

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
DAWGS SEND CATS TO DOGHOUSE**

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SEPARATED@BIRTH?



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&

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In the early shootout between Oklahoma and Texas, when preseason Heisman favorite Spencer Rattler re-entered the game after his backup had led a historic comeback, he was greeted by the Sooner Nation with a chorus of “Zeus!!!!”

Later in the day, when Zamir White jackhammered his way through the Auburn defense and into the endzone, the Dawg Nation serenaded him with the same old song. And the melody lingers on.

On a day when the stars fell on Alabama, the Dawgs came to play. The defense had some moments when Bo Nix earned his NIL deal and escaped the rush, but for the most part the front 7 crushed the Auburn running game and relied on Auburn’s unreliable receivers to help control the Auburn passing game. Dawg fans keep hearing about the Dawgs’ thin cast of receivers, what with the preseason depth chart mostly wearing shorts on the sidelines during games. Those injured warriors are among the 14 scholarship players cheering on their backups on both sides of the ball. Anyone who thinks we over-recruit needs to understand just how crucial it is to have talented guys waiting for their turn, and ready when it comes.

Bo Nix got loose a few times and opened the game as if he thought it was still last Saturday. But by the fourth quarter the good guys in white had figured out his spin moves, and how to turn herd him toward the center like a pack of mammoth border

collies looking for fresh sheep meat, and dining on the remains. This wasn't LSU, Bo. Just ask Kentucky.

It's been interesting to follow how Ladd McConkey has been described in the broadcast booth. Against Clemson, he was erroneously introduced as the "walkon," which he never was. More recently, broadcasters have been surprised when he adds yardage to a catch, because he's mainly a "possession-type receiver." On Saturday, he got called "the playmaker Ladd McConkey" with "textbook footwork" and "exceptional speed" that he used to "streak down the field." I think that the guys making fortunes calling games are starting to realize that it helps to rely on preparation rather than stereotypes when they provide player profiles.

I'm waiting for McConkey and Mitchell to get their own NIL-sponsored L-AD M-squared sports show, accompanied by contracts to produce videos on how to run impeccable routes. It's amazing how accomplished they are and how they came in as 3-star recruits without a lot of fanfare. In McConkey's case, his route-running developed without a background playing WR; in Mitchell's, it came after sitting out his senior year because of Covid restrictions, and before that, a top recognition of second-team All-District. I'd like to see who made first team. Who knows how many snaps they'd be getting with a healthy WR room. Who knows where they'd be playing if our coaches hadn't recognized their talent, picked them out of the recycling bin, and brought them to Athens. What we do know is that they have turned a presumed weakness into a major threat.

The studio analysts were all a-flutter about SB4's terrific game. The Mailman will occasionally put too much postage on a throw, but who doesn't? He was, once again, the best QB on the field, no matter how high his opposite number was ranked coming out of HS (for Nix, the #1 duel-threat QB). He's a great fit for Monken's approach of running plays to a defense's open area. A week ago it was between the guards, and the "game manager" label was the theme of the day. Against Auburn it was all over the field, from inside runs to deep throws to scrambles away from pressure.

His composure and delivery had the analysts in booths and studios saying that he's now QB1, and that going back to JT would be a huge mistake. I have no idea if that's true or not. But it sure does say a lot about the smarts, preparation, moxie, composure, *and talent* this kid's got. When "game manager" came up against Auburn, it was more in terms of, is he a game manager, or is he an exceptional football player? I think you know where The Dawgmeister stands on that one.

Of course, the defense did it again. Much has been made of the starting DL, and with good reason. But at critical moments, I saw jerseys with names like Logue, Brinson, Walthour, and Stackhouse jamming that line of scrimmage. A lot of ink has been invested, and justifiably so, in the possibility of bringing in an extraordinary group of talented DL in the 2022 class, as if they'll step in and replace the upperclassmen as soon as they set foot on campus. But don't forget these other guys, along with a lot of others waiting their turn. They're here for a reason.

And now, another top matchup, from another unexpected source. Not long ago, it was Georgia, Florida, and everybody else. But now it's Florida with 2 losses and Kentucky looming as the bigger game. What a great season it's turned out to be.

CDC Update

The CDC is encouraging everyone to do their own research on the Covid-19 and its variants as a way to determine whether or not vaccines are a good idea. They have finally recognized that citizen scientists are the only way out of this pandemic. To escape the hegemony of the "medical model," citizen scientists are urged to abandon old paradigms and undertake new, innovative investigations into the illness and how to treat it. Every citizen study is now considered a legitimate trial, and investigators are encouraged to bypass obsolete medical journals and share their results on social media. "We the People" are the only way out of this hoax and the only ones capable of assuring a safer present, and more prosperous future.

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 Backpack Project

The Backpack Project, Inc. ("TBP") is a student-run 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to packing and hand-delivering backpacks containing food, toiletries, and other necessities to those experiencing homelessness. Founded in 2015, TBP operates throughout the state of Georgia with a focus on Athens, Atlanta, Augusta, and Savannah. TBP strives to provide items of high quality to all clients, tailored to seasonal needs. In 2021, the organization will distribute its 10,000th backpack and 400,000th item. In large part due to our sponsors, partners, and community members like you, we've been able to create marked impacts in all of our communities. We ourselves have been deeply humbled and moved by our clients. The connections and relationships we form through simple conversations with our clients inspire us to tackle homelessness with creativity and compassion.

