

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:  
DAWGS SING NEW VERSES TO JEREMY'S JEREMIAD**

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**SEPARATED@BIRTH?**



**VILE CRIER  
BUTCH JONES**

**&**

**PYLE DRIVER  
SGT. CARTER**

**SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE**

“Fifteen years ago I was a kindergarten teacher, and now I'm the head coach at Tennessee. You probably don't make that ascension without knowing how to treat people.” ~Jeremy Pruitt

“Jeremy Pruitt has the personality, tact, charm, and decorum to emerge as the second coming of [Bo Pellini](#).” ~Little Woolly

I guess this is the new norm: a 2 TD road conference win over an unbeaten opponent with a first-round QB prospect, and it felt pretty uncomfortable for much of the game, especially the first half when we appeared soft in the interior DL and non-dominant on the offensive line of scrimmage. Without a few big plays, it might not have turned out this way. But then, great teams make big plays when the little ones don't work so well. And so we're now 4-0 heading home for our first league game between the hedges.

Lots didn't go so well. Roddy B ended his touchback streak, and did it twice while getting a FG blocked. D'Andre Swift looked like, at best, our #2 RB. Jake Fromm struggled in the first half, but played lights out in the second. Missouri essentially matched our ground game, both teams getting roughly equal yardage and both getting 4.6 per carry. On fourth-and-one, with a 350 lb. fullback and a total weight approaching several tons, we got stopped cold. Next time Jim Chaney calls me for play-calling advice, I'll say, you know, when the box is that crowded, run a jet sweep off that formation and see if we can pick up the yard outside, and maybe the rest of the field too.

But even with the defense looking vulnerable at times, they created turnovers and turned Big Arm/Big-Play Drew Lock into Dink-and-Dunk Drew. I guess that means that even without sacks, we put a lot of pressure on him, enough to keep him from settling in for downfield throws. Lock completed as many passes as Fromm threw, for far fewer yards, and a lot of whiffs, and a few fumbles courtesy of D'Andre Walker. Something was working back there, even though at times I was pretty nervous about our ability to hold them down.

As Coach Smart said heading into the half, we lacked discipline and physicality in the first half. The halftime locker room talk must have been, well, encouraging. Even though the starters have barely played in second halves this season, they held strong in the fourth quarter, and the offense broke out the big play book against what is truly a mediocre Missouri secondary. That TD to Hardmann came on an impeccably run route against single coverage by a guy who was completely out of his league in the matchup, and who was closer to the hot dog stand than the WR by the play's end.

The broadcast team seemed much more interested in the scaffolding off the endzone than in the game, even though it was a pretty important game in the East. These guys must watch too much football, because any distraction will do. They must think that Todd McShay climbing a scaffold is of greater interest to the TV audience than the game. Thanks for the coverage. You can't blame Griese and Levy for what the cameras focused on; that took teamwork. But I can sure blame Brian Griese for not knowing how to pronounce "Kindley."

It's always interesting to see what the real 2-deep is when someone gets hurt. Cade Mays is solid as #2 LT and, even though he makes mistakes, is the physical beast his 5 stars promised. But when Ben Cleveland went down, on a roster full of 4-5 star space-eaters, it was 3-star Justin Shaffer who got the reps. To be exact: ESPN.com three-star prospect, #29 offensive guard nationally and #51 overall prospect in Georgia... Rivals.com three-star prospect, #28 offensive guard nationally and #55 overall prospect in Georgia...247Sports.com three-star prospect, #22 offensive guard nationally, #420 overall prospect nationally and #43 overall prospect in Georgia...Scout.com four-star prospect, #16 offensive guard nationally and #239 overall prospect nationally...Dawg Post #18 overall prospect in Georgia.

I've got to say that so far I like Barry Odom, the way I like any guy who comes up through the high school ranks and ends up a college head coach. I guess that needs to include Jeremy Pruitt, but this door swings both ways; I sure don't like Art Briles after he presided over a brutally abusive group of players at Baylor on a fine Christian campus riddled with sexual assault. But Odom seems like a good, humble guy, and is very pro-teacher, and lord knows our public school educators could use some love these days. So unless Odom goes off the rails, he's OK with me.

