

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
THIS ONE'S FOR THE MAYS FAMILY**

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SEPARATED@BIRTH?



**ZOOMIN' SCUD
JEREMY PRUITT**



**HUMAN SPUD
MR. POTATO HEAD**

[SEPARATED@BIRTH? COMPLETE COLLECTION](#)
[TENNESSEE COACHES COLLECTION](#)



Thanks Coach!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

And, another one bites the dust. In a comeback win after falling behind 3-0, and with the game on the line and the clock running out, the defense shut down Missouri at the goal line to seal the win.

But the Dawgs came up short against the point spread of 39.5. Once again, Coach Smart has a lot of teaching points in preparation of the Tennessee game. The over-under was 59.5, which means somebody out there saw Missouri scoring 20 points on us. Yeah, right.

It's amazing how context means everything. Over at the TAMU-Auburn game, 3 points at halftime suggested the defensive game of the century. Between the hedges, a 3-point halftime output looked like an offensive explosion.

It was a game in which the stat sheet looked as though it must have been a mistake. Our game's leading rusher had 41 yards against a team that Vandy run several miles on. Our #2 rusher had one carry and was a WR. Our #3 rusher was the mop-up guy. Our top back for the season averaged 1.6 yards per carry. Our leading receivers—actually 3 of them—had 3 catches. How did that add up to over 500 yards of offense and a foot-off-the-gas 43 points?

I guess it helps if you complete passes to 11 guys and distribute the ball across 8 rushers. Throw in 17 yards per catch, and I guess that'll get you down the field.

If you came home and rewatched the broadcast—doesn't everyone?—you heard over three hours of speculation about Georgia's quarterback position. Again. If you missed it, don't worry. They'll do it again next week. You also missed them repeating Jordan Davis's height and weight every time he was mentioned. And don't worry. Even though he won't grow in the next week, the Tennessee broadcast team will remind us. Again. And again.

I am really impressed with the WR room, from coach to walkons. As of now, we've got Burton, Jackson, Smith, and Rosemy-Jacksaint back in the rotation. Still MIA are the jewel WRs of the previous class, Pickens and Blaylock, but the beat goes on. A skeleton crew of low-ranked freshmen had gotten us through a lot of top 20 opponents, and I can't think of anyone who did to us what those guys did to them. That position is now a real strength, deep and talented. Throw in the Big O's presence in the TE room, we now can throw as well as we run. Or better, as we did against a stacked box on Saturday.

It's hard not to notice how havoc-creating our special teams have been. Another point-producing blocked punt—9 of them if you include the safety and the touchdown. I think it's indicative of how intensely the players work together, how they care about every detail of the game, with the team performance the most important thing. And Lordy, what talent. But this is a talented bunch that really seems focused and dedicated across the roster. I think that's a separator between us and other teams.

And yes, we played defense too. I am always amazed when an opponent makes a 10+ play on them, bewildered when they make a first down, and astounded if they cross

midfield. A field goal feels like a dumbfounding defeat. A touchdown is unthinkable. And for the most part, that's how it plays out.

Unsung Heroes

Every season, a team has players who make important contributions, but are beneath the gaze of reporters, bloviators, and fans on the couch. Here are Dawgs who have played major roles in this spectacular season without being especially noticed by people with microphones, keyboards, and large lungs:

Offense: John FitzPatrick: This guy seems to be on the field for every offensive snap. He gets little attention or glory. He just gets his helmet into somebody's chest and helps the other 10 guys look good. Low ego, high productivity, and a team man all the way.

Defense: Latavious Brini: It's remarkable how little his name gets called, yet he's always on the field. Maybe teams are avoiding him or something. But he's an absolutely key guy on a defense loaded with stars and playmakers, and does his job like a pro.

Special Teams: Long snappers Payne Walker (kicks) and William

Mote (punts): Have we had an even remotely bad snap all year? Most teams have had muffs in the kicking game, but ours have been squeaky clean. It all starts with the snap.

