

THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST: *DAWGS POOH POOH MIZZOU*

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SEPARATED@BIRTH?



SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE

“We’ve got the guys we’ve got, and we’ve got to get the guys we’ve got better to be where we want to be.” ~Kirby Smart, mid-week

“I don’t know if we were awake to start. It was a noon kick. I thought we had a great week of practice; I thought we had a good walk-through before the game. But for one reason or another—and give them credit; they have a bunch of seniors and are a good football team—an interception, a fumble, a dropped punt, you just can’t have those.” ~Stetson Bennett

“From a Georgia perspective, they have struggled. There will be quite a few coaching opportunities coming out of this game.” ~ Matt Stinchcomb

“Good thing the game wasn’t on TV. That way, nobody actually saw it.” ~Little Woolly

By all accounts, Saturday’s performance was flat. The stadium crowd was flat as a pancake. The offense came out roaring, then flattened out flatter than Butch Jones’s hairdo. The defense started well but over the course of the game, was flatter than planet Earth. The whole team effort was flatter than a pool table. The Scowlmeister felt in the aftermath that we don’t merit a #1 ranking, which doesn’t matter much anyway until about November.

And indeed, Saturday’s game was not the stuff of legends, although Brock Bowers keeps trying. Yet, a win still looks like a W in the record book. Miami, like many teams before them, learned how competitive these games can be, favored by 25.5 and losing by 14. The national scoreboard once again showed plenty of teams coming to play beyond what the betting crowd believed they possibly could. Winning when you bring less than your

complete game can be very instructive. And it does give the coaches plenty to focus on the next week.

Looking back over the week's pregame talk, one thing that recurred was UGA's respect for Kent State's program. Of course, talking up the opponent is part of Kirby Smart's brand. But Kent is favored to win their conference, has a senior-heavy roster, and plays hard and well. Those qualities can keep a team in a game when the favored opponent rests a few players for the conference schedule, comes out with limited energy and sharpness, and gets little juice from the crowd to pick them up. After the game, everyone interviewed reiterated their respect for Kent State, and appreciation for the win. And that's how I'll take this one: not our best against an overmatched but highly competitive program; but a game that avoided the fate of so many favored teams against lower-tier teams this season.

And now, on to Mizzou. It seems an eternity ago when Missouri joined the SEC East in 2011, and shocked the world by winning it in 2013 and 2014. They got creamed in the championship game both times, but ruled the East shortly after arriving. That was then, this is now. They are fighting it out with Vandy for the bottom rung on the ladder, and their coach doesn't even make hot seat lists. They have developed into the Georgia Tech of the SEC. They did beat out UGA for Luther Burden last year, and the kid is terrific. But having 1 elite football player doesn't get you far in this game. Perhaps losing is OK, as long as you're the featured player. Or, maybe you've got to start with 1, and hope that 87 more will follow.

SAT PREP SESSION

SAT Question of the Week: How do you interpret this scene?



- A. A player with "Stop Hate" on his helmet is trying to reason with and pacify a man who was offended by a microaggression committed by an insensitive team cheerleader.
- B. A man who is an advocate for the Audubon Society is helping two men make a proper identification of a bird after one believed it was a robin redbreast, and the other was certain it was a rufus-sided towhee.
- C. Two men are discussing whether truffles are best accompanied by an Italian Zinfandel or a California Chablis.
- D. Two men are disagreeing over the finer nuances of Critical Race Theory, and an expert has arrived to settle the matter.

E. A man with “Stop Hate” on his helmet is accosting a man with “End Racism” on his helmet, saying that his divisive ideology has no business on the football field.

Answer: This vignette illustrates how, no matter what slogan you put on your helmet, if someone really pisses you off, you need to crush his soul.

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 **Cobb Bar Community Service Fund** was created and established by the Cobb County Bar Association to allow our Association the ability to serve the Cobb community through indirect and direct support of families in need, with special emphasis on direct support of families in an emergency situation. We coordinate these efforts with the Cobb and Marietta School Systems and the social services counselors in these local schools. Quite literally, the direct support provided by the Children’s Emergency Fund is sometimes the only difference between a family with children living under a roof, or becoming homeless with no options but a shelter. The Children’s Emergency fund was started to raise money for families throughout our community, families who are in crisis. This may be due to Mom or Dad being laid off from work, being injured, suffering a severe illness, or other uncontrollable situations. We offer a one time financial grant to assist with bills, clothing, housing, etc., to get them back on their feet or keep them from falling behind. With the support of businesses and organizations and the assistance of local social workers, we are able to keep the lights on for financially desperate families, provide eyeglasses to schoolchildren, and even keep whole families in their homes and off the streets (all checks are mailed directly to the service provider). Everyone needs a helping hand at times, and this is a great way to lend that helping hand to the members of your own community who need it most.

