

THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST: DAWGS BLAZE UAB

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SEPARATED@BIRTH?



**COMPETITIVE GUY & HERITAGE HIGH
BOO SMITH JACK MCBRAYER**

THE COMPLETE SEPARATED@BIRTH? COLLECTION

I will occasionally watch a soccer game, and am always amazed when, with 10 minutes to go and one team up 1-0, the announcers will talk about the game as though it's already over. Who could possibly score a goal with only 10 minutes left?

And that's how I started to feel in the fourth quarter of the Clemson game. A lead with 10 minutes left? This one's in the can.

The closer the week got to Saturday, the fewer points I thought these teams would score. The defenses were just too good, and the offenses had too many question marks. I sure didn't expect 10-3. But I was pretty sure that the over/under of 51.5 was way too many points. I was also pretty sure that my forecast of a 31-28 Dawg win was way too high a score.

Late last week, The Scowlmeister and I held a panel discussion—attended with rapt attention by both of his dogs, both taking detailed notes—on the prospects for the game. We had both recently watched the replay of the Cincinnati game on the SEC Network, and thought our defense would be fantastic this year after 8 sacks in the bowl game and a lockdown second half. Of course, we could never do that to Clemson, but the team did show promise in showcasing the 2021 roster. D.J. Uiagalelei was a major talent and would be hard to shut down—the guy put up impressive stats last year and is built like Cam Newton—but our D might keep them in check while our offense got enough for the win. But 10-3? 10-3???? Seven sacks????? With no offensive touchdowns from either team????? And with Clemson's best offensive plays coming from pass interference calls?

Of course a 10 point showing by the offense isn't going to give SportsCenter a lot of highlights to work with. JT was given a short passing game, and threw it mostly well (22-30, if for relatively few yards) to a set of inexperienced receivers. I suspect that our respect for their front seven cut back the number of long-developing plays in the playbook. They also played a soft zone, according to Kirby after the game, that made a deep game hard to throw. We didn't look the way Alabama did in blowing out Miami. But that final four-minute drill that lasted almost five minutes was pretty impressive. We can still run the ball when we need to, no matter how many first rounders are trying to stop it. And Clemson is loaded with them.

It was good to see Robert Beal getting a lot of snaps in the OLB rotation. He's a guy who was once deep down the depth chart, hit the portal, came back, and is now a key contributor. He was once an IMG mega prospect who had trouble playing past other guys. Now he's the one blocking the path to the field of the young talent.

Great moments in broadcasting:

- 🎧 As Kirby was getting interviewed walking off the field at halftime, he mentioned that he wasn't sure of the status of Tate's injury. Chris Fowler provided the helpful clarification that he was referring, of course, to Clemson OL Marcus Tate.
- 🎧 When Ladd "Mad Honky" McConkey caught his first pass, Kirk Herbstreit referred to him as "the former walkon," because we all know, all white skill players begin as walkons.
- 🎧 Meanwhile, when actual walkon Jalen Johnson caught a pass, there was no mention of his scholarship status. Hmmmmm.
- 🎧 The broadcasters also referred several times to the long-awaited "return to normalcy" that packed national stadiums with unmasked fans of questionable vaccine status screaming for four hours.



Georgia cases

Updated Sep 5 at 11:49 AM local

Confirmed
1,413,284

Deaths
22,870



Against Clemson, Daniels needed a release so quick the ball was gone before he threw it.

New Covid Guidelines Released

The CDC has issued a new set of recommendations to address the Covid-19 scourge. Previously, it had recommended that people drink a cocktail consisting of horse deworming medications and camel urine. After extensive research, they now say that to prevent Covid, *you should switch to drinking horse urine and taking camel dewormers*. If you get Covid, they recommend drinking a cup of runoff lard from a Waffle House grill every hour for two weeks. Keep an eye on this space for further developments in the national priority of keeping football games from getting cancelled during the Return to Normalcy.

SAT PREP SESSION

SAT Question of the Week: What is the most important part of Stegeman Coliseum?

