

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
DAWGS CHOMP GATOR MEAT**

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SEPARATED@BIRTH?



**BEAN HER
ESCHEW HER
URBAN MEYER**



**& SCENERY
CHEWER
LOU DIAMOND PHILLIPS**

SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE

“Listen, making it to one SEC Championship Game doesn’t make you a dominant program, you know what I’m saying? I mean, two out of the last three years we’ve still been to the SEC Championship Game. So even a blind squirrel finds a nut every once in a while.” ~Dan Mullen on UGA



I've been in Africa all month, and so missed the LSU game. I haven't had the heart to watch any of the lowlights; reading about it was hard enough. I keep reminding myself: We are one of the nation's youngest teams. Being unbeaten national champs was optimistic if possible this season, and winning the SEC East and SEC are still on the table. There's a huge upside to this program and this year's goals remain intact, while the possibilities in the next few seasons are great.

Remember that we got blown out by Auburn last year and things turned out pretty well. Things still might turn out well this season, and fan support has been a big reason that our guys have gotten it done and recruits have found Athens a glorious destination. So don't desert this ship because it sprang a leak. There's a lot of football to be played and the team needs us behind them.

As I understand it, the LSU game produced a lot of discussion over our starting QB situation and the position in general. A couple of months ago, Jake Fromm was viewed as a possible first pick in the NFL draft; now some Dawg fans and national commentators view him as the #2 QB on the roster after one off game in a tough environment, and a stopgap for the inevitable starting role for Fields. That's how it worked at Alabama when they benched their former SEC Player of the Year for the backup, who's now a likely Heisman winner, so that's how it oughta work here, goes the thinking. I've also seen Jacob Lawrence pitch it around for Clemson, and the guy is fantastic, which I guess means we need to bench Fromm and play Fields.

I hope Fields is as great as our imaginations and his high school days would predict. I've also seen Fromm play some outstanding football. I've seen him put Jacob Eason on the bench and ultimately on a plane to Seattle. Eason was pegged as the #1 pick in the NFL draft. So is Jacob Lawrence. So is Tua Tagovailoa. So is Justin Fields. I'm no mathematician, but all of the above can't be true, especially if Jake Fromm is also the #1 pick in the draft.

Nick Chubb was viewed in Cleveland as a bust after one exhibition game, and now has forced them to trade their starter to give him the ball more after watching him break NFL tackles the way he did between the hedges. People sure do have short memories in this game.

I don't really care what anyone outside the coaches' room thinks about who should be playing the position. I doubt if anyone calling for a change has attended practices, broken down film in the position room, or stood on the sidelines during a game. The coaches are more invested in winning than any blogger following the team, and I trust that they know how to evaluate talent and put us in the best position to win. Whoever they start is the guy who has earned the position. Right now, it's #11, which doesn't mean the discussion is over, either online, in the locker room, or in the offices in Butts-Mehre Heritage Hall.

On the whole, I think that Kirk Herbstreit has provided some much-needed clarity on the matter: "At some point, you have to go with who you're going to go with."

In Africa I did come across this cape buffalo (really). I think he might have been playing defense for LSU.



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:

Help people affected by Hurricane Michael

Your donation enables the Red Cross to prepare for, respond to and help people recover from this disaster.

[DONATE HERE](#)

DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ You can't spell **Military Bowl presented by Northrop Grumman** without G-A-T-O-R-S.
- ☞ For an assessment of Jim McElwain's approach to Florida's strength and conditioning program, [read this.](#)
- ☞ Is there a person on earth who isn't a Purdue fan this week?
- ☞ Tom Crean, that guy bristles with intensity just standing there. I thought it was time to find a new basketball coach, and he looks about as good a catch as we

could hope for. A lot of people criticized Mark Fox for his recruiting, but last year he had four 4-stars on his roster (Hammonds, Jackson, Harris, Crump) along with some projects that worked out (Maten, Ogbeide, Claxton) and a lot of guys who never made a difference. That's enough to win with, but in my view the problem was less the talent, and more the development of the talent. Aside from the occasional Maten, the players just didn't get any better while in the program. Crean's first team is predicted to be one of the worst teams in the league. I guess we'll find out if he can make the roster perform better than its presumed talent. I think he will.

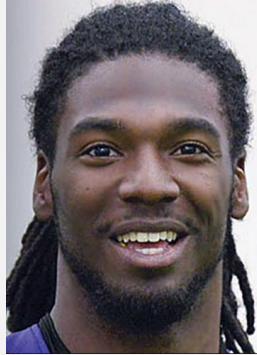


In an annual ritual, voters urinate on ballot boxes

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

Marlon Brown came to UGA from Memphis as the second coming of A. J. Green: a 6'-5" burner with excellent hands, rated as a 5-star talent and the #3 WR in his graduating class. He never had that sort of impact on the field, and went undrafted in 2013 when his injury-impaired career in Athens ended. But as a free agent he made the Ravens, played in a Super Bowl, and now has signed with the Chicago Bears, joining some mighty fine players as the venerable franchise has recently struck gold between the hedges. Not bad for a guy considered too fragile for the pro game. At UGA Marlon played a full season on a badly sprained ankle, suffered a groin injury, separated the acromioclavicular (AC) joint in both of his shoulders, pulled a hamstring muscle, and had his career end with an ACL injury. But he's one tough old Dawg, and fought through the pain and rehab each time to play another day. Fellow Ravens WR Torrey Smith said, "I think the best thing about him is just his toughness. He tore his knee like a month after [Lardarius] Webb and [Darrelle] Revis and all those guys, and he didn't get the luxury of being eased in. They just threw him out there to see how he'd respond, and he did a great job, and I'm proud of him. He's a hard worker." His Ravens offensive coordinator Jim Caldwell added, "He does a very tremendous job in terms of grasping things quickly, at multiple positions no less. He works hard at it. Not only that, he has

aptitude. You tie those two together and you have a guy that's going to be able to step in [and] play pretty early for you." That disposition, that toughness and intelligence, have kept this free agent pickup in the league much longer than many guys drafted ahead of him, and those qualities will carry him far in life. He sounds like a Good Guy to me.



THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. FLORIDA

This one should settle the East. Dawg fans are down in the dumps, and decidedly so, after the no-show in Baton Rouge. I think that between the film room, the training room, and the practice field, we'll head to Jacksonville with game faces on and ready to rumble. I won't bail on my Dawgs just because we did a face plant last weekend. Good Guys return to form and take charge of the division: UGA 34, UF 31.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: PENN STATE OVER IOWA

This just isn't a week with killer matchups, so I'll go with this elimination game in the Big Can't Count. I know a total of zero about either team, but the Lions are at home, so that's my pick. PSU 21, UI 20.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: MISSOURI OVER KENTUCKY

Air power over the ground game, home team over visitor, Tigers over Wildcats, 38-31.