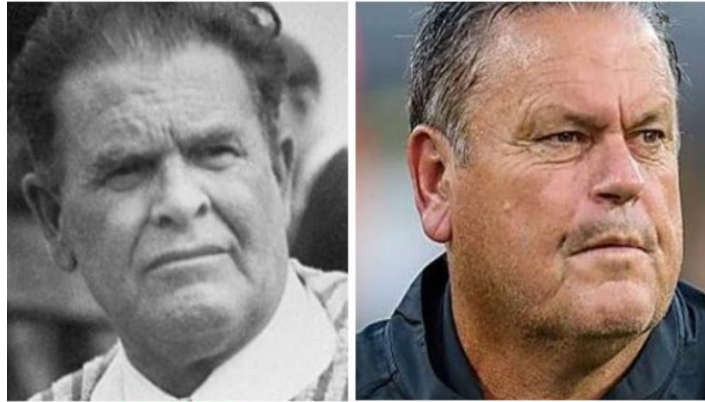


**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
DAWGS TAKE NO MALARKY FROM ARKY**

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SEPARATED@BIRTH?



**INNOVATOR
POP WARNER**

&

**EDUCATOR
SAM PITTMAN**

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

On a day when Georgia took care of business and exceeded the point spread in the first quarter, the rest of the nation continued to defy expectations. Clemson now is concerned about playing Florida State, but not for the reasons anyone could have anticipated. Heisman preseason favorite Spencer Rattler faced chants from his own fans to take a seat and let the backup take over during a shaky home win over WVU. Minnesota got rocked by Bowling Green, and lowly Georgia Tech blew out mighty North Carolina. SEC refs helped Auburn dodge their greatest embarrassment in recent or long-term memory.

And boy did Arkansas look impressive in dominating TAMU. The committee for SEC Coach of the Year held an emergency meeting Saturday night, and decided to shut down the competition and give Sam Pittman the award in September. The very large Razorback QB KJ Jefferson took a shot at the sideline that made him gimp, at which point Arkansas brought in a talented and athletic backup, Malik Hornsby before Jefferson applied “numbing gel” to his knee and returned with toughness, if not mobility. No word yet on his availability for next week. But on the whole, they looked pretty stout, especially on defense, in beating the team previously known as the 7th best team in the country. They looked really, really good. It’s going to be pretty physical next week.

Oh yes, and UGA played too. What do you say about a game like this against a team this bad? Now, Vandy did beat Colorado State, which has actually won a game. That’s pretty good. But oy, it looked as though the Dawgs had accidentally scheduled Athens Academy. It was pretty brutal out there. Not much I could do to enlighten the masses about just how great a massacre it was. Perhaps the Vandy QB stat line tells a lot:

★ Vanderbilt Passing

	C/ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	INT	QBR
Mike Wright	3/9	16	1.8	0	1	48.9
Ken Seals	2/9	8	0.9	0	1	0.6
TEAM	5/18	24	1.3	0	2	--

Add 1.9 yards per carry, and that's one anemic offense playing against one ferocious defense, and a lot of reserves at that.

And so, in the absence of words of wisdom on the game, it's time for the long-awaited Dawgmeister evaluation of JT Daniels. Generally, the high/low assessment is that from the hips on up—heart, arm, head—he's elite. Between his hips and toes, he's considered below average for the level of competition he plays here. It's not clear if he's playing fully healthy and is somewhat short of Justin Fields as an athlete, or if he isn't healed yet and we're just not seeing his agility and jets. I suspect that both are true: He's still getting his body back after his horrific sophomore injury, and when he does, he will be strictly a pocket passer and vulnerable to the rush.

Everyone assumes he'll go pro after this season based on his ability to throw that football. I wonder what would happen if he got drafted high by a bad team with a porous OL. He would get creamed, because he won't outrun the defenders in the backfield. Tom Brady is no stallion either, but he's not a fair comparison for anybody.

