THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST: DAWGS JUKE JEREMIAD JEREMY

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SEPARATED@BIRTH?



UT DISASTER BUTCH JONES You Be His Master Ugly Dog

SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE

Early Saturday afternoon, The Scowlmeister wrote and asked, How confident are you about tonight?

Certainly, the times have brought about a certain uncertainty and frightful lack of confidence about what will come next. I'm living in fear that every group of bees I see is a swarm of murder hornets. Fire ants and killer bees? You ain't seen nothin' yet. The West Coast is a pile of cinders, and I'm wondering when the East Coast will go up in flames too. The polar ice caps are melting, and I'm on the alert for when Athens goes under water and my basement insurance doesn't cover the flood. There's a virus in the air that's killing people, and people are acting in ways that might kill me too. It's not clear if the POTUS, FLOTUS, or SCOTUS will survive the year. And now flu season is here to sicken us more. People are in the streets, and they all claim that they are righteous, and that the people they hate are criminals who must be destroyed for the good of God, truth, justice, and the American Way. Every day my mailbox is full of political ads that tell me how much their opponents are going to devastate the world and turn the US into a postapocalyptic hellscape full of mad mobs of evildoers breaking down my front door and violating my womenfolk. In Athens, the students and faculty are blaming the UGA administration for the Covid outbreaks, the administration is blaming the mayor and barkeeps, and the city administration is blaming the parents for raising such lousy kids; and the kids are rallying to the keggers and saying, "What, me worry?"

And the Falcons might never win another game.

And all that was just the groundwork for my uncertainties heading into Saturday night and my lack of confidence in the outcome, which had begun during the Arkansas game against the predicted worst team in the SEC. The vaunted offensive line, like last year, wasn't dominant in Game 1, with our fearsome stable of 4-5 star running backs at RBU getting 2.9 yards per carry against rebuilding Arkansas, which during their 2-10 2019 season leading to a coaching change gave up 5.5 yards per carry. Our starting QB had a miserable outing, and our next man up (for some reason, always referred to by the Lamestream Sports Media as our 3rd string QB) played a hell of a game, only to be met by skepticism from the fans on the couch and media, and by the coaching staff's evaluation that he hadn't earned the job yet. During the early-game ads for our match with Auburn, the featured players on the promo were Bo Nix and J. T. Daniels. No respect at all.

The defense and special teams were great against Arkansas, aside from one busted coverage by our best DB. But what to expect against a much better Auburn team and the great Bo Nix, with his 5-star rating as the nation's top QB prospect coming out of HS, a player with bloodlines, headlines, and lots of love from the guys in the booth? I spent Saturday as confident about the outcome as I was that the coronavirus, like a miracle, would just go away.

And then, the kickoff finally came, and the domination began. We were up 24-0, beating the dog crap out of a rival we've been handling for about 15 years now, in the time it took to put up a deuce against Arkansas. That's what happens when you start The Mailman, the little guy everyone assumed had been offered a scholarship to hold the clipboard, from the outset. It helps when the OL personnel have been sorted out and the run game is stout. The offense is not right now a big play team for the most part. But they run sustained drives that wear defenses down and end up in the endzone. So far, the offense isn't explosive the way Alabama's is. But maybe hammering a team to death isn't such a bad way to go.

Especially when the defense simply can't be moved. They both annihilated the Auburn ground game, and had Nix on the run when he tried to pass. There was red in the Auburn backfield all night. Tyson Campbell was all over Seth Williams, who is a terrific player, the whole game; and the world-class sprinter, Anthony Schwartz, touted game after game as a threat to score, caught 8 passes for an average of 7.1 yards, more like a possession tight end than a burner, possibly because Nix had so little time to set up and throw. The endzone was good and clean by the time the reserves mopped it up at the end.

