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: IOWA OVER WISCONSIN

I had this one written in before Saturday, when the Badgers dropped one to BYU and the Little 10 continued to sink in national significance. Now they go to Iowa City, and I will stick with the pick, even if it's less of an upset than it was on Friday. The Badgers were the best bet to derail Ohio State and its Family Values, but it now appears that Urban Meyer and his law-abiding team have a cakewalk to the Final Four, unless Penn State's squeaker over App State was just an aberration. I'll take the Hawkeyes to make the Buckeyes' route a little easier. Iowa 31, Wisconsin 28.