JT's making pretty good money as a college player already. Does he need to leave school early to make a living? That's up to him and the draft evaluators. [This list](#) doesn't include him in the national top 10 QBs. [Here](#) he's #5, behind the underperforming and booed-by-own-fans Spencer Rattler, the same Sam Howell who got his ass handed to him on Saturday by Georgia Tech, and.....Dillon Gabriel (roughly Stetson Bennett's height) of UCF and Grayson McCall of Coastal Carolina. [Here](#) he's ranked seventh. And so on.

But the only thing that matters here is The Dawgmeister's careful analysis based on extensive film study and insider knowledge gleaned from reading the AJC Dawg Nation and Dawgbone reports. This research does not include [the ridiculous Field Street updates](#). I get the "field" part, but what's up with "street"? Why do they have clickbait like "COMMIT WATCH: Big Time Elite Defender Trending BIG to Dawgs," with a link to a 3-star guy with 98% Crystal Ball predictions to Murray State?

If there's a QB out there better than JT, I haven't seen him yet. JT's arm is just glorious on pretty much every type of throw. Last year I wondered about his tendency to loft a long pass and underthrow the receiver. I thought that the offseason work would get him in better sync with their speed, and we'd see him wing it more this season. [Then I read this article on this very subject](#). He does it deliberately, and has been since early in high school, as a way to give his receiver a shot to beat the defender without overthrowing him. He knows more than I do, so I figured that's what to anticipate.

But this season, when a guy's open, he'll lead the receiver and lower the arc, and put it right where it needs to go for an in-stride score. If a guy is 10 yards open, JT will sling it

and not fear the overthrow. Maybe they're just more open this year. Maybe he changed strategies from the one that worked for him as a HS freshman, to what works in the SEC and NFL. Maybe he got used to the speed of his receivers. Maybe they're more in sync now after a year of practice together. Maybe all of these factors help to account for the fact that he's throwing 100/0 long balls this year instead of 50/50, or 80/20 when George Pickens is out there, which may not be long now. If not, Ladd McConkey's high-pointing, on display in Nashville, will have to do.

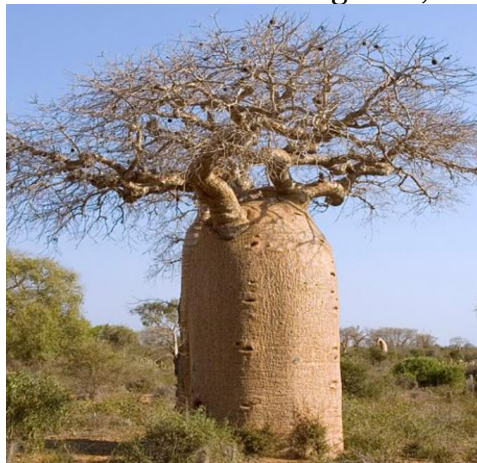
I wonder if JT has the patience, and need, to take another year in the program to recover fully, raking in NIL dough and being a hero to a grateful Dawg Nation. Does anyone envy Trevor Lawrence or Zach Wilson right now? Wouldn't another year of college ball with NIL helping to pay the laundry bills be a lot more fun? We'll see.

Beck and Vandagriff and all the walkons are pretty fortunate that they have time in the meeting room and film room with JT and SB4. Those guys just seem so gracious and generous, and set an incredible example with their work ethic, film study, mastery of the mental aspects of the game, and public conduct. JT's sharing of his NIL money with about 100 guys has got to be good for the team, and I hope sets a precedent for the young guys who see the benefits, and how they outweigh the personal profit of endorsement money.

Former Greater Atlanta Christian and Stanford QB Davis Mills got national exposure after replacing injured starter Tyrod Taylor of the Houston Texans, and most of the attention went to his remarkable neck. After extensive investigation, I learned why.



**A FRICKIN' NECK &
DAVIS MILLS**



**AFRICAN WRECK
BAOBAB TREE**

New Covid Guidelines Released

The CDC has now recommended that, to cure a case of Covid-19, rat poison left over from an Alabama post-game celebration be mixed with glyphosate and boric acid and injected by needle into the tongue. Some recipients of this treatment have reported an odd aftertaste, a loss of the sense of smell, and head lice. But hey, at least it's not a vaccine.

