

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:  
DAWGS GIVE OUR MOTHER THE MOTHER OF ALL  
BEATDOWNS**

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**SEPARATED@BIRTH?**



**FAILURE CLAN  
SKIP HOLTZ**



**SAILOR MAN  
POPEYE**

**SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE**

*“The only qualifications for a Notre Dame lineman are to be big and dumb. To be a back, you only have to be dumb.” ~Knut Rockne*

*“I think we’re doing all the things necessary to put us in position to win a national championship. . . . There’s a lot of teams that are saying they are competing for a national championship, but there’s only probably a dozen or so that can actually do it. . . . I think we have put ourselves in position, physically, on the offensive line and defensive line to compete nationally. We’re in a really good position in terms of all the other pieces, infrastructure, maintaining your staff, things of that nature that go to continuity. . . . We need a couple of elite playmakers. . . I think we’ve got them, they’ve got to show themselves.” ~Brian Kelly*

*“They see him coming. He’s not invisible.” ~Kirby Smart on George Pickens*

On Saturday there was no first-quarter drama. Arkansas State was the designated cupcake, and as Georgia Tech and Tennessee can tell you, that means an easy outing to reward the 4<sup>th</sup> stringers for their hard work in practice. According to Coach Smart said on the post-game radio show, we out-athleted them throughout the game. According to Little Woolly, we made it look easy. A cupcake indeed.

But: Arkansas State brought a bigger challenge to Sanford Stadium on Saturday than The o-2 FCS Citadel brought to Historic Grant Field. According to the Red Wolves’ preseason forecast, “The Arkansas State offense gets back six starters after leading the Sun Belt in total offense and averaging over 30 points per game. . . . [Quarterback]

Bonner might not throw for close to 3,500 yards like [last year's starter] Hansen did, but he'll push the ball down the field because the receiving corps will be among the best in the Sun Belt." They are not a bad team, just an overmatched one. Just like the team Collins left behind, Temple, in its matchup with emerging national power and unstoppable scoring machine Maryland. The Owlmeister is smiling bigly these days. If only Miami had lost.

My main addition to the reams of praise raining down on UGA after the shutout concerns the perimeter blocking. All that throwing and running to the outside showed that we have a lot of speed and playmaking ability when we get to the edge. But those plays all were possible because of the ferocious blocking by the wideouts. On Blaylock's long TD, they kept showing replays of him romping to the endzone, without zooming back to show the blocks Lawrence Cager threw that took out two defenders and gave Dom an open sideline. That play, and many others, helps to amplify the often-made point that you can catch all you want, but if you can't block on this team, you'll be watching guys who can.

I'd also not underestimate the development of the defense. There's a lot of talent out there. Remember over the summer when Otis Reese was a threat to beat out Richard LeCounte for starting safety? Reese was mopping up on Saturday after newcomer Lewis Cine got the competitive reps ahead of him. The rotations keep sending fresh athletes onto the field, some of them from the latest wave of recruits to hit town. The schedule will now allow us to see just how good they are against guys who can come closer to matching their recruiting profiles.

Yah, it was just Arkansas State. We're supposed to blow them out. Right, Gooff?

Next up: Notre Dame. It's Brother Willie's annual visit to take in them Dawgs. The ladies will stay home and binge on NASCAR, and I hope all the local pizza delivery services have stocked up with extra pork rind toppings and buckets of Mountain Dew. Brother Willie is nearly undefeated in his trips to Sanford Stadium, with only losses to LSU following the Smellebration Call and the hideous loss to Alabama in a downpour soiling his record. I expect him to bring us more luck and joy this weekend with another W on his ledger.

### **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 Kirby Smart Family Foundation** will help those people encountering hardships in our community. The Kirby Smart Family Foundation enthusiastically supports those battling misfortune so that they can become victors over their

circumstances. Their mission: To be champions in our community by supporting and giving back to needy children and families facing adversity.

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### **SAT PREP SESSION**

SAT Question of the Week: What do Justin Fields, Jacob Eason, Luke Ford, Brenton Cox, JJ Holloman, Deangelo Gibbs, Jaden Hunter, Tray Bishop, and Matthew Downing all have in common?

- A. Each decided to come to UGA to play for Sam Pittman.
- B. Each had an insatiable taste for the wacky tobacco.
- C. Each was granted immediate eligibility after transferring to another program.
- D. Each has dedicated this season to his mama.

