

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
RED AND BLACK LASERS FRY GATORS' TESTICLES**

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zoanthropy: *noun:* The delusion that one is a beast.

“I’m talking to you, Gator Nation.” ~Wags, the family bulldog

After starting the season coming out with guns blazing, the Dawgs had a set of games where they started slowly, causing much renting of garments in the Great Dawg Nation. And I don’t mean tuxedos.

On Saturday there was no slow start. What caused this change in fortune? Was it the Sanford Stadium Pinkout? Was it a happy Homecoming crowd? Was it a dominating performance by the offensive line? Was it the ferocious Dawg defense? Was it the glorious fall weather? Was it because Coach Smart demanded a fast start this week?

No, I think there’s another explanation. We were playing Vanderbilt.

Said Coach Smart afterwards: “We started fast. We still had one wasted drive (in the first half). We’ve got to convert.” Bad Dawgs.

I’m reminded of an NBA playoff game last year in which Steph Curry had a great first quarter. The sideline reporter asked Steve Kerr why he started out so hot. The answer: “Steph is very good at playing basketball.”

Is it true that hopelessly outmanned teams are destined to lose? No, we’ve seen plenty of games this year when then underdog won, and won on the road. Look around the

nation, and you'll see that on Saturday, the favorites didn't all win. Look around the globe, and you'll see that the biggest army doesn't always beat the little guys when the little guys are smarter, more mobile, and more motivated to win.

So even though Saturday's blowout was expected, it substantially exceeded the generous 38.5 point pregame spread, although the Dawgs fell short of singlehandedly topping the over/under of 57. Gotta finish those drives, men!

According to Mark Schlabach, "Halfway through the 2022 season, Georgia still seems to be figuring out who it is on offense. Coach Kirby Smart wanted to open up the passing game in the opener against Oregon, and the Bulldogs were firing on all cylinders. But then receiver Adonai Mitchell joined Arian Smith on the injured list, and the Bulldogs couldn't produce many explosive plays down the field."

I beg to differ. What we actually have is a versatile offense that gets catered to the defense each opponent plays. Stack the box and we'll throw outside. Protect the wings and we run inside. We don't just run an offense regardless of how we're defended. Todd Monken makes a lot of money to customize the package to the needs of the week, and the overall recruitment has enabled UGA to run what it needs to run to make a defense play left-handed. If UGA lacks an identity to casual observers like Schlabach, it's because they're looking at the wrong thing. The identity is one of many possibilities, not a single attack regardless of defensive scheme and players. Just as people focus only on stats and not things like heavy rotations that always give us experienced players who can step in when needed, here they miss what is actually the team's identity: Hit 'em where they ain't.

Receiver update:

Welcome back Marcus Rosemy-Jacksaint. Last week, according to Rick Neuheisel, he was replaced by Marcus Rosemy St. Jack.

And welcome to Arik Gilbert. Great to see you out there helping your team.

There's something just thrilling about a pass to Darnell Washington. A man that size just isn't supposed to move like that.

The Jermaine Burton file, totally justifying his decision to transfer to be a bigger stat-man:

	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	LNG	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	LNG	FUM	LST
2022	16	217	13.6	3	48	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
2021	26	497	19.1	5	73	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
2020	27	404	15.0	3	49	4	50	12.5	0	43	0	0

Why yards-per-punt is a misguided way to evaluate a punter: The Vandy punter had a 48.7 average on 7 punts. All of them, I think, were from his own half of the field, often from deep in his own territory. So he could just blast away with no need for placement or nuance. Thorson's only punt went 36 yards, but he punted from across midfield and

had to drop it inside the 20. Surely there's a way to statistically tease out the true impact of a punt that takes field position into account.

To conclude my cogitations following another wild weekend in college football: No gloating allowed after beating everyone's favorite Homecoming dance partner. But I'm happy to gloat over Alabama losing, Florida losing at home on "Tom Petty Day at the Swamp," and USC losing (that celebrating in Norman on Sunday wasn't about beating Kansas, given their hatred of the most self-centered coach since Bobby Petrino). If you're wondering what ails Alabama, which has looked shaky any number of times this season, the answer is simple: in spite of all their vaunted recruiting success, this year their offense starts a transfer from Vanderbilt, and a transfer from Georgia Tech. Another mystery of the universe explained.



Robert Beal revealing Brenton Cox's grade for "Effort," on a scale of 1-10, while at UGA

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 LEAD Program is an international cross-sector collaborative of (1) premier U.S. corporations, government agencies, higher education and non-profit partnerships, that focus on developing high potential youth of diverse backgrounds into high achievers and responsible leaders. LEAD has been recognized for its 40-year commitment to building an inclusive pipeline to ensure leadership roles in the global economy.

A workforce that more vividly reflects the many cultures that made the United States an economic superpower is also the gateway to the country's future. Multinational corporations acknowledge the benefits of workforce diversity and as companies build

competitive workforces to meet the needs of an ever-changing landscape, LEAD endeavors to influence students from underserved backgrounds with outstanding academic performance and demonstrate leadership skills to pursue careers in business, technology, engineering and health sciences.

