THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST: PAVLOV'S DAWGS HEAR WHISTLE AND SALIVATE, SNARL, AND EAT CHICKEN

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BONUS COVERAGE: CLEMSON GAME







DAVID POLLACK

The narrative all last week was pretty consistent. With JT Daniels looking iffy with an injury that may have compromised his effectiveness against Clemson, Carson Beck would get his first start. The conservative game plan from Week 1 would continue into the UAB game so that Beck wouldn't have to carry the burden of pressure into the contest: We'd rely on our OL to get a big push for the running game, which would control the game and showcase the RBU stable. With our defense playing lights out, that would be get us through the game, with hopes that Daniel would return for the South Carolina game, with so much more on the line.

And then the game began, and that narrative ended on the second play of the Dawgs' first possession. Afterwards, Stetson Bennett confessed to pregame nerves, and said, "It helps when you've got Jermaine Burton running open down the field on the second play to get all the jitters out."



And it helps to have The Big Dawg, Bowser "Wowsers" Bowers, actually being better than advertised, and his preseason promotional campaign was impressive. And to have Arian Smith both turning on his burners, and showing his ability to adjust to a ball in the air. But what really helps is to have a guy like <u>Stetson Bennett</u> in the QB room, on the sidelines, and in the huddle.

"No one has been better to the University of Georgia than Stetson Bennett," said Kirby Smart after the game. I think a lot of us forgot how well he played last season. He rescued us from an Arkansas game that looked very wobbly before his entrance, then kept getting the job done except for the Alabama game, a team that everybody struggled against. Against Florida he got banged up with a 14-0 lead, which led to a loss that eventually positioned Daniels for his shot. For the long haul, Stet was too small and lacked the howitzer arm that Daniels is blessed with. Thank you for your service, Mr. Bennett, but it's time for a change. And with the tall and talented QBs we've recruited behind Daniels, here is your clipboard for the remainder of your UGA career.

So goes the narrative. But this kid just kept after it in practice and in the QB room, and when JT came up sore, he got the call and played one of the best halves in program history. This game went against script in every way imaginable, at least on offense. The defense did what this defense does: 2.8 yards per pass attempt, 3.5 yards per carry, zero points allowed. And on offense, we were reminded of what Coach Smart knew all along: No one has been better to the University of Georgia than Stetson Bennett.

Anyone who says, "Sure, but it was just UAB" might note that UAB destroyed Jacksonville State 31-0 in Week 1, and JSU took out FSU on Saturday in Tallahassee,

20-17. Does that make UGA 83 points better than Florida State? Probably. Does that make me confident that Stetson Bennett can QB the team against as much of the rest of the schedule as is necessary? You betcha.

New Covid Guidelines Released

The CDC conducted more tests last week, and now is recommending that, to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 Delta virus, we should be eating drinking a concoction consisting of one part Duke's Mayonnaise and three parts chlorine dioxide. Note that this cure only works on the Delta variant. If you get the BV-1 variety, you need Hellman's. For the mu variety, use Kraft. All others, please wait for the next available associate.

SAT PREP SESSION

SAT Question of the Week: Who the heck are these guys? Trevor Lawrence, Justin Fields, JT Daniels, Tanner McKee, Justin Rogers, Dorian Thompson-Robinson, Jarren Williams, Matt Corral, Tyler Shough

- A. Each one graduated from college in three years with a major in Cell and Molecular Biology
- B. Each once clerked with Justice Clarence Thomas on the Supreme Court
- C. Each has signed an endorsement deal with the Suave hair shampoo company
- D. Each unsuccessfully tried to get a date with Layla Kiffin

Answer: These are the top ten rated QBs in the 2018 HS football class in ranked order.

Others of interest: #16: Emory Jones #34: Joe Milton #53: Zach Wilson #127: Trey Lance

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

Athens Area Homeless Shelter

Athens Area Homeless Shelter provides collaborative, comprehensive services to homeless individuals and families working toward sustainable independence. The Athens Area Homeless Shelter, Inc. (AAHS) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization serving homeless individuals and families in Athens-Clarke County, Georgia. AAHS was established in 1986 and was formally incorporated in 1990.

