

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
DAWGS FINALLY PLAY THIS FRIGGIN GAME, MAYBE**

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SEPARATED@BIRTH?



**BABBLES ON & ABADDON
ABOUT LOSS ON LOST
DEREK MASON LANCE REDDICK**

SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE

Missouri should be competitive, so the offensive game plan won't be conservative as it was against S. Carolina (and Mike Bobo isn't interim coach, so we won't be merciful). And Arik Gilbert is on the move, looking for a place where tight ends get thrown to. I suspect that Tre' McKitty will get a lot of targets as the guy Gilbert might replace.
~email message from The Dawgmeister to The Scowlmeister and The Young Scowlmeister, Friday morning.

Well, I got the wrong tight end, and we ended up being merciful anyhow. Those TE throws went to Darnell Washington, which I was happy to see in any case. But I hope Gilbert tuned in before watching his erstwhile teammates take the Dan Mullen legend down a notch. I can't wait till next year's matchup with Florida, when we'll get to see Third & Daniels take on Third & Grantham.

But back to Saturday in Columbia.

In a high stakes game for second place in the East, the first half largely looked like the cold-weather slobberknocker that many had predicted. The blocked punt and rapid score energized Missouri, the comeback team with the lights-out offense, looking to make a statement against a team that's owned them lately. But after that, it was the night the lights went out in Missouri.

That blocked punt was the turning point that turned out to be a showstopper. A different turning point came when Missouri ran an option play that exposed Bazalak's head to a

full-speed collision with Jordan Davis's knee, knocking him out of the game for a miserable series with their backup, before Bazalak returned to play without the magic he'd shown throughout Mizzou's recent run of wins and binge scoring. I hate to see any player get hurt. I also hate to see teams run quarterbacks into contact. You can't do that, and also complain when they get hammered once they become running backs and free of protective rules. I don't think we'll see JT Daniels taking off and running into contact any time soon.

Daniels' apparent limited mobility in the pocket confirms for me that the coaches were right in holding back on playing him. Guys in the booth, in the studio, on the stands, on the barstools, and on the couch keep wondering if the coaches went too long with Bennett, given the clear difference in talent. But I'd rather give JT a shot at a long career by sitting him till he's fit, rather than risk busting him to pieces playing before his knee was ready to go.

Everyone's talking about that now-explosive offense, and it was a joy to behold on Saturday. I hope the OL gets credit for creating all those running lanes for all those backs to break all those runs. They generally kept Daniels' uniform clean on a muddy day, aside from some sacks and hits of the sort that both showed JT's toughness and also confirmed his lack of mobility at this point in his recovery. And, as JT said after the game, "A 50-50 ball with George (Pickens) is an 80-20 ball."

But the defense was virtually impenetrable. After the TD drive that made the game 14-7, Mizzou was done for the night, with only an exceptionally well-executed punt block giving them a first-and-goal that let them tie the game. After that, nada. Missouri managed a total of three plays over 15 yards. Missouri's second-half totals, ranked and riding a winning streak at home and in weather that everyone assumed would benefit them, and with a kickoff time that has done in the Dawgs a time or two, were zero points and 79 yards on 22 plays. For the game, the mighty Missouri ground game got 22 yards on 22 carries, a figure deflated by a single sack; more generously, make that 21 carries for 32 yards. That utter stoning came while the UGA offense did what it wanted until the reserves came in to run out the clock.

Missouri did win the day in one category: great names for wide receivers. Messiah Swinson and Tauskie Dove gave the Tigers a huge win in this critical area.

Later in the day I watched North Carolina run insanely wild over Miami, which warmed my soul. UNC is loaded on offense, and having us match up with them would be one interesting game. They also left their starters in until the end of the game, which ran up the score and inflated the stat sheet in ways that Kirby Smart just doesn't do.

In a special Dawgmeister international poll conducted shortly after midnight on Saturday, people were asked which of the following was more egregious: Ole Miss's Elijah Moore's Pee-gate, UGA's George Pickens's Waterbottle-gate, or Florida's Marco Wilson's Shoe-gate. Due to the consequence of eliminating his team from the post-season playoff against a struggling team playing on the road with a raft of players missing, Wilson got all 52 million votes.



Dan Mullen points to scoreboard, demanding a recount



Tom Crean shows Mullen the exit

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

American Red Cross November Wildfires Response. Deadly wildfires are burning in both northern and southern California, threatening residents, homes and businesses, forcing entire communities to evacuate. The American Red Cross is on the ground,

providing shelter, food and comfort for people forced to leave their homes with little notice.

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SAT PREP SESSION

SAT Question of the Week: Which 2020 or incoming UGA QB fits each of the following high school recruiting rankings?

