

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:  
DAWGS ROCK 'N' ROLL IN TUSCALOOSA**

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**SEPARATED@BIRTH?**



**CHEEKY SLIMER & PEAKY BLINDER  
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SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE

**BONUS COVERAGE**



**FLAMING A'S & REIGNING BLAZE  
ALABAMA LOGO BRAVES LOGO**

*"You can't spell Citrus without Crimsun Tide."  
~Little Woolly*

At the beginning of the second half of the Tennessee game, sideline reporter Kayleigh McEnany reported that Volunteers players and coaches were "elated" after stopping Georgia at the goal line, and fully confident that they game was theirs. They were about to receive the second half kickoff, and were ready to go down and score and start to stretch their lead.

Too bad they had to play the second half. It was a performance so dominant that Brad Nessler and Gary Danielson didn't mention Alabama the whole time.

The first half left me feeling pretty uneasy. I missed most of Tennessee's Florida-esque goal-line stand because the broadcast kept cutting away to tornado warnings. But I'd begun to wonder if we had the ground game to be dominant. The broadcasters noted how few long runs UGA had produced since Michel and Chubb took their games to the pros. We seemed to have a lot of 1-2 yard runs, and it wasn't clear whether we just don't block well, whether teams are stopping the run first and putting the game in Bennett's hands, or whether our backs don't have the vision to find a hole when the designed scheme gets defended. That first half just didn't inspire a lot of confidence, and Tennessee was amped to play, fired up by that early snap that Tacko Fall couldn't have reached, and on the board first with a gift TD, and then a couple more on deep passes when we took the pressure off and dropped into coverage.

But wow, what a second half. You saw it. I saw it. It was awesome.

Earlier in the day I'd watched the epic Oklahoma-Texas game. In choosing it over Florida-TAMU, I went with the game with teams so desperate that they had to play with passion. And they did, along with incredible sloppiness. But it was fun. Joel Klatt made some interesting points about Spencer Rattler and his size, about 6'-1", which he considered short. Rattler got benched for a quarter, no doubt a genius Lincoln Riley decision to keep him fresh for the 4<sup>th</sup> overtime. Anyhow, Klatt noted that Rattler was trying to win the game, rather than run the offense; and that when he came back in, he was running the game plan the coaches designed, and it worked better than the QB trying to do it by himself. Those comments resonated when I watched our small QB against UT. Aside from his nifty runs, he mostly ran the offense they'd practiced. Although the first half wasn't so dandy, it paid off over four quarters. Maybe you don't need Lamar Jackson taking snaps. Maybe you need a guy who knows his teammates and the game plan, and puts them in position to succeed.

But of course, it was another game when the defense was scary good, when an opposing QB spent his day on the run, when there was red in the UT backfield all game. 53 of UT's 214 yards on the day came on the two TD passes, making the rest of their day pretty miserable. It did seem to me, from my position on the couch, that we created a lot more havoc when we created pressure with blitzes than we did when we rushed four. They got their TDs when we went into coverage and they got behind it and made good plays. So when Dan Lanning calls me for our mid-week meeting, I'll suggest keeping the pressure on at all times.

I had a brief huddle with The Scowlmeister and The Young Scowlmeister after the game, and we agree that Kenny McIntosh and Kendall Milton seem to be our most effective RBs right now, Milton's fumble notwithstanding. For whatever reason, Zamir White isn't getting yards, and they are; and McIntosh appears to have worked his way into the passing game. And have I mentioned that the guy is a tremendous kick returner? It'll be interesting to see how the carries shake out as we continue playing our way through the gauntlet that seemed so formidable in preseason that observers were wondering if we might start the season 2-3.



*Jeremy of Arabia relying on camel urine to avoid Covid*

Does size matter? Here are our opponents' current starting QBs. I report, you decide.

Feleipe Franks, Arkansas	6'-6" 228
Kyle Trask, Florida	6'-5" 240
K. J. Costello, Mississippi State	6'-5" 225
Jarrett Guarantano, Tennessee	6'-4" 230
Collin Hill, S. Carolina	6'-4" 222
Connor Bazelak, Missouri	6'-3" 220
Ken Seals, Vanderbilt	6'-3" 220
Mac Jones, Alabama	6'-3" 214
Terry Wilson, Kentucky	6'-3" 202 (by then, maybe Joey Gatewood, 6'-5" 235)
Bo Nix, Auburn	6'-2" 213

And, for the good guys, one of two Power 5 QBs under six feet tall (the other being D'Eriq King), and the only one still unbeaten:

Stetson Bennett IV, UGA	5'-11" 190 (his dad claims he's almost 6'-0", but his dad really loves him)
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Talent evaluators and fans often under-value short QBs. They don't look as impressive in shorts and a t-shirt, which was actually a criticism of 6'-0" Eric Zeier as a pro QB, in spite of his 5-star rating coming out of Marietta, 3<sup>rd</sup> round selection, and choice as starter over veteran Heisman winner Vinny Testaverde by Cleveland coach Bill Belichick—soon to be fired on the eve of the franchise's move to Baltimore—as a rookie in 1995.