Schadenfreude Update

I think it was just last year that quite a few people believed that Dan Mullen had passed Georgia by and was about to establish a Dan-nasty in Gainesville. Here's one version prior to the 2020 season: "One of the more interesting, and seemingly ubiquitous, themes that has bubbled is the preponderance that the Florida Gators, and head coach Dan Mullen, are ready to dethrone the Georgia Bulldogs and take the SEC East division." [Don't it feel good watching them sink into oblivion?](#) And I hope you didn't invest in the cryptocurrency launched after their win in Jacksonville last year.

DanDollars are valued at \$.01 after Saturday's blowout loss to South Carolina. And this from Sunday's news: "Florida's program is in danger of becoming exactly what its fans make fun of when sparring on social media with in-state rival fans — a formerly top-tier program whose best days are behind it. Miami. Nebraska. Tennessee. Florida State. USC." When asked why he ignored the band for a second week, Mullen said, "To be honest with you, I didn't know we had the band here."

Headline: [UF blocks professors from testifying against the state](#)

Next up: UF blocks players from testifying against the program and its Head Ball Coach.

A Fond Farewell to Jeremy Pruitt

"He had the 'it factor' back then and he has it now. I think he's ready. A lot of people say you need the experience to get one of these high-profile head coaching jobs, but I'm not entirely sure that's true. I think Jeremy has been around enough head coaches and has worked side-to-side with them so much and has been involved in so many decisions that I would think he'd hit the ground running and wouldn't have a hiccup." ~Rush Probst,

December 7, 2017, on Tennessee's hire of the former special-teams coach at Hoover HS, Alabama as its head football coach



Major Covid Breakthrough

The CDC has found that even though ivermectin has had little-to-no effect on treating Covid-19, people who ingest it are now, at long last, worm free.



Tennessee Fans, Get Used To It

SAT PREP SESSION

SAT Question of the Week: Who are these dudes?

Thomas Fidone, Hudson Wolf, Michael Trigg, Jake Briningstool, Louis Hansen, Moliki Matavao, and Terrance Ferguson

Answer: These are the 7 tight ends that Rivals.com ranked ahead of Mackey Award semifinalist (so far) Brock Bowers in the 2021 signing class, presented here in rank order with their school of choice, and receiving and rushing totals as of Week 9 (pre-Missouri):

Player	School	Rec.	Yards	TDs	Rush	Yds	TDs
1. Thomas Fidone	Nebraska	0	0	0	0	0	0
2. Hudson Wolf	Ole Miss	0	0	0	0	0	0
3. Michael Trigg	S. Cal	7	109	1	0	0	0

4. Jake Briningstool	Clemson	1	11	0	0	0	0
5. Louis Hansen	Michigan	0	0	0	0	0	0
6. Moliki Matavao	Oregon	6	62	1	0	0	0
7. Terrance Ferguson	Oregon	9	80	2	0	0	0
Total:		23	262	4	0	0	0
8. Brock Bowers	Georgia	26	454	6	1	12	1

Bonus Tight End Coverage

[According to Walter Camp's ranking](#), 4 of the top 10 tight ends in the nation for the 2022 cycle are from Georgia, including 3 of the top 6. The luminaries include #1, Jake Johnson from Oconee Co., [currently committed to LSU, which has had 9 decommitments to date](#) and may get more depending on the next hire. Jake is the brother of Tiger QB Max Johnson, so that commitment may be secure. #2 is incoming Dawg Oscar Delp.

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

The Tommy Nobis Center

In 1975, Bobbie Knopf was chair of the Department of Special Education at Northside High School in Atlanta. At that time, she began a needs assessment dialogue with Joyce Slaughter, the mother of one of Bobbie's students. They realized that the options available in North Atlanta for students with special needs after completing high school were limited. As a result of the needs assessment, they formed an advisory board. Having heard of Tommy Nobis' commitment to the Special Olympics and people with disabilities, the board approached the Atlanta Falcons All Pro Linebacker for support and named the project the Tommy Nobis Center. Today, the Tommy Nobis Center continues to implement innovative programs and services to meet the employment needs of people with disabilities.

