

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
MISSOURI, ROUND 2**

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SEPARATED@BIRTH?



**INCOMING DB
DAVID DANIEL**



**& OUTGOING BB
ANTHONY EDWARDS**

SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE

Not much to say about the weekend's games. My favorite part: going from DJ Shockley in the booth for one game, to Aaron Murray in the booth for the next. My dawgs.

I watched Auburn-TAMU, and wonder if 5-4 will get Gus another year on the Plains, even they go to 6-4 by beating Mississippi State next week, which is not guaranteed. The alternative is duking it out with Vandy for the next best available hire. Of course, they also have a lot of other programs competing for those same saviors, from Matt Campbell (everyone's darling), to Luke Fickell (with apologies to the Bearcatmeister), to Jamey Chadwell at Coastal Carolina, to Hugh Freeze seeking a Kiffin-esque rebranding, to a slew of rising assistant coaches.

It appears that S. Carolina is going the Skip Holtz route of hiring the son of a famous coach, and I wouldn't be shocked if they're looking again by the next presidential election cycle.

Presently, I'd say that otherwise, all coaches are returning. They are either relatively new hires whose records are a work in progress, and who haven't slept with a booster's wife yet, and so have a few more years to become challengers; or they are winning enough to feel secure for the moment.

And then there's this guy.

- ☞ Jeremy Pruitt's 3-year record (with Vandy and TAMU waiting) as latest person to get Tennessee back to the level Phil Fulmer had them at before getting fired: 15-18 (projected 2020 record: 15-19, with Vandy cancelling)
- ☞ The annual records of Butch Jones at UT before getting fired in favor of Saban coaching tree twig and newest savior Jeremy Pruitt: 5-7; 7-6; 9-4; 9-4; 4-6
- ☞ Phil Fulmer's last 3 years before getting fired after winning a national championship and producing top 10 teams annually: 24-15
- ☞ Lane Kiffin's career UT record: 7-6
- ☞ Derek Dooley's much-loathed record in 3 years before a mercy killing: 15-21

Pruitt's recruiting classes:

- ☞ 2018: 21st nationally, 8th in SEC
- ☞ 2019: 13th nationally, 7th in SEC
- ☞ 2020: 10th nationally, 7th in SEC
- ☞ 2021 (in progress): 14th nationally, 5th in SEC

I make these points because as UGA defensive coordinator in 2014-2015, Pruitt showed open, sneering contempt for Hall of Fame coach Mark Richt, who went 145-51 at UGA, with or without Pruitt undermining him in Butts-Mehr and in the press. While here he ridiculed Richt as if he was a schoolboy who didn't know what he was doing. And now we see that, as many have said, you are what your record says you are.

Richt was a historically great winner. From a Miami source from around the time of his retirement: Richt's 164 career wins rank fourth among active FBS head coaches and his .744 winning percentage ranks as the seventh best among current FBS coaches with at least five years of experience. Richt is one of only seven head coaches in SEC history to record four straight 10-win seasons (2002-05).

Pruitt is a loser, on top of being a jerk. And he believes that the best way to stop global pandemics is by wearing a mask around your neck.

SAT PREP SESSION

Why are the following gentlemen of such great interest to college football fans? Davis Mills, Hunter Johnson, Tua Tagovailoa, Jake Fromm, Tate Martell, Jack Sears, Kellen Mond, Sam Ehlinger, Dylan McCaffrey, and Myles Brennan?

Answer: They are, in rank order, the top 10 HS QBs in the 247 Composite ratings (pro & duel-threat). Others of note:

Bailey Hockman, #20
 Mac Jones, #29
 Rocky Lombardi, #35

SEC Washouts include: #10 Myles Brennan, LSU; #12 Keytaon Thompson, Mississippi State; #19, Lowell Narcisse, LSU; #26, Danny Clark, Kentucky; #30, Dalton Hyatt, Arkansas; #33, Jake Allen, Florida; #36, Jacob Free, Vanderbilt; #42, Jay Urich, S.

Carolina; #49, Taylor Powell, Missouri; #55, Connor Blumrick, TAMU; #56, Walker Wood, Kentucky; #58, Alex Faniel, Mississippi; #77, Will McBride, Tennessee; #81, Seth Washington, Tennessee

#75, Bubba Thompson, committed to Alabama but signed a pro baseball contract

Mills, Tagovailoa, Fromm, Mond, and Ehlinger all became productive, multi-year starters.

Hunter Johnson first matriculated at Clemson, then found a better major at Northwestern, where he became a backup.

Tate Martell, the Gatorade National Player of the Year, went to Ohio State, transferred to Miami, switched to wide receiver, switched back to quarterback, got suspended to start 2020, then opted out altogether.

Dylan McCaffrey, once considered to be finally the Harbaugh Kind of Guy that Harbaugh had been looking for, lost the job to finally-a-Harbaugh Kind of Guy Joe Milton, who lost it to finally-a-Harbaugh Kind of Guy Cade McNamara in 2020, moving McCaffrey into opting out and heading to the portal.

Jack Sears initially attended Southern Cal to become their next wonderboy, then transferred to Boise State, where he became a starter as a senior.

