

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
DAWGS LAP RACERS**

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SEPARATED@BIRTH?



**CAME HOME, & CAPONE
REALLY A STAR REALITY STAR
STETSON BENNETT IV UNCLE LOU FRATTO**

SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE

Just a note that I really love this guy and am grateful he returned to back up Fromm and, eventually, to compete to start. I'm pulling for him to be great and make UGA a better team, as he did when running the scout team in 2017, but this time in front of 93K. I really hoped he'd get some snaps in Nashville when it was clear we had the game in hand so we could see why the coaches and players love him as a person and competitor.

But damn, I couldn't resist.

And now, on to football, which is why we gather each week in the fall. The Dawgs kicked it off with a solid, if not entirely dominant, game. Of course we hoped for a soul-crushing booty-whipping, which was mainly confined to the first quarter. The rest of the game was more of a cruise than a hell-bent-for-leather assault on Vanderbilt's family heritage, at least offensively. The defense, though, was stellar. They took Vandy's vaunted TE and WR out of the game entirely, almost as if Deandre Baker still roamed the secondary. Vandy's main threat, Ke'Shawn Vaughn, played almost as well as Brian Herrien, who had the 4th best yards-per-carry for the Dawgs.

A lot of Vandy's success with the ball came from the 117 yards in penalties, which gave them both of their field goals. So, the defense really came to play, and played a little too aggressively on occasion. I'd take that over not coming to play at all, as they did in Knoxville.

Anyone who went in concerned about the WR corps should be assured that we've got plenty to work with from that unit. I suspect they'll emerge once the schedule toughens; we kept it vanilla in Nashville and will continue to show little till ND comes to town. But then, when you've got a stable of RBs getting 10 yards per carry, you don't have to flaunt the passing game till you need to. And we can assume that the receivers were blocking hard for the backs to get so much mileage.

If we have a gripe, it's not converting on third-and-short and settling for field goals. I would not be shocked to see Zamir White getting those carries before long. That cat runs hard.

And so, as Derek Dooley would say, we did what we almost always do: "kick the shit out of Vandy." Or as Shawn Elliott says these days: "The one thing Georgia State does is kick the shit out of Tennessee!"

SAT PREP SESSION

SAT Question of the Week: What is the most amazing thing about [Justin Fields' 98-yard TD pass in the Ohio State spring game](#)?

- A. He stayed in the pocket and threw the pass instead of scrambling at the first sign of pressure.
- B. He underthrew the pass and the defensive back still couldn't break it up.
- C. The Ohio State press began calling his performance "Epic!"
- D. The national press began listing him as a Heisman candidate.

Answer: Tate Martell didn't send a congratulatory tweet.

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

The **Athens Area Emergency Food Bank**, which meets the food needs for one week for families or individuals who live in Athens-Clarke County who are faced with emergencies upon referral by an approved agency. A family is entitled to another week's supply within six months, again with an approved referral. It is not the purpose of this agency to duplicate the services of any existing church or governmental agency, but to supplement and coordinate where desirable.

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Carson Beck explaining, “When you’re a star, they let you do it. You can do anything. Grab ’em by the football. You can do anything.”

DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ Charter Spectrum will carry the new ACC network through what a Disney executive calls “the full value of the Walt Disney Television.” The perfect match for a Mickey Mouse league.
- ☞ [Here’s what they’re saying up in Knoxville.](#) [This too.](#) [And this.](#) Jeremy Pruitt must be one difficult man to be around these days. He was a bitchy prima donna when he rode the coattails of another coach’s skills on a winner in Athens. He was less prickly at Alabama where critiquing the boss isn’t part of the contractual agreement. Imagine what he’s like being CEO of an embarrassing loser.
- ☞ At least Missouri lost to a team founded before 2010.

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

John Theus was the highest-rated OL of Mark Richt’s tenure after coming to UGA from The Bolles School in Jacksonville. He ended up showing that he was worthy of his five-star rating, playing in 43 straight games, starting at tackle for four years and, as a senior, being voted the team’s overall captain and sharing the Coaches Leadership Award for the respect he earned on the practice field, in the locker room, and between the hedges on Saturdays. At the time, he was only the third true freshman to start at offensive tackle in a season opener for UGA since freshmen became eligible in 1973. In addition to getting it done on the field, John was an outstanding student, winning two

James E. & Peggy A. Hickey Memorial Scholarships and three John Tillman Football Scholarships, and earning both SEC First Year Academic Honor Roll and Athletic Director's Honor Roll distinctions. After being selected in the 5th round of the NFL draft by San Francisco, he played sparingly with the 49ers, Panthers, Saints, and Titans. After getting cut at age 24, he retired from the game and returned to UGA to complete his degree, saying, "I'd like to give a special shoutout to the fans of Dawg Nation for always being there with me throughout my years playing ball." With Coach Smart building bridges with former players, his return to Athens for his studies also paved the way for John to return to the program, where he now serves as a student assistant helping Sam Pittman coach up the OL. Last season, even the defenders were happy to have him with the team. As LB Natrez Patrick said, "He's a great guy. He always did the little things right, paid attention to detail. He critiqued himself all the time. Just something I took from him. "I'm sure the offensive line is pulling a lot from him." Coach Smart added, "He's been there, done that, he's played at a high level and he's really good for our kids to be around someone who has been successful in this league who has also gone on to play in the next league so he's been a big asset for us. We appreciate him doing it because he doesn't have to." That's a great endorsement for a great guy, one who's just beginning the next phase of his life, one that will surely bring as much honor as the ones he's already concluded.



