

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
DAWGS COME TO JESUS, COME TO THE REALIZATION THAT
OTHER TEAMS WANT TO WIN TOO, AND COME TO PLAY**

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SEPARATED@BIRTH?



**WILDCAT JOY & WILD FRAT BOY
JOHN CALIPARI & BRETT KAVANAUGH**

SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE

“We had a bad day. Now we have to make sure we don't have another one.” ~Kirby Smart, post-game

The home team was unbeaten and heavily favored against an opponent with a losing record. But the first half was a struggle. In the stands people said, Surely we'll wear them down with size and talent and pull away in the second half. And sure enough, they did. The final score: Princeton 28, Lafayette 3.

And then there was the utterly inexplicable game in Athens. I assume that a 4-0 turnover differential in a 2 OT game would explain a lot. But so much is hard to figure.

Most of us walked into the stadium confident and relaxed, our only concern being whether or not we could beat the ridiculous spread. What we got was Vanderbilt 2016 Redux. The big difference is that then, Coach Smart was transforming the roster to meet the needs of his schemes, and the season overall was uneven and disappointing. This is now Kirby's program altogether, filled with talent he recruited and expectations he created. Losing this one feels like a much bigger loss than the Vandy game of Kirby's first year.

“There was a team here today that showed up ready to go, mentally and emotionally. That team was not us.” ~Kirby Smart, post-game

There was talk on the radio before the game about the team not being ready to play, that the noon start seemed to create a sleepy vibe for the game. It wouldn't be the first time this season that we've gotten off to a slow start. And SC was starting at noon too.

But after SC's opening 3-and-out followed by a drive that produced points, it looked as though the game would be as beautiful as the fall afternoon. And then the struggle began. For most of the rest of the game, our offense rarely seemed to click. And Kirby Smart said it best: "I (also) felt like (South Carolina) won the line of scrimmage. They played really physical, they rotated guys up front and did a better job against our run game than most people have, as anybody who has done in the past."

Imagine us in their situation: Fromm and Bennett down with injuries, and Nathan Priestly quarterbacking the team on the road against a favored opponent. Their QBs didn't turn the ball over or make mistakes, and got enough points to win. My hat's off to them.

"Some days things just don't feel quite right. Today was one of those days." ~Jake Fromm, post-game

My role as Dawgmeister is not to criticize our team, because every person associated with the program knows more about football than I do. I'm not among the 93,000 head coaches in the stands who believe that they know the game better than Kirby Smart or his staff, are astounded when 20-year-olds make mental mistakes, and think that UGA deserves to win because they root for them and feel personally betrayed by coaches and players when the team loses. I'll simply observe that one criticism of Mark Richt was that his teams were no-shows annually in must-win games, and that we needed someone whose teams are always ready to play.

"I feel like we didn't come ready to play. South Carolina came in and executed and was more dominant." ~Demetris Robertson, post-game

*Oh, somewhere in this favored land the sun is shining bright,
The band is playing somewhere, and somewhere hearts are light;
And somewhere men are laughing, and somewhere children shout,
But there is no joy in Mudville—mighty Casey has struck out.*

DAWG DOOTS

- 🐾 If there's a silver lining—and it's hard to find one—it's that I don't think that Jake Fromm will leave for the NFL after 3 years. He's got too much pride and moxie to leave with this stinker still in the air.
- 🐾 A guy in my section was adamant that when Ryan Hilinski went to the turf and the medics came out, he was faking the injury the way Notre Dame did to stop our momentum. He persisted with this "fake injury" insight as Hilinski lay pounding his fist into the ground in pain, and then when he limped off the field with help on both sides. I'm not sure how you stop your opponent's offense by having your own QB fake an injury for 5 minutes and then not return to the

game, or how that is just like Notre Dame defenders staying down when they could easily trot off, but that was his opinion and he was sticking to it.

SAT PREP SESSION

SAT Question of the Week: Which of the following predictions did Spencer Rattler make on QB1?

- A. He would start for Oklahoma as a true freshman.
- B. He would be a 3-year starter at Oklahoma, then go to the NFL after his junior year.
- C. He would win three national championships, then go to the NFL after his junior year.
- D. He would beat Texas three straight years, then go to the NFL after his junior year.
- E. He would win three Heisman Trophies, then go to the NFL after his junior year.

Answer: The 3rd string quarterback for Oklahoma made all of these predications.

