

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
DAWGS STEM TECH**

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SEPARATED@BIRTH?



**OFTEN FAILS
BUZZ**



**& COFFIN NAILS
JOE CAMEL**

SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE

“Pressure is what we signed up for.” ~Monty Rice, mid-week

“At bottom every man knows well enough that he is a unique being, only once on this earth; and by no extraordinary chance will such a marvelously picturesque piece of diversity in unity as he is, ever be put together a second time.” ~Friedrich Nietzsche, writing about D’Andre Swift

[According to ESPN.com](http://ESPN.com), UGA’s “defense stymied Texas A&M, leading the No. 4 Bulldogs to a lackluster 19-13 victory” on Saturday during another soggy afternoon in Athens. And then: “It’s difficult to envision the Bulldogs reaching the four-team playoff with the way their offense is playing.” The offense definitely doesn’t dazzle right now. But they are only part of the story of the 10-1 Bulldawgs’ SEC championship run.

Apparently the only luster that matters to the TV critics is on the offensive side of the ball, and even that requires overlooking Swift’s 103 yards and 5.4 per carry, after starting the game with negative yardage. ESPN was most unimpressed with Jake Fromm for his 12-for-23 afternoon, which requires overlooking the weather conditions that got him off to a 1-6 start, with some off-target throws in a downpour costing us 2 early TDs.

But how’s this for luster: 20 carries, minus 1 yards for TAMU. The Aggies had averaged over 30 points and 159 rushing yards per game, with 4.8 yards per carry. And how about this: no rushing TDs, again. Let’s throw in total annihilation on 4th and inches. Mond, essentially passing on every down after a while, went 25 for 42 for 275 yards, a little over

their 260 per game average total, if not their average yards per pass attempt. With negative rushing yards, though, that wasn't enough. It was a great day for our defense.

I'm no great fan of Jimbo Fisher, but give him credit for [losing like a man](#), unlike Dan Mullen. He was proud of his team's effort, and credited UGA with playing a tremendous game. He could have whined about some calls and how they cost him the game, but so far hasn't. That was one hard-fought game, in doubt in the fourth quarter before we made them burn their timeouts, and then moved the chains on our last possession.

Everyone seems to think that we ought to win because we are favored. A&M's losses are all to top 20 teams; that's a pretty good team we beat. Just ask Oregon if showing up is enough. I'll take this one as a rugged SEC game that we won in the trenches. We could have done better on offense or in their passing game, but when the field's in such bad shape that the band can't play at halftime, we can't expect to run up 60 points as though we're playing Rutgers every week. 10-1 with a bad Georgia Tech team up next, hot off a rare win against another low-tier ACC team.

In the Sixties, the loyalists would tell the protesters: America, love it or leave it. I'm not bailing on these guys because the wins ain't always pretty. Winning a game on a sloppy field against a solid league opponent will always make me happy on Sunday. 10-1, headed to 11-1 and a showdown with telegenic LSU, who'll no doubt be a big favorite. But not in my Dawg House. I'm with the program and am ready to get this thing on.

SAT PREP SESSION

SAT Question of the Week: If the 2017 QB commitments had remained in place, and Jake Fromm had attended Alabama and Bailey Hockman had come to UGA, what would the current college football landscape look like today?

- A. At UGA, Jacob Eason would have completed his junior season and gone to the NFL, and Justin Fields would now be quarterbacking UGA.
- B. At Alabama, Fromm would have won the QB job, and Tuanigamanuolepola Tagovailoa would have transferred to Southern Cal.
- C. Bailey Hockman would have transferred to Florida State, and then to North Carolina State.
- D. Georgia Tech would still suck.

Answer: All of the above.

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

Extra Special People serves individuals with behavior disorders, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, Autism, Asperger's, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Angelman Syndrome, Spina Bifida, and many more in the Watkinsville area. ESP is the legacy of one woman who had a passion for children and young people with special needs, and a vision of a place where they and their families could focus on their abilities instead of their disabilities. Martha Wyllie founded ESP in 1986, offering high-quality affordable programs for "people with different abilities." ESP runs weekend and after-school programs, family support programs, and events in addition to summer camp. After a 5 year capital campaign, ESP opened the doors on a 14,000 sq. ft. facility in Watkinsville in June of 2016. Everyday, ESP continues to provide a safe place that individuals with disabilities can call their own.

