

THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST: DAWGS WAVE BAYOU TO LSU

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“Clean-Fashioned Old Hate” ~Jack Podlesny

It's been a sobering few weeks for favorites. Tennessee got blown out of Williams-Brice Stadium and the national playoff hunt. Argentina lost to Saudi Arabia in one of the greatest upsets in World Cup history. Georgia Tech showed that the problem with Georgia Tech was Geoff Collins as they played their way into respectability by beating UNC. Anybody assuming that favorites should always win have been presented with demonstrable proof that they don't. Anyone thinking that the Pests from Atlanta would come into Sanford Stadium with a bowl invitation on the line and lay down for the Dawgs hasn't been paying attention.

And to start the game, the visitors showed some fight, sustaining it for a half before talent and depth proved to be too much. I'm guessing that UGA wasn't entirely focused on the game at kickoff time. Still digesting mashed potatoes and gravy, moved by tributes to Vince Dooley, distracted by Senior Day celebrations and photo ops, perhaps underestimating the day's opponent, the Dawgs let Tech move the ball easily down the field on their first drive and keep our offense off-balance when we had the ball. It was a wobbly first half that had the fans in red apprehensive and wondering if UGA would be the latest favorite to go home with an L.

But once they got their heads and bodies into the game, it was UGA-Tech all over again, if not one that eclipsed the absurd point spread. Clemson and LSU can only dream of

such outcomes. And Ohio State's head hurts too much to manage a dream beyond their current nightmare.

It was a lot harder to hate Tech with Brent Key on the sideline than when the ridiculous Geoff Collins ran the show. He's done a near-miraculous job of salvaging the latest Tech season to go down the Collins toilet. [And yet, he might not be their choice to move the program forward](#). The allure of becoming Tulane 2.0 might be too great a temptation to turn down, just as the prospect of becoming Boise 2.0 moved Auburn to reach down the food chain for their next head ball coach.

And so, on to the SEC Championship game against an LSU team that lost convincingly on Saturday to this year's major disappointment. All those 1-2 loss teams are trying to outshout the others for The Committee's attention in filling out the field after UGA, Michigan, and TCU. And many of them still have another game to play before completing their dossiers, so need to play a little more football for their closing arguments, in addition to battling with words. But here in Athens, we're feeling secure. The "even if we lose to LSU" banter comes from outside the locker room; losing to LSU is not something the players and coaches are anticipating. Next week, there should be no problem locking in at the opening kickoff, and no waiting for the second half to get traction. Can't wait to kick it off.

Meanwhile, in this season of thanks, we have much to be thankful for. We've got a program leader who knows how to build a winner, and a university administration supplying the resources to make it happen. The fan base has been terrific all year and has begun to build the NIL war chest that is part of the new college scene. The players are all-in with the program and have given us so much to be happy about. Thanks especially to the players moving on from the program, those who've been so central to the success we have come to expect and appreciate. It's been a hell of a couple of years. And now let's make it happen with a hell of a playoff.

Meanwhile, if you are an NIL booster, how about sending a few dollars to the good works I feature each week. They don't score touchdowns, but they make life better for people who lack the advantage of being great athletes.

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

For over 32 years in Athens, **Flagpole** has taken a fiercely independent, hyperlocal approach to covering politics, music, art, food and culture, in addition to providing a comprehensive events calendar. Put simply, we keep Athens informed on the who, what, when, where and why of goings-on around town. Unlike many other newspapers,

Flagpole has always been and will continue to be free, thanks largely to Athens' local business community. In exchange for their support, our partners reach more than 35,000 unique readers each week by advertising in Flagpole. Still, it's no secret that, like print publications everywhere, Flagpole faces an uncertain future. And with real journalism under siege and local media an especially endangered species, we are increasingly hearing from friends who ask, "How can I help support Flagpole?" How about donating?

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SAT PREP SESSION

SAT Question of the Week: What was Dan Lanning thinking at this moment?



- A. Wasn't he supposed to enter the portal?
- B. I thought he was a truck, not a jet.
- C. Brock Bowers sure grew a lot during the offseason.
- D. Now what am I supposed to do?
- E. According to Rick Neuheisel, we would beat them in a rematch.
- F. *No problema*, Bo Nix will bail us out for sure.

The correct answer: Oh shit.

DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ DJ Uiagalelei: Looks like Cam Newton. Plays like Reggie Ball.
- ☞ "You suck, Day! You suck! Bring back Urban Meyer!" ~Ohio State fan, postgame
- ☞ "Going forward, to build a breakthrough Georgia Tech 2.0 and succeed in an increasingly competitive world, we will need to be extremely hardcore. This will mean working long hours at high intensity. Only exceptional performance will constitute a passing grade." ~Elon Musk, who recently purchased The Georgia Institute of Technology and is raising expectations for the remaining 15 employees
- ☞ [The latest in academic rigor at Auburn.](#)

- ☞ “Offensive coordinators who call plays are typically among the most second-guessed assistants in football, but most all of the Bulldogs’ fans revere Monken, well-aware of how he has been key to Georgia’s rise as an annual national championship contender. Monken’s creative efficiency is such his quarterbacks have the freedom to check to several runs or passes at the line of scrimmage and change up pass protection and run-blocking leverage.” ~AJC on Todd Monken’s Broyles Award Semifinalist recognition
- ☞ [Todd Monken gets blasted by Georgia fans as offense struggles mightily at Kentucky.](#)
- ☞ [Georgia Fans Start Petition to Fire OC James Coley - 12Up](#)
- ☞ [Georgia football: Mike Bobo weathers ongoing criticism | Columbus ...](#)
- ☞ [How the Georgia Bulldogs Let Brian Schottenheimer Blow it ...](#)
- ☞ “Just can’t win, in spite of the winning.” ~Little Woolly

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

Kim Braswell (UGA 1969-72) was one of the last placekickers to boot the ball straight, rather than soccer-style. The Avondale High School student-athlete was an extraordinary star at the high school level, earning All-State honors in football and baseball and also starring for the school’s basketball team. As a HS kicker, he set and held the national prep record for most consecutive extra points with 134, a mark that held up for nearly 4 decades. In HS he made the Sports Illustrated “Faces in the Crowd” feature that highlights lesser-known athletes: *Kim Braswell, 17 of Decatur, Ga., a 165-pound senior place-kicker and first-string halfback at Avondale High School, kicked his 129th consecutive extra point, a season-to-season string begun in his freshman year. He also has kicked a 43-yard field goal.* He was a big national recruit before recruiting was a national obsession, with Bear Bryant, Ara Parseghian, Shug Jordan, Bobby Dodd, and others begging for his enrollment before he committed to Vince Dooley and the Dawgs. That’s all pretty good, but what he overcame to do it was epic. Kim was not only deaf, he was diabetic and relied on insulin injections to maintain his equilibrium. At UGA, he occupied the football offseason by pitching for the baseball team. After graduating from UGA, he went on to coach almost four decades in Georgia high schools, most recently in Morgan County. There’s a [terrific feature on him](#) that I’ll simply link rather than summarize. Give it a read and see how this great Dawg continues to live the good and humble life in service of others.



THE FORECAST **DAWGS VS. LSU**

OK folks, what do you think of an SEC title? UGA has often played in this game but has only won it once during the Smart Era:

YEAR	SCORE	NATIONAL CHAMPION
2021	<u>Alabama 41, Georgia 24</u>	Georgia
2020	<u>Alabama 52, Florida 46</u>	Alabama
2019	<u>LSU 37, Georgia 10</u>	LSU
2018	<u>Alabama 35, Georgia 28</u>	Clemson
2017	<u>Georgia 28, Auburn 7</u>	Alabama

Those are some pretty good teams, and 2017 shows that you can win the natty while finishing second in your own SEC division. Not this year.

I have seen LSU enough to know a few things that give me confidence in a W on Saturday. LSU's offensive line gave up as many sacks against Arkansas as UGA has allowed this season. Their QB is a good runner, but running quarterbacks take hits, and he got banged up by a TAMU defense that doesn't play as hard as ours does. When you compare their skill players to those on their 2019 championship team, there's no comparison. Justin Jefferson, Ja'Marr Chase, those cats were special and are now tearing up the NFL. Now, I just don't see an offense that can do much against our defense, which I suspect is secretly trying to outperform the 2021 squad. Offensively, we have a lot more firepower than the stats show, mainly because we distribute the ball so evenly around so many players, and let up with big leads in the second half, unless we are playing Oregon. And the triggerman taking snaps always seems to know what to do with it.

This game's for real. I think the Dawgs are ready to win the SEC and prepare for the playoff. They come to play and take care of business. UGA 31, LSU 10.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: TCU OVER KANSAS STATE

It's nice to see a team emerge from the depths of the Lamestream Sports Media's consciousness and have a season like TCU's. Among other things, I'd like to see them go unbeaten and so choke a bunch of 1-2 loss teams out of the playoff. So I'll go with Purple Power. TCU 38, KSU 21

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: UTAH OVER USC

It's hard to beat a team twice in one year, and Caleb Williams should win the Heisman after CJ Stroud played himself out of the competition on Saturday. But why not? It wouldn't be the nuttiest thing to happen this year. So how about Utes 45, Trojans 42