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DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ The word out of Jacksonville is that if the Jags get the first pick in the draft, they plan to take Tim Tebow.
- ☞ If he's already gone, their backup choice is Aaron Hernandez.
- ☞ Meanwhile, the Jags are trying to work out a deal where they send Urban Meyer to the University of Florida in exchange for Dan Mullen.
- ☞ Consecutive headlines from the ever frontrunning Mark Bradley:
 - 🐾 [Yes, again. Within sight of a title, an Atlanta team blows a lead](#)
 - 🐾 [From mediocre to majestic - the world champion Atlanta Braves!](#)
- ☞ "We've decreased the gap amongst the teams that we've played. The last phase of development of the program—not only to be in these close games and not have

wide margins of victory, we've got to find ways to win them." ~Geoff Collins on the incredible progress GT has made in his three years as they head toward another 3-9 season, only losing games by an average of 11 points this year, instead of losing them by more than 20 in his first two seasons

- ☞ In support of Aaron Rodgers' bodily autonomy and personal research into vaccines and the woke cancel culture, his alma mater Cal, which lists 20 Nobel laureates in its illustrious history, lost to Arizona, ending the Wildcats' 20-game losing streak.

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

Sterling Bailey played his high school football at East Hall HS in Gainesville, where he was a huge star. He played himself into a national profile, cumulatively ranked with 3 recruiting stars and listed among the country's top 20 defensive ends. With offers from Clemson, Florida, and other regional schools, and from as far away as Cal, he was named to play in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl. He was such a phenomenal player that he was eventually elected to East Hall's Hall of Fame and had his number retired. It probably helps to have a father like Kevin Bailey, who expressed public concern during a period when UGA booted the likes of Trey Matthews and Josh Harvey-Clemons off the team, and who gave Sterling a stern comeuppance when he got into early trouble during his career on campus. At UGA Sterling became a solid rotation player, if not a star, while being recognized as a team leader with the Coaches' Leadership Award, which speaks to his role in the locker room and in the classroom, as well as on the field. After completing his History degree and his eligibility in 2015, Sterling went undrafted but found spots on a number of teams, most recently with Arizona. Presently unsigned, he still hopes to catch on with another team, saying, "As long as the love of football is in my heart, I'm still going to continue chasing my dream (of playing pro football). I'm still going to continue to go out there. Whatever God has next for me, that's basically it." God has taken pretty good care of Sterling so far, building the character he'll need to be resilient and persistent, and to reorient himself if his pro football dream never materializes. There are plenty of ex-athletes who don't know what to do with themselves after they hang up the cleats. I'm pretty sure that Sterling's compass will stay true and that we'll see big things of him as the decades unfold.



THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. TENNESSEE

UT has exceeded expectations after the Pruitt debacle. They've replaced McDonald's at the training table with tofu and salads, with no other greenery in the takeout bags. But can they score on this defense? Nobody else has. Funny thing about the broadcasters who've called our games this year: They've been saying that UGA's offense is sufficient as long as the defense dominates, but at some point they're going to have to score enough to win a shootout. Really? A shootout? In a game with this defense? I don't see the LA Rams on the schedule. Anyhow, here we go again. UGA 42, UT 0.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: BAYLOR OVER OKLAHOMA

This one's in Waco, and Wacko it is. OU is playing, so expect a lot of points for both teams. Baylor is coming off a loss to mediocre TCU, so expect Oklahoma to be complacent. Amazingly, after taking over at midseason, Caleb Williams is getting Heisman support. Will he get enough snaps to qualify? At least, that's the only argument against Jordan Davis. But let's get back to the game. OU has been playing with fire all year, and that tends to produce a burn. I'll take the Bears in a scorcher. Baylor 51, OU 48.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: NC STATE OVER WAKE FOREST

Oh-oh. Wake gave up one less point to a 4-4 team on Saturday than UGA has allowed all season. Their run through the bottom of the ACC and a few cupcakes has ended, and that's without Georgia Tech on this year's schedule. Wake's QB is having a terrific year against the likes of Old Dominion, North Carolina, and Duke. He might be really good, but the streak is over. Meet the new streak. Wolfpack feasts, 53-50.