

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
DAWGS' BEAT THE DAY-LITES OUT OF OSU**

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**STET'S MENTOR & GETS ENCORE
BUSTER FAULKNER KIRBY SMART**

[THE DAWG COACHES COLLECTION](#)
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With the smoke having cleared from the various league championship games, it's time to get serious about football. We played in a title game ourselves way back in early December. Remember that one?

The SEC championship game has been dissected to death, and I have only a few observations that have lingered since then:

1. The week before we played LSU, I kept reading about game-wrecker Harold Perkins, Jr., the dynamo linebacker for our opponents. He was touted as a one-man Army capable of single-handedly destroying an offense and leaving their wreckage all over the field. After the game, after not recalling having seen him during the game, I checked the stats. Perkins led LSU in tackles, all downfield, none significant or memorable. It reminded me of the fearsome Michigan duo of Hutchinson and Ojabo, who would crater our OL and leave ruined corpses in our backfield all game. That didn't happen, either.
2. I'm sure that LSU fans are moaning about "what if" Daniels had been healthy and played the whole game, because kvetching about injuries is *pro forma* for teams we beat, given that UGA never has injured players or plays backups. And they must overlook the fact that their backup was fantastic in relief. But if you run your QB, you'd better have a backup ready, because getting hit is the best way to get hurt.
3. Gary Danielson lobbied during the broadcast to elevate 2-loss Alabama into the Final Four, based on the "best four" criterion rather than the "actual performance" criterion. Because they have sooooo much talent, and the best team is the one with the best players, not the one that wins the most games. C'mon man. Who cares if they have recruiting stars when they don't beat anybody, barely beat some cruddy teams, and lose two games to boot? Who cares how many Alabama players made All-SEC when they didn't add up to enough as a team? If recruiting stars enable you to bypass the games and go straight to the playoffs, then 5-7 Texas A&M would have been in the Final Four.

Next up: Ohio State.

Ohio State reportedly is a betting favorite. People just keep betting against UGA, and losing. They can't quite believe we're actually this good. Here we go:

"Imagine if Stroud leads Ohio State to a victory against defending national champion Georgia and follows that up with a potential rematch with Michigan in 'The Game of All Games' on Jan. 9 at SoFi Stadium." ~[The Sporting News, mid-December](#)

"That's quite an imagination." ~Little Woolly

Ohio State got physically dominated by Michigan, whose best offensive player was out—not that replacement Donovan Edwards, a guy we recruited hard, is a schmuck. Last year we physically dominated Michigan in both trenches. Of course, that's no guarantee of anything. In 2021, Alabama's OL appeared to be their main weakness, but they handled our DL and pass rush in the SEC Championship game, if not the one that counted the most. But the fact that the 2022 team has dominated both lines of scrimmage in every game leads me to think that we can do it in Atlanta.

Both teams are coming in having been humbled. Ohio State got manhandled by Michigan and blown out in the biggest game on their schedule, both competitively and traditionally. UGA gave up a quarter of a ton of yardage to LSU, mostly by a backup

who's really good. He had to throw on every down, and did so, and put up some points on our proud defense. Both teams have something to prove, and something to improve on, as they collide in the Peach Bowl. Not that either should need additional motivation to come prepared for 60 minutes of passion.

Meanwhile, speaking of rivalries, the uprising in Atlanta is well underway:

“[Nacari] Ashley was a versatile two-way player at Marietta [and] is rated a two-star prospect by Rivals and has listed offers from Buffalo, Toledo and East Carolina. [Shymeik] Jones . . . becomes the second highest-rated prospect among Tech's 14 committed high school prospects. As the No. 814 prospect in the class (247Sports Composite), he is behind only offensive lineman Gabriel Fortson from North Cobb Christian School (No. 751).” ~The AJC reporting on Georgia Tech's latest recruiting triumphs; [per ON3](#), Fortson remained the top player in GT's class after all 21 had signed

“We have an opponent in this state that we will work 365 days to defeat [and] to dominate. We will work 365 days a year to dominate. When we all wake up in the morning, our goal is to dominate our opponent. The feeling of dominating your opponent is like no other, and whatever team is on our schedule, that is our goal, what we will work towards every single day.” ~Brent Key