Maybe Arkansas wasn't the cupcake everyone assumed, given that they smothered the Air Raid that had shredded LSU just a week before. Maybe UGA has a damn good team, as expected, just not quite the way we thought when the QB room was so full of NFL prospects. Here's how Stetson Bennett measured up against Auburn Legend Bo Nix, celebrated from his signing and viewed as the guy who'll return the Tigers to Cam Newton levels:

	C/ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	INT	QBR
Stetson Bennett	17/28	240	8.6	1	0	91.6
Bo Nix	21/40	177	4.4	0	1	56.3

91.6, almost identical to what he did to Arkansas, and better than pretty much all those famous studs on the Heisman watch lists. And that doesn't take into account Stetson's dominance on third down, where he owned the field. Trevor Lawrence, likely #1 overall pick? 89.9 vs. the Virginia team that got taken off our schedule. Sam Howell, UNC's program savior? 62.7 against Boston College. Kyle Trask, everyone's new darling? 91.5. The only better day I could find with an unscientific scan of box scores: 94.1 from Mac Jones.

Tank Bigsby, once a gleam in UGA's recruiting eye, only totaled 39 yards for 3.9 per carry. He seemed more productive than that during the game, but maybe that was because he caught a bunch of dump-off passes and made something of them. But if we continue to hold teams to 1.8 yards per carry, as we did with Auburn, we will continue to dominate. And I saw no evidence that either Walter Grant, once the "next Leonard Floyd," or Jermaine Johnson played a snap.

And so, my fears and uncertainty for most of Saturday ended triumphantly with this thought: This might be the year after all.



Untouched screen shot of Darnell Washington standing next to James Cook

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:

Live Healthy & Thrive Youth Foundation, Inc. is an Atlanta-based not-for-profit organization that helps children develop healthy life styles, with a special emphasis on reducing obesity, hypertension, and diabetes. LHTYF provides services such as Healthy Kids and Gardens Are For Kids that promote health, exercise, and nutrition; and competitions such as the Pinnacle Youth Scholarship Fund designed to support studies in health-oriented fields.

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SAT PREP SESSION

SAT Question of the Week: Which current or recent or future or never UGA QB fits each of the following high school 247 composite recruiting rankings?

- A. 5 stars | All positions: 8 | State, 1 | Pro QB, 1
- B. 4 stars | All positions: 44 | State, 3 | Pro QB, 4
- C. 4 stars | All positions: 248 | State: 39 | Pro QB: 9
- D. 4 stars | All positions: 311 | State: 9 | Pro QB: 11
- E. 3 stars | All positions: 649 | State: 30 | Dual QB: 17
- F. 3 stars | All positions: 1,673 | State: 170 | Pro QB: 59
- G. 2 stars | All positions: 2,569 | State: 286 | Pro QB: 104
- H. o stars | All positions: unranked | State: unranked | Pro QB: unranked

Answer:

- A. Brock Vandagriff
- B. Jake Fromm
- C. Carson Beck
- D. D'Wan Mathis
- E. Jamie Newman
- F. Austin Kirksey
- G. Stetson Bennett
- H. Jason Priestly
 - I opted out of my seats this season. After seeing last night's shots of the stands, where people either weren't wearing masks, or were wearing them as chin straps, I think I made the right call. At SMU, police actually booted the students from the stadium because they refused to follow safety protocols. When will people start acting as though we've got a problem with this thing?
 - We've had a lot of good kick returners, including one who made the Pro Bowl and got a Super Bowl ring in his first season last year. But Kenny McIntosh might be the best one yet, even if the defense keeps teams from scoring and kicking off for the most part.
 - And we've had some hard runners over the years. But has anyone run harder than Zamir White?
 - Against Mississippi State, when Derek Stingley Jr. went down, LSU went out. Against Auburn, Rich LeCounte got tossed for targeting, and absolutely nothing changed. But then, LSU's defense is coordinated by Bo Pelini.

SEPARATED@BIRTH? BONUS COVERAGE!