SAT PREP SESSION

SAT Question of the Week: Of the top 260 QBs in the 2018 class, how many were from Georgia, and where did they go?

- A. In 2018, there were no scholarship QBs from Georgia in the senior class
- B. One: Steven Krajewski, who played for Rush Propst at Colquitt County and now maintains three families in South Georgia
- C. Three, one of whom transferred from USF, the other two of whom transferred to USF
- D. All 260 committed to UGA but couldn't beat out Jake Fromm, so transferred

Answer: These are the Georgia HS QBs on the 2018 list of the nation's top 260 QBs, along with their institutions of higher learning and the places they transferred to:

- #1: Trevor Lawrence, Cartersville HS, Clemson
- #2: Justin Fields, Harrison HS, UGA/Ohio State
- #7: Jarren Williams, Central Gwinnett HS, Miami/South Florida
- #16: Emory Jones, Heard Co. HS, Florida
- #52: Octavious Battle, Atlanta-Carver HS, S. Florida/Texas Southern
- #56: Cade Fortin, North Gwinnett HS, UNC/South Florida
- #83: Luke Shiflett, Northwest Whitfield County HS, Middle Tennessee/Furman
- #89: Cordel Littlejohn, Roswell HS, Florida Atlantic
- #100: Gunnar Watson, Taylor County HS, Troy
- #105: Steven Krajewski, Colquitt County HS, UConn
- #124: Bryce Lawrence, Ola HS, Mercer
- #132: Garrett Bass, Woodstock HS, West Georgia/Murray State
- #155: Fred Payton, Peachtree Ridge HS, Coastal Carolina
- #172: D.J. Irons, Grayson HS, Eastern Kentucky/Iowa Central C.C./Akron
- #188: Justin Tomlin, Southwest DeKalb HS, Georgia Southern
- #224: Javonte Middleton, Jenkins HS, The Citadel
- #226: Hunter Artes, Hillgrove HS, Reinhardt University

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 Chautauqua Society

The Athens Chautauqua Society has witnessed phenomenal growth in its short history as a non-profit, community cultural organization in Athens-Clarke County providing humanities-focused, educational programs for the general public. In addition, we develop programs (currently virtual) that encourage and support civic discourse and engagement. The Athens Chautauqua Society (a 501c3 nonprofit organized in 2019) is a "rebirth" of the first Athens Chautauqua that was held in April 1914 and continued for five more years until 1919. Most likely, the Spanish flu may have helped bring about its

demise. Athens Chautauqua Society is now attempting to revitalize this “movement” even during the time of COVID 19 by using virtual learning.

Like the Chautauqua Institution founded in 1874 near Jamestown, New York, the Athens Chautauqua Society is “dedicated to the exploration of the best in human values and the enrichment of life through a program that explores the important religious, social and political issues of our times.”

[DONATE HERE](#)

DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ The Dawg defense has gotten plenty of much-deserved attention this season. Two guys we didn't really see coming as major contributors who seem to be out there all the time: Dan Jackson, walkon safety, and Tramel Walthour, DL, who is a key rotation guy.
- ☞ Walthour came in as a 3-star recruit per 247 composite. According to Rivals, he was the #51 recruit in the state of Georgia and unranked nationally. He committed to UGA in HS, but spent a year at Hutchinson CC before landing in Athens. Count him among the underrated guys that our coaches see something special in and develop into an SEC player.
- ☞ The bio on Jackson is pretty impressive, despite his original walkon status. At North Hall in Gainesville, he was: two-way star for the Trojans, playing RB on offense and DB on defense...All-State as a DB during senior season...2018 Region 7-AAA Player of the Year....Team MVP as a junior and senior...Had 1,785 all-purpose yards with 26 touchdowns and four interceptions as a senior...also lettered in basketball and track all four years...school record holder in the 110-meter hurdles.
- ☞ [More Lamestream Sports Media assessments of “Dirty Dan”](#): “it is unlikely that Jackson sees any meaningful playing time during the 2021 season. . . . There's just too much talent on defense at Georgia, but in an area where Georgia Football is a little limited, Jackson does provide depth.”