IT'S TOUGH OUT THERE

The most flexible term in the sportscasters' vocabulary is **tough**. As a service to all 4 Dawgmeister readers, I have begun to document its many meanings as used during broadcasts of basketball games and other sporting events this year. I'm sure there are many more. But it's tough sledding to detail them all. Nonetheless, I'm going to tough it out and see what I can come up with.

1. That was a hard and tough foul.

Definition: Physical and potentially injurious

2. UGA's basketball had a tough season in 2018-9.

Definition: Disappointing, regretful, unsuccessful

3. He played 19 tough minutes, shooting 1 for 16.

Definition: Terribly performed

4. That was a tough call on the defensive back.

Definition: Questionable, shouldn't have been made

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| 5. That was a tough call on the play. | Definition: A call that could have gone either way |
| 6. What a tough call | Definition: Wrong |
| 7. What a tough loss for Auburn. | Definition: Following a hard-fought effort |
| 8. What a tough break. | Definition: Unfortunate |
| 9. The team has had a lot of tough luck of late. | Definition: Hard and unkind |
| 10. That was a tough shot. | Definition: Difficult in degree |
| 11. That was a tough shot | Definition: Aggressively defended |
| 12. That was a tough shot. | Definition: Ill-advised and low-percentage |
| 13. They are playing tough defense. | Definition: Rugged, aggressive |
| 14. Number twelve is one tough hombre | Definition: Badass MoFo |
| 15. He's a tough defender. | Definition: Hardnosed and scrappy |
| 16. He threw a tough pass there. | Definition: Dangerous, likely to produce a turnover |
| 17. Losing Jones was a tough loss for the team. | Definition: Hard to replace |
| 18. What another tough loss for Auburn. | Definition: Catastrophic and disheartening to the season's prospects |
| 19. We are playing a tough schedule | Definition: Filled with highly competitive teams |
| 20. UGA is a tough opponent. | Definition: One that is difficult to beat |
| 21. Murray State will be a tough out in the tournament. | Definition: Gives opponents fits |
| 22. The coach has a tough decision to make. | Definition: Mind-racking |
| 23. Tough shit, Sherlock. | Definition: Darned bad |
| 24. They will need to tough it out with Jones on the bench. | Definition: Play hard to make up for a missing asset |
| 25. It's going to be tough to keep him out of the lineup. | Definition: A welcome challenge |
| 26. Visiting teams need a tough skin to play in this stadium. | Definition: Thick and resistant to hostility |
| 27. What a tough move to defend. | |

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| Definition: Skilled |
| 28. It's a tough game because they are one of the best teams in the country. |
| Definition: A game we might lose. |
| 29. The coach has a tough decision to make. |
| Definition: Perplexing, difficult, could go wrong either way |
| 30. This kid has one tough attitude. |
| Definition: Indomitable |
| 31. That's a tough matchup for Smith to cover Jones. |
| Definition: Overmatched |
| 32. What a tough shot! |
| Definition: Clutch |
| 33. He's so tough in the lane |
| Definition: Difficult to guard because of physical strength |

THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. MURRAY STATE

Welcome to Athens, Murray. I hope you spend the \$550,000 money well. But somebody in your athletic department needs to figure out why we paid \$1.5 million to UMass last year for its turn as Sanford Cupcake. C'mon, man, claim your value! But that's the biggest drama available for next Saturday. Dawgs get 3 100 yard rushers, although it's hard to predict which 3. We've got 5 guys who could conceivably do it. Dawgs coast, cruise, and crush the Racers: UGS 61, MSU 10.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: LSU OVER TEXAS

We're going to have to rely on LSU to avenge our awful bowl loss to Texas. I think they'll do just fine. Texas is probably overrated because they beat us; LSU is underrated because they play in the SEC West, where second place is the grand prize. I'll geaux with the Tigers to restore league pride, which Tennessee, Missouri, South Carolina, and Mississippi degraded in Week 1. Did you ever think you'd wake up on Sunday saying, Thank Heaven for Auburn? LSU 31, UT 21.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: CINCINNATI OVER OHIO STATE

I got off to a good start in Week #1 with an upset pick of Boise State over Florida State in Tallahassee. But in my wildest dreams, I didn't think that Tennessee would lose at home to Georgia State, which may be the best team in Atlanta right now.

I thought that when Urban Meyer "retired" from Ohio State, Luke Fickell would replace him. But they went with Ryan Day, who so far has recruited well, and who filled in when Meyer was suspended for, according to a release from the Ohio State Athletic Department, "Stupendous Assholery, Even for Urban Meyer." The talent levels between the two programs are quite different, and it will be at The Famed Horseshoe that Justin Fields lit up Saturday against one of the worst defenses this side of Tennessee, courtesy of Lane Kiffin. Granny Butts took in the game and was confident that she could have completed TD passes to guys who were 20 yards open. She might even have run for a few given the quality of the competition. Or so she says.

This week ought to be pretty different. Fickell is a defensive coach and will apply pressure, which is when Fields bolts and wide receivers start quitting on their routes because they work to get open and the QB isn't looking downfield for them. Will he learn how to trust the pocket and his receivers? He didn't do it in high school, if QB1 is an indication; and he didn't do it in Athens. We'll see what he does in Columbus. Meanwhile, Fickell has made the Bearcats pretty competitive. How competitive? Enough to pull off the upset. Cincy 24, Bucks 23.