Short QBs, they say, get their passes batted down too often because the defensive linemen are so much taller. Their hands are too small to control a ball under duress or in bad weather (a knock on Jake Fromm). They don't have the physical stature of a Peyton Manning or Cam Newton, and that's what QBs are supposed to look like. Right, Jamarcus Russell? Right, Ryan Leaf? Right, Paxton Lynch and Dan McGwire?

I don't know what Stetson Bennett looks like in his shorts, but I suspect that a great part of the disrespect and skepticism he's gotten has come from his stature. But if the problem is getting passes knocked down because he's such a wee fellow, why did it take 3 games for it to happen this year? Think of the really good small QBs who've made it in the NFL: Drew Brees, Russell Wilson, and to a lesser extent, Case Keenum, Chase Daniels, and a few others who've hung around the league (the jury's still out on Baker Mayfield and Kyler Murray). They are mobile and escape the rush, angle their passes around rushers instead of throwing over them, roll out to create space, throw with accuracy, are smart and know how to read the field, and have their passes batted by defensive linemen far less often than do a lot of tall QBs who don't have to make adjustments. Sound like anybody we know?

Oh, and by the way, how about this stat line for Saturday:

**Georgia Passing**

	C/ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	INT	QBR
Stetson Bennett	16/27	238	8.8	2	0	92.8

Is this guy consistent, or what? Meanwhile, this guy, who is about 8 feet tall, will probably win the Heisman:

	C/ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	INT	QBR
Trevor Lawrence	29/41	292	7.1	3	0	81.6

**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:*

**Cobb Schools Foundation Teacher Impact Grants** support a teacher's classroom dream to find ways to make learning interesting and lasting for their students. Often their dreams simply do not make it into the school's annual budget. Cobb Schools Foundation Teacher Impact Grants can help make classrooms more challenging by providing teachers with the funds they need to meet their instructional needs and goals. Grant requests focus on STEAM, character, leadership, world languages, performing arts, and more. You can direct your giving to a particular school, a program or scholarship, or where need is greatest.

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**SAT PREP SESSION**

SAT Question of the Week: What did Nick Saban say during the toast he gave at his daughter's wedding?

- A. "This toast is burned. Tell the chef he's been greyshirted."
- B. "And to my son-in-law: Don't even think of entering the transfer portal."

- C. “The only ring I care a rat’s ass about is the one you get for winning a championship.”
- D. “And speaking of rats, don’t drink the rat poison people are feeding you at the wedding. Marriage is a grind that you survive one day at a time.”

Answer: What he actually said of his daughter, and I’m not making this up: “She has a tremendous grit about her.”

## **DAWG DOOTS**

- ☞ Dan Mullen is now blaming Florida’s loss to TAMU on the crowd. Not his crappy defense. Not UF’s 90 yards rushing on 24 carries. No. It was that famed 12<sup>th</sup> Man in College Station, the one that doesn’t take the field.
- ☞ Not to be outdone, Mike Leach, who just a few weeks ago was believed to be the man who’d change the SEC into a shootout league, blamed his 2-point offensive blitz against Kentucky on “malcontents.” Things just ain’t so easy when you play a team where Bo Pelini isn’t the coordinator.

## **SEPARATED@BIRTH? BONUS COVERAGE**



**MARRED? NO &  
SHIT, MAN  
BO PELINI**

**FARGO  
HITMAN  
PETER STORMARE**

- ☞ “Rodrigo loves the term ‘walk-on mentality. It’s just that. It’s realizing, I might be a nobody, but I’ve got to come to compete every day.” ~Jake Podlesny, about a comment that could just as easily apply to Stetson Bennett
- ☞ After George Pickens’ ridiculous water bottle prank cost UGA a stretch of yardage, the camera caught him jabbering away on the bench. He was sitting next to Major Burns, who, even as a relatively new guy, clearly wanted no part of Pickens’ commentary.