- A. 5 stars; All positions: 8; State, 1; Pro QB, 1 or Dual QB, 2
- B. 4 stars; All positions: 248; State, 39; Pro QB, 9
- C. 4 stars; All positions: 311; State, 9; Pro QB, 11
- D. 3 stars; All positions: 649; State, 30; Dual QB, 17
- E. 3 stars; All positions: 1,673; State, 170; Pro QB, 59
- F. 2 stars; All positions: 2,569; State, 286; Pro QB, 104
- G. 0 stars; All positions: unranked; State, unranked; Pro QB, unranked

Answer:

- A. Brock Vandagriff
- B. Carson Beck
- C. D'Wan Mathis
- D. Jamie Newman
- E. Austin Kirksey
- F. Stetson Bennett
- G. Jason Priestly

I REPORT, YOU DECIDE

Sam Pittman's current OL recruits for Arkansas for 2021

- 3-star OT Terry Wells | No. 32 OT
- 3-star OT Cole Carson | No. 46 OT
- 3-star OT Devon Manuel | No. 91 OT

Matt Luke's current OL recruits for UGA for 2021

- 5-star OT Amarius Mims | No. 3 OT
- 4-star OT Micah Morris | No. 10 OT
- 4-star OG Dylan Fairchild | No. 5 OG
- 3-star OG Jared Wilson | No. 19 OG

DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ Remember when part of the Dawg Nation was very disappointed when, following the termination of Mark Richt, UGA hired Kirby Smart instead of Tom Herman?
- ☞ Remember when Texas hired Tom Herman when Luke Fickell was available, and fans in Austin were deliriously happy about the choice?
- ☞ Remember when Georgia Tech believed that Geoff Collins was [a real class act](#)?
- ☞ Remember when LSU was beating the snot out of everybody and looked like the foundation for a dynasty? They've graciously self-imposed a bowl ban this year, in a season when they had no prayer of being invited to one in a shrinking pool of

Covid cancellations and a season with 4 wins, 2 of which were over S. Carolina and Vanderbilt; the win over Florida was shocking given how their season has gone, especially with many of its key players out. They have problems with a [depleted roster](#), a [culture that condones assaults on women](#), and [payola to players](#). Coach Eaux inherited some of these troubles, but has done little-to-nothing to address them. And the basketball program is even [more of a moral sewer](#). Perhaps they'll make a strong-ass offer to Coach Wade to take his talents someplace else. Eaux may indeed be the second coming of Gene Chizik. The parallels are striking, though Auburn never had nearly the problems that LSU now has, aside from hiring Bruce Pearl two years after canning Chizik to really raise the ethics bar. The main Eaux/Chizik parallel is the sudden cratering of the W-L record following a national championship after the departure of the offensive coordinator and Heisman QB. It cost Gene Chizik his job. Should be interesting to see how it goes in Baton Rouge, no matter what happened in Gainesville on Saturday.

- ☞ Remember when UGA had a stagnant offense?

BONUS SEPARATED@BIRTH?, R.I.P. EDITION



**PERKY
RAY PERKINS**

&

**JERKY
LOU HOLTZ**

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

Eric Stokes is the sort of football player I love. He was a raw athlete in high school, a 3-star prospect that many Internet evaluators had trouble seeing as a Power 5 scholarship player. At Eastside HS in Covington, he was regarded as the nation's #63 cornerback and #65 player in his class in the state of Georgia. He still got 19 offers, including many from SEC programs and many from outside the Power 5 orbit, but was viewed as a project rather than instant contributor. His speed made him a track star and raised the question of whether he was a fast football player, or a track star trying to play football. He also played RB initially, giving college scouts insufficient tape to evaluate as a cornerback. Early on at UGA, however, the coaches began talking about his intelligence, work ethic, practice habits, coachability, film study, and other attributes. So it wasn't a surprise when after redshirting, he played past higher-ranked teammates and into the starting lineup early in his career. Perhaps his focused frame of mind helps account for his Psychology major, supported by a Tommy Reeder Football Scholarship and David

William Moorman Football Scholarship. His high-end athleticism helped too. His HS coach, Troy Hoff, noted that “At his height, weight and size, there’s only a few guys in the country that can run like that. If you compound that with the competitor that he is. . . The thing about Eric, he never quit working [at UGA]. He battled for the position all the way through fall camp, and put himself in a position to compete. He didn’t win the job initially, but kept at it. He had his role on special teams, and got some snaps here and there. The biggest thing I can say about Eric is that he’s a competitor. He knew that once he got an opportunity, he was going to be ready for it and make the most of it. And that’s what happened.” With his mental preparation and 4.3 speed, Eric appears to headed to a shot at NFL riches and glory. And when that’s all over, he’s got everything he’ll need to be ready for and compete toward every challenge and goal that comes his way.



THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. VANDY

If we play, it’ll be one big blowout. I don’t know if we’ll keep it on the ground the whole game as we did to prevent Mike Bobo from getting too embarrassed. We may well want to work on the passing game to prep for next year. But I’m going to assume that running the ball next Saturday will be easier than it was against S. Carolina or Missouri, and that we’ll do a lot of pounding and possibly have 2-3 100-yard rushers. No matter what, if we play as scheduled, a lot of uniforms get dirty. Dawgs 56, Dore 0.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: CLEMSON OVER NOTRE DAME

I don’t see ND beating Clemson twice, and not with their first-string QB on the field. I suspect they’ll want to leave no doubt about who’s better. Clemson 45, ND 31.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: LOUISIANA OVER COASTAL CAROLINA

CC has been playing with fire lately, and I think they finally get burned. Another sad ending to another storybook season. UL 41, CC 40.