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SAT PREP SESSION

SAT Question of the Week: What is the most amazing thing about Trae Young?

- A. His Ice Trae demeanor and big game performances.
- B. His ability to penetrate and swish a floater.
- C. His ability to penetrate and lob to a dunker.
- D. His infinite shooting range.
- E. His impeccable handle.
- F. His quickness that allows him to materialize 10 feet away from himself in a flash.

G. His heart and competitiveness.

Answer:

The most amazing thing about Trae Young is that he plays in the NBA and hardly has any tattoos.

DAWG DOOTS

☞ Sorry about that, Chief:

 [Kiffin Sorry for 'Popcorn' Comment Before Alabama Loss](#)


 [Urban Meyer Apologizes for Viral Video at Ohio Bar](#)


☞ Would you believe:


 “There are good people in that locker room. On both sides.” ~Urban Meyer after another loss

 [Tebow Says Meyer Will Have to Earn Back Respect of Players after Giving Him Tryout at Tight End](#)

 “Own it.” ~The slogan Urban Meyer provided to elevate his Jacksonville Jaguars to the next level

 “Collins has sought to instill a mind-set of playing with toughness and resilience in the face of setbacks, encapsulated in the mantra ‘Put the ball down.’” ~news report on the Georgia Tech approach to playing offense

 “I just want to win. I'm a team guy. I just want my team to do well.” ~Ben Simmons

 “I was in school to play basketball; I wasn't trying to be a doctor. . . . The toughest class I had was Oceanography only because I didn't have too much interest in the oceans.” ~ Ben Simmons on his semester of studies at LSU

THE COVETED DAWGMEISTER GOOD GUY OF THE WEEK AWARD

GOOD GUY ARCHIVE

UGA has gotten accustomed to signing 4-5 star offensive linemen in the Smart Era. Occasionally there's a lower-ranked guy getting an offer, a guy like **Justin Shaffer** of Cedar Grove, GA, whose recruiting score made him a 3-star recruit of the sort who often has trouble playing past the elite players ahead of him. But here we are in his fifth season in the program. For the last three years he's become indispensable to the line's cohesion and success. It takes an extraordinary man to be patient and allow himself to be coached up to this level, and that's what Justin is. It no doubt helps to be 6'-4", 330 pounds; but then, so is everyone else in the OL meeting room, unless they're bigger. There are qualities between the ears that have made Justin into an OL staple: “I look at myself as the underdog. Coming out of high school I was the underdog. Coming into college I was the underdog because I had people like Andrew [Thomas] and Isaiah [Wilson] in front of me. So I always played with that chip on my shoulder, like I have a point to prove.” No transfer portal for Justin Shaffer: He wanted to earn his time at the place he originally committed to, emerging as a team leader in the offseason in workouts and other forms of preparation. He said, “I've just been standing with [underclassmen] during practice and trying to give them the confidence so they can be a [starter] and do whatever it takes to help the team, because at the end of the day, it's about the best

starting five who come out there. I feel like the momentum has shifted into the right place. I feel like it comes to the team bonding and everybody just being on the right page, and just connecting, to get us to go where we need.” The Sports Management major and Crosswy-Mackey Families Football Scholarship recipient understands that he’s a member of a team and not an individual making a name for himself, and that’s what champions are made of. Justin Shaffer is a champion, no matter what game he’s in.



THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. KENTUCKY

This has turned out to be a pretty good year to play Kentucky at home. Mark Stoops is one of my heroes for helping to expose what a douchebag and cruddy coach Dan Mullen is. I also like that he’s stayed with UK and made them competitive instead of seeking more glamorous jobs, although he might be the coach at Florida in 2 years. His teams are never easy outs, and let’s assume that they will play to form between the hedges. In spite of the fact that Auburn scored a TD on our first-string defense while the game was still competitive, I will still assume that we are impenetrable. We’ve got plenty on O regardless of who’s in the tent and in the ice tub. I’ll take the good guys in a tough game where we keep pulling away. Dawgs 24, Cats 0.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: TEXAS OVER OKLAHOMA STATE

A Shark and a Mullet walked into a bar.....

This one’s in Austin, so I’ll take the home team, even after a devastating loss on Saturday. I’m about as much a Mike Gundy fan as I am an admirer of cockroaches and mosquitos. Sarkisian seems to have straightened himself out and it’s nice to see him get another opportunity. Now, here I am talking about my coaching preferences, and of course, they have never entered into my forecasts before. There’s a first time for everything. Horns 41, Pokes 35.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: TCU OVER OKLAHOMA

Remember Zach Evans, the Texas RB who wanted to come to UGA, but had more red flags than recruiting stars (5) and was released? He’s done pretty well at TCU: 2021-21

Academic All-Big 12 Rookie Team, a freshman season with his team-best 7.7 yards per carry (2nd best in school history, 2nd nationally for true freshmen, 2nd best in the Big 12 since 2008). This year? 7.7 yards per carry. Meanwhile, OU keeps winning very, very close games, including one on Saturday that no doubt will affect them emotionally next week. Sooners, meet Zach Evans and a team ready to even some scores. Horned Frogs 45, Sooners 41.