

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
DAWGS GO ALL YABO-DABO-DOO ON CLEMSON**

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SEPARATED@BIRTH?



**BOOD A LOT & DUDE ON POT
TREVOR LAWRENCE JEFF SPICOLI**

[THE COMPLETE SEPARATED@BIRTH? COLLECTION](#)

Welcome to the Second Decade of Fake Football News from The Dawgmeister on The Dawgbone! Thanks as usual to my illustrious hosts, and to all six of my readers. It's been a great ride, and after last year's pit stop, we're revving up for one of the greatest seasons in Dawg history. I'm still virus free after living on a strict diet of horse de-wormer, camel urine, and bubble-gum flavored hand sanitizer, which goes well with vodka. I thought about wearing a mask and getting a vaccine. But I heard that they can kill you.

Anyone reading this exegesis has already consumed and regurgitated 5,000 articles on the team already, so I needn't belabor the obvious themes: injuries, competition for spots, Covid protocols, depth chart projections, next year's recruits, the next year's recruits, and other topics you can name in your sleep. In fact, you probably are having dreams and nightmares about them. If this kickoff column puts you to sleep, you'll learn as much as you would if you stayed awake.

Looking ahead to the season, I've already scheduled two cancellations for Vanderbilt. Meanwhile, over on The Plains, the new Auburn coach—in spite of regularly boiling stem-cell-infused garlic in a solution of bleach and colloidal silver, and blowing it up his nose with a hair dryer—somehow got infected. His team has now started straining this cocktail through an N95 mask and drinking it instead. Put the Auburn game down in pencil.

A lot has been made of the forthcoming expansion of the SEC to include Oklahoma and Texas. Getting less publicity, but still possibilities, are the petitions to join the league submitted by Ohio State, Oregon, New Mexico State, the University of British Columbia, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Princeton, Agnes Scott College, the National University of Samoa, the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, and Mater Dei HS.

Most Dawg fans can't wait for the injuries and absences to clear up so they can see a passing attack featuring 6'-3" JT Daniels throwing to 6'-7" John FitzPatrick, 6'-7" Darnell Washington, 6'-5" Arik Gilbert, 6'-4" Justin Robinson, and 6'-4" Adonai Mitchell in the same formation. Me? I'm stoked to see a lineup with 5'-11" Stetson Bennett heaving it downfield to 5'-6" Logan Johnson, 5'-8" Woody Waters, and 5'-8" Mekhi Mews.

Speaking of Gilbert, I hope that Dawg fans are more understanding of him than people have been of Simone Briles, Naomi Osaka, and other athletes who have stepped back from competition for reasons other than injuries. The star of my own high school football team played in the ACC, where he made All Conference. He then blew out his knee, got dumped by his girlfriend, and killed himself.

Maybe we weren't really tougher back in the day. Maybe we just didn't have options. I'd rather Arik take care of himself than just tough it out old-school. Of course I want to see him catching TD passes. But I know of others whose mental health led to tragic outcomes. I hope he finds what he needs and gets himself back in the game, and also back to football.

When Latavious Brini got his shot in the Cincinnati game, I had my doubts. He'd been in the program forever and hadn't made the rotation. It looked as though we were down to the last scholarship DB when he got his opportunity. When I got my first look at him on the field, though, I thought, man, that cat's been in the weight room. And he played as good as he looked. I hope he makes the most of his time left at UGA. He and Ameer Speed have really earned their shots this year.

With Brini and Speed getting attention in camp, it's time to pick out the under-the-radar guys who'll be the team's surprise contributors. Who had heard of Jack Podlesny at this time last year? Once upon a time it was Tim Jennings, an undersized, low-rated, late-offered guy who was all over the defensive backfield as soon as he got here. One candidate for a surprise breakout this year: Ladd "Mad Honky" McConkey. Ladd was a HS QB in the mold of Mecole Hardman and incoming Malaki Starks: the best athlete on the team, the guy the coach wants to handle the ball on every play. Recruiting gurus were skeptical, rating him a 3-star ATH. Our coaches offered him a scholarship. Who you going to believe? Since seeing is believing, we'll know soon. You know where my money is.

Another possibility to come out of nowhere: One of the OL who hasn't cracked the rotation yet. In the absence of the blocking TEs who are still icing injuries, maybe the coaches will rep an OL at TE to give us another 325 lb blocker. Owen Condon and Broderick Jones played high school basketball, so I assume they can catch things. Among OL starters with hands, Warren McClendon played hoops, and Tate Ratledge played a little TE in HS. Shifting them out and subbing in a hungry-for-snaps backup would make for a lot of blocking.

Meanwhile, the last time I saw an incoming freshman built like Chaz Chambliss was when Nick Chubb arrived on campus.



Not even Darnell Washington....



