

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
DAWGS RUN THROUGH TAMU**

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SEPARATED@BIRTH?



**NOLES TO AGGIES
JIMBO FISHER**

**& ROLLS WITH LADDIES
KEVIN SPACEY**

SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE

“Coach Lanning yells it all the time, ‘No one in our end zone!’ He’s been yelling that since he’s become the coordinator.” ~Monty Rice, pre-game

“How ‘bout them Fukn Dawgs!” ~Kirby Smart, post-game

On Friday night Mrs. Butts and I entertained The Scowlmeister and the lovely Scowlmistress, so I went to the grocery store in the afternoon to pick up extra pork rinds and turkey jerky. In the checkout line, I talked with an Auburn fan who was purchasing 200 cases of Bud Light for a watch party, and we both agreed: it’d be a low-scoring, tight, tough game. My original forecast was 23-16, but I narrowed it down to 21-20 by kickoff. In Vegas they had us as 2-point favorites with an over/under of 43 points. Everything pointed to what we eventually got: what the broadcasters said would be a slobberknocker of a game.

When we went up 21-0, I thought, This is like a soccer game where one team has a 1-0 lead with ten minutes left, and the announcers are saying that nobody could come back against a deficit that great; this game’s over. And then Auburn started to act as though it wasn’t. Fortunately, UGA is no Baylor.

It was tough out there, made tougher when Lawrence Cager reinjured his shoulder and again we had to play without our most consistent threat in the passing game. With him out, we have old man Demetris (NOT Demetrius, Brad Nessler) Robertson and the Three Freshmen (Pickens, Blaylock, Jackson) doing most of the work on the outside. Our lack of success on third down suggests that Cager really matters against a stout

defense. Malzahn was right when he said that Auburn “stuffed [UGA] in the fourth quarter” and had a shot to tie the game till we stuffed them back on their last drive.

We again played musical chairs on the OL, with Jamaree Salyer taking snaps in place of Cleveland and Mays to face off with the ferocious defenders in the Auburn trench. Somehow, D’Andre Swift went over 100 yards and got 6.2 yards per carry against an immovable DL that made Third-and-Fromm a distant memory for much of the game.



But then there was that defense. We let Auburn get some traction in the fourth quarter in a desperation passing attack, which they needed since, like everyone else, they couldn’t move the ball against us on the ground: Bo Nix was their leading rusher, and got 3.2 yards per attempt as yet another opponent finished with under 100 rushing yards. The Auburn players—[remarkably gracious in defeat](#), in great contrast to the whiners at Florida—talked about how they began “wearing [UGA] down a little bit” to pull within a TD. But not quite enough in a game that ended with what seemed to be an all-freshman defense on the field on their last series.

The Scowlmeister had expressed concern about James Coley’s conservative playcalling, wondering if Fromm would want to return for a 4th season to hand the ball off between the tackles. This for a 9-1 team doing something that’s only been done once before: winning 3 straight SEC East titles, only achieved previously by Steve Spurrier’s Florida teams. Meanwhile, [the post-game critics were piling on Gus Malzahn, an innovator, for calling too many trick plays](#) against a defense that blew them to bits.

I think that Coley calls the game the way Smart wants it called, relying on physical dominance—players, not plays—more than schemes and trickery. That’s the philosophy, the attitude, the intent of the approach. It doesn’t always win the style point battle. But aside from one dreadful afternoon against a sub-mediocre South Carolina team that inexplicably led to a 2-OT loss, it does seem to work pretty well.

Or, maybe the defense just carries us game after game. On a day when 3-and-out seemed our most common sort of offensive series, the defense stoned Auburn’s running game and only let them in late to make it competitive. Down at Baylor, that wasn’t enough. I’d bailed on that game at halftime worried that come Monday, undefeated Baylor would jump us in the playoff rankings after creaming OU, only to find that they instead will play in the Alamo Bowl.

I don’t take this win lightly. A road win over a top 12 team and major rival to clinch the division: I’m a happy Dawg this week. I agree with Coach Smart, who said after the game: “We’ve got to get better. We’re not where we need to be.” But we’re some pretty damn good Dawgs, headed toward a chance to wipe the ignominy of last year’s LSU blowout off our memory boards and keep on marching.

-  A Coveted Dawgmeister Game Ball goes to Zeke Bratkoswki, R.I.P.
-  A Coveted Dawgmeister Game Ball goes to linebacker Tae Crowder, recently named Butkus Award semifinalist after coming to UGA as the 31,863rd ranked running back in his signing class.

SAT PREP SESSION

SAT Question of the Week: What do the following people have in common?

Pat Haden

Pete Boon

Joe Alleva

- A. Each is part of the Chad Morris coaching tree.
- B. Each is on the short list to replace Geoff Collins at Georgia Tech.
- C. Each can understand Ed Orgeron without a translator.
- D. Each picked Vanderbilt to win this season's national championship.

Answer: Each was the Athletic Director at a school where Ed Orgeron was interim or permanent head coach. USC's Haden replaced Orgeron (6-2 as Kiffin-dumpster-fire interim replacement) with annual hot-seat candidate Clay Helton (27-10 overall record). Mississippi's Boon replaced Orgeron (10-25 record and [loony antics](#)) with Houston Nutt (24-26) before replacing Nutt with Hugh Slease, now coaching and mentoring good young Christian men at Liberty University. Alleva gave Orgeron the head ball coach job at LSU permanently, drawing the derision and mockery of the critics, including one who called Orgeron's hire one of [the worst in football history](#).

