

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
DAWGS DROP THE YELLOW HAMMER ON ALABAMMER**

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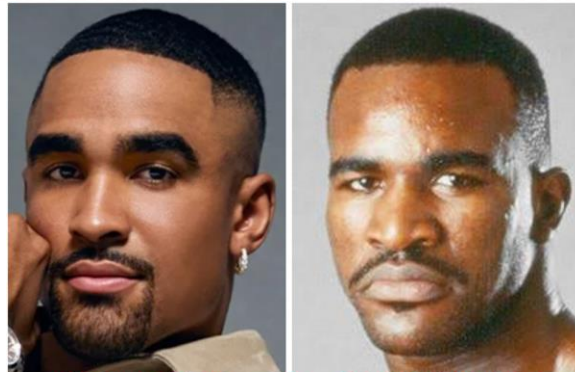
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**CONDITIONER &
DAVID BALLOU**

**EXHIBITIONER
SHREK**

SEPARATED@BIRTH?: BONUS COVERAGE



**CRUNCH TIME
JALEN HURTS**

**& PUNCH SUBLIME
EVANDER HOLYFIELD**

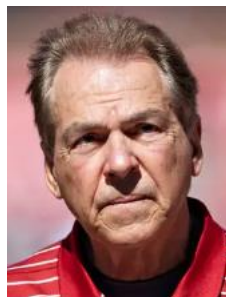
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Fulton County Jail Mug Shot of the Week

What happened earlier in this week's slate of games should have signaled to anyone paying attention that nobody is safe in rivalry and critical games at the end of the season. Iowa over Nebraska? No way Iowa could pull that one out. The Iron Bowl? Are you serious? Washington's squeaker over Washington State? That's playing with fire, dude. Ohio State-Michigan? A game that lived up to the hype. Louisville losing to Kentucky at home to take their second loss and take them out of the conversation, with Stoops saying he's not interested in the ATM Machine University job and is staying in Lexington, after complaining to his fan base that they need to pony up for NIL compensation like UGA, which is looking up at ATM Machine University when it comes to rewarding players financially? Yep, that happened too.

And so, in spite of everything on earth pointing to a UGA domination of Tech, you had to be a bit on edge at game time. And then it happened again: A turnover on the first play and a 7-point deficit within minutes of kickoff. Tech came in believing they could win, and gave it a good go. Lamestream Sports Media writers are talking today about Tech closing the gap, as though what happens this year is part of a trend leading into next year. Unfortunately, that is not how it works. Every year is unique, and the Portal Era has made things even less stable. All that matters is now. And UGA is, now, 12-0 with continued dominance over a program that Brent Key keeps saying will return to dominate the state of Georgia under his management. Not yet, Brent.

One reason for our undefeated season is Mike Bobo's masterful cultivation of Carson Beck's development. In the beginning, Beck was given simple throws, often to the flank and rarely downfield, as he built confidence and mastery of the offense. Other shiny objects caught the attention of the Lamestream Sports Media in Colorado and Los Angeles, because statistics matter more than anything to them. I still laugh at Mel Kiper's criticism that Darnell Washington had low productivity because Bowers caught more passes, when Big O was productive on every snap, although only if you graded out things like blocking and scaring the bejesus out of defenders. Who are you going to believe, Kiper or Kirby Smart, who said after the Tech game: "This game's not measured by stats and rushing yards and first downs. It's measured by heart, and our guys go out there and fight and play hard week after week."

As the season progressed and more was demanded of the QB, Bobo expanded his game and added more responsibility and downfield passes, and Carson rose to every challenge. The schedule has gotten increasingly competitive, and Carson has gotten better and better, unlike some out there who started out like a house afire against weaker teams and have been exposed against stronger competition in the heart of their league schedules. At this point, he is playing near-flawless football—not at his best vs. GT, but plenty good enough—and has emerged as a better college player, and perhaps greater pro prospect, than most of the QBs nationally getting bigger and better press.