- A. The turnstile that counts fans who attend the games.
- B. The turnstile that keeps track of players transferring out of the program.
- C. The turnstile that keeps track of players transferring into the program.
- D. The turnstile that doesn't spin when the best HS players in Georgia go someplace else.

Answer: The most important part of Stegeman Coliseum is the support structure that keeps the roof in place when Foghorn Bullhorn begins booing the officials.

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

Bigger Vision

Our Mission: To provide a safe and comfortable place for those in homelessness in Athens, Georgia, as they navigate the path towards sustainable housing.

Our Vision: We envision an Athens where every person has a safe and comfortable place to stay each night.

Bigger Vision's Abundant Life program is designed to help those in homelessness seeking to obtain GED education, certified job skills training, and those in homelessness who are currently employed. This program provides a sustainable housing environment without need for daily call-ins.

Bigger Vision's Emergency Shelter Program seeks to provide a safe and comfortable place for those in homelessness in Athens, GA. We do this by providing a fair and equal opportunity to stay each night via a call-in system that is held at 4:00 pm each day. Guests receive a homemade meal, showers or laundry on an alternating schedule, a comfortable bed to sleep on, as well as breakfast in the morning.

[DONATE HERE](#)

DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ “If Joe had to go, then so does Bo.” ~Little Woolly
- ☞ After Lane Kiffin tested positive for Covid-19, Mississippi governor Tate Reeves ordered that all women within 1,000 miles of Oxford be tested for the virus to help contain the spread beyond Kiffin's nether region, where he apparently has not been wearing a mask.
- ☞ They'll be showing Chris Smith's pick-6 on the Sanford Stadium jumbotron for the next 50 years.
- ☞ After the performances of the first week of the season, before which the preseason Heisman watch list was breathlessly promoted by the Lamestream Sports Media, the Heisman Trophy for 2021 has been cancelled.
- ☞ And after the first week, the ACC has been officially eliminated from the postseason playoff. Georgia Tech's invitation to play in the Slipper Genie Microfiber Slippers Bowl in Nimrod, Minnesota has already been rescinded.
- ☞ Earlier in the day, the most exciting moment of the Penn State-Wisconsin game, according to the broadcasters, was the famed Camp Randall Jump Around between the third and fourth quarters, which they called one of the greatest traditions in all of college football—rivaling the “spell-Georgia cheer”—which appeared to involve people jumping around for a few minutes.
- ☞ Last year the Dawg Nation and the Lamestream Sports Media got very restless as Kirby Smart cycled through D'Wan Mathis and then Stetson Bennett at QB while JT Daniels got healthy. There was a lot of pressure to get him on the field, including Gary Danielson wondering why Kirby wasn't playing a “scholarship quarterback” (which Bennett was by then) through the first long portion of the season. I was impressed that the coaches weren't risking injury by risking losses as JT sat and the nation got impatient and questioned Kirby's judgment. But he was right: You don't throw a guy out there because it's important to your own ego and career. You wait till he's physically ready to perform. This year it's Dom

Blaylock, a guy who lit it up till injuries sidelined him, now close to playing but held out of a gigantic opener to make sure he doesn't hurt himself or get hurt by opponents. I admire coaches who don't risk other people's welfare to advance their own. I admire this staff.