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

CURE Childhood Cancer is dedicated to conquering childhood cancer through funding targeted research while supporting patients and their families. The Atlanta-based charity is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, IRS identification number 58-1244138. Since CURE's beginnings in 1975, we have raised millions of dollars to advance promising research, lobbied for important legislation and provided tangible support to thousands of childhood cancer patients and their families.

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DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ Houston's D'Eriq King is rumored to be headed to the transfer portal, with UGA a possibility if Fromm declares for the draft, which will not happen, according to Wags, the family bulldog, who had a dream-vision in which he saw Jake Fromm celebrating touchdowns against Virginia. Other scenarios:
 - 🐾 Oklahoma, where he could be their next Rent-A-QB
 - 🐾 Florida, where he could back up Kyle Trask, his backup in high school

- 🏈 Tennessee, where Granny Butts could start at QB
 - 🏈 Princeton, where he could back up former 4-star Alabama recruit Brevin White, who backs up starter Kevin Davidson
 - 🏈 Purdue, which beat Nebraska playing their 4th string QB this year
 - 🏈 Miami, whose terrible quarterbacking helped Mark Richt decide to retire, even with Tate Martell transferring in to stabilize the position
 - 🏈 UCLA, which is [ranked 78th to Houston's 79th](#), and where brilliant offensive genius Chip Kelly could use a quarterback to help with his 7-16 record in Los Angeles
- ☞ Zeke Bratkowski is a great Eastern European name. You don't find so many players these days with names like Cosmo Iacavazzi, Bronco Nagurski, Dick Butkus....
 - ☞ [Weekend Predictions: Georgia wins, Tech and Falcons lose](#) ~AJC
 - ☞ "Pretty risky there." ~Little Woolly
 - ☞ Will Brian Herrien pull a [Prather Hudson](#) and ask Chamberlain Smith out on a date?
 - ☞ And, of course, we here at the Dawgmeister wish Chamberlain well after the scary collision, with hopes that Herrien's prayers will hasten her recovery.

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

What would you think of a Dawg whose coaches and teammates recognize his contributions with the Vince Dooley Most Valuable Player Award and Frank Sinkwich Toughness Award, and who was named the team's permanent defensive captain? What would you think if he only played one year for UGA? You'd probably think as highly of him as the guys in the locker room. The man who walked off with these honors is **Jake Ganus**, who came to UGA when UAB temporarily shut down its football program and he needed to take his talents somewhere. UGA turned out to be just the right landing spot for Jake. Jake had been a big star in Alabama schoolboy football with Chelsea HS, where he played QB, RB, and LB, earning both Shelby County Player of the Year and first-team All State honors. He kept up the pace at UAB, then found himself without a team after 3 years. When he committed to Mark Richt after a whirlwind recruiting episode and showed up in Athens, he said, "I feel like I was looked at as a charity case when I first got there. No one thought I could go in there and compete for a starting job, but I just controlled what I could control. My dad always taught me as a child that I can only control myself with the attitude and effort I give. I just attacked everything head on as a challenge and put myself in a position to have success. . . . I share my story with my guys all the time, not because I'm special in any way, but because I had it instilled in me at a young age by my dad how to do things the right way and that hard work would pay off." If success is starting every game and leading the team in tackles in your one year at UGA, he was mighty successful. He also nailed the personal side of life, proposing to girlfriend Peyton Thomas at the 50-yard line after the SC game. She said yes. His one shot at the NFL, however ended with a no from Minnesota, after which he headed back to UAB to finish his degree. By then UAB had restored its program, and he was soon on staff in a GA role. That only lasted long enough for local schools to realize he was available, and Thompson Warriors coach Mark Freeman locked him down as LB coach.

Jake takes a healthy approach to coaching high school ball: “College coaches just put in so much time and work, which I respect, but I like where I’m at and want to stay in this general area to be around my family and wife as often as I can be. It was just another timing thing that fit in perfectly. It’s all about God’s timing and this is what He wanted me to do.” He aspires to be a head ball coach eventually, but now is happy with a position coach assignment. I have no doubt he’ll be running his own program before long, given his high character, work ethic, and love of the game. That’s one Darned Good Dawg.



THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. TEXAS A&M

Here comes Jimbo Fisher. Does that strike fear into your heart? Mine neither. Ask Willie Taggart what kind of program Jimbo built at FSU before heading West to Make A&M Great Again. Once again, UGA has a major advantage at QB. I’ve never seen Kellen Mond do anything that makes me think he can engineer a win against a stout defense, and I don’t think he’ll do it on Saturday. I’ve got the Dawgs hammering out a solid win. Not the sort of offensive show that teams with different philosophies put on, but the kind of grinder that Kirby likes. The Dawgs wrap up their SEC schedule in style: UGA 31, TAMU 10.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: OHIO STATE OVER PENN STATE

I’d love to see PSU knock off OSU to produce more 1-loss teams and to sober up the national media who think we stuck with the wrong QB, but I don’t think it’ll happen. Ohio State is overall more talented. The coaching is probably even. But the outcome won’t be. Bucks 38, Lions 21.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: ILLINOIS OVER IOWA

The Illini have been down forever, so it’s nice to see Lovie Smith bringing some life to a program that has a big, talent-rich state to draw on but never turns the corner. Iowa in contrast has no natural recruiting center the way Illinois does with the Chicago metro area. I’m always a little skeptical of Iowa as a national powerhouse, their win over Minnesota notwithstanding, and I think they’ll go down against the Illini. Chief Illiniwek 35, Herky the Hawk 34.