## **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:*

**The Palmetto SC Region of the American Red Cross** provides vital services to the residents of South Carolina including disaster relief, health and safety classes, blood collection for hospitals and services to the armed forces.

**Help people affected by Hurricane Florence.**

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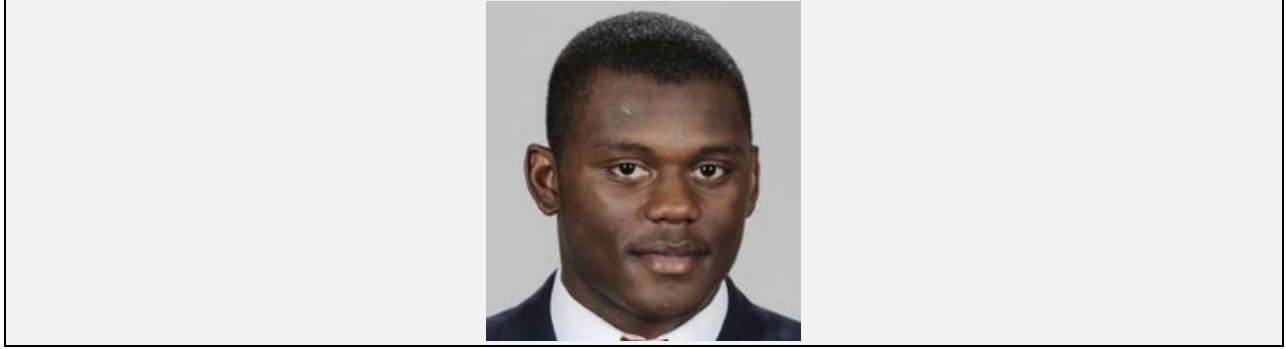
## **DAWG DOOTS**

- ☞ You can't spell San Diego County Credit Union Holiday Bowl without U-T-E-N-N.
- ☞ Emptying out the Butch Jones file, since he'll never run a team above the high school level ever again, where he may have an opportunity to match wits with Paul Johnson after GT finally fires him and he takes a job at a level suitable to his offensive scheme....."You don't have to get a physical rep to get a rep. You can get a leadership rep by having all the wideouts stand around you and going over your progression and going over what you're thinking." ~Butch Jones, 2017
- ☞ "I thought it was if not the best bye week, one of the best bye weeks we've had here in a very long time." ~Butch Jones, 2017
- ☞ "I thought we did all the things that it takes to play winning football except one element, and we spoke about it after the game, and that's score touchdowns in the red zone." ~Butch Jones, 2017
- ☞ Jordan Rodgers, who was once the SEC's 27<sup>th</sup> best QB while playing for the 14<sup>th</sup> best team in the league, has opined that [Jake Fromm is the #6 QB in the SEC](#). This is the sort of thinking that follows from valuing stats over performance, even from an observer who had neither during his own career and whose broadcasting career is entirely a consequence of being his brother's brother. There is no stat for pre-snap reads and post-snap adjustments, where Fromm is better than anyone. So I guess it just doesn't count.
- ☞ The Lamestream Sports Media got mighty intoxicated with USC and NY Jets QB Sam Darnold when he had a decent game a few weeks ago, anointing him as the second coming of Joe Namath. His cruddy game in the Jets' historic loss to Cleveland and their own rookie QB makes me think that when all is said and done, he'll be the second coming of Mark Sanchez, in lineage, early-career adulation and hype, and eventual fade to butt-fumble ignominy.
- ☞ Mamas, don't let your babies grow up to attend Harvard. They might end up looking like this:



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

Many of my favorite Dawgs have been guys who came in lowly-ranked by the recruiting services and became stars. **Deandre Baker** arrived in Athens as a Jeremy Pruitt recruit for Mark Richt, underrated and undersized at 5'-11" and 180 lbs, hardly the long and tall DB favored by the staff that arrived in his second season. Deandre was a 3-star prospect out of Miami, with rankings of #88 overall prospect in Florida, #45 CB in the nation, #7 ranked CB in Florida, #22 ranked CB in the South. Guys like that, well, surely he'll be, at best, a special teamer, a placeholder till we bring in some real talent. Instead, he's become the team's top defender and likely first-round draft pick in 2019. I don't know Deandre personally, but know people who do, and they rave about his smarts, coachability, classroom performance, maturity, and with-it mindset. Undoubtedly, those qualities have helped him become a great football player over much more highly ranked prospects, e.g., the 44 CBs ranked ahead of him coming out of high school. We all know Deandre as a lock-down cornerback, but he's a lock-down student as well. In the classroom he's earned multiple Gordon and Sharon Teel Football Scholarships and a John Tillman Football Scholarship while majoring in Business. His decision to come back for his senior season, with NFL agents knocking his door down, undoubtedly was related to his ability to score in the classroom, although his stated motivation was to make up for the shocking ending to the championship game, when a deep pass on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 26 put Alabama in the endzone. His explanation to return for his senior year is summarized in his statement that "I wanted to come back and do something great with my teammates." Deandre's the sort of kid who, when a reporter noted that players he covered hadn't scored a TD all season in 2017, modestly and respectfully said, "No Sir. Not at all." Yes Sir, that's one Dawg to be proud of. As teammate Juwan Taylor has said of Deandre, "He's a hard worker at all times. On and off the field, he's a great person." This season, as elder statesman among the defensive backs, he's become a coaching assistant, teaching the young pups their positions and showing them how to study film on their way to excellence: "I feel like I can help the team this year. We've got a lot of young guys, a lot of young talent. I can help mold them." They don't come much better than that, no matter what the recruiting gurus thought of him coming out of high school.



## **THE FORECAST**

### **DAWGS VS. TENNESSEE**

Welcome home, Jeremy Pruitt. Well, one of your homes, a brief and turbulent one, but where you bitched and screamed till you helped get your boss fired, and you got the assistantship you really wanted when we hired Alabama's DC as our HC and left Saban an opening to fill. You are going to get your ass kicked up and down the field on Saturday, and we will love every second of it. The succession from Derek Dooley to Lane Kiffin to Butch Jones to Jeremy Pruitt has gone nowhere by sideways and down and has now reached its logical conclusion, and I will applaud your descent every step of the way. Dawgs 72, Vols 0.

### **NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: OHIO STATE OVER PENN STATE**

Well, I hate picking Urban Meyer in anything, given that he is a sleazebag of historic proportions, but I do think they'll win, and this is one of Saturday's top matchups (see also Stanford/Notre Dame), if anything in the Small 10 can be considered the "top" of anything except the dung heap. I guess I've got to swallow my hatreds here and pick OSU over PSU, which up until the Sandusky scandal was the owner of the most self-righteous and sanctimonious fan base in sports, because, you know, Joe Pa was such a moral exemplar, which made Penn State followers just a little bit better than the rest of us. But he never was, and neither were they. Bucks over Lions, 41-30.

### **NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: DUKE OVER VIRGINIA TECH**

I wonder if Ole Miss is happy they fired David Cutcliffe to pave the way for Ed Orgeron, then Houston Nutt, then Hugh Freeze, and now Matt Luke, who inherited a stinking swamp of dysfunction from his devout Christian and payola purveying predecessor, a guy who'd pass the Urban Meyer sniff test for being an [upstanding defender of women's rights](#). I always thought Cutcliffe could coach; Phil Fulmer was a whole lot better of a head coach at UT when Cutcliffe was running the offense than he was after he left to lead a brief, Manning-led revival in Oxford. Duke has been a pretty consistent tough game since Cutcliffe got to Raleigh and became the best Blue Devil coach since Steve Spurrier. I'll take them over VT next Saturday. Blue Devils over Hokies, 28-27.