BE SHAMED BO PELINI



NOT BE NAMED

LORD VOLDEMORT

- Note: this contribution came from The Huskermeister, a Nebraska guy who, like everyone else in Lincoln, just hates Bo Pelini.
- As reported in the AJC: "This is the kind of Georgia we thought we would see this season," ESPN play-by-play man Chris Fowler said. "A playoff container."
- Mrs. Butts was busy field-testing her new asbestos-based Covid cocktail, so I had the afternoon to watch the early SEC games via the miracle of recording. I was amazed at the inability of South Carolina football players to catch footballs. If they could, the game would have been pretty even. Mike Bobo can call good plays, but if guys can't catch an airborne football, then it doesn't matter how crafty the call is. SC has a tough RB from Georgia—Equality, I believe his name is—and has a quarterback whose hair is so beautiful that they named a high school in Gwinnett County after him. Neither team had a dominating defense. Will Muschamp appears to be, at the time of this writing, 8 months pregnant, and perhaps that's why he was letting his team take such a leisurely approach to clock management while 2 TDs behind and time running out. That Kyle guy playing TE for Florida is pretty good, and along with a bunch of other guys who can catch, maybe makes that Kyle guy playing QB look a little better than he is.
- I watched a good bit of the game at Brian Dennehy Stadium in the 3:30 slot. Alabama is loaded again, as Brad Nessler and Gary Danielson reminded us continually throughout the game. Mac Jones was good enough to step in for Tua Tagovailoa and cause his brother to transfer, and has beaten out the challenge of Bryce Young to start this year. They'll be a tough game, and pretty soon.

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

Jake Fromm won a lot of football games under center in Athens, after being a winner from Little League through high school. He survived some severe challenges from other QB recruits at UGA that produced a pair of transfers by guys who came out of HS with higher rankings. His legendary work ethic, charisma, leadership, and film study habits helped him become one of the most productive players ever to perform between the hedges. But he also does plenty when there's no crowd to cheer him on. He was named

to the 2019 Allstate AFCA Good Works Team and received the UGA Community Service Award for his volunteer work in Athens schools, where he reads to kids and promotes literacy in the spirit of Malcolm Mitchell, if not with a book to his credit yet. Jake is especially involved with <u>Extra Special People</u>, which assists those with special needs and their families, and participates in the team's annual <u>Camp Sunshine</u>, which serves kids with cancer. Jake said of the Good Works Team recognition, "This was a huge honor and blessing. For me to come and be able to receive this, it's huge. It says a lot about my family, how they raised me and how I can serve people." That family togetherness includes a strong degree of faith, which motivates Jake in all aspects of his life. His devotion to kids with special needs dates to his own middle school days, when, as he said, "I had an unbelievable connection with the special needs' kids. It was awesome to hang out with them. They took to me and I took to them. I loved every minute of it, and I love to carry that into college." At UGA he hosted the <u>Big Hearts event</u>, hosted by Extra Special People. Jake is pretty special too, no matter where he performs or what cause he supports. That includes UGA football, but he'd be a champion no matter what the game.



THE FORECAST Dawgs vs. Tennessee

Nothing gets me drooling like words like "Feleipe Franks, starting QB" and "Jarrett Guarantano, starting QB." Both are strapping lads who look great walking down the ramp. Both can be guaranteed to throw some picks once the whistle blows to start the game. Cade Mays, sorry to see you go, but you're the one who made this choice to tackle the opposing DBs after they start running your way with the ball. The Dawgs' own OL continues to get its rhythm and give opponents blues, and give Todd Monken plays to call that work. Dawgs imitate John Lewis and keep marching: UGA 31, Tennessee 6.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: TEXAS OVER OKLAHOMA

Defense anyone? Nah. Let's just keep firing away and hope we come out on top, which hasn't been happening lately. Both teams can score, neither team could stop the Prince Avenue JV offense. There's a basket of deplorables playing D on both sides. Lincoln Riley's annual flirtation with the NFL might take a few years off. Spencer Rattler is finding out that even a cruddy league like the Big XII is more challenging than Arizona high school football, and OU got outrushed by Iowa State in a series that the Cyclones hadn't won at home in 60 years, the year that Eisenhauer handed off the presidency to

JFK. Sam Ehlinger says that Texas "deserves better" than losing games against unranked teams, which Texas will probably be before long; and only someone with a strong sense of entitlement believes that his program deserves anything that they don't earn. So let's see, how about an over/under of 120? Horns 61, Sooners 59.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: MIAMI OVER CLEMSON

Well, somebody's gotta upset somebody. How about this one? The Tigers may spend so much time in their Leisure Palace that they forget to prep for the game; Miami is hungry, if far less talented. But talent doesn't always win. Right, OU? Canes over Tigers, 33-30.