

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:  
DAWGS VANDALIZE COMMODORES**

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**SEPARATED@BIRTH?**



**VANDY HEIR  
WILLIAM HENRY  
VANDERBILT**



**&**

**DANDY HAIR  
COWARDLY  
LION**

**SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE**

Tennessee covered the spread. Damn.

But not by much.

Once again, the state of UGA football is evident from a 26-point win over an opponent that came to play. The general response out there is that an anxious third quarter means we have a lot of work to do. The OL, using a small rotation to make up for the absence of Ben Cleveland, let their best defender get to the QB 3 times. Neither the passing game nor the running game produced a big play other than Nauta's scoop and score. The defense gave up 2 big passing plays for scores, one behind the DBs and one underneath. We had several plays where the receivers were just out of reach of the passes, or whiffed when they should have whammed. We needed some friendly bounces to keep this one out of reach.

But let's look at some positives. When things got competitive in the second half, Herschel Herrien ran like a man and really got the offense energized. D'Andre Swift at times looked healthy and like the hoss we anticipated, while also dropping a short 'n' easy pass that he could have taken to the house; and Holyfield ran like Holyfield runs, tough and nasty. Without a run of over 16 yards, the backs averaged 5 yards per carry, which means they pretty got much 5 yards per carry all day long; and that total includes Fromm's stat line of 5 carries for -14 yards, which weren't runs at all. Justin Fields

played real minutes and made it so that every defensive coordinator we face for the next few years will have to dedicate practice time to scheming his possibilities, if not being able to duplicate his skills with a scout squad pretender. Nice receivers caught seventeen passes, if not for big gainers, at least for a lot of chain-moving plays. Roddy Scholarship kicked the greatest extra point of his career, with a degree of difficulty of 10.0.

When we were on defense, Tennessee averaged 2.6 yards per carry, and my main interpretation is that Monty Rice is one hell of a football player, because his availability seemed to toughen up the interior of the defense after we looked vulnerable up the middle at Missouri. Aside from the two TD passes, Tennessee completed 11 passes for 71 yards, good for 6.45 yards per completion, and 3.7 yards per attempt. Whatever happened on those touchdowns needs attention, but the rest of the afternoon was pretty dominant when we were on defense. Deandre Baker continues to swallow opposing receivers whole, and Tyson Campbell no longer plays like a freshman and looks every bit the 5-star talent he was touted to be.

Jeremy Pruitt did his best Butch Jones imitation after the game: “I can tell you this, the people on both sides of the field today, they know they were in a football game. We made the right step in the right direction, as far as building our program. . . . Our guys kept fighting which means we’re headed in the right direction and that excites me. That’s why I’m getting a little bit emotional. I learned we’ve got fight in us, that we’re not going to quit, it kind of gets me excited. You know these guys on this team have had a lot of negatives go toward them for a long time. I’m proud of them and the way they fought. . . . It isn’t easy.” Imagine if it had been closer than 38-12.

So, a win that nearly covered the ridiculous 31 point spread, their coach is stoked, and our fan base is concerned. Welcome to the new norm at UGA, when if Jake Fromm isn’t wearing a baseball hat in the fourth quarter, we think we didn’t bring our A-Game.

And now we take on what increasingly looks like a tough league schedule, what with LSU, Florida, Auburn, and Kentucky looking like formidable opponents. This schedule is hardly the breeze it looked to be 6 weeks ago. So if we make it to the championship game, we’ll have earned it, and deserve the playoff spot we are very determined to win.

The Day Job is really interfering with football this season. I spent last week in Mexico, where they are getting very impatient about the delays in building The Wall. After promising to pay for it, they now appear to be renegeing and claiming it’s the responsibility of U.S. citizens to fund it, even though they are the primary beneficiaries. I’ve managed to raise enough pesos to buy several solar panels and a chihuahua to attack anyone who climbs over them, but I’m still short, and regret to say that if we’re going to get this project underway, we need to launch a Kickstarter fund right here on U.S. soil, because Congress just isn’t getting the job done.

