

THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST: *DAWGS PLUCK A DUCK*

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DAN LANNING & RICKY GERVAIS

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Welcome to Season XIII of The Dawgmeister on The Dawgbone! Thanks to my gracious hosts for providing my autumnal cogitations with a place where both of my readers can find them.

Let me introduce myself. I am The Dawgmeister. How do you do?

Last season, as you may have heard, went pretty well. Not everyone is convinced, however, that the championship was legitimate. Alabama fans still think they won the natty, scoreboard be damned. The Lamestream Sports Media insists that last year was an outlier, and might not actually even have happened. And now, the narrative for the 2022 season has been established: Alabama will take back the title that UGA temporarily borrowed, and return it to its rightful place.

So says the Lamestream Sports Media. But I seek knowledge from a higher plane. And I embrace the wisdom of philosopher-shaman Jamaree Salyer, who climbed the mountain, gazed upon his lands, and proclaimed to his followers: "The game is over. We scored more points."

Yes indeed, we surely did. Because we were better. Not only did we have better players, we had the elusive ingredient of *connectedness* that allowed the talent to cohere into a historically dominant team, where the whole was even better than the sum of its extraordinary parts. When I watched the defense, I often thought, they look like a school of fish, swarming the target in unison, every player in tune with the whole.

The draftniks who were concerned about Travon Walker's productivity because of his stats, they just don't understand why we were so dominant last year. Travon dropped in coverage, played inside mostly and disrupted plays while other guys got tackles, wreaked havoc in the backfield, played on special teams, and ran down backs and receivers from behind on big plays.

Stats? That's for draft analysts who think they matter more than doing what's best for the unit. "Two on me, somebody's free" is how winners talk, not "I led the league!" And they sure don't say "This is just a rebuilding year." Or "We'd-a won if...."

Saban blamed his players after his 33-18 loss to Georgia. I guess Saban needs to recruit better, because our backup wideouts played pretty doggedly well when the veteran stars couldn't play for most of the year. Alabama sure could have used our 3-star superstars, Ladd McConkey and AD Mitchell, in January. But they came here instead, after our recruiting evaluations ranked them higher than did the gurus in the recruiting-site film rooms, and on the staff in Tuscaloosa.

Our offense last year got no respect, and in retrospect, it still don't get no respect from some opinionators. According to [Michael Cunningham](#), the 2021 Dawgs had "an elite defense and not-so-elite offense."

I don't know what Mr. Cunningham is looking at. It wasn't UGA games. [The Dawgs ranked 4th nationally in first quarter scoring](#), and [10th nationally in second quarter scoring](#). With big second-half leads, they played backups, stopped throwing, and slowed the pace, leading to ranks of [27th](#) in the third quarter and [50th](#) in the 4th. They were still the [#8](#) scoring offense in the country, mostly against SEC opponents; and were [#4](#) in yards per play. What does an offense have to do to be considered elite around here?

It would be impossible for so many new and young players to play defense together the way last year's veterans did. The 2022 defense won't dominate teams the way those cats did, which doesn't mean they won't shut a lot of offenses down. Because we'll need more points this season, we won't pull the plug on the offense in the third quarter of every game. Although there are some concerns over who'll be available for any game, I think we could play five tight ends every snap on offense and do pretty well. Overall, I think the problem will be keeping many guys happy, not finding guys who can play.

What does the nation think of the 2022 Georgia Bulldogs? As much as they did in the preseason of the 2021 team. Last year the preseason All-SEC first and second teams featured a [single UGA defender](#), Jordan Davis. Travon Walker? 3rd team all league.

For 2022, according to the Lamestream Sports Media, [Stetson Bennett is the 9th best QB in the SEC](#). UGA will lose to [Oregon](#), [Kentucky](#), [South Carolina](#), [Tennessee](#), and [Alabama](#). [ESPN's Heather Dinich](#), in fact, picks Alabama to beat Georgia twice. To which I say, Heather, Where did you play?

And finally, Desmond Howard is picking Texas A&M to beat Alabama in the SEC Championship game, in spite of both teams being from the same division.

Nonetheless, Pavlovian Dawg fans are salivating about the season. Every team has hopes in fall camp. Some teams have expectations. Some teams have Geoff Collins.

But what about that undersized, low-ranked, overlooked, ever-doubted, game-managing, 9th best QB in the SEC? The guy who outplayed the Big 10 Champions in the Orange Bowl? The guy who outplayed Heisman Trophy winner Bryce Young in the national championship game? The guy who didn't make the short list for any trophies? The guy whose full name in the media is Former Walkon Stetson Bennett IV? The guy who didn't heave an underthrown, clean-pocket pick six at the championship game's most critical moment, right after Chris Fowler called the upcoming play "The biggest third down in Bryce Young's career"? The guy that even some Dawg fans still think should be holding the clipboard while the bigger prospects fight for the job?

That guy, the one with the heart of a lion and tenacity of a bulldog, is going to lead this team to glory.

"I felt like we would've won the game [if I'd played]." ~Jameson Williams



"And if your aunt had balls, she'd be your uncle." ~Stetson Bennett

SAT PREP SESSION

SAT Question of the Week (this week derived from research conducted by Foghorn Bullhorn): In 2021-2, UGA won the national championship in college football. In the same season, former UGA quarterback Matthew Stafford led the LA Rams to the NFL championship. This is the second time that a Super Bowl-winning QB's former team won the natty in the same year. What was the first?

