

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:  
DAWGS COLDCOCK COLD COCKS**

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**SEPARATED@BIRTH?**



**WILLFULLY  
INSANE  
WILL MUSCHAMP**



**& FRIGHTFULLY  
NOT TAME  
UGLY DOG**

**SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE**



*In a Dawgmeister Exclusive Interview after the game, Nate McBride expresses his opinion of the facemask call against him in the fourth quarter*

I guess it speaks to the state of Tennessee football that playing us close for nearly a half makes them feel good. TE Austin Pope put it like this: “For us, the scoreboard doesn’t depict how we feel, obviously. Definitely in the first half, we had the lead and we were pounding the ball. We were making really good plays, so I thought it was, overall, a really good game.”

Saturday's game was a blowout, but a little short of a beatdown. After all, it was close for 27 minutes, till defensive stops produced offensive points and we pulled away. After that it was a wear-down, as the talent differential played out over 60 minutes, till late when we had the end of the 3-deep in against their starters and they got some yards.

The Dawgmeister's Player of the Game: Julian Rochester, who has been getting in shape and recovering from an injury, and who got the call when Jordan Davis went down and J-Roch rallied to help shut down Tennessee's running game and occupy blockers so the Havoc Creators could get to the passer.

Jake Fromm played well too.

Before the season I wondered which player would emerge from obscurity to become a critical part of the team. It turns out he had been in the program for three years: Justin Shaffer. Justin came in as a 3-star OG prospect in need of a conditioning program. At 6'-4", 360 pounds, he looked like a Sam Pittman project, but he ended up lettering as a true freshman and has been a solid reserve ever since, playing ahead of some mighty highly-ranked players his whole time in the program. He even helped send his much more highly-regarded HS teammate Netori Johnson to the defensive line in a quest for snaps. At a now-svelte 330 pounds, on Saturday Justin stepped in for Solomon Kindley and kept Jake Fromm's uniform clean in the pocket, and helped power a solid run game. That's one good Dawg to have on your team.

We're now five games in, 2 against non-conference cupcakes, 2 against SEC bottom-feeders, and 1 against a rugged ND team. The team is starting to take shape. The big preseason question marks were the defensive line and the receiving corps. I'd say that the DL is playing great football. We are stuffing the run and getting into the backfield. Before Saturday, UGA was ranked #5 nationally in rush defense, giving up 57 yards per game, 2.3 yards per attempt, and zero touchdowns. UT got 70 yards on the ground, and 2.4 yards per carry, but much of that came on their late drive against the third team D. And no TDs. Both Herrien and Swift outrushed Tennessee, and Zamir White wasn't far behind. Our DL may not have a single dominant player the way Derrick Brown is for Auburn, but we keep the rotation fresh with guys who play hard because their snaps are limited. Question Mark #1 has turned out to be a major strength.

Then there was the hand-wringing over the receivers, with high-end attrition and a lot of new parts to work in. It turns out that we've got so much talent out there that Fromm has his pick of great targets at every level of every progression. He connected with 9 receivers on Saturday, without hitting Blaylock or Jackson. It helps that the OL gives him so much protection. But those guys can run patterns, catch the ball, and block on the edge. Another concern has become an asset.

We still have a puzzling difficulty on short-yardage runs, possibly because defenses are stacking the box. I had the brilliant idea of running jet sweeps in those situations to get a fast guy outside the box and up the sideline....but we did exactly that against ND, and their LB read the play and tackled Cook for a loss. And James Coley has stopped taking my calls ever since. At this point my only stab at a solution is to run Zamir White on

those plays because he's such a jackhammer. We'll see what we do as we hit mid-season form and the coaches evaluate their options.

The only part of the team that's not working is the punting unit, with weekly shanks giving opponents short fields. I know they're trying to figure it out, and so am I. It's the one part of our program that has yet to work reliably in the last season and a half.

### **SAT PREP SESSION**

SAT Question of the Week #1: What do Justin Fields, 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 because of 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, at the time of their departure, he was:

1. in good academic standing (would have met NCAA's and school's progress-toward-degree standards)
2. in poor academic standing (e.g., the student athlete'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.](#)

### **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*

***Bulldogs Battling Breast Cancer*** was founded by Jay and Teresa Abbott after Teresa's 18-month fight against Breast Cancer. Bulldogs Battling Breast Cancer's goal is to fight Breast Cancer through early detection and assistance to women in need who may not have the resources to get the services they need to fight this disease. With the help of then-UGA Football Coach Mark Richt and the UGA Football Team in 2004, the 1st Annual Bulldogs Battling Breast Cancer Charity Golf Tournament was organized by Bulldogs Battling Breast Cancer. [DONATE HERE](#)

