

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
SO GATORS, WHAT YOU GONNA DO ABOUT IT?**

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FLORIDA COACHES COLLECTION



Mary Beth and Kirby Smart visit The Mullens in the offseason

In the noon showdown, the very stable genius from Florida took on the Dead Coach Walking from Louisiana. At the day's end, they were both 4-3.

And then came the showdown between the heavyweights between the hedges. Kentucky's players had done some yapping during the week about how they were going to use their high-powered running game to go home 7-0. Once they took the field, they ran 27 times for 51 yards against a defense that thought otherwise. That forced them to pass 42 times. I don't know how QBR is computed, but it's got to do a better job of determining that Will Levis had a better afternoon than Stetson Bennett:

	C/ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	INT	QBR
Will Levis	32/42	192	4.6	2	0	85.0
Stetson Bennett	14/20	250	12.5	3	0	75.2

SB4 averaged 12.5 yards per throw, and a whopping 17.9 yards per completion. Levis dinked and dunked for 4.6 per throw, 6 per completion. Somebody needs to tweak that formula. Before the game, Gary Danielson expressed his ongoing skepticism about how far Stetson Bennett can take this team. Even Danielson might now be thinking, man, this cat might be small, he might have started out as a walkon, there might be 4-5 star guys playing behind him, but he's got game.

Earlier in the week, Kirby Smart spoke about his struggles to get the UGA defense to play up to their potential: "We got to play better on defense. We're not lined up. We're not in great shape. We gotta do a much better job executing our assignments." Maybe giving up that second TD as the clock ticked down justifies his dim view of the most ferocious unit the college game has seen this century, and may last century too. Kentucky had beaten everyone on their schedule by pounding the ball. They had the SEC's top rusher. On Saturday, he amassed 7 yards on 7 carries to go with his 10 yards on 4 receptions—11 of which came on one play. The Lanning D forced them to play, schematically, left-handed by throwing 15 times more than they ran. One-man-DL Jordan Davis demonstrated for the 7th time this season why he's emerged as a Heisman candidate, no matter what stats say about various offensive stat-producers. It was another day at the office for the Georgia defense.

Gary Danielson made the peculiar comment on Saturday that if Georgia can avoid injuries, they may just run the table. Of course, there are already 14 scholarship players, including a lot of starters, injured and out. The most remarkable thing about this remarkable season is that it hasn't really mattered much.

On the other hand, nobody in the booth did what the Auburn broadcasting team, which included Aaron Murray, did *ad nauseum*, which is debate whether or not SB4 is a game manager. Because he's not. Time to put that obsolete discussion to bed.

Early in the season, broadcasters often commented on how offenses were going to "go after" Kelee Ringo as a weak link in the secondary. Not lately. They also continue to question the secondary, as if anybody's doing anything against them, and it's not just

because the pass rush is so ferocious. Even with key guys on the sidelines, a former walkon starting at safety, and guys in their first years as starters, we still shut teams down.

After the game, Coach Smart again challenged the defense to be better: “Never satisfied, I hate to say it, I hate that word, ‘satisfied’ is arriving, and I’m not satisfied. I’m pleased with the effort. You’re going to have adversity, guys, you’re not going to play in the SEC without adversity. But I didn’t think our guys blinked. We’re going to talk to our players. Do you want to flatline, stay where you are? Or, ascend to get better? Because there are a lot of things we can get better at during this stretch run, and we need to.” That’s a frightening thought if you’re on our schedule the rest of the way.

Meanwhile, in Florida, Dan Mullen is calling the outcome of the LSU game a fraud, and has already asserted that the game in 2 weeks in Jacksonville has a rigged outcome and is preparing his team for a recount. Stop the squeal, Dan. You’re just not getting the job done. You are what your record says you are. And that’s a mediocrity.

The pregame perspective from the Florida press includes a [patronizing view of the sad situation in Baton Rouge over their coaching staff](#). You know, the one that hung an embarrassing loss on the Gators, to go with their horrendous record since last year’s win over UGA in which SB4 hurt his shoulder with a 14-0 lead and couldn’t do much thereafter.