I was home for the UT game, over the weekend. But over the next few weeks I’m going to be out of the country and miss Vandy and LSU, this time in Africa, which is where I’ll be by the time this thing gets posted. As you probably know, [the POTUS has urged Spain to build a wall of its own across the Sahara desert](#) to keep immigration down, and Spain is

whining about some little details and claiming they can't do it. They are complaining that it's hard to establish a foundation for a giant wall in a base where the sand is 100 feet deep. These Spaniards just don't have the kind of can-do attitude we've got here. I hope to persuade the good people of Senegal and Ethiopia that they need to pull their weight in this project and start killing some elephants so they can harvest their tusks to finance this thing. Expect construction to begin by next spring.

So my next reports will be provided without the benefit of having seen the games, unless the SEC Network or CBS has stations in Africa that I can watch in the middle of the night. I've got more important things to do the first half of October than watching games. I've got a world to save out there.

### **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 American Diabetes Association** fights the deadly consequences of diabetes and fight for those affected by diabetes by funding research to prevent, cure and manage diabetes, delivering services to hundreds of communities, providing credible information, and giving voice to those denied their rights because of diabetes.

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### **DAWG DOOTS**

- ☞ You can't spell Dollar General Bowl without D-O-R-E.
- ☞ The Dawgbone includes about 50 updates a day from the Field Street Forum, but from what I can tell, all they do over there is post a headline, a profile, and a lot of indecipherable tweets. Does anyone actually read this stuff?

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

**Kirby Smart** can sure coach. Before that, he could really play. Kirby came to UGA from Bainbridge and was a four-year letterman at defensive back, earning first-team All-[SEC](#) selection as a senior in 1999. Not bad for a guy playing alongside Champ Bailey. Kirby was a pretty good student, too, being named four times to the SEC Academic Honor Roll while earning a degree in finance, the thinking man's business degree. He lacked Champ Bailey's physical gifts and, after going undrafted and being cut after a brief stay with the Indianapolis Colts, began the long climb to his current status as HC at his alma mater. He began as an administrative assistant at UGA, and within a year he was DB coach at Valdosta State and within another year was the Blazers's defensive coordinator. He ascended to the big time in 2002 with a graduate assistantship at

Florida State, and in short order became the DB coach at LSU. Mark Richt hired him to the unlikely position as RB coach, mainly because he considered him to be a gifted coach, regardless of position, but he wanted to coach defense and so, when Nick Saban offered him a job as Miami Dolphins' DB coach, he took it, following Saban to Alabama in 2007 for his near-decade as DB coach, defensive coordinator, and assistant head coach. He's now back home in Athens, and we all know how that's worked out. With wife Mary Beth, herself an outstanding athlete on UGA's women's basketball team from 1999-2003, he's become a fixture in Athens and among the game's most highly respected coaches. You just don't have this sort of career without knowing what you're doing, and he's doing it mighty well and with class befitting a Coveted Good Guy of the Week. Thanks Coach, and we'll see you in championship games pretty often as you continue your quest to Make UGA Great Again.



## **THE FORECAST**

### **DAWGS VS. VANDERBILT**

Two years ago these guys came in and ruined our season by taking home the W between the hedges. Think our guys will remember that? Actually most of that team is long gone, but the coaches remain and I suspect will mention that game to our guys in practice and the film sessions. I think they will deliver a stern message about showing up ready to play. And we will. Dawgs 49, Dorees 14.

### **NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: MIAMI OVER FLORIDA STATE**

The week's schedule is actually short of great matchups, so let's take one that used to be a great matchup. Apparently people are already raising money for Taggart's buyout, and they still love Coach Richt in Miami. Let's expect momentum on both fronts. Canes 31, Noles 17.

### **NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: TEXAS OVER OKLAHOMA**

Is UT back? Was the Army game a sign of the real OU, or was Baylor? This should be quite a game, one of the best rivalries in college football, and really counting this year. Expect lots of points and lead changes. Horns 48, Sooners 45.