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

**Andrew Thomas** wasn’t the highest-rated OL in his own UGA recruiting class, but immediately stood out as the best. He didn’t enroll till summer, but by fall camp of his freshman year was starting and dominating. He continued to own the line of scrimmage throughout his college career, and no doubt will continue in the footsteps of his mentor Isaiah Wynn and have a stellar pro career. Andrew’s achievements on

the field have been well-documented with his many awards and all-star team selections. He's also a solid, humble citizen. After Andrew went home for Thanksgiving during his third and final season in Red and Black to hand out turkeys to those in need, Lithonia mayor-elect Shameka S. Reynolds said, "We have to be proud of good people like Drew. He's done well. He's done well in school and not only that, he's putting us out there like he's from Lithonia. We don't normally get people that are from here to do what he is doing. So it is a bit different. He's a big deal here. Very big." To Andrew it was simple: His aim was "just to come back for the holiday, give out some turkeys and just try to be a blessing to other people and give back to the folks who live around you." I suspect that once his pro contract gives him a bank account to draw on and his knowledge from his business major gives him strategies for growing it, he'll do more than pass out the turkeys donated by other community members. Andrew was never just a hulk in the trenches. He earned Wayne McDuffie and Statesboro Bulldog Club scholarships as a student, and is eloquent enough to have been selected as the student-athlete speaker at the Bulldogs' West End Zone dedication in 2018. He's got all the tools he needs to make it once he's done playing on Sundays and transitions to being a competitor in civilian life.



## **THE FORECAST**

### **DAWGS VS. ALABAMA**

Finally! The Dawgs play their fourth straight unbeaten opponent. Two of the nation's top-performing QBs square off against two of the nation's top defenses—oops, cancel that one after Saturday, a historically bad performance by an Alabama defense. Here's what won't happen, given that Alabama won't be playing a Lane Kiffin defense: Junior QB Mac Jones completing 88 percent of his passes for 417 yards and two touchdowns, Najee Harris running 23 times for 206 yards and five scores, Devonta Smith having 13 catches for 164 yards and a score, Jaylen Waddle with six catches for 120 yards.

One of the best matchups: our superb corners against their great WRs. Tyson Campbell has finally played up to his promise. When he got here, he was a really fast guy who made a lot of rookie mistakes and lost his job to Eric Stokes. Then he was on and off the field with "a gruesome turf-toe injury," as it was described in the press, as a sophomore. What I find so impressive about this year is his physicality. He muscled the very physical Seth Williams into an unproductive night when Auburn came to town. [Walter Camp ranks Williams the nation's #6 WR](#), and that's with #1 prospect Ja'Marr Chase not suiting up. Campbell did get beaten on one of UT's TDs on Saturday, but generally shut

down the guy he was covering, with an assist to the ferocious pass rush. Stokes meanwhile continued to play a couple of stars above his high school rating.

Alabama provides a challenge of a different order. Incoming: DeVonta Smith, #2 overall and the best WR lacing up cleats in earnest this fall. Not far behind: Jaylen Waddle at #8 overall. Between the DL and the DBs, with the backers on coverage duty as well, it should be a great matchup. I don't know if the Todd Monken offense is yet ready to blow the doors off a defense, but if we can manage field position with our superb punter and kick return game, we may not need 700 yards to get the W. I'm going against the Lamestream Sports Media, Brad Nessler, and Gary Danielson: Dawgs 34, Tide 30.

### **NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: FLORIDA OVER LSU**

Bo Pelini is really [taking some heat in Baton Rouge](#) for his stubbornness in playing the defense he wants to play, rather than the one that contains opposing offenses. He got shredded by Mississippi State, which in turn got shut down by Arkansas and nearly shut out by Kentucky. And, Missouri hung 45 points on Saturday against his D. What'll he do against Florida? Will Mullen get his AD and governor to waive attendance rules and Covid protocols and risk 90,000 lives so that he can rely on fans, rather than players and coaches, to win games? If Bo Pelini is still coaching by next weekend, count on more points lighting up another stadium scoreboard. Florida 41, LSU 38.

### **NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: KENTUCKY OVER TENNESSEE**

UK tends to be a very well coached team under Mark Stoops. He gets a lot of mileage out of the talent he gets to play in their little ballpark. UT came crashing to earth in Athens, and the fall will continue next weekend when they return home. I'll take the boys in blue over the ones in that ugly orange checkerboard. Cats over Vols, 20-16.