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DAWG DOOTS

- ☛ **Gus Johnson Falls Ill After Watching Nebraska Play Football, Leaves Fox’s Oklahoma-Nebraska Broadcast, Expected To Recover In A Week.** ~ Headline, September 18
- ☛ In a stunning development, Gary Danielson went the entire Florida-Tennessee broadcast without once mentioning Alabama or Nick Saban.
- ☛ “The probability and the percentage of us winning that game [after a blocked punt] just automatically goes down.” ~ Malachi Carter, GT WR, applying his engineering degree to his football team

- ☞ Reggie Ball was the best thing to happen to Calvin Johnson, throwing terrible passes that required Johnson to make incredible catches. And now, there's [Mitch Trubisky, doing the same for George Pickens.](#)
- ☞ “I have a tremendous amount of confidence, based on demonstrated ability. Now, has that shown up yet while we’ve been here? It has not. Do I have faith and belief in the process that we are going about doing it? Absolutely. Do I have faith and belief in the young men in that locker room that we have recruited and developed to be able to take the next step? Absolutely, 100%.” ~Geoff Collins
- ☞ Are the engineers at Georgia Tech the geniuses who came up with this great snack idea?



THE COVETED DAWGMEISTER GOOD GUY OF THE WEEK AWARD

GOOD GUY ARCHIVE

Zamir White was a zero star recruit in Shanee White’s womb, given little likelihood of surviving infancy. He did, only to end up with a cleft palate at birth and kidney problems and a hernia as a toddler. He was raised in one of the least affluent cities in North Carolina, another factor that typically limits life’s potential. He almost died in childhood in a mobile home fire, a tragedy that left his family with few possessions. His father was in jail before he was born, and more or less disappeared from his life. He grew into a five-star football prospect, the best back in his class, by the time he finished high school. By then, he’d blown out one knee, and early in his UGA career, blew out the other. It takes a whale of a person to persevere and work his way back into the prospect he had been before the injuries. That would surely describe the man known as Zeus for his god-like abilities on the field. He’s also inspiring off the field, with a history of advocacy for families of children born with craniofacial issues through his work with Extra Special People. His work ethic made him exceptional, as attested to by his coach at Scotland HS (NC), Richard Bailey: “I’ve never had a kid work harder than him. And he never missed a practice, never missed a workout. I’ve never heard him complain. It’s always great when your best player is your hardest worker.” It helps when the player just loves the game, as Zamir confirmed: “Football means everything to me. It’s just a safe space for me [where] I can get away from everything I’ve been through. It’s just like therapy for me. I love football.” His performances caught a lot of people’s attention, including a coach building his program in Athens, a Smart fellow who said, “This is a five-star talent, an unbelievable kid, but he has a 10-star character. He’s got this undeniable love for the game and just affection for others that we knew this guy was going to be a special

part of our program.” His position coach at UGA, Dell McGee, attributed his recovery from surgeries to his mental toughness: “I just think it added to his ability to cope with outside factors. It showed a lot of resiliency. Just that mindset of nothing’s too big, I can overcome anything, any obstacle. I think all of that from his childhood growing up helped with those issues that he’s overcome.” Not too many people from Zamir’s background end up with a college degree. Zamir earned his in Housing Management & Policy with the help of a Christian Walker Football Scholarship and a Duckworth-Bickley North Carolina Scholarship, along the making the J. Reid Parker Director of Athletics Honor Roll and earning the David Jacobs Award for overcoming injury. “I’m fine the way I am,” Zamir said. “I know I’m perfect in God’s eyes, and that’s all that matters to me.” Well said, sir. It matters to a lot of us.



THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. MISSOURI

After an underwhelming performance on Saturday, it’s back to work for SEC play. This one will look a lot like the South Carolina game, except SC had a better QB who was backpedaling the whole game, even when the rush wasn’t on him, because he’d been on the run so much from our ferocious rush. See that awful Spencer Rattler pass that Starks picked off as an example of how a pass rush can rush a passer even when it’s not there yet.

I assume Jalen Carter will be back in action, which will help the DL. Once again, however, outsiders are critical of UGA players who don’t amass piles of stats; [the great Mel Kiper](#) opined that “Carter has just four tackles in three games (48 snaps) so far this season,” apparently unaware that he barely played against SC, and unaware that Kirby Smart’s teams play as a unit, not a collection of individual stat-generators. Once they clean up the mistakes from Saturday and arrive focused for a league road game, I am confident they’ll get back to business as usual in Columbia.

Meanwhile, Missouri might hold a raffle next week to see if there’s a QB on campus who wants to run from the red all game. If not, they’ll have to play the guys they’ve got. The Dawgs take the field ready to feast against a team that is really struggling. Dawgs 38, Tigers 0.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: KENTUCKY OVER OLE MISS

It's not a marquee week for big-time matchups, so I'll go with a couple of SEC games for my two bonus forecasts. Mark Stoops is the anti-Kiffin: humble, buttoned down, gritty, and tough. Lane will design some cool-looking plays, and some might work. But down in and down out, Kentucky will win in the trenches. I'll go with the Big Blue over the Oxford Blues. UK 34, Tony the ~~Tana~~ Landshark 28.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: ARKANSAS OVER ALABAMA

I'm going out on a limb here, because of course Alabama's roster is bursting with talent. But they do seem to have games annually where it doesn't cohere, and they need heroics to win the game. They usually win, but also seem to come up short. How's this week for a shorty? Arkansas lost to TAMU on one of the weirdest fumble returns on record, and are now playing for their postseason lives. Arkansas 31, Alabama 30.