In one of the weirdest developments after the loss to LSU, the QB who appears to have won the job, Anthony Richardson, suggested he might transfer (before of course walking it back). [Speculation on his destination](#) included this bizarre idea: that he’d transfer to UGA because “The Bulldogs are potentially going to have a vacancy at quarterback after this season. Assuming he can get healthy (and maybe even if he doesn’t), JT Daniels could be gone after this season. And Kirby Smart would love to upgrade from Stetson Bennett. Georgia does have 5-star 2021 recruit Brock Vandagriff in tow but, if they want to adopt a more prolific athlete and a player with experience, then Richardson would still make sense for them at the end of the day.” If Kirby Smart wants an upgrade from Stetson Bennett—not that we need one—it sure as hell won’t come from the Florida roster.

With a bye week, the Dawgmeister will rest his fingers and take the week to nurse injuries, so this is the Florida game forecast. I’ll be back to gloat around Halloween.

New Covid Guidelines Released

New research demonstrates that, similar to a vaccine but not injected with a needle, the semen of a bull stricken with Covid-19 may be consumed orally to provide herd immunity to the virus. The CDC strongly recommends that anti-vaccination protesters be encouraged to drink one tablespoon of infected bull semen before each meal for three weeks to help control the spread of the virus. In initial trials, it unfortunately failed to address problems with erectile dysfunction in a subset of participants from Gainesville, Florida.

SAT PREP SESSION

SAT Question of the Week: The following people are in the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame. What was the nickname of each?

Henry L. Simpson | Vernon Smith | R.L. Doyal | Johnny G. Thomason | Joseph T. Smith | Ivy M. Shiver | Bryan M. Grant | Theo Flowers | Sam J. Elliott | Frank Owens | B.L. Smith | George Stallings | Sidney Walker | Anthony Morocco | William L. Goodloe, Jr. | Lamar Davis | William Waller Hearn | Frances King Garlington | Ralph Brown | Vera Flock | Earnest Lynwood Mallard | Donald Priestly Stephenson | W.H. Walton, Sr. | Mike Wilson | James Wilson | Walter Carpenter | Wallace C. Childs | John Odom | Franklin Cullen Rodgers | Wayne Rollins | Roman Turmon | Thomas S. McFerrin | Roland Bailey, Jr. | Kenny Walker | William L. Stribling

Answer:

Henry L. "Suitcase" Simpson | Vernon "Catfish" Smith | R.L. "Shorty" Doyal | Johnny G. "Stumpy" Thomason | Joseph T. "Phoney" Smith | Ivy M. "Chick" Shiver | Bryan M. "Bitsy" Grant | Theo "Tiger" Flowers | Sam J. "Sambo" Elliott | Frank "Hop" Owens | B.L. "Crook" Smith | George "Tweedy" Stallings | Sidney "Beau Jack" Walker | Anthony "Zippy" Morocco | William L. "Dynamite" Goodloe, Jr. | Lamar "Racehorse" Davis | William Waller "Tiny" Hearn | Frances "Poole" King Garlington | Ralph "Country" Brown | Vera "Punkin" Flock | Earnest Lynwood "Baggy" Mallard | Donald "Duck" Priestly Stephenson | W.H. "Tubby" Walton, Sr. | Mike "Moon Pie" Wilson | James "Big Jim" Wilson | Walter "Big Six" Carpenter | Wallace C. "Country" Childs | John "Blue Moon" Odom | Franklin Cullen "Pepper" Rodgers | Wayne "Tree" Rollins | Roman "Doc" Turmon | Thomas S. "T" McFerrin | Roland "Champ" Bailey, Jr. | Kenny "Sky" Walker | William L. "Young" Stribling

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

Common Good Atlanta

Common Good Atlanta exists to enrich the community's common good by providing access to higher education, especially to incarcerated people and their families.

We believe that broad, democratic access to higher education strengthens the common good of communities.

We believe that a college education helps people develop a deeper understanding of both themselves and the societal forces at work around them.