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Dawg Doots

- ☞ "THIS IS WHAT EVERYONE HAS BEEN WAITING FOR.... I WILL BE TAKING MY TALENTS UP TO ATLANTA..... I HAVE OFFICIALLY COMMITTED TO GEORGIA TECH..... I'M 2500%." ~3-star safety Briton Allen showing how great the national anticipation has been for his announcement, and how ready he is for a STEM education
- ☞ During last year's blowout between the hedges, GT QB TaQuon Marshall threw a pass about 50 feet over the head of his receiver while under pressure. Game announcer Tom Hart invoked a legend to describe the accuracy of the pass: "He *Reggie Balled* that pass...."
- ☞ "[The Georgia Tech athletic department] is in dire need of cash to support its 17 varsity sports against more moneyed ACC members. This fiscal year, for instance, the department anticipates running a \$9.5 million deficit – \$80.1 million in revenues, \$89.6 million in expenses. That shortfall, caused partly by the \$6 million transition from Paul Johnson to Collins, will entirely deplete the department's reserve fund." ~*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, reporting the exciting news that Tech will play games at The Benz, which they believe people will attend, unlike their games at Paul Johnson Field in Reggie Ball Stadium.
- ☞ I watched Lamar Jackson play against Houston, and thought, This is what Mecole Hardman must have looked like as a QB at Elbert County HS: by far the best athlete on the field, taking snaps so that the best player gets the ball on every play.
- ☞ "I would like to apologize for something I said after the game that's not indicative of who I want to be or what I stand for. It was an emotional win and I was very emotional with that." ~Kirby Smart
- ☞ "Fukn A." ~Granny Butts
- ☞ Auburn players are now saying that they beat us, but that the [referees beat them](#). Actually, the problem wasn't the refs. It was the rules they enforced correctly, replayed a few dozen times to get it right, that did them in. We've now beaten Auburn 12 times in the last 15 games, all no doubt due to biased officiating. That's how the world starts to look when you start to channel Dan Mullen.

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

At UGA these days we love talking about the 4-5 star superstuds headed for NFL rosters. There are, however, plenty of other guys on the team who contribute and make the program hum. Guys like **Ridge Underwood**. Ridge was a Colquitt County HS starting linebacker who blew his knee out so badly that missed most of his senior season and feared he'd never suit up again. He'd survived back and wrist injuries, but the knee was mangled, and that looked like the end of his gridiron career. Nonetheless, he was named one of his team's permanent captains. He played tennis in the spring—at 6'-2", 245 pounds—and graduated with honors, then headed to Georgia Regents University (Augusta State). But guys like this just don't give up easily. He rehabbed the knee and it got stronger, and he decided it was time to get back to football—as a Georgia Bulldog. He got a tryout in the spring of 2014 and made the cut as one of 7 walk-ons added to the roster. At UGA he never beat out Roquan Smith or Natrez Patrick, or anyone else at his position. But he was a warrior in practice, especially the scout team, where he helped mimic opponents to prep the starters for Saturday's action. "It was very rewarding," he says. "We win as a team, and I am part of the process. I just do whatever I can to help get us ready to play on Saturday." He got the offenses ready pretty well, winning the team's Outstanding Scout Team Player award. Even though he topped out as a practice stalwart, he has no regrets: "I've got memories that will last a lifetime," he said. He did well in the classroom too, earning a J. Reid Parker Director of Athletics Honor Roll appointment and honor roll recognition on his way to a 2017 degree in Communication Studies. Not everyone on the team is an NFL superstar in the making. But teams need more than stars and starters. They need guys like Ridge Underwood, who take on roles that are invisible outside the program but valued in the locker room and on the practice fields. He's a Good Guy who will surely do big things in other fields of play. He hopes to work in the film industry: "I plan to become a movie or television show director, but will start out by working on smaller film sets as a grip." This is not a guy who needs to get a grip. He's already got one, and I look forward to seeing him on Netflix before long.



