

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:  
DAWGS ANNIHILATE NEYLAND NIÑOS**

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**SEPARATED@BIRTH?**



**JEREMY PRUITT &  
BULL-HEADED  
JACKASS**



**.45 BULLET  
FULL METAL  
JACKET**

**SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE**

I got home late from the epic battle with Notre Dame, then had to rise at 5AM to catch a plane to Mexico. My mission: to meet all week with Kim Jong Un to discuss how to build a section of The Wall out of his hair. The Brylcreem alone should make at least part of the barrier impenetrable. It's too bad the rest will consist of slats, because dengue-carrying mosquitos will have unabated access to our wanton flesh. I've got a meeting next month with Dennis Rodman to plan the next stage of construction.

On the shuttle from parking to the airport terminal, I shared a van with people who had also taken in the game, which is now ensconced in program lore just a week after Jake took a knee for the last time. One of the guys on the van said, "It was a great game, but we were terrible." His wife said that she needs to strap him to a board for a few days after every game to keep him from calling in the talk shows and airing his views on the coaches' extensive failures in game planning and execution. I checked his DNA to see if he was related to The Scowlmeister, but no, he was an independent contractor for pessimism about UGA football. "What's with the coaches only playing four running backs? And why didn't they go for it on 4<sup>th</sup>-and-1? How'd Notre Dame complete so many passes? Where was the pass rush?" Thank you for your support.

Later The Scowlmeister, too, opined that the environment was incredible, but that the team had played beneath expectations. Special teams, insufficient pass rush, an offense that took a half to get traction.....a disappointing showing, in spite of the W.

Brother Willie and I saw it quite differently. No doubt, the punting units will need some attention if we're going to demolish every team we play. But otherwise, I thought we played an inspired night of football against a team that really came to play, was well-coached and well-prepared, and that has some superior athletes. For me to say that about Notre Dame, they must have played a hell of a game. And they did.

And so did UGA. The Dawg defense played lights out. ND's first TD was a gift from the punt return unit, and their field position was a gift from our punting team. ND's average yards per carry and yards per pass were microscopic all night. We got superb play from the front seven and its endless waves of contributors, and when the secondary had to dig deep into the depth chart for corners, they kept delivering for the most part. ND did have some gainers, but you can't play the #7 team and shut them out and hold them to zero yards. The pass rush wasn't devastating till the end, but we were back in coverage and mostly rushing four, which isn't going to put the fear of God or The Scowlmeister into their bones. And with a short passing game, mostly underneath crossing routes and tight end quickies, you won't get to the QB a whole lot.

But the pass rush really got after it when it mattered toward the end. Tyrique McGhee's corner blitz on their fleaflicker forced Book to roll out and throw to the sideline. I keep reading about Reed's outstanding pick, and surely it was. But without McGhee's pressure, Book wouldn't have made that throw. Nolan Smith and Jermaine Johnson rushed with their hair on fire with the game on the line. Even if we didn't create tons of havoc in their backfield, we came with pressure as the game wore on. It's hard to show out much better than that.

The offense started slowly but played a solid second half. Swift and Herrien were tough as nails, the OL did well no matter who limped off the field. Swift deserves all the credit he's gotten, but when I watched the game again on YouTube, I kept thinking, that Herrien is a warrior. It helped to have Jake Fromm executing with precision and confidence. I've read how the perimeter blocking wasn't as effective as it had been, but good Lord, this wasn't Arkansas State or Vandy. I've always thought that early-season stats were meaningless, because the competition is often outmatched. It does matter which athlete you're blocking. It's a bit myopic to think that the competition doesn't matter when evaluating performances. I'll take the performance we got. I thought the team was magnificent.

Before the game, J.R. Reed was quoted as saying, "Ian Book, he's a great quarterback, it really shows up on film that he loves extending plays, he can run the ball really well. He reminds me a lot of Johnny Manziel. We're going to have to watch out for him to be able to contain him."

One of the pre-game radio broadcasters said that if Ian Book led ND in rushing, they were in for a long game. With 18 yards on the ground, he was their #2 rusher behind Tony Jones, with 21 yards on 9 carries. Anyone who's complaining about our showing, think about that. That's what's called owning the line of scrimmage. The Dawgs weren't perfect, but they played with heart and toughness against a fierce and determined

opponent. I couldn't be prouder. If iron sharpens iron, we got sharper against this competition.

And yes, the crowd really made a difference. I could barely hear Foghorn Bullhorn above the noise. The only game between the hedges I can recall that rivals the ND game for crowd volume were the 2013 game vs. LSU, a 44-41 win for good guys; and the 2007 Blackout Game vs. Auburn, circa 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, where the stadium rocked.