Myles Brennan stayed at LSU, backing up Joe Burrow his 2nd and 3rd years before starting 3 games as a senior, losing 2 before being replaced by freshman TJ Finley.

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:

The Study Hall was founded in 1990 to provide a safe haven for the children of the underserved community of Peoplestown, where they could come to receive skills that would enable them to succeed in school and in life. It is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. They have served over 2,400 students in Peoplestown, Mechanicsville, and other historic Atlanta neighborhoods near the Georgia State University Stadium in Atlanta (formerly Turner Field). The Study Hall provides programming for students in kindergarten through fifth grade. They are the most holistic after school and summer camp program in the area for underserved elementary school students. Our services are provided at no cost to participating families. They offer an educational and enrichment curriculum that equips children to achieve sustained personal and academic success.

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DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ Carson Wentz is the latest Next Big Thing to flame out after a few years in the NFL, joining Josh Freeman, Mark Sanchez, and a whole bunch of others who start out like a ball of fire and, after getting scouted and schemed, can't adjust and become regarded as busts. Sure makes me appreciate Matt Ryan more.
- ☞ All the best to Trey Hill for a healthy recovery from knee surgeries.

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

Nakobe Dean arrived from Horn Lakes, Mississippi, with a reputation for being a great football player and an equally great student. His football prowess earned him such accolades as the Touchdown Club of Atlanta's National Lineman of the Year, Dick Butkus Award for nation's top HS linebacker, Gatorade Mississippi Football Player of the Year, and an Under Armour All-American. His off-field performance got plenty of notice as well, including the Franklin D. Watkins Memorial Award presented by the National Alliance of African-American Athletes, an organization founded in 1989 to empower African American males through athletics, education and public programs. J. Everette Pearsall, executive director of The Alliance, said at the time of the award, "Nakobe Dean is an amazing young man. We were very impressed with his contributions in the community, his excellence in the classroom, and his success on the football field." Nakobe famously never made a "B" in high school at Horn Lakes, with the only non-A in his academic history coming in 7th grade in a business education course that involved typing, which he found difficult to do with speed and accuracy because his hands were so large. Otherwise, Nakobe earned a 4.3 GPA and a National Honor Society appointment for academics, and volunteered as an elementary school mentor, Toys for Tots program, and homeless shelter. In his copious spare time he participates in Fellowship of Christian Athletes activities. His career at UGA is still in formation, but he developed into a regular in the LB rotation as a freshman in spite of a bad ankle injury to begin the season, and now is creating havoc as a sophomore. He's tearing it up in the classroom too. We were fortunate to recruit him to Athens, where he'd be a star with or without football. But he's mighty good at that too.



THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. MISSOURI

Or so we hope. This may well be our last game, if Vandy keeps opting out of games. In addition to the coaching change, I've read that some Vandy players are horrified that a woman is their kicker, and would prefer a more manly person to kick their balls. Perhaps they should try kicking their own balls instead. Anyhow, I doubt if most of the bowl games will be played, although they are accustomed to being played in front of Covid-sized crowds, mostly for TV money. But this year? I'm not sure if there's much of a point in bowl games that aren't part of the playoff.

So here we go, trying for a second time to play Missouri, who managed to field a team on Saturday and played a thriller, winning 50-48 over a very different Arkansas team from the one we played during the D'Wan Mathis era. Missouri pulled off the biggest fourth-quarter comeback in program history, scoring 27 points in the final quarter for the win. But they also gave up 48 points to a team playing the QB who's been backing up Feleipe Franks, albeit without their best defender, who was ejected for targeting.

The conclusion: Missouri has a good O and an awful D. Todd Monken is no doubt drooling somewhere in Butts-Mehr Heritage Hall over what he might dial up on Saturday. I don't think we'll see either the ineffectiveness of the running game we saw against Mississippi State, or the powerhouse ground game that blew out South Carolina. Rather, we'll get the mixed O that I hope lays the groundwork for next season's attack. If I'm drooling about anything, it's the prospect of a 2021 season in which Daniels is throwing to Pickens, Burton, Jackson, Blaylock, Smith, and anyone else who breaks into the rotation, along with our annually under-used tight ends. And then there's the rotation of RBs with a wide range of skills. I hope Kenny McIntosh is healthy next year; he has always looked like a thoroughbred when he's played. Our depth at RB is considerable, and shows why Cartavious Bigsby chose to attend Auburn, where he became their top back instead of being one of many.

But that's next year. On Saturday, we get the preview, and the win: Dawgs 45, Tigers 31.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: CORONAVIRUS OVER FLORIDA STATE

Those rascally Noles have managed to have much of this year's embarrassment mitigated by cancelled games. I must congratulate Mike Norvell for his crafty solution to the growing stack of L's he's accumulating, after being heralded as [The Guy to Finally Restore Florida State to Greatness](#).

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: ILLINOIS OVER NORTHWESTERN

Somebody's gotta upset somebody. Why not in this in-state rivalry? I once lived in the Prairie State, or is it the Land of Lincoln? Few annual battles between a state's only Power 5 teams lower the pulse as much as this one. Illinois can be good when things are going their way. Let's see if that happens Saturday. Downstaters 31, North Shore Elites 30.