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SAT PREP SESSION

SAT Question of the Week: What distinction do the following coaches share?

- A. Bob Stoops
- B. Lane Kiffin
- C. Billy Napier
- D. Bill O'Brien
- E. Matt Campbell
- F. James Franklin
- G. Mario Cristobal
- H. Mark Stoops
- I. Dave Clawson
- J. Luke Fickell
- K. Todd Monken
- L. Dan Quinn

Answer: These gents were listed by Sportsline in November 2021, in rank order of their odds for being named the successor to Dan Mullen as Head Ball Coach at Florida.

- A. Bob Stoops +400
- B. Lane Kiffin +500
- C. Billy Napier +600
- D. Bill O'Brien +700
- E. Matt Campbell +800
- F. James Franklin +900
- G. Mario Cristobal +1000
- H. Mark Stoops +1200
- I. Dave Clawson +1300
- J. Luke Fickell +1500
- K. Todd Monken +1800
- L. Dan Quinn +2000

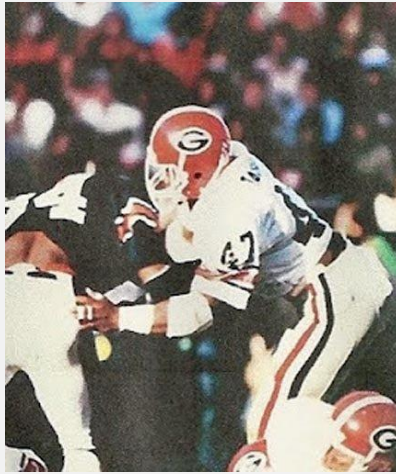
DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ “This wouldn't be Ohio State if we played favorites.” ~What they told transfer recruit Parker Lewis, apparently forgetting that Jim Tressel and Urban Meyer had recently coached their team.
- ☞ Exactly who is Cash Jones? [Cash Jones - 2022 - Football - University of Georgia Athletics \(georgiadogs.com\)](#) One damn good football player.

THE COVETED DAWGMEISTER GOOD GUY OF THE WEEK AWARD

GOOD GUY ARCHIVE

What would you think of an undersized player with a single scholarship offer coming out of a Georgia high school? And if that offer were from a small JUCO out west? And if that player led his team to a national championship? No, not Stetson Bennett. **Nate Taylor**, who played at UGA from 1979-1982, had little chance of being a Division 1 football player. He tipped the scales at 195 pounds, hung on a 5'-10" frame. He scorched a 40 yard dash in . . . 5.2 seconds, which would have made him the slowest DL on last year's team behind a bunch of 300+ lb. sun-blockers. Nate spurned his offer from the College of the Canyons to walk on at UGA, the Tift County HS graduate's beloved home state university. Within a year, he was on scholarship and starting at linebacker, much to the delight of Vince Dooley, who called him "the biggest surprise of my coaching career." The Tifton Termite, as Larry Munson nicknamed him, chewed his way through a lot of offenses, who were also no doubt taken by surprise by the wee 4-year starter who averaged nearly 100 tackles a season. According to one account from the era, Nate "was fierce, tough and relentless playing linebacker . . . and one of three former walk-ons . . . to start for the national champions." In 2017 he was named to the Tift County Athletic Hall of Fame's 4th class of inductees. Not bad for a guy that nobody thought should even be out there, and who helped UGA win its last national championship before last year's team broke the streak.



THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. FLORIDA

Both teams have bye weeks, and the Dawgs definitely need time to heal. Then it's on to take down Florida again. LSU had scoring drives of 75, 73, 75, 83, 75 and 88 yards in their win on Saturday over the Gators. I think UGA is a far superior offensive team than LSU and will do something similar. Meanwhile, UGA's defense is really getting after it, no matter how many starters are hurt. One thing I love about Kirby's approach is that he subs guys continually, so there's never a time when we're plugging in a guy who hasn't played much. That next man up has been there before. And he'll be there again against the erratic play of Florida. One thing I've noticed is how many mistakes Richardson makes when he's under pressure, and pressure is what we'll bring. Dawgs dominate both lines of scrimmage and both sides of the ball: UGA 38, UF 10.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: TENNESSEE OVER KENTUCKY

This game will provide a contrast in styles: speed and rapid-fire plays vs. toughness and grit. Many think that the QBs will both be first-rounders. I think Holder is a more talented player than Levis, which may make the difference in two well-matched teams talent-wise, if not style-wise. One benefit for UGA: UK's toughness may benefit the Dawgs the following week, after they give UT a physical game. But not quite enough. UT 34, UK 27

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: PENN STATE OVER OHIO STATE

Is this the year that James Franklin finally gets Penn State over the top? It was interesting to see him mentioned in so many openings last year with a fairly mediocre record of late. PSU got hammered at Michigan on Saturday and looked overmatched. To this point Franklin's been good but not great. It was a long slog from a program that may never recover from Jerry Sandusky. Meanwhile, Ryan Day walked into a stacked situation and has maintained a high level. So I'll take the guy who has worked for his success, and not the guy born on third who thinks he hit a triple. Lions upset the Bucks, and the Big 10 race gets complicated, 28-27.