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

Foreverfamily serves children in Georgia and nationwide who are separated from their parents by prison bars. Foreverfamily works to ensure that, no matter what the circumstances, all children have the opportunity to be surrounded by the love of family. Our organization focuses on providing services to children with incarcerated parents and their families. After 30 years, we are more committed than ever to our mission. We anxiously anticipate strengthening our relationships in the community to serve our children and families in new, innovative ways in 2019.

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

For some, the road to Good Guy recognition takes a winding path. **Jonathan Ledbetter** originally committed out of Tucker HS to Alabama and their energetic defensive coordinator, although that's not the wayward turn I'm referring to here. After flipping to the G, he got off to a rocky start in Athens after arriving as a world-beater DL. He got arrested for underage drinking, including a DUI, and possession of a controlled substance, leading to suspensions (including half of the 2016 season) and the possibility of dismissal from the team and university. That's quite a crossroads in life, and many have a trouble finding the straight and narrow path, especially with the pressures and temptations of being a star athlete. Jonathan, however, decided that instead of heading to the transfer portal or the local hookah parlor, he'd fix his problems and get himself

upright, personally and between the hedges. Making mistakes isn't always a sign of character flaws. As Coach Smart said: "He will tell you there were times of immaturity in his youth during the recruiting stages and even leading into his time at Georgia." Growing up can be difficult, disrupting bad habits can be a challenge, public shaming can be humiliating, and getting back on track can take dedication and resolve. Jonathan's been through it all, and emerged a team leader and example of how to recover from a bad start. His degree in sports management shows that he recovered in the classroom as well as on the field. But it hasn't been easy. He said, "Life is a rollercoaster, man. You're going along for a ride and you never know where it's going to take you. You just have to keep the faith. I went through a bunch of trials and tribulations and I just kept my head on and stayed prayed-up. I talked to God when I could, to Kirby when I could, and my family. All that stuff has just kept me grounded. It's really cool to see how far I've come, but there's really no looking back. I wouldn't change anything. I wouldn't be who I am today without it." J-Led eventually dominated on the field, but that's not why I'm adding him to the Good Guy roster. Rather, it's because, unlike some teammates who got off to similar starts, he got his act together and got his life and career on track. "I don't like to look back," he said. "I just like to keep moving forward and going in the right direction. Everyone has to grow up eventually. Everyone has to mature as you get older and gain experience. You can only get that through life. You can't get it from someone else."



THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. KENTUCKY

UK isn't as good this year as they were last, but they do come to play. Will we? I sure hope so, if only so that [Mark Bradley can't write another gloating article about how we deserve to lose.](#) This is the ignoramus who thinks that UGA has a player named Demetris Robinson, and who is too lazy to read his own paper's coverage to learn that Adam Anderson was tripped to cause the injury to their QB, instead writing incorrectly that Hilinski "suffered a leg injury when Georgia linebacker Adam Anderson hit him low and late." Yet, he's oh-so-critical of the people who coach and play the sports he loves to trash, because for them, every mistake is unforgivable. Here is Bradley's series of column titles during the Braves' series with St. Louis:

[Seen this before? The Braves blow an October game](#)
[Folty outduels Flaherty and maybe saves a season](#)
[Wainwright, Soroka, Swanson: A classic game, a massive win](#)
[The Braves flub a golden chance to end the series](#)
[Even by the Braves' standards, this was historically awful](#)

Incredible winners one day, abysmal losers the next. I've always hated frontrunners who seem personally offended when teams don't win, denying them a sense of achievement by affiliation. Like Bradley, they are self-righteous and judgmental in their coverage of others, while doing a lousy, lazy job of their own. This guy is one of the worst.

But back to UGA football. Losses can benefit teams, but not championship drives. We may well have cooked our own national championship goose on Saturday. If we're to survive this one, we need to win out, and we'll only make the final four if other teams lose when they're heavily favored. But we can still win the East, and the SEC, if we can get our act together. Here we go. Good Guys 31, Those Guys 17.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: PENN STATE OVER MICHIGAN

I watched Michigan vs. Iowa, all 10-3 of it, and don't see Michigan scoring much in this one. Meanwhile PSU has been seeing the endzone quite a bit. Maybe not as much Saturday as usual, but enough to win this one, 21-14.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: TEMPLE OVER SMU

SMU's on the move, but I've got to go with those Owls on Saturday. They've got a solid D, some good skill players, and The Owlmeister, who is recovering from knee surgery so has to watch this one from the couch. How could I go against them? Temple takes control of their destiny, coming home a winner: 24-21.