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DAWG DOOTS

- "It is what it is. What has happened happened." ~Linebacker Ayinde Eley, showing keen analytic skills in explaining Georgia Tech's home loss to Northern Illinois
- Georgia Southern ran through us like shit through a tin horn." ~Nick Saban, showing keen analytic skills in explaining the effects of rat poison on the Alabama football team, along with his skill at discerning the degree of fecal fluidity required to negotiate the exit from a metal vessel
- Other Week 1 Narratives put to rest:
 - Texas is back, baby!
 - FSU QB McKenzie Milton is the best story in NCAA football this season.
 - Ohio State never loses in The Horseshoe.
 - Notre Dame is the #8 team in the country.
 - Southern Cal is back, baby!
- They used to say, "There are no bad photos of Cam Newton." That was then. This is now.



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

Shaun Chapas reminds me of something I heard Damon Evans say once: "I played a position we no longer have at UGA: slow wide receiver." Shaun played fullback, a position that has gone the way of the dodo, the pterodactyl, and the musket. The Bolles (FL) HS graduate played at UGA for Mark Richt, and in spite of playing a position that didn't fit the evolving game, was drafted by Dallas and played several years in the NFL. He's not a guy I can recite flashy stats for; fullbacks create the conditions for the guys behind them to get yards and scores. His career duration speaks for itself: the guy was a roadgrader coming out of the backfield and a lot of terrific backs were happy to run behind him. He retired from the NFL in 2015 and came home to UGA, starting as an intern and Sports Management master's student, and now, working as diligently as he did on the field, has become Senior Director of Development. His classroom acumen was evident from the start: when he tore up his knee in HS right about when he committed to the G, he was advised to go to a college he'd love even if he got injured and couldn't play. He said, "Georgia was that place. It was where I could go even if I could not play football. I wanted to study business, and Terry [Business School] provided a

great place for me to do that. The campus is also so beautiful, so if you add all of those things up, it really was a no brainer." Brains were never in short supply for Sean. At UGA he was named CoSIDA/ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District III First Team, made the SEC Academic Honor Roll, earned Director's Honor Roll distinction, and was named CBS Scholar Athlete of the game versus LSU. In 2010 he was selected as the team's overall permanent captain, also being named the team's Coaches Leadership Award for Special Teams, the Leon Farmer Award for dedication to the strength and conditioning program, and the David Jacobs Award as the player who by example portrays courage, spirit, character, and determination. No wonder he has been promoted up the ladder in the Athletic Association. He's got what it takes to lead our athletics operation, and we're lucky to have him back home.



THE FORECAST

Brief followup on last weekend, when upsets were rampant: I had Arkansas over Texas, though not by such magnitude; but I once again had too much confidence in the Big Ten and too little regard for the PAC-12 in taking Ohio State over Oregon. (And whoa, I nailed that UGA over UAB pick, like totally.) I was happy to be wrong on Oregon, given my distaste for anything that Urban Meyer once disgraced. And Woody Hayes.

DAWGS VS. SOUTH CAROLINA

There are coaching changes that don't involve a wholesale roster makeover. Mark Richt left Kirby Smart a solid program, and after a year of adjustment, Kirby built on that foundation to produce an elite team. You're either elite or you're not, and SC ain't. Will Muschamp didn't leave Shane Beamer such a stocked roster, and the Gamecocks are playing a QB who ought to be holding a clipboard. Throw in an adjustment to a new staff and its new schemes and new demands, and it's going to be a few years before we see if Shane can coach like his dad, who is the main reason Shane gets these jobs. But see Skip Holtz, Tommy Bowden, Derek Dooley, and others who've taken mediocrity to new levels by getting jobs based on what their dads did a generation ago. The Dawgs get healthier while SC treads water trying not to submerge. UGA 31, SC o. Because they won't get anything against this defense, the one with 3 coordinators and no tolerance for yardage or points.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: ALABAMA OVER FLORIDA

Dan Mullen spent several months with his staff over the summer coming up with excuses for why they will get their asses kicked on Saturday. None of them concern Dan Mullen's coaching. I don't see Florida putting up much more of a fight than Miami did. Governor DeSantis has tried banning helmets for Alabama, but appears to be running across some "rules" that NCAA has about player safety, and it is likely that head coverings will be allowed after all. Too bad Gators. Their heads will be safely up their asses by the end of this one, and embedded so far their helmets will be coming out of their own mouths. Tide 42, Gators 10.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: WASHINGTON STATE OVER SO. CAL

Is there such thing as an upset in this league after Montana took out Washington? Probably not. Let's see what happens when the bottom of the league goes after what was originally considered to be the top, but that might now be the middle. Cougars 24, Trojans 21. [Note: I wrote this before waking up to see that Stanford had hammered USC, so this one's less an upset than it appeared to be before Clay Helton's seat caught on fire. Again.]