

THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST: DAWGS SLAM 'DORES

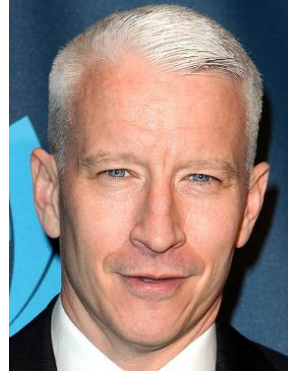
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SEPARATED@BIRTH?



**VAN GUNDY
SUPPORTER
MIKE
BREEN**



**& DAMN FUNKY
REPORTER
ANDERSON
COOPER**

SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE

2020 has been one of the strangest years of my life on this earth.

Watching games on TV always includes the drama of the scrolling news & score updates at the bottom of the screen. This year, the scroll alerts us to the latest game cancelled, or the breaking news on who is infected and sequestered. One of the best teams may not make the tournament because of Covid cancellations. But then when your own coach is infected and in isolation, can you really complain, especially given how ridiculously they wear face masks under their noses, around their necks, and any place but covering their respiratory intake and output openings? Have they heard of the proper way to wear a mask? Even Wags, the family bulldog, knows how to follow CDC protocols.



Which brings me to South Carolina, a team that is down a ton of players, especially on a defensive front that we shredded a week after barely breaking even on the ground just a week before. The plan was to attack the front, and it worked just about every play. As Coach Smart said on his way to the locker room at halftime, they were thin at the line of scrimmage, and the strategy was to blast away and wear them out. We punted once all day. Mission Accomplished.

I'm not especially celebrating the win, no matter how much redemption the players felt from it. I'm happy as hell, just not overly excited about hammering a team that was losing to the point of a mid-season coaching change, and that was struggling to field a competitive defense due to injuries rather than Covid. They played a freshman QB who has moxie and ended the game with a higher passer rating than JT Daniels (70.9 to 59.6, with an interception caused by a Jackson drop no doubt tanking JT's score). Their best player is Kevin Harris, one tough RB from Hinesville, GA, where he was rated in the 247 composite as a 3-star player, the #68 player in the state, and #44 running back in the country. Even with him and his hard runs, SC averaged under 2 yards per carry. I do wish they'd disaggregate sack yardage from running stats; they are unrelated and mask the true numbers of a running game. The adjusted number, discounting sacks, still held them to 2.8 per carry. And that's with Harris running like a bull. That's what happens when your front 7 has 10 tackles behind the line of scrimmage.

We're not a playoff team this year, but may have found the right combination with Daniels in the backfield to restore our confidence in ourselves as an SEC power. We won't know till next year's Florida game if 2020 was an aberration in the East pecking order. Assuming that Kyle Trask takes his Heisman and talents to the NFL, after once being considered the #2 QB at his high school and #92 Pro-style QB in the country, that ascent is very possible. We'll see how we finish, who comes back, and what the next 10 months bring to the equation.

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:

Girls Inc. of Greater Atlanta provides programming through their Center, School, and Community based program partnerships throughout Greater Atlanta. They focus on the development of the whole girl, teaching her to value herself, take risks, and discover and develop her inherent strengths. The combination of long-lasting mentoring relationships, a pro-girl environment, and research-based programming equips girls to navigate gender, economic, and social barriers, and grow up healthy, educated, and independent. Informed by girls and their families, they also advocate for legislation and policies to increase opportunities and rights for all girls.

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DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ QB carousel fallout is so intriguing to follow. Jake Fromm caused Eason and Fields to transfer. Eason was drafted much higher than Fromm, though Fromm was the better college QB. Fields is a Heisman contender and likely top 5 draft pick. And now, Kedon Slovis runs off JT Daniels, who I think will outperform him in college and be the higher draft pick. [Jim Mora has doubts about Slovis too](#). There was a mock draft that had Daniels going in the first round after this year, but how can you go pro after playing 3-5 games in 2 years, and still getting confidence and mobility after a very serious knee injury? He's still shaking off the rust and getting his timing down. I can't imagine him going, or anyone taking him except as a project; whereas after next season, first round is likely. And people in So Cal will be whining about how they kept the wrong guy, the way so many Dawg fans criticize the coaches for playing Fromm and opening the door for Fields to transfer.
- ☞ As both of my readers will recall, last year I guaranteed that Jake Fromm would return for his senior season.
- ☞ After opening the basketball season with losses to Georgia State and Mercer, Georgia Tech is rumored to be negotiating with Urban Meyer to replace Josh Pastner.
- ☞ High school ranking of Jaret Patterson, who ran for 400+ yards and scored 8 TDs on Saturday vs. previously-unbeaten Kent State: 2 stars, #3,158 player nationally, #238 athlete, #47 player in Maryland. He was lower-ranked than his twin brother, James, a linebacker who also signed with Buffalo.
- ☞ Which defensive lineman for UGA had the best day statistically?
- ☞ Answer: Zion Logue (5 tackles, 3 solo, 1 for loss)



Diego Maradona, R.I.P.

SAT PREP SESSION

SAT Question of the Week: What do the following have in common?

Jack Jenkins, Billy Wade, Charlie Horton, Phil King, Tom Moore, Leonard Coleman, Will Wolford, Jay Cutler, and Chris Williams?

