

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
DAWGS MANGLE BUNGLES**

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SEPARATED@BIRTH?



**CAJUN & RAGIN'
RECRUITER REFUTER
ED ORGERON CHRIS CHRISTIE**

SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE

Red Auerbach lighting up a cigar in the old Boston Garden. Dandy Don Meredith singing "Turn Out the Lights, the Party's Over." The basketball coach putting the white guys in. Jake Fromm wearing a baseball cap.

That's when you know the game's won and it's time to relax. It happened again between the hedges on a day when LSU and Kentucky went down, Auburn went belly up, and Oklahoma showed again that it's all O and no D.

It was Just Vandy, I know. Just like two years ago. Just ask Michigan State about playing Just Northwestern. Just ask Stanford about playing Just Utah at home. Hell, ask James Madison about just playing Elon. All you've got to do is just show up.

With a 7:30 kickoff and 6-hour time difference between Athens and my African location, I had to wait till Sunday to watch what was available on YouTube. Melania and I wore our Dawg-Style pith helmets to root the boys on. When that wall finally gets built across the Sahara, you can bet it'll be covered with Dawg logos across the whole 3,000 mile stretch, from Mauritania to Sudan. That woman could sell sand to a camel herder.

YouTube highlights don't show a lot beyond big plays, so you know more about the game than I do. So I'll settle for a shout out to the guys who aren't supposed to be out there, based on recruiting stars, but who were in evidence in big ways on Saturday. 2-star J.R. Reed continues to be Mr. Reliable at the safety position. Tae Crowder, once a 3-star RB brought in to bring water to Chubb and Michel during practice, is a major factor at ILB. 3-star Jordan Davis, last year the #29 DT prospect in his class, stuffed a 4th and 1 and appears to be entering the rotation now that he's started to figure it out. 3-star

Deandre Baker remains the best league's best DB, and 3-star Eric Stokes, the #63 CB in his class and #65 player in GA coming out of HS, sure looks good to me. I hope 3-star Solomon Kindley isn't too banged up, but 3-star Justin Shaffer and 3/4-star Kendell Baker appear ready to cover the position. 3-star Brian Herrien continues to impress in a star-heavy RB rotation.

Well, those 4/5 star kids are pretty good too. But I love the guys who didn't blow up the camps, the ones who play past the star-studded recruits and onto the field, a testament to coaches' evaluations. Anybody could see a future for Justin Fields and Richard LeCounte. Coaches who know to drop Bailey Hockman and take Jake Fromm instead, those guys know what they're doing. And coaches who see potential in a skinny running back like Eric Stokes and project him as a DB, that's talent recruiting talent.

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 **Young Urban Farmers Program** was established in 2013 by the Athens Land Trust in partnership with the Clarke County School District (CCSD). Since its inception, the program has expanded from working solely with Classic City High School to collaborating with all 3 CCSD high schools. To date, the program has provided over 100 high school students with sustainable agriculture and entrepreneurship education, work experience and personal development. The goal of the Young Urban Farmers program is to help Clarke County youth develop valuable, transferable skills that will enhance confidence and competence as they prepare to enter the competitive workforce. YUF experience a full year of farm life at Athens Land Trust's two urban farms.

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DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ You can't spell San Diego County Credit Union Holiday Bowl without L-S-U T-I-G-E-R-S.

THE COVETED DAWGMEISTER GOOD GUY OF THE WEEK AWARD

GOOD GUY ARCHIVE

Fullback...what's that? Fullbacks used to reside in every backfield, but with every play involving a different formation and personnel package, the position has nearly become obsolete, and rarely becomes a recruiting focus. Yet Good Guys like **Taylor Maxey** still walk on at bigtime programs in hopes of getting on the field to block for the stallions toting the ball. Taylor came to Athens from North Oconee HS, where he excelled as a fullback, linebacker, and part-time left-footed punter, the sort of bruising, if not

supremely athletic, jack-of-all-trades who often ends up at fullback. Being a blocker might be a job most Americans don't want to take, but perhaps when the guy behind you is Todd Gurley, it's not so bad. Taylor actually started out as a scout team LB, but as Mike Bobo said, "He wasn't afraid to put his hat on anybody and he was very physical. We're always looking for those guys as a fullback." To which RB coach Brian McClendon added, "I really noticed Maxey when he was on the scout team playing linebacker, and then he was knocking the crap out of people. So I kind of recruited him to come play for me over there from the dark side on the defense, and he saw opportunity there." His shot came when Merritt Hall took a medical disqualification after multiple concussions and Quayvon Hicks got shifted to tight end. A compact 5-foot-9, 226-pounder, Taylor pancaked plenty of 4-star defenders in his days clearing space for the studs in the backfield. An SEC Academic Honor Roll member and repeat Athletic Director's Honor Roll member as a finance major, Taylor was described by B-Mac as "very sharp. He pays attention well and he learns things very quickly and he's a tough guy." Since hanging up his spikes, Taylor has worked in the finance world, as a loan officer with SunTrust and now as project manager for [Graydaze Contracting](#), a company that specializes in painting, specialty coatings, and sealant installation to the warehouse and manufacturing construction industry. I imagine that his high school coach Terry Tuley's opinion of Taylor during his UGA career holds up well in the paint business: "The one thing that you always got was just that total commitment." Committing to the G was just the beginning for Taylor Maxey. Guys this good are hard to find, and we're fortunate he decided to come to Athens and do us proud well beyond the hedges.



THE FORECAST **DAWGS VS. LSU**

Is LSU for real? Not quite as much as they were Saturday morning. But they're at home now. At the same time, our Dawgs play mighty well on the road. I think our D is starting to come together, and the O is beginning to put its many parts together into a coherent whole. LSU supposedly finally got the QB that's eluded them for years with Ohio State retread Joe Burrow, but a stat line like 19/34 for 191 and a pair of picks won't cut it next week. This game will let both programs know where they stand in the SEC. I think we stand on top. Dawgs 31, Bungles 21.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: WISCONSIN OVER MICHIGAN

Hating Jim Harbaugh requires this pick. Of course, the national game of the week is in Baton Rouge, and this one's a backup choice. But it means a lot in the Midwest. Expect a lot of guys in the training room after this one, which should be physical. I'll take the Badgers, 28-27.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: PITT OVER NOTRE DAME

Dunno, I've just got a feeling. Don't bet on it, but I'm taking the Panthers to end the Irish Dream. Pitt 30, ND 27.