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

Todd Gurley is one of the greatest players in UGA history, although was only the second-highest ranked running back to commit to the Dawgs in his own class. Aside from an injury that sidelined him and a suspension for selling memorabilia, he thrilled Sanford Stadium crowds with his otherworldly athleticism and talent. He was also a team leader before departing early for the NFL. Just for the heck of it, in 2013 he joined the indoor track team and recorded the seventh-fastest 60-meter hurdles time in school history at 8.12 seconds. You just couldn't hope for a better player or better teammate than Todd was at UGA. He continued his outstanding play with the Los Angeles Rams, winning just about every accolade presented to NFL offensive players. Too many hits to his knee took its toll, reducing his effectiveness within a few years, an unfortunate development for a player of such great skill, intelligence, and athleticism. His citizenship is well exemplified by his decision in 2016 to spend his off week helping his home state of North Carolina recover from Hurricane Matthew. He flew to Tarboro to volunteer at

the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina, with the understanding that his home town was serving as a refuge for those experiencing flooding in neighboring towns. Rather than cutting a check and using his off week to rest and recuperate, he spent the weekend “Helping people take food to the car and make a couple sandwiches. It was pretty cool just being able to see people’s faces. People were excited just to have me there just serving and helping out. I just wanted to give back, get back and really go see my family and just see all my friends. I just wanted to kind of do something while I was there and show my appreciation for the town.” You can see why he’s been such a force on the field and in the locker room. We can only hope that his knee miraculously heals and we can again watch him run like a stallion through defenses. But if it doesn’t, he’s got the character to do big things in other areas of life.



THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. ARKANSAS

The Dawgs return to the competitive part of their schedule, and to Sanford Stadium after a 4-0 start with only one between the hedges. They are taking on the team that Sam Pittman has turned around pretty impressively. They beat up TAMU on Saturday, even with a backup QB (albeit a highly ranked one) playing a lot when Jefferson got gimpy after a sideline hit. Let’s get this part settled at the start: Arkansas is a running team. They pass when the defense is loaded against the run. Against TAMU, they threw 19 passes (9 completions) and ran the ball 49 times. I’m guessing that the coaches will have little trouble convincing the team that these guys are a threat on the ground, and will impress gap responsibilities on the defenders and alertness to the surprise deep throw in the secondary. I couldn’t tell if TAMU was way overrated, or just overrated. They have a good RB but didn’t impress at the QB position or on the OL. Or maybe Pittman is just one hell of a coach, a guy who gets his players ready and motivates them to play with extreme toughness.

UGA’s romp was so comprehensive that it’s almost hard to know what to expect on Saturday. Probably not 35 points in the first quarter, and probably not a long look at everyone on the roster. I think we’ll get the W, but it’ll hard-fought. I still don’t see anyone moving the ball much against our defense, and it’s tempting to think that, with Daniels healthy, nobody will do much against our offense, even when the leading receivers are all freshmen, two of them coming in as 3-star afterthoughts (to fans, that is). All this without Pickens, Blaylock, Washington, Gilbert, and a healthy Burton or

Jackson. I don't know if Wowers Bowers can block in a tight formation as well as Washington, but he's a tremendous open-field blocker who seems to enjoy the work. And he can catch and run, too.

This one should be tight and physical. I'll go with the guys in Red, Black, and Silver. UGA 20, Arkansas 10.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: WISCONSIN OVER MICHIGAN

Michigan started with 4 home games, and now begins a back end with 5 of 8 on the road, including this one at a hard place for visitors to win in (don't tell Notre Dame). The illusion created by a home-heavy schedule gets exposed along with Michigan's weaknesses. Jim Harbaugh gets his nasty pout on and keeps it till 2022. Badgers win the battle of oversized rodents, 23-21.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: MARYLAND OVER IOWA

Kids in Maryland dream of growing up and playing in the traditional Big 10 rivalry that the Terps have with Iowa. Actually most of them couldn't find Iowa on a map. That's how it goes in the world of realignment. Big 10 weirdness continues as Maryland takes down the Hawkeyes (in my Midwestern years, known to many in The Corn State as the Choke-eyes). It's that kind of year. Maryland 21, Iowa 20.