A big question concerns Beck's return next year. That's not for me to answer. I think that one-year starters who go pro tend to look more like Mitch Trubisky and Trey Lance than the occasional Cam Newton (who started in JC ball and so only had one official year as starter at Auburn). If Carson comes back next year, he may win a Heisman and

be the top overall pick, rather than be selected later, as he is in most current mock drafts or rankings that make him the 5th-8th QB prospect (which may assume he's returning to UGA). Your opinion and mine don't matter in this decision, which is solely that of Carson and his family, with consultation from pro evaluators. Should he go? I'm sure he's not even thinking of it. He's still got games to play in the 2023 season. I'm just glad he's here now.

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 **Campus Kitchen at UGA** is a food recovery and redistribution program led by student volunteers. They provide meals to older adults and human service agencies in Athens, Georgia. With a donation, you can help fund transportation, food, supplies, administration and training costs, and other related expenses for Campus Kitchen.*

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SAT PREP SESSION

SAT Question of the Week: Who spoke the following line: "At the end of the day you are still loved by God and, your identity is found in Christ."

1. Bob Huggins
2. Jim Harbaugh
3. Connor Stalions
4. Hugh Freeze
5. Jimbo Fisher
6. Bill Self
7. Lane Kiffin
8. Bobby Petrino
9. D.J. Durkin
10. Jason Brown
11. Will Wade
12. Jim Tressel

Answer: The true correct answer is Brock Vandagriff.

DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ The statute of limitations and official pardon by The Dawgmeister now allows Dawg fans to root for Joshua Dobbs in the NFL. He's quite a guy, even if he went to Tennessee.

- ☞ Quote of the week: “Through two seasons at Florida, Billy Napier is 11-13 [now 11-14]. Kirby Smart, in eight seasons at Georgia, is 92-15 [5 of those losses coming in his first season]” ~[Connor Riley](#)
- ☞ Michigan has resolved its cheating scandal by informing Billy Bush that he is no longer employed by the university.
- ☞ Dawgmeister Analytics counted 87 occasions during this week’s games when a broadcaster identified an assistant coach as the next surefire head coaching candidate for the offseason’s hiring spree.
- ☞ After a few games this year, the Lamestream Sports Media declared Colorado the story of the year, and Deion Sanders to be the man who had revolutionized college football. The jury is now in. Colorado finished 12th in the 12-team PAC-12, with a close victory over train-wreck Arizona State their only league win. Their four wins all came against teams that ultimately had losing records:
 - ☞ a 3-point win over 5-7 TCU, which finished 10th out of 14 Big 12 teams
 - ☞ a home win over 5-7 Nebraska, which finished tied for last place in the Big 10 West (and if you saw them lose to Iowa, you know how easily Nebraska can beat itself)
 - ☞ an 8-point home win over 5-7 Group of Five team Colorado State, which finished 9th out of 12 Mountain West teams
 - ☞ and a 3-point win over fellow-doormat and tied-for-next-to-last-place-just-above-Colorado 3-9 Arizona State.
- ☞ I imagine that when [Google shot its ad](#) featuring the Sanders brothers, it looked as though they were signing on with a winner. Now Google is the choice of losers everywhere. Perhaps instead of focusing on shooting ads, along with their dad, they might have worked on things like becoming better football players. But when Daddy is your coach and you are never to blame for problems, why bother?

Following last night’s Tennessee loss to Georgia, Dolly Parton has entered the transfer portal. 🤔🤔



That Stacked WR Room

Most observers feel that the current WR room is deeper and more productive than any that UGA has fielded in memory—they had two of their top guys out vs. Tech and other guys just stepped right in. It's a credit to our coaching staff that they keep finding gems where others have failed to look, and coaching them to productivity well beyond their incoming levels of respect. Here's how they were ranked coming out of high school. The list doesn't include 3-star A.D. Mitchell, now averaging 15.6 yards per catch as Texas's second-leading receiver; Jermaine Burton (4 stars); Dom Blaylock (4 stars); maybe others that don't come immediately to mind.

Note which level of this chart is getting the snaps and productivity.