- A. Sammy Baugh, SMU, and Washington Redskins, 1939
- B. Kenny Stabler, Alabama, and Oakland Raiders, 1976
- C. Tom Brady, Michigan, and NE Patriots, 2001
- D. Bart Starr, Alabama, and Green Bay Packers, 1967

E. Len Dawson, Purdue, and KC Chiefs, 1970
F. Troy Aikman, UCLA, and Dallas Cowboys, 1992

Answer: Joe Montana, Notre Dame, and SF 49ers, 1988



WELCOME HOME COACH SEARELS!

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 Boyce L. Ansley School, located in downtown Atlanta, opened its doors to its first pre-K class in 2018, in space generously donated by St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Our mission is to provide a tuition-free, private school for children of families who have experienced homelessness in Atlanta. We strive to help families break the cycle of generational poverty by providing children with an excellent education and collaborative family support in a nurturing and faith-inspired environment. The Boyce L. Ansley School, Inc. admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin.

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DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ “You ever come to school here and see the education? There ain't a better university in this country.” ~Professor James Fisher, Department of English, Texas A&M University

- ☞ “What we have to do in recruiting is what we have to do in recruiting.” ~Kirby Smart, June 2022
- ☞ “He’s working his balls off.” ~Brett Seither on Oscar Delp
- ☞ “Obviously it was tough without having spring, without really the preparation you’d like, but at the end of the day, no one really gives a shit.” ~Todd Monken on the first year of the Covid pandemic
- ☞ “As you grow up in this world, you realize people really don’t give a shit about what you feel or what you think.” ~David Coleman, Common Core State Standards architect
- ☞ The University of Nebraska has suspended its tradition of releasing red balloons after the Huskers’ first touchdown, citing a shortage of touchdowns as their reason for the decision.
- ☞ Latest End of Times indicator: [2% surveyed said they’d trade their kids for a round at Augusta National](#)



Brandon Adams auditioning for SNL’s Weekend Update with satirical piece on how football fanatics are probably ignoring the little missus back home.

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

Let’s let Hapeville Charter Academy football coach Winston Gordon introduce one of his favorite people, UGA defensive back **Chris Smith**: “Chris Smith is a phenomenal person, man. Let’s get past the athlete part of it. Chris Smith was a leader in the classroom here, graduated in the top 25 percent of his class, made well over a 1,000 on his SAT. So first off you have to applaud his parents because they did a great job of raising him and his brother T.J. He’s a great, great human being, first. I keep telling people that. He never had an inkling to leave the University of Georgia and go anywhere else. Not one time has Chris Smith mentioned that he wanted to leave. Not one time. He cut off his recruitment once he committed to Georgia, and he’s stuck with it ever since.” His last comment refers to the long route that Chris took to the field, playing behind a

number of NFL talents until relatively late in his career, when Rich LeCounte's motorbike accident knocked him out of competition, and Chris stepped in. At such a late point in a career, many reserves have long-since bailed to find a team where the reps are more available. Chris stuck it out, and now has a ring that those transfers can only dream about. Chris is most famous for his bookend interceptions in 2021, and they will go down in Dawg lore for their role in bringing home the trophy. He's also used a Teka and John Adams Football Scholarship to pursue his degree in Management, now entering his fifth season of studies. Nice catch, Chris. It won't be your last.



Lewis Cine making a case for induction into the [Bad Hair Hall of Fame](#)

THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. OREGON

Welcome home Dan Lanning. It's tough to start your career with a loss, but you can always recover when the PAC-12 season starts. Is Oregon still in that league? I can't keep up. But I can say with confidence that I'm as stoked as anyone over the Big 10's historical rivalry game featuring UCLA and Rutgers.

This year, it's the offense's turn to carry the defense, at least until the new lineup gets some experience and cohesion. They've got plenty of talent to bring out Bad Bo for Oregon. And when Bo throws, we've got the Ringo to eat their babies.

We'll probably give up a few more points than we got accustomed to last year, but that offense, it's going to be dynamic. Remember all those years when everyone wondered, why don't we throw more to the tight ends? So get ready for RPOs and play-action, with what might be an even better OL doing what they did in the fourth quarter of the national championship game: [blowing the opposing defense off the line of scrimmage](#)

and moving those chains down the field. Fingers crossed that our RB room is deep enough to put healthy backs on the field every week.

The Year of the Dawg II is waiting for us on Saturday. Dawgs kick it off in style: UGA 38, UO 17.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: ARKANSAS OVER CINCINNATI

I like both programs, so hate to pick against either. I mean, who doesn't like Sam Pittman, or admire Luke Fickell's decision to stay at a program he's built and not bail for bigger money, not to mention a better chance of getting fired? The Bearcats have lost a winner at QB, and I think that's going to be hard to replace. But it should be a tough, close game. I'll take the Hogs over the 'Cats, 31-28.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: UL-MONROE OVER TEXAS

Why, you ask? Well, I've got to have an upset, and I'll believe Sarkisian is a top-tier coach when I see it. I am always amazed when a guy like Ewers, who has yet to take a college snap, is a top ten Heisman candidate. Maybe he's that good. Maybe the Lamestream Sports Media is in love with his hair. Maybe Stetson Bennett not only is a better QB, but [has better hair](#). Maybe Ewers is the second coming of [Willie Korn](#) or [Max Browne](#). Maybe we'll find out by November exactly how good he is, or if he can put enough points on the board to compensate for Texas's defense. Maybe having to score 50 points a game will make him appear better than QBs who play for teams that don't need to score on every possession simply to be in the game. I'm thinking here of an underappreciated fellow who plays in the SEC East. In any case, let's kick it off and see what Arch Manning is in store for, if he holds that commitment. Warhawks 41, Longhorns 40.