It was a great weekend to be a Georgia Bulldog!



*The Great Wall of Georgia, circa 2018 before it got really good, keeping Jake clean vs. FCS opponent*

*“I think ‘Titanic’ came out maybe when I was in college. When the boat starts going down, remember all the mice running to the top, right? We have had a few that left our program, but you will figure out who wants to be a Tennessee Vol and who don't. I can tell you this: I want to. I know the standards and expectations that we have and the men on our staff and the character that we have. You will see the best of the players at Tennessee throughout the year.” ~Jeremy Pruitt after 0-2 start, and before more Vols entered the transfer portal*

*“You can't always get what you want.” ~The Rolling Stones*

I saw Tennessee get manhandled by Georgia State. I don't think they've gotten a whole lot bigger and stronger since then. [They are holding steady on the character question](#), though. I suspect that their stadium will have a lot of red in the seats, because going to their games has got to be painful. Florida made them look like the junior high reserve team, and they played a guy at QB whose last start was barely removed from junior high.

[As Knox News put it](#): “Tennessee's top rival is either Alabama or Florida, depending on the age of the Vols fan you ask. Given the way the last 15 years have gone, those rivalries have lost their sizzle. Perhaps the newest generation of Vols fans will grow up thinking

Vanderbilt is UT's top rival. At least that should be an evenly matched game when those teams meet."

I remember when UGA fans tore down the goalposts about 20 years ago because we finally beat Tennessee. It'll be a while before they pose much of a threat to anyone. The UT administration has been trying to Make Tennessee Great Again since they fired Phil Fulmer for not having won any national championships lately, after he went 152-52 over 16 seasons in a conference where Steve Spurrier was coaching.

They've now cycled through Lane Kiffin (7-6), Derek Dooley (15-21), Butch Jones (30-21), and Jeremy Pruitt (5-7, going on 5-15), along with Jim Chaney (1-0) and Brady Hoke (0-2) in interim roles. How's that for improvement, Vandy East? UT now pays [\\$13.8 million annually in severance payments](#) to these guys, and that's excluding Pruitt's current salary and future severance pay. That's almost as much as [Knox County, TN pays all of its teachers' salaries each year](#). I know blind pigs who could invest their money better than that.

### **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*

**FoodFinder** is a safe, secure and award-winning mobile and web app that gives food-insecure children and their families a way to find free food assistance programs quickly. A news story that ran in 2013 started it all. This segment profiled two children who were living out of truck with their father. They were forced to live there because medical bills for the children's late mother cost the family everything. One, a 12-year-old girl, and her brother, 10 years old, looked like normal kids. Even so, they had to get ready for school in the bathrooms of public libraries and gas stations. They didn't always have food to eat every night. Even as the economy was improving after the Great Recession, the problems facing the least fortunate in America had not improved at all. Jack Griffin, a Georgia high school student at the time, saw this news story and decided to do something about it. He wanted to help kids like the ones he saw on TV but around where he went to school and around where he lived. He initially searched online for places to volunteer at, but the results he found weren't what he was expecting. His search ended up at a bunch of confusing websites, none of which gave him a clear answer as to how, when, or where he could help. This seemed entirely more complicated than it needed to be. Jack thought to himself, "What if I was a kid who actually needed the help that these shelters and pantries offer?" He then had a peculiar idea: Instead of volunteering somewhere, maybe I could help families in need by making it as easy as it should be to find food pantries, kitchens, and shelters. And that's how FoodFinder was born.

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## DAWG DOOTS

- Q: Why do Tennessee fans wear orange?
- A. So they can dress that way for the game on Saturday, go hunting on Sunday, and pick up trash on Monday.
- “At Duke we feel like I will be able to get the best of both worlds education-wise and on the court playing on the biggest stage possible night in and night out. I will get to chase my goals and be one step closer to my dream of playing in the NBA. Also, I will be able to develop as a person off the court as well as a player while playing under the most winningest coach in history, Coach K.” ~ Five-star guard DJ Steward on the year he’ll spend at Duke

### SAT PREP SESSION

SAT Question of the Day: What does President Trump call Jeremy Pruitt?

- A. Sad
- B. Disgusting
- C. Nasty
- D. Crooked
- E. Dotard
- F. Not good
- G. Pathetic
- H. Fake football coach
- I. Fired!

Answer: Nothing. President Trump only associates with winners.