Answer: Each may count against UGA's graduation rate, depending on whether they left:

1. in good academic standing (would have met NCAA's and school's progress-toward-degree standards)
2. in poor academic standing (e.g., SA's GPA or credit accumulation does not have them on-track to graduate in 5 years or less)

Assuming that these calculations are every bit as precise as the rules governing eligibility-upon-transfer, our graduation rate may be affected by the competitiveness of our program and likelihood that guys will transfer annually in hopes they can play more elsewhere. And, of course, the 5-year window is only for athletes. [Graduation rates for the rest of the university are typically calculated over a 6-year span.](#)

### **DAWG DOOTS**

- ☞ Actual dialogue on Last Chance U upon the dismissal of a player:  
Head Coach: "It is what it is."  
Assistant Coach: "You gotta do what you gotta do."
- ☞ [Jeremy Pruitt sure knows how to charm the media.](#)
- ☞ But worry not. He's got the SEC's #10 recruiting class on the way, assuming the good ones don't bail out unless their principal goal is playing time and not winning.
- ☞ You know you're in the SEC when [a football site publishes its early-season hot seat analysis](#), and 3 of the 8 coaches (Pruitt, Luke at Ole Miss, Morris at Arkansas) are from the league, along with Muschamp having "just missed this list, at least for now."
- ☞ NFL broadcasts have often included attention to a player's prior teams, as in, "Nick Foles, the former Philadelphia Eagle..." And these days, many a college player is introduced in the same fashion, as in, "Kelly Bryant, the former Clemson Tiger...."

### **DAWGMEISTER SPECIAL: QB/RB COMBOS**

This season's team features a quarterback and running back from the same recruiting class who will both go down as historically great in the program and league. One night

when Mrs. Butts was out late playing bingo, I did some investigating to see how Fromm/Swift stack up against the program's history, or the history beginning with 1980, the year Hershel Walker signed and the earliest year I could find listings in my admittedly brief and lazy search.

I next present a chart listing every QB/RB set from 1980-2019 (not including transfers like Greyson Lambert). I think this year's combo ranks with any other we've had. Stafford and Moreno were quite a pair and would be hard to top, going #1 and #12 in the NFL draft as early-outs. The great running backs in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century didn't seem to get paired with an equally outstanding QB, though I didn't see a lot of those teams so can't say with authority. But I'd put the 2017 haul up against just about anybody, and perhaps on par with Stafford/Moreno, unless "Hershel and anyone" will always be your winner.

Then there's 2015, when we didn't sign a QB at all, and Tae Crowder (soon moved to LB after coming in as a 2-3 star prospect and nation's consensus overall 1,868<sup>th</sup> best recruit) was the only RB. No matter how great a linebacker he became, he was a consolation prize as a RB recruit.

One observation: They sure didn't have the Internet or even recruiting coverage, back in the day when we might sign 4 QBs and 6 RBs in one class (1984) without any of them knowing about one another till they read the paper the next day.

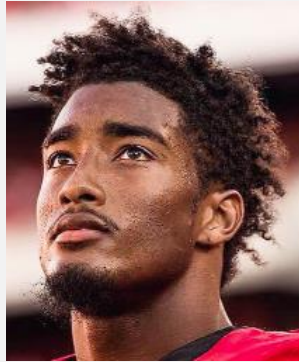
YEAR	QUARTERBACKS	RUNNING BACKS
1980	Charlie Dean, Daryl Jones, Tommy Lewis, Mark McKay	Hershel Walker, Barry Young, Scott Williams
1981	Danny Greene, John Dewberry, Andre Holmes	Tron Jackson
1982	Kurt Barnes, Jamie Harris, John Little, Todd Williams	Don Leeburn III, Keith Montgomery, Bill O'Leary
1983	Mike Brown, David Dukes, Pat Randall	Fred Lane, David McCluskey, Warren Newson
1984	Robert Cantrell, James Jackson, Bobby Wilks, John Thomas	Cleveland Gary, Kevin Jackson, James Jackson, Lars Tate, Tony Mangram, Greg Williams
1985	Rusty Beasley, Joey Hester, Brad Lockridge	Keith Henderson, Tim Worley
1986	Nobody	Rick Lane, Alfred Rawls
1987	Sean Hummings, Derrick Harris, Greg Talley, Pat Rinard	Rodney Hampton, Chuck Carswell, Brian Cleveland, Lowry Denty, Alphonso Ellis
1988	Preston Jones	Tommy Cox, Tony Simmons
1989	Jason Palmer, Chad Wilson	Mack Strong, Bennie Wilson
1990	Joe DuPree, Drew David	Garrison Hurst, Frank Harvey, Mike Thornton; Bill Montgomery listed as QB/RB
1991	Jeff Thomas, Eric Zeier	Wilson Kauvaka
1992	Brian Smith	Marisa Simpson, Sterling Boyd, Terrell Davis
1993	Mike Bobo, Kojara Ransom	Selma Callaway
1994	Hines Ward	George Lombard, Larry Bowie, Dave Williams
1995	Earl Chambers, Jon England	Robert Arnaud, Odell Collins, Dale Harp, Torin Kirtsey
1996	Mike Usry	Patrick Pass, Brett Millican
1997	Labrone Mitchell, Daniel Cobb	Nick Callaway, Audrell Grace
1998	Quincy Carter, Nate Hybl, Regan Torbert	Jaspar Sanks