“That's quite an imagination.” ~Little Woolly

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

We don't believe that our young people need to sit and wait for the leadership baton to be passed to them; it's time for them to start running and take it! **HEY!** was created to cultivate, encourage and mentor young people to identify and meet the needs of their ever changing world. With this in mind, HEY! focuses on three initiatives to address those needs: Sport For Good S.T.E.A.M., the EMPOWERED! Leadership Academy, and the HEY! Let's Read! Book Festival for Children of Color. In addition, we are adamant about meeting the needs of the young people serve as those needs arise. While being mission driven is important to an organization, being able to pivot based on what our youth need is paramount to the success of HEY! As a result, our current needs based initiative is focused on providing alternatives and options for the "ATL Water Boyz" while helping to change the narrative of young black male youth in the city of Atlanta.

[**DONATE HERE**](#)

SAT PREP SESSION

SAT Question of the Week: What is the reason for these guys' inclusion on this list?

Spencer Rattler

Bryce Young

D.J. Uiagalelei

CJ Stroud

JT Daniels

D'Eriq King

Sam Howell

Kedon Slovis

Bijan Robinson

Breece Hall

Emory Jones

Matt Corral

Brock Purdy

Jayden Daniels

Desmond Ridder

Answer: These student-athletes were, in rank order, the preseason 2021 Heisman Trophy favorites per BetOnline. The final rank order in the actual vote:

- 1 Bryce Young
- 2 Aidan Hutchinson
- 3 Kenny Pickett
- 4 C.J. Stroud
- 5 Will Anderson Jr.
- 6 Kenneth Walker III
- 7 Matt Corral
- 8 Desmond Ridder
- 9 Jordan Davis
- 10 Breece Hall

THE FREEZE FILE

🏡 “I’ve never met the man, but I do know this, he is a man of integrity.” ~ex-Auburn LB Will Herring advocating for Hugh Freeze to be the next coach at his alma mater

🏡 “He’s a man of great faith, great family man.” ~Liberty AD Ian McCaw, former Baylor athletics director who resigned in 2016 following his role in the university’s sexual assault scandal, speaking about Hugh Freeze



Hugh Freeze 📍 @CoachHughFreeze

You Don't even know Ian McCaw. He is the most Jesus like leader I have



🏡 “School officials uncovered a ‘pattern of personal misconduct’ starting with a call to a number used by an escort service from a university-issued cellphone. The NCAA found 21 violations of academic, booster and recruiting misconduct, most of which happened under Freeze’s watch. The rule-breaking landed Ole Miss on

probation, including a two-year postseason ban and recruiting restrictions. Liberty University is currently under federal investigation by the Department of Education for sexual assault coverups.” ~news source

📌 Never saw this coming: [Auburn Defends Freeze Hire in Email Responses to Fans](#)

DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ In a move that escaped the notice of the Lamestream Sports Media, after his release by the Carolina Panthers, former walk-on QB Baker Mayfield was enlisted by Ohio State to simulate Stetson Bennett on the scout team during the weeks leading up to the semi-final game.
- ☞ 3-star RB Kyron Jones appears to be a 5-star student, with offers from Brown, Dartmouth, Penn, Princeton, Yale, and UGA.
- ☞ For old times' sake, let's celebrate the glorious [Immaculate Reception](#).
- ☞ Headline in the LA Times after Pac-12 championship game: [Plaschke: A genius loses his mind, a star is hobbled and USC goes bust in unthinkable fashion](#)
- ☞ “And on what planet is annual postseason loser Lincoln Riley a genius; and shouldn't a genius be able to teach defenders how to tackle, one of the game's two essentials along with blocking?” ~Little Woolly
- ☞ “[Errin' Joe](#)” sounds like the nickname Trump will give Biden as they prepare for their 2024 showdown.
- ☞ And [J Batt](#) sounds like what you'd call someone named Jarquavious Battaglia.
- ☞ Steve Spurrier was almost right: You can't spell Citrus Bowl without LSU.
- ☞ “[We built this program on God's name, image and likeness.](#)” ~Dabo Swinney
- ☞ In the NBA, [this is not a travel. This is a travel.](#) I report, you decide.
- ☞ First there was [Seven Cloud](#), among [1,584 Americans](#) whose parents took their child-rearing advice from George Costanza. Now there is [Third Scroggins](#), who is actually Herbert Scroggins III but goes by “Third.”
- ☞ First there were announcements of a short-list of possible destinations for recruits. Then there were commitment announcements, and decommitment announcements. And then there were “I'm hitting the portal” announcements and “I have chosen my new temporary team for next year” announcements. And now, players are announcing it when [they aren't hitting the portal](#). Lordy.
- ☞ Well said: Mike Conti, subbing for Bob Rathbun during a Hawks broadcast, cut to sideline reporter Lauren Jbara, saying, “[Lauren, whatcha got?](#)”