🏈 A Coveted Dawgmeister Game Ball goes to the 98 UGA student athletes who made the SEC 2020 Fall Honor Roll, 27 of whom played football:

Trey Blount (Sport Management, Atlanta, Ga.)
Patrick Bond (Finance, Alpharetta, Ga.)
Matthew Brown (Journalism, Guyton, Ga.)
Tommy Bush (Sport Management, Schertz, Texas)
Jake Camarda (Sport Management, Norcross, Ga.)
Sevaughn Clark (Real Estate, Dawsonville, Ga.)
Owen Condon (Finance, Oklahoma City, Okla.)
Nakobe Dean (Mechanical Engineering, Horn Lake, Miss.)
John FitzPatrick (Real Estate, Atlanta, Ga.)
Ryland Goede (Journalism, Kennesaw, Ga.)

Daniel Gothard (Mechanical Engineering, Dunwoody, Ga.)
Chase Harof (Sport Management, Roswell, Ga.)
Prather Hudson (Sport Management, Columbus, Ga.)
Daniel Jackson (Engineering, Gainesville, Ga.)
Darius Jackson (Biological Science, Sandersville, Ga.)
Garrett Jones (Finance, Albany, Ga.)
Jalen Kimber (Business, Mansfield, Texas)
Kendall Milton (Business, Fresno, Calif.)
Cameron Moore (Risk Management and Insurance, Alpharetta, Ga.)
Hugh Nelson (Real Estate, Powder Springs, Ga.)
Jack Podlesny (Environmental Health, St, Simons Island, Ga.)
Bill Rubright (Finance, Atlanta, Ga.)
Reid Tulowitzky (Finance and Real Estate, Augusta, Ga.)
Payne Walker (International Affairs, Suwanee, Ga.)
Tramel Walthour (Sport Management, Hinesville, Ga.)
Blake Watson (Civil Engineering, Roswell, Ga.)
Mitchell Wertz (Management, Brookhaven, Ga.)
Kolby Wyatt (Sociology, San Diego, Calif.)

🏀 And special notice to the only guy around who might edge Arian Smith in a sprint:
Matthew Boling, the Southeastern Conference Indoor Men's Scholar-Athlete of the Year

Creepy Coach Update

- ☞ “It is widely reputed in St. Clair County, where [Coach Rush] Propst formerly was a head football coach at Ashville, that he has had for many years a not-so-secret second family, now residing in the Pell City area. Propst’s bank account records . . . reflect that he has been providing financial support for this family, to which he replied, *The entire process was extremely unfair to me. . . . It is very sad to see this create division in our community. . . . I look forward to addressing the many false and misleading statements made about me in the very near future.*”
- ☞ “Les Miles strongly denied kissing the student, and said he didn't do anything wrong, and that he was mentoring young women at LSU.”

SAT PREP SESSION

SAT Question of the Week: What are the odds that Kansas would have fired [Les Miles](#) if his record had been 18-3 instead of 3-18?

The same as:

- A. LSU retaining Will Wade if his record were 40-83 instead of 83-40.
- B. Urban Meyer suspending a starter if he assaulted all three of his daughters before hijacking an airplane to go to Washington, DC on January 6.
- C. Beyoncé entering the Win a Date with The Dawgmeister competition.

D. Nick Saban requesting that Lane Kiffin say the prayer and deliver the sermon at his retirement, and that the Lane Train replace him at Alabama.

Answer: If Les Miles had gone 18-3 instead of 3-18, Kansas would now be playing the games on Les Miles Field at Les Miles Stadium, near the Les Miles Library and just past the 40-foot tall bronze Les Miles statue outside the president's residence, no matter what he'd done in the past or present, or where he'd done it.

SEPARATED@BIRTH? BONUS COVERAGE:

Disgraced Coaches

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

Family Promise of Athens

The mission of Family Promise of Athens is to mobilize our community to help families in crisis situations of homelessness achieve sustainable independence. Family Promise of Athens, Inc. (formerly the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens, Inc.) is a non-profit organization committed to providing immediate shelter and guidance to families with children who are facing or experiencing the crisis of homelessness. We have a threefold approach - **Preventing, Sheltering, and Sustaining.**

Preventing. We assist families who are at risk of becoming homeless by providing case management, resources, and referrals to community partners. We recently hired a Homeless Diversion Coordinator to lead our efforts in preventing crisis homelessness for families in our service area.

Sheltering. Once accepted into our shelter program, Family Promise of Athens provides food, shelter, daycare, transportation, case management, and other resources each family may need using our vast network of congregational hosts and volunteers. With their basic needs provided in a caring and safe environment, our families are able to recover balance and through case management achieve sustainable independence. We work with community partners to assist families in locating housing, addressing financial concerns, and gaining sustainable employment.

Stabilizing. Our main goal is to help families reach sustainability so they will never be homeless again. Case management is provided up to two years beyond our shelter program. We continue to provide resources to families if they again get into a tenuous situation.

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DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ [Bleacher Report genius Ian Wharton](#), in assessing the 2020 class while the players were still prospects, identified the five most likely to be busts. Three of them were Arik Gilbert, Darnell Washington, and Broderick Jones.
- ☞ The search committee's work is done, and we have identified the only [finalist in the competition to replace Larry Munson](#).