## **DAWG DOOTS**

- ☞ Will Muschamp is only going to dress half of his players for the game this week. The other half will have to dress themselves.
- ☞ [Not for the faint of heart](#): a withering portrait of Tennessee, starring Phil Fulmer as the primary villain. The writer seems to be the sort that thrives on negativity, like Jeff Schultz or his protégé Michael Cunningham. But good lord.
- ☞ Last week when Mrs. Butts was out bowling with the ladies, I caught the episode of [Saturdays in the South](#) that focused on the early 1980s. If you like footage of #34, it's a good ride.
- ☞ Congratulations to Temple, which at 4-1 is shaping up as Gooff Collins's dream job, once he rebuilds 1-4 Georgia Tech and wants to move up.
- ☞ Note to Greg McGarity: Probably, don't book Snoop Dogg for halftime entertainment.

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

**Whit Marshall** played linebacker for the Lovett School in Atlanta before heading to UGA in the mid-nineties. After being drafted in the fifth round of the 1996 NFL draft, Whit played with Philadelphia and Atlanta, with stops in Indiana and Frankfort of the World League of American Football. After leaving the game, he became a builder, and recently has gotten attention for his generosity and dedication to the UGA community, along with a few others. Now the Founding Partner and CEO of Paran Homes in Duluth, Whit has stepped up to show that being a business leader can co-exist with having a big heart and benevolent spirit. When Devon Gales suffered a devastating injury between the hedges while playing for visiting Southern University, the Dawg Nation responded by inviting him in. Whit has now helped him stay around by donating an acre of land at the company's Traditions of Braselton development in Jackson County for the family to build a home on. Said Whit, "We are a Georgia family and feel privileged to play a small role in helping this project become a reality. Devon and his family have been through a lot over the last two years and continue to persevere and keep such a positive attitude under these difficult circumstances. They deserve to be together. . . . The Gale Family has faced a difficult challenge for the last few years and they deserve a break. We've got the lot, a terrific design-build team in place, and a vast network of subcontractors ready and willing to do what's needed to complete this vision. To help fund this project, I'm calling on my fellow University of Georgia alumni to step forward and join me in providing this incredible young man and his family with a very special place to call home. . . . I feel privileged to be part of the Build for Devon team." This sort of charity is not unique for Whit. He's donated a lot in their Barrington Pointe community in Tennessee to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Paran Homes has also participated in such events as the Toys for Tots drive, collecting hundreds of new, unwrapped toys for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program to brighten the holiday for children in need. Says Whit: "When we design and build our homes, we have this image in mind of the happy families who will one day live there. The truth is that—when faced with financial challenges, childhood illnesses or other catastrophic events—not every day is happy in the lives of so many families. With that in mind, my team and I—many of whom have families of our own—strive to do what we can for all of our neighbors in

hopes that one day soon, the happy days will far outweigh the bad.” A corporate conscience: that’s the epitome of what the Dawg Good Guy is all about.



## **THE FORECAST**

### **DAWGS VS. SOUTH CAROLINA**

SC just hasn’t turned the corner. Ever. They’ve got great and devoted fans and little in the way of championships to show for it. There’s even an ACC team in their own state that’s better than they are. I kinda like Will Muschamp as long as he’s had his rabies shots updated, but this won’t be his weekend. Dawgs 41, Gamecocks 17.

### **NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: OKLAHOMA OVER TEXAS**

This is one of those games that has been a big game since World War II, when OU dedicated itself to building a football program that led President George Lynn Cross to say that he would someday “like to build a University of which the football team could be proud.” Texas, of course, thinks it invented football, which they’d dispute at Princeton and Rutgers, although Rutgers may now have disavowed any knowledge of this football game you speak of. Anyhow, Oklahoma has been piling it up lately, and Texas’s defense has been giving it up. I’ll go with the team that might just score on every possession: Sooners 51, Horns 41.

### **NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: ILLINOIS OVER MICHIGAN**

Illinois is no Army. They’ve been terrible even longer than Rutgers. Is this the year that Lovie Smith shows that Jim Harbaugh’s coaching is as sweet as his personality? I’m banking on it. The Fighting Illini have Wolverine stew, and the Michigan fan base stews a bit more. A fangroup petitions the NCAA to allow Tom Brady to be player-coach. But it’s too late for Saturday. U of I 17, U of M 14.

*The Dawgmeister Wagering Service is now accepting Litecoin as a currency.*