Unrated

Mekhi Mews

3 stars

Dillon Bell
Ladd McConkey
Jackson Meeks
CJ Smith
Cole Speer
Rara Thomas

4 stars

Anthony Evans
Zeed Haynes
Dom Lovett
De'Nylon Morrissette
Marcus Rosemy-Jacksaint
Arian Smith
Tyler Williams

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

The news that **Sedrick Van Pran** would return for the 2023 season was great news for the Dawg Nation. The New Orleans native, after a redshirt freshman season while Trey Hill manned the center position, has now anchored the offensive line for three seasons. He serves as an important leader in the locker room and throughout the program, as he did in high school as a four-year starter and three-year team captain. The quality of the line has gotten recognition from the Joe Moore Award committee, although not as much as they've earned; and the center position is the quarterback of the front five. Sedrick's performance on and off the field led to his being named the youngest of the four permanent captains for the 2022 national champions, along with Nolan Smith, Chris Smith, and Stetson Bennett. Sedrick's self-evaluation led him to say that "I would like to think I'm pretty good at communicating and changing things based on my football intelligence. I think Coach Monken and Stetson, they trust me enough to give me the freedom to see certain things and go from there. I think I do a pretty good job." Indeed

he does, and the results in the box score bear him out. The players are talented, but that's never enough, as Sedrick explained: "All the work that we put in, I feel like it really paid off during the [2022] season. To be a part of one of the only offensive lines ever give up 9.0 sacks in 15 games, it was truly a blessing. We really appreciate all the work people put in and we were able to do something historic." His leadership skills have increased in importance as his seniority has grown. As he put it, "My biggest thing is can I lead my guys, if I'm being honest. Just making sure I put everyone in a good position around me to win, to excel in their position. I'm really not focused on myself." That team orientation matters in a system where the internal competition for snaps is fierce and, in some cases, can undermine the cohesion so valued by Coach Smart. Leaders matter, and Sedrick has advanced from one who leads by example to the guy his teammates listen to when he speaks. Said Stetson Bennett in 2022, "I think Sed is doing a great job stepping up and leading. We talk a ton about protections and watch film together. Making sure me and him are on the same page. That's how it's gotta be and I think he's doing a great job." Jamaree Salyer was one of his models, as Sedrick said: "I probably talk to Jamaree the most about these things. His biggest thing is being more vocal. When you say things, people respect it. So just be more vocal. That's the No. 1 thing I'm trying to work on for myself, is making sure I'm always leading by example but also being more vocal." Sedrick's leadership qualities led him to be named a team media representative for the SEC Media Days in 2022, a position of respect and honor to accompany his achievements on the field. The Art major has earned a Dr. and Mrs. Howard Williams III Football Scholarship to support his studies, although he's got work to do on the gridiron before he puts it to use. His talent, intelligence, and leadership will take him far.



THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. ALABAMA

And, here we go. Alabama was written off earlier this year by most people outside Tuscaloosa, including me. Their QB situation looked dire, their talent level seemed down, and they lost an early one. But Jalen Milroe has made one of the greatest in-season improvements in memory, even outplaying possible #1 or #2 overall pick Jayden Daniels when they beat LSU. And many are back on the bandwagon, especially after the Iron Bowl and his heroics, which provided the biggest stunner in a generally stunning weekend slate of games.

Not around here, fella.

This year's Iron Bowl was one whale of a game, and sets the stage for what promises to be an epic game in the Benz. Milroe was, not long ago, the guy who occupied the QB position between Bryce Young and the next guy taking snaps at Alabama. Now he's just The Guy.

The Dawgs are ready for this one, as is Alabama. Can either offense be stopped, even by these defense-rich teams? Neither is as dominant as it's been, but they are both damned good. Milroe has given teams fits with his running and has developed into an excellent passer, and I suspect we'll assign a spy to him, which I say in the absence of actual knowledge. Wasting a spy on a QB who had no intentions of running sure seemed to be a bad idea on Alabama's game-winner on Saturday, when a spy and two-man rush resulted in one of the series' greatest endings.

But enough preliminaries. Y'all are here for the forecast. And here it is: Dawgs 38, Tide 37.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: OREGON OVER WASHINGTON

Two likely Heisman finalists duke it out in a game that will help identify a Final Four team. I haven't seen many West Coast games this year, because my days as a night owl ended some time ago. So I'm mainly going with the team headed up by a Kirby Smart coaching tree acolyte. Which institution of higher learning is happier now with its coach, Miami or Oregon? I'm guessing the latter. Me too. Ducks over Huskies, 34-31.