We believe that communities are weakened when access to higher education is restricted on the basis of wealth, privilege, or class.

We believe that higher education can restore dignity and reconnect people to their own humanity, allowing incarcerated people to transform their influence on society from negative to positive.

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DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ In a poll conducted among the world's leading herpetologists, the Florida Gator was voted the planet's least popular reptile.
- ☞ Finishing second: Dan Mullen
- ☞ Finishing third: Urban Meyer
- ☞ The producers of the forthcoming movie based on the new, bisexual Superman, Jon Kent, have cast Jon Gruden to play the role of father Clark Kent.
- ☞ If, in the spirit of Jon Kent, Smoke Monday married Kvosiey Smoke, would he become Smoke Smoke?
- ☞ And if a different spirit appears, if Ladd McConkey married mixed martial artist Aspen Ladd.....
- ☞ If you were a highly-ranked recruit who visited Knoxville on Saturday, how impressed would you be with a fan base that empties the trash bins and golf tees—but no popcorn—on to the opposing team from the stands when they don't get their way, no matter how big a bung-hole the opposing coach is or how close a call?



- ☞ Ed Orgeron may have postponed the inevitable on Saturday. But if he does indeed follow Gene Chizik and get fired, he won't follow GC into a job in the studio, where speaking English is required.

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

Cory Phillips came to UGA from Hart County HS as a walk-on quarterback with a banged-up knee and no scholarship offers; he just wanted a UGA education. He left in 2002 as a scholarship player and 3-year letterman with a few starts to his credit, and [made one list](#) for being one of the greatest walk-on stories in program history. While never a star, he was a stabilizing personality in the QB room and valuable backup who threw a 53-yard TD pass to Terrence Edwards in his first game. When starter Quincy Carter was injured, he was named the starter against Kentucky and threw for 400 yards and four touchdowns in a 34-30 win; he then threw for 400+ more and 2 TDs against Georgia Tech and won his bowl game start. But with Carter and then David Greene, who became one of the program's most celebrated leaders and performers, in front of him, his opportunities were limited; then D.J. Shockley arrived and he dropped another rung in the QB ladder. Not everyone prospers after their eligibility runs out, but Cory's been

the kind of guy who makes the program proud. In 2019, the UGA Alumni Association named Cory to their 40 under 40 list of alumni who excel in their early post-UGA careers. Cory now owns and serves as Atlanta-based Senior Settlement Consultant of The Forge Companies, a company that now has eight offices in six different states, including the District of Columbia. He is a regular speaker at legal education seminars on settlement disbursement issues, for which he is a Certified Structured Settlement Consultant (CSSC), a designation provided by the National Structured Settlement Trade Association in cooperation with the University of Notre Dame Executive Education Department. He's also on the Advisory Board for the Brain Injury Association of Georgia. Cory and his wife Courtney, a former Gym Dog and national championship team member, now live in Atlanta with their daughter, Aiden, and sons, Cannon and Walker. He comes back to Athens for games and other program-related events, and we're glad to have him back.



THE FORECAST

Most of the forecasts are for the week of the Florida game. Bonus coverage for our bye week is:

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: PRINCETON OVER HARVARD

With Yale falling to UConn, the top teams in the Ivies have surfaced, and here they are. After comparing SAT scores, the players on both unbeaten teams will square off on the field. I'll take the Tigers over the Crimson Tide in a showdown worthy of the occasion: Princeton 45, Harvard 35.

DAWGS VS. FLORIDA

And now, Florida. Let's see. When Florida lost to Kentucky, Dan Mullen said it wasn't because of coaching, because his guys gained more yards. Because he's a winner. Because he says so. They outgained LSU too. They are really getting tired of winning in Gainesville. Even Dan Mullen things so:

"We're going to win. We're going to win so much. We're going to win at offense. We're going to win at defense. We're going to win so much, you're going to be so sick and tired of winning, you're going to come to me and go 'Please, please, we can't win anymore.' You'll say 'Please, Coach, we beg you, sir, we don't want to win anymore. It's too much. It's not fair to everybody else.' And I'm going to say 'I'm sorry, but we're going to keep winning, winning, winning. We're going to make Florida great again.'"