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

Channing Tindall has turned out to be the type of college football player whose career already qualifies him as “old school.” He came in as a major steal out of Columbia, South Carolina, a 4-star ranked as the nation’s #5 ILB and #103 overall prospect. He had star potential, a guy expected to compete for major minutes the day he arrived on campus. But he’s been a reserve through his first three years in the program, mostly a special teamer and third-down specialist. With the transfer portal now available for those whose first choice didn’t work out, guys like Channing often take their talents to a new program for a fresh start. He reflected on his decision to stay, saying, “at the end of the day, this was the place for me. Coming out of high school, not playing inside linebacker as much, I knew it was going to take me some time to actually gather and learn. If that was just playing a role, I was going to do whatever was best for the team at the moment. I’m doing anything I can do to help the team out in any possible way. I look at it like the whole team is my family, so why wouldn’t I do anything in my power to help them?” On his journey he missed time in 2019 with a fractured fibula. His response? He didn’t sulk or explore his options, but instead took a look at his game and figured out what he needed to improve. Channing has taken care of business in the classroom too, majoring in Sport Management and earning a Teka and John Adams Football Scholarship along the way. Channing appears ready for a greater role in his last season, but he’s already a winner through his persistence on the field and across campus.



THE FORECAST **DAWGS VS. CLEMSON**

Welcome to the latest incarnation of Woe v. Raid, a.k.a. Clemson v. UGA. My money is on the UGA Air Raid to rain Woe down on Dabo and start this season with a Big Bang.

League on league, talent on talent, iron on iron, every eye in the nation on the watch. Both teams play great O and great D. UGA's kicking game is in great feet with Hot Pod and The Jake Quake. Both programs have facilities, coaches, and boosters galore. It'll be a glorious way to start a season that I believe we are built to finish.

I knew one of the coaches who came with Mark Richt from FSU a couple of decades ago to elevate the program. He told me that long ago, the late Bobby Bowden had made a smart decision when FSU went to the ACC instead of the SEC, because the conference was so much less competitive and he could run the table annually. Clemson tried to replicate that approach with Tommy Bowden, but it took Dabo Swinney to move the program to a place where it gets an automatic bid to the playoff, given the ease of the schedule.

But this is no ACC game. It's for real.

I'm all-in on this Dawg team. They've had a year in the system, spring and fall camps, summer workouts, a California retreat, and a good vibe that should help with rhythm and timing. Clemson is also in synch, but with a lot to replace on the OL and in the backfield. It's worth remembering that a lot of guys on both teams haven't played in front of a packed house before. The outcome of the game might hinge on the degree to which inexperience on the big stage affects each team.

I think we'll do just fine on O, in spite of the quality of the Clemson DL. JT knows how to drop it off if the rush is on. I think that for the most part, he'll get his protection and leave the rest to the guys he delivers the ball to. There are two areas where I think he'll be improved this season. One is simply a stronger recovery from his knee injury. He was never terribly mobile last year. He'll be a bit more elusive in the pocket this year, and I hope gets better blocking than he had in the Cincinnati game. Second, last year he underthrew his receivers on deep patterns fairly often. They've worked together a lot more and JT ought to know their speed and habits better. Deep shots ought to produce more connections with the fast guys. That should be fun to watch. I have no reason to doubt whether our D will play well enough to keep the score down. The second half of the Cincinnati game, which has been running on the SEC Network, was pretty dominating, and aside from Ojulari, featured this year's players. For all the attention the Clemson DL gets, I would be surprised if they outplayed ours. It's time to see just how good this team is.

The Road to the Final Four gets the kickoff the nation has been waiting for: Dawgs 31, Tigers 28.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: TEMPLE OVER RUTGERS

My annual gift to the Owlmeister, a win over a program whose coach was jettisoned to make room for [Jeremy Pruitt](#) at Tennessee, because he once worked on the same staff as [Jerry Sandusky](#) at Penn State. All Temple has lost recently was Geoff Collins. Winning by subtraction is good math. Temple breaks in D'Wan Mathis at QB, a guy who looked terrific in practice but not in games at UGA. I think he'll do better in a lower pressure

situation in Philly and give the Owlmeister and Temple's Football Nation something to cheer for. Owls 24, Knights 20.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: NORTHERN ILLINOIS OVER GEORGIA TECH

The Collins Era enters Year 3 at Georgia Tech, and continues on the same mediocre level he's raised them to following the [Paul Johnson](#) Decade of Boneheaded Flexbone Boners. By now, Collins has cleared out all the players who were recruited to continue playing high school football in college, and now has a team of young men so powerful that they can lift weights on the sideline during games. Yep, that's still a high school team on The Flats. Collins has his own recruits in place, including the 2021 class ranked 48th in the nation by 247 composite. Northern Illinois's class was #91. That should be good enough to handle Tech. The season starts off for Tech with more excuses than ever as the Rocky Lombardi Era begins in DeKalb: Huskies 28, Buzzkills 21.