

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
DAWGS BANKRUPT THE COMMONWEALTH**

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SEPARATED@BIRTH?



**BROW POWER &
ANTHONY DAVIS**



**CHOW DEVOURER
REAL WILDCAT**

SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE

There are two programs in the country that know who they are right now, and know how to be who they are on Saturdays: Alabama and Clemson. The rest of us are still trying to figure out our identities and the personnel we need to be that team. Mississippi torches Alabama one week, gets shut out for a half against Arkansas the next. Florida State can't beat UCF, then knocks off UNC. UCF starts hot and is penciled in as a Final Four contender, now is .500. Mississippi State was the talk of the nation after torching LSU, now is 1-3 and can't get into the endzone. Auburn thought it could win the West, and is now 2-2 after losing to S. Carolina. Under Dan Mullen, Florida continues to talk a better game than they play, and Mullen's cavalier attitude toward things like global pandemics has endangered his team, his family, and if he had his way, his fans. And our Dawgs have trouble playing 2 halves, and it's hard to predict which will be the good one. Maybe it's the coronavirus, but this season seems to be as unpredictable as Mrs. Butts's pork rind and lima bean casserole.

There were two issues, I think, that produced the separation that Alabama got in the second half of our game on Saturday. First: their spectacular receivers can catch just about anything, and ours still drop catchable balls. For all the justifiable awe directed at Alabama's receivers for their speed, what impressed me was how they just seemed to catch everything thrown their way, no matter what the coverage.

The second concerned Alabama's scouting of Bennett's passing tendencies, which resulted in seemingly endless batted passes. We no doubt will have to fix that before we play again, given that anybody watching the film will try to copy their strategy of getting hands up when he throws the ball, assuming that he starts under center against Kentucky.

This is that time of year when programs have been tested, players have gotten their opportunities, and a bye week produces competition that will shape the roster moving forward. Tennessee, for instance, may have finally given up on Jarrett Guarantano after another game of throwing interceptions under pressure. They tried a couple of other guys on Saturday, and finished with a freshman. As the broadcasters said, you play him because he's a senior who's supposed to be, at least, careful with the ball. If he's not, the experience has no value, and you might as well try a new guy like Harrison Bailey of Marietta, who finished the game.

For UGA, the defense seems to be settled; any changes would be more based on schemes than someone rising up the depth chart and getting snaps. The kicking games are very consistent and productive. We seem to have settled on scheme-based rotations in the backfield, with all of the backs fairly productive in what they're asked to do; lost in the disappointment in the outcome is that we ran the ball well on Saturday, averaging 4.8 ypc to Alabama's 3.4 ypc. The receivers still seem to be developing their identity and cohesion and aggressively catching passes. We've gotten a terrific run of toughness and resourcefulness from Bennett at QB, but Saturday did reveal his limitations against the best competition. It's never a good sign when you look at the defensive stats and an OL, Warren McLendon, has two tackles. The next two weeks will be very interesting as we prepare for a Kentucky team that had a historic win against Tennessee in Knoxville, one of the program's best showings ever in Neyland Stadium.

On Saturday, Mrs. Butts was out loading a new shipment of alligators into the moat—the old ones can be very snappy around the new ones—so I scouted Kentucky at Tennessee. Kentucky's defense is creating considerable havoc this season. They don't defend the run incredibly well, but look very challenging to pass against, as Jarrett Guarantano can attest. On offense, UK seems to run RPOs every play, with an emphasis on the R option; and we are brutal to run against. It should be interesting to see how the coaches evaluate the players over the next two weeks and prepare for UK, whose win over UT was at least as impressive as ours.

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:

Advocates for Children is a non-profit organization committed to the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect. Through our umbrella of programs, they strive to one day help create a world where all children are respected and loved, happy and thriving. Their goal is to bring hope and comfort to more than 3,000 children and families every year in Bartow County, and surrounding North Georgia areas.

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DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ So good to see KCP as a starter and key player on the NBA Champion Los Angeles Lakers.

SEPARATED@BIRTH? BONUS COVERAGE



LACKS GLOWER & BLACK POWER
KENTAVIOUS STOKELY
CALDWELL-POPE CARMICHAEL

- ☞ When asked during the locker room ceremony what he planned next, KCP said, “I’m going to Disneyworld!”

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

Hines Ward had a unique career at UGA after being the two-time Clayton County Offensive Player of the Year at Forest Park High School and a baseball star taken by the Marlins in the MLB draft. He arrived as a QB, earning a starting job, and switched to WR midway through his career to catch passes from Mike Bobo. Although he was ranked alongside Randy Moss among WRs in the 1998 draft, his stock dropped when a physical exam revealed that a boyhood bicycling accident had left him without an ACL in one knee. He made a lot of teams regret passing on him till the third round. After Pittsburgh took him in the 3rd round, he made the Pro Bowl 4 times and was a major contributor to 2 Super Bowl championship teams, earning MVP in 2006 after dominating the Steelers’ win over Seattle. His physical style resulted in the Hines Ward Rule, which makes a blindside block illegal if the blocker’s helmet, forearm, or shoulder strikes the head or neck area of a defender. After retiring he won ABC TV’s Dancing With The Stars competition in 2011. Hines was recognized by UGA in 2018 as a Circle of Honor inductee, which pays tribute to student-athletes and coaches who, by their performance and conduct, have brought honor to the university and themselves, and who by their actions have contributed to the tradition of UGA. “I am so humbled and deeply honored to be a part of the Circle of Honor. To be put in the same class as all those greats that came before me and to be part of that elite group is a dream come true. I am so proud to be a Georgia Bulldog and am excited to be a part of Georgia football history. Thank you UGA for this great honor.” Hines’s racial heritages have helped form who he is. He was born in Seoul, South Korea, to a Korean mother and African-American father, then grew up in the Atlanta area. He has become an advocate for

the social acceptance of foreigners in Korea, especially blended or mixed-race youth. Toward that end he donated \$1 million to create the [Hines Ward Helping Hands Foundation](#), which helps mixed-race South Korean children thrive in the face of discrimination. His [Positive Athlete](#) programs in Pittsburgh and Georgia have awarded over \$100,000 in college scholarships to high school student-athletes who have who have either overcome difficult circumstances or given back to their schools and communities in significant ways. Hines has given a lot back to help those who lack the athletic skills to escape poverty. That's pretty admirable, and a indicative of how he's become a great role model for all of us.



THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. KENTUCKY

The Dawgs take on a well-coached team, although not one with enough offense to threaten our defense. The Dawgs get back on track and a couple of weeks of reckoning and rehab: UGA 28, UK 10.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: TEMPLE OVER MEMPHIS

It's a weekend without much excitement other than the Big 10's season opener, and I wasn't about to pick Nebraska over Ohio State (with apologies to The Huskermeister) or, closer to home, Syracuse over Clemson (with apologies to anyone rooting for the Power 5 team that lost to Liberty, and did not fall well). It's also hard to forecast anything in a season where games are getting rescheduled fairly routinely. Anyhow, Memphis took down UCF and is flexing in the American Conference. They rang up 50 points to UCF's 49. The Owlmeister's gang meanwhile took down South Florida to even up at 1-1 (and why have they only played half the number of games as UCF and others?). I'll go with the upset and take the Owls: Temple 42, Memphis 40.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: PITT OVER NOTRE DAME

Notre Dame ran up 12 points on a bad Louisville team on Saturday, and let's call it an indication of where they are approaching midseason. Pitt's no prize, but that's why they call it an upset. Panthers over Irish, 18-17.