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

What are the odds of a 6’-2”, 280 pound, 3-star offensive lineman from a small private school, his state’s #45 prospect and 678<sup>th</sup> best overall recruit in his class, becoming a multiple-year starter and then a captain of the Super Bowl champions? Pretty slim, I suspect. **David Andrews** pulled it off, however, when he committed to the G in 2011 and proceeded to be the roadgrader for some outstanding, record-setting offenses. He came out of UGA the way he entered: underrated. He went undrafted, signed with New England, and has been wearing Super Bowl rings ever since. His formula for success has remained constant throughout this process: “There’s always things you’ve got to improve on. I think first, the biggest thing, is that you’ve got to be in the best shape that you can. You’ve got to work out and do all these football things and run, but especially for an offensive lineman it’s just hard to simulate the kind of shape you need to be in. So that’s definitely a big thing, and then I think also just getting back into your technique and working on your technique. Kind of looking at ‘Alright, here’s what I did last year.’ There’s some things I did good on and there’s some things I really need to focus on, whether that might be hand placement and things like that.” The consummate teammate, David is quick to credit his fellow OL for whatever success the team has: “We have a great room, and we definitely have to just bring each other along. I think that’s

what makes our group special is that we're doing a good job of that." It's also special for Dawg fans to see him doing the jazz hands thing with Sony Michel in NFL endzones, an increasingly common spectacle. A veteran of the Richt, Bobo, and Friend system at UGA, David finds himself welcome with the Smart regime: "Coach Smart does a great job of making us feel welcome, which means a lot because he was a player there and so he gets it and understands how much that place means to a lot of us. Obviously I never played for Coach Smart . . . but he treats me like I played for him for four years. I'm definitely grateful for that, I love those coaches over there. Coach Pittman is the same way. I never played with him but he treats me like Coach Smart does. It's been awesome just to watch them from afar and see the great things that they're doing." David has done some great things himself after being evaluated at critical stages of his career as only good. He's now fighting physical problems, and when he recovers I think he'll do even greater as he anchors the OL of the greatest franchise in modern sports history.



## **THE FORECAST**

### **DAWGS VS. TENNESSEE**

You know a program is in trouble when the coach constantly talks about how young the players are. Georgia's team is also very young. As reported in the AJC after 3 games, the Dawgs had played:

- Redshirt or grad transfer seniors: 9
- Seniors: 7
- Redshirt juniors: 5
- Juniors: 15
- Redshirt sophomores: 13
- Sophomores: 11
- Redshirt freshmen: 12
- Freshmen: 21

Of course, blowouts let a lot more freshmen onto the field, including walkons, and many will never play otherwise. But many key players at UGA are underclassmen. Several will be three-and-outs, minimizing their opportunities as upperclassmen, but that just makes the team eternally young.

But to Pruitt, UT's youth accounts for their abysmal team. The Pruitt Effect that once seemed to lift Mark Richt's program in Athens appears to work at the level of finding

excuses for crappy play in Knoxville. UT young team, meet UGA's young team. Best of luck trying to stop them. Dawgs 48, Vols 10.

### **NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: AUBURN OVER FLORIDA**

It's hard to imagine that Florida had 2 guys on the depth chart who couldn't beat out Feleipe Franks. Now they will have to find out what they've got in a 2-star kid and 4-star guy who's never been able to play past the worst QB since Reggie Ball, although Jarrett Guarantano, if he still has the job, is a contender, as long as he can stay ahead of the guy who answers the phone like this:



Trask appears to be the winner of the competition at Florida, and here's his rating coming out of HS, where he didn't start: #92 Pro-style QB, #262 player in Texas, #2,123 recruit at all positions. Well, maybe there was a reason Mullen kept playing Franks. Auburn heads to the Swamp in good shape to come out with a W and stay in it in the West, and I think they will. Tigers over Gators, 31-17.

### **NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: CAL OVER OREGON**

It's always interesting to return to previous years' recruiting rankings and see who got listed where. Justin Herbert, considered by many to be the top NFL QB prospect in next year's draft, was the #26 Pro-style QB in his class ([the same list that put Trask at #92](#)). The top 5? In order: Shea Patterson, Jacob Eason, K.J. Costello, Malik Henry, and Feleipe Franks. Two of them transferred, 2 were starters before getting hurt, and 1 was so uncoachable he bounced from FSU to JUCO to oblivion, then back to JUCO to oblivion again to walking on at Nevada to playing behind a true freshman.

It's tempting to talk about how weak the PAC-12 is, but then every Power 5 conference seems to have dipped this season, at least in the lower half of the standings. Oregon is the league's best hope, but won't go unbeaten even in this league. Cal comes to town and goes out a winner: Bears over Ducks, 41-40.