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

Richard LeCounte was a delight to have on campus for four years. He was Kirby Smart's first commitment. The five-star kid came in and played right away, starting his last three seasons before a freak biking accident ended his season and affected his showing for pro scouts. He's often described as having an infectious personality, one that led to leadership roles throughout his career on the field and in the locker room. His high school coach in Liberty County, [Good Guy Kirk Warner](#), said of him: "There's that aura about him and that leadership quality. He pretty much then backed it up on the football field. He's always represented himself in a class manner. That's just the type of kid Richard is. That's how his mom and his dad raised him. Just an A1, class-act person." Coach Smart added, "He has been so loyal to Georgia in an era when that's not normal. It's normal to de-commit, move here, decide late. He committed early, he was a great player, and he stayed an extra year for his senior year. He loves The University of Georgia. That makes somebody special and people will remember that for the rest of his life." His teammates found him to be motivating just to be around; said Malik Herring, "He just inspires me to be great. He just brought smiles and laughs to everybody." Richard got it done in the classroom, majoring in Sports Management and earning a J.E. and W.S. Hickey scholarship. An eager Dawg Nation awaits his NFL career and beyond, and it looks as though the Browns got the steal of the draft in taking him late after other teams backed off following his accident. But no matter what, Richard LeCounte was what we hope all of the athletes we recruit will be: a great citizen, an inspiring person, and a Damn Good Dawg for the ages.



THE FORECAST

Just a reminder that last week I picked Temple over Rutgers. (And NIU over GT.) Stat line of interest:

	C/ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	INT	QBR
D'Wan Mathis	8/25	148	5.9	0	1	10.0

DAWGS VS. ALABAMA-BIRMINGHAM

After the game, Kirby was asked about how he felt about the win, and he started talking about the incredible challenge the Dawgs have next week with a blistering hot opponent, and how we can't dwell on this win lest we end up 1-1. That was one of his most impressive calls of the night.

The actual most compelling question of the game concerns who'll trot out as QB2 after the varsity runs up the score. I suspect it'll be Carson Beck. But we may play Jackson Muschamp by the time this one's over, so let's not get ahead of ourselves.



BILLY'S BRO & CHILL AND FLOW
JIMMY CARTER & CARSON BECK
[The Complete Dawg QB Collection](#)

So, UAB. In their beatdown of Jacksonville State to open the season, the local headline read [UAB's defense flashes signs of hellfire and brimstone](#). Choice quotes include "what we witnessed in Montgomery were sure signs of the football apocalypse. . . . for UAB it was the type of season opener that swallows a pretender whole and deposits the remains on a bone pile of college football's favorite flops. . . . UAB goes to Athens next Saturday, and the Blazers have four extra days to prepare for the 'Dawgs. . . . No one's going to be predicting football Ragnarok or anything next week, but maybe Georgia should prepare for it."

Hear that Bulldogs? These guys believe that this is their game to win. Kirby's already in Fear the Opponent mode. I don't believe it, but this Alabama sportswriter is mixing the Kool-Aid with extra goat urine, and they believe they are inoculated against losing.

But they're not lining up against Jacksonville State, no matter how solid a program that is at their level of play. UAB's recruiting classes have been 115 and 90 the last two years, and let's assume those are typical numbers. Got to think that the talent levels will be very different when they come to Athens. And they will be. I'll believe someone can cross our goal line when I see it. UGA 48, UAB 0.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: OHIO STATE OVER OREGON

In the 2021 March Madness, my Win bracket was filled with Big 10 teams. I thought it was the nation's best league and that Illinois would win it all, with 3 Big 10 teams in the Final Four. I put my money (of which I bet none) on the league, and went home broke. Maybe I should have signed an NIL deal comparable to Quinn Ewers' 1.4 million

endorsement, new truck, and date with the most beautiful woman on the DoULike dating app.

And here I go again. Big 10 over PAC 12, which rivaled the ACC in Week 1 hideousness. I imagine that breaking in a new QB will have some adventuresome moments, but most Ohio State players are experienced because there are so many blowouts. Who knows, maybe Quinn Ewers will get in the game. I'll go with red over green (or whatever color Oregon shows up in), 38-21.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: ARKANSAS OVER TEXAS

Welcome to the SEC, Longhorns. These two programs used to be in the same conference, but have been like lovers in a country & western song, on and off and on again. Two recent SEC assistant coaches match wits, Pittman vs. Sarkisian. Sark no doubt is the more wily offensive mind, Pittman the more inspiring leader. But new coaches always have adjustment years, and I don't see this season being too inspiring for Texas, in spite of a good start in Week 1. Hogs 28, Horns 24.