- A. Each has sung the National Anthem in a Donald Duck voice before a Vanderbilt home game.
- B. Each has been given the rare, yet prestigious assignment of blowing the foghorn at Commodore Stadium when Vanderbilt scores a touchdown.
- C. Each claims to have invented the rallying cry, Anchor Down!
- D. Each tithed 10% of his earnings to the Commodore Booster Club.

Answer: These 9 Vanderbilt players are the only Commodores ever selected in the first round of the NFL draft, dating to the 1930s.

SEPARATED@BIRTH? BONUS COVERAGE: GET WELL SOON, COACH



**NO PRANKS
NICK SABAN**

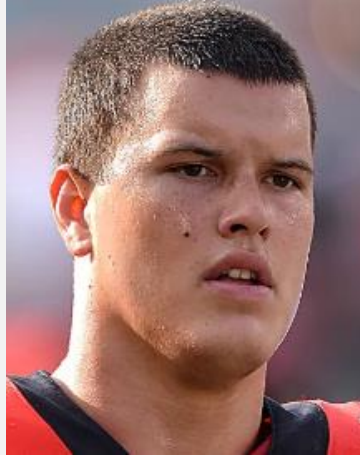
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**NO THANKS
TOM THE TURKEY**

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

Charlie Woerner came to UGA from Rabun County in the Georgia mountains, where he was more likely to be hunting or fishing than showing off in summer football camps. A typical day in the Woerner household: After his brother killed a deer, he said, “We brought it back and skinned it and cleaned it. Then my buddy Eli and I broke open the chest cavity and tore out the heart and went and fried it in the pan and it tasted pretty good.” Don’t expect to see that feast on Instagram; Charlie doesn’t do social media as part of a generally quiet and humble personality. As a result of his low-drama persona and nonexistent media presence, he came out of high school underrated. It probably didn’t help that he was as versatile an athlete as you’ll find, and guys without specific positions often don’t project easily at the next level. In high school he ran out of the backfield, caught passes from every receiver position, and was a standout defensive player in roles as diverse as cornerback, safety, pass rusher, and interior lineman. In the classroom, Charlie didn’t back off from a tough major, graduating with a degree in Economics with the help of the John A. Addison Jr. Family Scholarship, and the Peter and Kay Amann Football Scholarship. His academic work landed him on the 2016-17 First-Year SEC Academic Honor Roll and the SEC Leadership Council; and his effort in

practice and during games earned him the team's Coffee County Hustle Award, Special Teams Most Improved Player award, and Frank Sinkwich Award for being the team's toughest player. That's a lot of mental focus, which will serve him well no matter how much football he's got in his future. There may not be many deer left in Rabun County by the time he's done with them, but his hunger for excellence knows no bounds.



THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. VANDERBILT

It's time for another day of Bombs Away while the anchor stays down. Or maybe this week it's the Ground Raid. Who knows? Vandy's shutout loss to Missouri was highlighted by the one kickoff by Sarah Fuller, which looked rather anemic to me in spite of the national attention it got, and in spite of Derek Mason's claim that, according to one report, "Fuller executed the so-called squib kick exactly as it was designed," and in spite of the fact that Fuller later said that her kick to the 35 yard line meant that "literally you can do anything you set your mind to," which apparently does not include Vanderbilt winning football games.

Poor Derek Mason. The SEC studio guys are talking about what a great coach he is, which means he might be on his way out of this impossible job. Can Vandy's budget absorb the salary, and then find someone who'll do about as well, as South Carolina believes it can? It won't matter on Saturday. The Dawgs wrap up this peculiar season with a W, unless we end up playing Missouri in what has become the National Rescheduled Day: Dawgs 41, Dore's 0.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: RUTGERS OVER PENN STATE

Why this game between non-entities, you ask? Well, have you seen the rest of the schedule?

Both teams are on one game winning streaks. Not much was expected from Rutgers; Penn State entered the season ranked #7 and now has only one win, that being the Bottom Out Bowl against Michigan, a game in which broadcaster Mike Golic spent most of the time talking about what a great coach Harbaugh is and how, if he chooses to leave Michigan, will be on every NFL team's short list. Little Woolly thought that maybe he was on every mall's short list to play Santa next month.

Mrs. Butts was out re-roofing the barn on Saturday, so I decided to see what a slow-motion train wreck looks like. Golic and company went on and on about how finally, Jim Harbaugh had found a “Harbaugh kind of guy” to quarterback his team. He’s been at Michigan for 5 years. Earlier this season the broadcasters were saying that he’d finally found his kind of guy in the strapping Joe Milton. After the game Harbaugh held a press conference in the Ritz-Carlton Feed & Farm Store parking lot in Germfast, Michigan, and demanded a recount, but the reporters present were mainly intrigued by the ooze coming out from his eyeballs throughout his rant.

This game has often been a cupcake on Penn State’s schedule, but this year they’re everyone’s homecoming game except Michigan’s. Who gets to claim a 2-game winning streak? Scarlet Knights 24, Nittany Lions 21.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: AUBURN OVER TEXAS A&M

Another year where Malzahn coaches for his job. TAMU has title aspirations. Auburn got creamed by Alabama on Saturday, which will make them huge underdogs against TAMU and turned up the heat on Gus, who may have accelerated his own demise by bringing in Chad Morris to overhaul the offensive philosophy and call the plays. If I’m only rooting for coaches, I’ll take Gus over Jimbo any day. And that’s the basis for my pick: Auburn 28, Aggies 27.