THE FORECAST
DAWGS VS. GEORGIA TECH

After Temple crushed Georgia Tech earlier in the season, the Owlmeister wrote saying he thought Swift would get 200 yards when they play us. The Owlmeister, being a

Philadelphian, has followed D'Andre's career with passion. At the time I said, I don't think he'll get enough carries for 200. At this point, I'll revise my prediction down: I doubt if he'll get 10 carries. There's no need to get him banged up when the important game is a week off. We ought to destroy the common backyard pests from The Flats without him. It'll be Zamir White's biggest game of the season, and Brian Herrien will go forth from this mortal coil of hedges as a hero.

Everyone knew that GT would struggle transforming from a triple-option offense accompanied by no defense, to a regulation offense and a defense. I'm happy to say that everyone was right. Kirby Smart struggled in Y1 moving from small, agile OL to sun-blotters, blowing the top off the program in Y2. Tech has absolutely stunk this year. It will take some time to establish the sort of recruiting that they need to be competitive, if such a thing is even possible. Mark Richt left Kirby Sony Michel, Nick Chubb, and a few other key players. Collins inherited a lot less from Johnson, so is doing a wholesale rebuild of the program. Y1 had to be ugly. This one will be over early. Dawgs pound the Pests, 31-0.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: AUBURN OVER ALABAMA

Gary Danielson thinks that if Alabama beats Auburn without Tua, they should vault UGA in the playoff ranking. [*In related news, Danielson has announced that he is leaving CBS Sports so that he can serve out his days as Nick Saban's butler.*] I really don't know what I'd think if I were an outside observer; that stanky home loss to S. Carolina will make us vulnerable to any doubts about whether or not we belong among the anointed. We're not Florida, so we can't blame it on the refs or say that the best team lost. We weren't the best team on the field that day. It's our quality wins that have us in this position, not our inexplicable loss.

On the other hand, if Alabama destroys Auburn with a backup QB and jumps us, and if we beat LSU, and if that's LSU's only loss, then will the 4-team playoff have 3 SEC teams? Fine with me as long as one isn't Florida.

People reacted to Tua's injury as though the sky had fallen and Alabama might as well forfeit the rest of the season. Not in their locker room, I'm sure. Yet.....this is the program that [12 QBs have transferred from](#) under current management so they could get into a game, and mostly flopped at their new schools, Jalen Hurts notwithstanding.

But maybe those backups were never that good to begin with. Maybe Brevin White, who spurned Alabama and is now 3rd string at Princeton, is more the norm than the exception. And maybe Mac Jones is more like the transfers than he is like A. J. McCarron. He came out of HS as a 3-star recruit, #399 at all positions, #18 as pro-style QB, #52 player in Florida. Jalen Hurts was also not an elite prospect: #192 at all positions, #4 dual-threat, #29 in Texas. He turned out to be pretty good, although I think dual-threat QBs are harder to evaluate moving from HS to college, and again from college to pro.

The problems with the Bama's-done assumption is that the rest of Alabama's roster is still intact. On talent alone they can turn over the offense to a game-manager and win

against most teams. What he can't do is what Hurts did to UGA last year, which is run us ragged and be the difference-maker they needed to beat us.

I'm sure that Auburn's defense can hold back a compromised Alabama offense for the most part, as they did with our O with our best QB under center. Malzahn watched tape of LSU shredding of Alabama's defense and no doubt sees the value of a short passing game. The question is whether or not a freshman QB like Nix can replicate Burrow's success. But a man can dream. It's at Auburn, where Nix has played his best. To quote Dan Mullen: "War Eagle!" Burn 28, Bama 27

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: OKLAHOMA STATE OVER OKLAHOMA

It's Mullet Time in Stillwater. Here we go again, OU scores prolifically, and hands out points to the opponents like Santa Claus at the Georgia Square Mall. This game is often a shootout, and this year will be another installment in that series, even with the Cowpokes playing a backup QB. Oklahoma plays with fire once too often. OSU 51, OU 48