[Here's how one SEC analyst describes it:](#) "Mullen is 4-6 over his last 10 games. When you subtract wins against Florida Atlantic and South Florida, the Gators are 2-6 in their last eight games against Power 5 opponents. [And those were against rebuilding Tennessee and crumbling Vanderbilt.] That is completely unacceptable at a school like Florida with the recruiting base, fanbase and infrastructure in place to be an annual national championship contender. That is not up to the 'Gator Standard' Mullen loves to reference, once explaining it is about excellence and 'being the best you can be.' . . . When you assess Mullen, there are two big issues. First, he will always believe he's the smartest person in any room and be petulantly stubborn when questioned. . . . The other big issue is Mullen's not a good enough recruiter to capitalize on Florida's natural advantages."

That sounds brutally accurate to me.

Georgia's defense is impenetrable, and our offense seems to have a game plan for every opponent: run up the gut when they play an umbrella, throw deep when they stack the box, no matter who's in the lineup. Early in the season, I read that Dan Mullen is a genius, because he threw last year with Trask and some terrific receivers, and now runs the ball with Jones and Richardson taking snaps. What an adjustment! He runs an offense suited to his personnel! Then, after a couple of losses this year, he was described as stubborn because he won't abandon the run and throw more. What a doofus! And then he went back to the pass vs. LSU while flipflopping quarterbacks and setting a new standard for interceptions. Can't this guy make up his mind?

Todd Blackledge made the point during the LSU game that LSU was winning the line of scrimmage. This was a team that couldn't run on anybody before First and Grantham came to town, and that gave up 42 to the same Kentucky team that scored a single touchdown when the game was competitive against UGA. Brenton Cox transferred from UGA to Florida because he couldn't play past anyone on the four-deep. I think I know why. On one play against LSU he got to the QB late on a screen pass, and that's when he quit on the play, just stood there and watched instead of hightailing it to the ball. I can't imagine a UGA defender stopping before the whistle. Our pursuit is among the reasons we're unbeatable. Cox let up as soon as his initial responsibility had concluded. He still wouldn't be a starter here.

In response to questions about his defensive coordinator's performance, Mullen said after the game: "Nothing changes my perspective on anything." The players, who must be the problem because it can't be the coaches, say things like "We made the adjustments we were given to make. I'm confident in my teammates and my teammates' ability to play hard and be where they're supposed to be," (linebacker Mohamoud Diabate after the game). "We fix up some things and then some other things kind of come and bite us," Mullen said. Yep, it's not coaching. It's things biting them. This against a badly bitten team, LSU, which was down 10 starters, six on defense.

From The Dawgmeister's couch, Mullen invites critique because of his personality. From here, he's going to get his ass kicked next weekend because UGA has a vastly superior team on both sides of the ball, and better coaches at each position and overall. Our

defense destroys one-dimensional teams, and multi-dimensional teams too. Anthony Richardson, the QB that UGA will likely face in Jacksonville, said after the LSU loss, "Who knows what's going to happen?" The Dawgmeister knows. Dawgs 66, Gators 0.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: MICHIGAN STATE OVER MICHIGAN

Mel Tucker vs. Jim Harbaugh for control of the Big 10, or at least Michigan. One coach is blessed with time at UGA, the other is a more unpleasant version of Dan Mullen. Let's go with "little brother" MSU in the battle for dominance of the state that boasts the motto, *Si quaeris peninsulam amoenam circumspice*, meaning "I'm a douchebag if I live on this flat-as-a-pancake, perpetually overcast iceberg." The Athens Academy namesake takes this one: Sparty 38, UM 28

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: PENN STATE OVER OHIO STATE

I don't know if this is an upset or not, but it's my pick anyhow. OSU has recovered from an opening loss to Oregon, and Penn State has been tough if not a fun watch all season. Let's look for a low score in a tight game to see who wins a competitive league. Iowa hopes both teams will lose. But only one will. Lions 17, Bucks 14.