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

A college football team is large and complex. Most of the glory goes to the scholarship players who are in the Saturday spotlight. But they don't get that good all by themselves. There are guys playing their hearts out without scholarships who make great contributions. **Jonah Guinn** is one of those guys. He was a scout team stalwart at UGA, and essential to game week preparations. For his efforts he was twice named the Outstanding Special Teams Scout Player of the Year by Mark Richt. Jonah started his college education at Reinhardt University, playing on their football team in 2012 before moving on to Georgia Gwinnett College to knock off some core course requirements. He

transferred to finish his UGA degree from 2014-2016, earning a degree in Human Development and Family Studies with a 3.0 GPA. While at UGA he devoted over 200 hours to Extra Special People and the Special Olympics, stating that “My goal is to gain as much knowledge and experience in a camp-like setting as I possibly can. I am particularly interested in working with middle school and high school students. I consider myself to be dependable in leading those around me in a positive way. I believe it is imperative to lead by example for the younger generations. My long-term career goal is to one day run a camp of my own.” He cultivated those interests at UGA with 2 appointments to the J. Reid Parker Director of Athletics Honor Roll, and also participated in the End It Movement at UGA. People who talk about UGA football typically focus on NFL prospects and Big Money. Jonah shows that there’s more to football than Saturday Glory. A lot of young people will benefit from the lessons he’s taking from the program and applying them to life beyond the gridiron.



THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. OHIO STATE

Doubters and haters have been lining up to question UGA since last year’s championship. We were forecast to lose to most of the good teams on our schedule by some genius out there, were in turn favored by ridiculous spreads, and inevitably went on to beat the spread to death. I see our strength in the line of scrimmage in a four-quarter game making a big difference, putting UGA over the top and into the final.

I know that Stroud is excellent and his wideouts are fabulous, and that we got torched by LSU. Maybe Stroud will be the Second Coming of Garrett Nussmeier. Or maybe he’ll be more like Hendon Hooker, another guy who sliced up opponents all year but couldn’t get traction in Athens against our defense. [The latest buzz](#) is that OSU plans to win the game by scoring more than 40 points, the threshold for beating UGA. They averaged 44.5 per game against the likes of Indiana and Northwestern, so that seems ambitious to me, especially after Michigan crushed them a month ago. Let’s put it somewhere in the middle: Stroud will hit some big ones, but not 500 yards’ worth or 40 points’ worth. The middle of his OL is suspect, and the middle of our DL has Jalen Carter, and Stroud is much better when there’s no pressure than when he’s got defenders in his face or on his tail, a factor against Michigan but not Rutgers and Maryland. Think he’ll see any pressure on New Years Eve?

Meanwhile SB4 will do what he does in big games: make plays and lead the team behind what I believe will again prove, in the next couple of weeks, to be the nation’s top OL.

Nobody among Stet's backs and receivers will have ~~Jermaine Burton~~ Marvin Harrison Jr stats, but collectively the Dawgs will move the ball and dance in the endzone. Dawgs 41, Buckeyes 28.

TCU OVER MICHIGAN

I'm mainly going with TCU because I have an outstanding Separated@Birth ready to go in case they win. But they are a tough bunch of hombres, and have a knack for winning close games. Michigan looks powerful and no doubt will be motivated to play. But I'm going with the Frogs, 31-30.