1999	Nobody	DeJuan Green, Bruce Thornton
2000	David Greene	Musa Smith, Albert Hollis
2001	D.J. Shockley	Mike Gilliam, Tony Milton
2002	Joe Tereshinski	Michael Cooper
2003	Nobody	Kregg Lumpkin
2004	Blake Barnes	Brannon Southerland, Danny Ware
2005	Joe Cox	Nobody
2006	Matthew Stafford	Knowshon Moreno, Shaun Chapas
2007	Logan Gray	Caleb King
2008	Nobody	Richard Samuel, Dontavious Jackson, Carlton Thomas
2009	Aaron Murray, Zach Mettenberger	Washaun Ealey
2010	Hutson Mason	Ken Malcome, Alexander Ogletree
2011	Christian LeMay	Isaiah Crowell
2012	Faton Bauta	Keith Marshall, Todd Gurley, Quayvon Hicks
2013	Brice Ramsey	A.J. Turman, Brendan Douglass
2014	Jacob Park	Sony Michel, Nick Chubb
2015	Nobody	Tae Crowder
2016	Jacob Eason	Elijah Holyfield, Brian Herrien
2017	Jake Fromm	D'Andre Swift
2018	Justin Fields	Zamir White, James Cook
2019	D'Wan Mathis, Stetson Bennett [JC]	Kenny McIntosh

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

UGA has reclaimed its RBU reputation after a long series of 4-5 star recruits who lived up to their billing. They've also brought in a few more lightly regarded guys who don't run 4.4 forties or light up the summer camps, but come in and earn their way onto the field through talent, focus, and hard work. Guys like **Brian Herrien**, a 3-star talent who was overshadowed in his own class by Elijah Holyfield, a 4-star recruit, and the future NFL backs already on the roster. Brian came to UGA from Douglasville as a late addition. But he surprised everyone by playing his way into the rotation early, showing speed, toughness, and a few moves, and earning the respect of his coaches and teammates. The following spring he earned the Coffee County Hustle Award and a game ball, demonstrating the respect he'd won from his teammates and coaches. He has stayed through four years as a reserve, instead of transferring to a school where he might be the featured back. Even without a major role, he'll leave Athens as a 1,000 yard rusher with a career average of over 5 yards per carry—pretty good for a guy backing up some of the best players ever to suit up between the hedges. As he's matured, he's become more of a banger, at times providing the most physical runs our backs have delivered. He's also made the most of his education and is scheduled to earn a psychology degree from UGA. To win championships, every team needs program guys like Brian Herrien. He busts his tail in practice, doesn't sulk when other guys get the call, plays his position, and supports his teammates. Coach Smart has said that for each player, it's his job to do his job. The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing. Helping his team win is the main thing, and it's his job to make the team better by doing his job. Without guys like Brian Herrien working hard for the benefit of the team, there wouldn't be much of a team. He might not have lit up the Internet when he signed, but

he's leaving the program as an important contributor of the sort we just can't do without.



## **THE FORECAST**

### **DAWGS VS. NOTRE DAME**

Finally! The Dawgs have better players, better coaches, better fans, and better uniforms. Notre Dame has tradition in the national imaginary, but this is the SEC, not their annual schedule of playing teams on off-weeks in games that don't affect the standings. ND has always claimed that they have such a tough schedule because it's every opponent's Super Bowl, which is a narcissistic way of interpreting opponents' non-conference games. Of course, it's a big game, the biggest of the day on the national scoreboard. The Dawgs finally have something to practice for other than getting the backups into the game. ND made it close in South Bend a couple of years ago with Fromm the new, untested kid playing way too early and with little preparation. This time, it won't be so close. Irish fans, you thought Terry Godwin was a terror. Meet George Pickens. Dawgs 31, Dames 17.

### **NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: AUBURN OVER TEXAS A&M**

Of course, the national game of the week will be played between the hedges. This one's next best. Malzahn entered the season on the hot seat and has cooled it off, but playing through the West requires that the Tigers come to play every week. TAMU showed that it's a long ways from being Clemson, but should give Auburn a game. But not enough. War Eagle! 33-30.

### **NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: AIR FORCE OVER BOISE STATE**

Boise's off to an excellent start, though [beating FSU ain't what it used to be](#). Taggart is also on that hot seat list, perhaps only saved by the \$17 million buyout Free Shoes U. will owe him if they fire him. But I digress. These service academies can be a very tough out, and I suspect Boise might be feeling a little overconfident now that they're ranked. Can't do that with these guys. I'll take the Real Air Raid, the one that moves on the ground: Falcons 38, Broncos 31.