

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

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SEPARATED@BIRTH?



**LOONY TUNER & HONEYMOONER
ED ORGERON JACKIE GLEASON**

SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE

“It’s awesome to have our defense be as good as they are. It really takes a lot of pressure off us to score every drive. I guess it’s a bad thing to know they’re good enough to win us games. We need to put more points on the board.” ~Charlie Woerner, mid-week

Is 52 points enough, Charlie? UGA went in as a 28-point favorite, the largest in the history of hate, with an over-under of 46.5 points, and proceeded to win by the greatest margin in series history while playing reserves in the 3rd and 4th quarters. Tech’s only TD came on a very short field. For the game, Tech amassed 139 yards and had far more 3-and-outs (11) and punts (13) than first downs (7).

The Dawgs do need some help in some areas, however, and so we called in the big guns. After achieving peace in the Middle East and getting The Wall completed last week, Jared Kushner got a call on Saturday afternoon to rush to Georgia to repair D’Andre Swift’s shoulder. He should be fine by Tuesday. Jared will then work with George Pickens on anger management, which he promises be all wrapped up by practice Wednesday after intensive sessions of yoga and meditation.

At the end of the game, Wags, the family bulldog, went outside, did 10 pushups, and then peed on a dead yellow jacket, after which my neighbor flagged him for excessive celebration.

And there’s really not a whole lot more to say about a game that sobered up anyone who bought into the idea that Geoff Collins had turned around the program and that they were on the upswing and might give us a game. Tech would have done just as well

suiting up these guys. I suppose it's still a rivalry, but it's hard to truly hate a program that we've outscored 135-35 in the last 3 years.



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 has volunteered to pay off the remainder of Chris Ash's contract at Rutgers.
- C. Each believes that Manny Diaz is doing a heck of a job at Miami.
- D. Each picked Georgia Tech 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, and made a decision about his long-term status. 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 [often inexplicable behavior](#)) with Houston Nutt (24-26) before replacing Nutt with Hugh Sleaze, now coaching and mentoring fine young Christian men at Liberty University. Alleva gave Orgeron the head ball coach job at LSU permanently, [a move considered at the time to be perhaps the worst hire in college 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

Rettsyndrome.org provides information and opportunities to support treatment for Rett syndrome, a rare non-inherited genetic postnatal neurological disorder that occurs primarily in girls and more rarely in boys. Rett syndrome leads to severe impairments, affecting nearly every aspect of the child's life. Rett syndrome is an incredibly complex disorder that will require a multi-pronged approach to treat and cure. Our unwavering strategy focuses on treatment medications, gene therapy and neuro-habilitative therapies, and we are bringing the first and only treatment that addresses the underlying biology for Rett syndrome into the final phase of clinical testing.

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DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ [This week's Mullen Report](#) is pretty weird.
- ☞ I wonder: Has there ever been a season at any level of football in which a QB played the vast majority of snaps for his offense, threw only three interceptions all season, and threw them all to the same defensive back in the same game...and also, in this same game, lost his only fumble of the season?

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

This year's UGA defense is second to none, in either the nation or the program's vaunted history. The defensive line features an endless rotation of tough, disciplined players whose team orientation keeps the whole unit working in unison and in the opponents' backfields. Among the linemen in **Michael Barnett**, who came to UGA from South Carolina, where he was once the state's #2 ranked DE, #4 overall prospect, and consensus 4-star recruit. He graduated high school early and enrolled at UGA in January, using his spring practice experience to play in 7 games in his first year on campus before sitting out Y2, then becoming a regular for his last three years on campus, during which he has been part of a dominating defense. He also excelled in the classroom, making the UGA J. Reid Parker Director of Athletics Honor Roll as a freshman and earning a James E. Farish Football Scholarship in his redshirt season. When Coach Smart says his players must "Do More," Michael has applied the imperative to his studies along with his play on the DL. He also likes to take it easy, saying, "I'm from the country so I need the woods and a little bit of fresh air" to get away from the pressures of football and the classroom. But don't expect him to let up: "I'm trying to tune-up every aspect of my game," he says. "Whether it's stopping the run, playing two-gap, playing one-gap, playing the shade, reading blocks and converting pass rush. I feel like every aspect of our game needs to improve." I expect that attitude to take him far: never satisfied with success, always working to get better. That's my kinda Dawg.



THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. LSU

And now, the games begin. LSU will probably be a multiple-TD favorite, boasting ([literally](#)) the best offense in SEC history. They will take on a Dawg offense that is, to quote the Scowlmeister, “awful” because of poor execution and because “the playcalling remains way too conservative and predictable” in our 11-1 season. A nation of theater critics has been waiting for UGA to get their comeuppance and lose their way out of the playoff, no matter how many top 25 teams we knock off in fiercely competitive games, at home and on the road.

And that, I think, is our primary advantage: We’ve played in a lot of tough, close games, and won all but the disaster against SC. LSU has played 2 tight games: Auburn and Alabama, their top competitors in the West. We have mostly played white-knuckle-ride games since mid-season. Our guys know what to do with a slim lead and time on the clock.

I’m sure that our mutual games against Auburn will get a lot of scrutiny, although as Lou Holtz once said, “Zpfftpzcvptzszft.” According to my internet translator, he meant, No team is the same twice. Injuries, the vicissitudes of youth, weather, whatever: Every game is new.

LSU beat Auburn at home, 23-20. We beat Auburn on the road, 21-14. My takeaway: Auburn has a sensational defense. Going into Game 12, LSU was averaging 48.5 ppg, tied for second nationally against mostly SEC defenses, while beating the snot out of most of their opponents. But not Auburn.

And then there’s UGA’s defense. We are pretty much impossible to run against, but LSU is coming in with my favorite non-Dawg in the country, Clyde Edwards-Helaire. That cat is fun to watch and a load to tackle. And his name is Clyde, a name so cool that the New York Knicks’ Walt Frazier adopted it in the Sixties to signify just what a dapper dude he really was, and remains. It was the name of Clyde McPhatter, doo-wop pioneer and lead singer for The Drifters. It is a name so hip that a high-volume career outlaw who got blown to bits in an ambush at age 25, Clyde Barrow, became one of the most widely

romanticized criminals of the 20th century. Clyde Edwards-Helaire is a baller and will be a major focus for our defense on Saturday, no matter how brilliant Joe Burrow has been this season.

LSU also excels at about the only thing that's worked against us this year, the short passing game. They can slice and dice a defense to bits. The question is, can they do more against us than they did against Auburn? I think it'll somewhat of a stalemate on that front, and that's good news for UGA.

The game then rests on our offense's ability to control the clock. Sorry folks, we will not run a razzle-dazzle offense. I doubt if the game plan will involve trying to match LSU's pace. Auburn played them even by trying to beat them up at the line of scrimmage. That's what we're built for.

On offense that means pounding the rock, with all eyes on Swift's shoulder, and throwing high-percentage passes that keep the clock and the chains moving and the pyrotechnic LSU offense on the sidelines. Herrien, White, and Cook may need to step in and step up if D'Andre is hurting. But these are all excellent backs, Herrien as unheralded coming out of HS, White and Cook as elite prospects. They ought to be able to earn their scholarships if Swift is unavailable.

Much has been made of Jake's completion percentage, and he was under 50% again vs. Tech. But the game will be indoors, and the ball will be dry. With Cager out and Pickens sitting out a half, it's time for the rest of the corps to step it up. They will need to if we're going to make the playoff.

I think we can win this game by controlling the clock, winning the line of scrimmage, blocking like hell on the perimeter, being the more powerful team, and hitting the passes when they're called. Brian Kelly said after we beat them earlier this season that it was one of the most violent games he'd ever been around, played by one of the deepest and most physical fronts he'd ever encountered:

“You could hear it out there, the physicality was real. It was probably one of the most physical games that I have coached, against any team that I have competed against, and that's a lot of games that I've coached. Up front, we're trying to match (personnel), and trying to figure out what's going to come on the field, and it's 3-down (linemen), and it's 4-down, and it's different personnel groupings. It's more depth than we've seen.”

That's what we bring to every game, and that's what Kirby Smart's personality demands. And that's what's going to produce an SEC Championship and shot at winning something that seemed impossible to imagine after that one Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day between the hedges in mid-October. Next Saturday we shock the world. Dawgs 23, Tigers 21.