

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:  
DAWGS BEAM DOWN COCKS, SQUEEZE THE BEAR**

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**SEPARATED@BIRTH?**



**CHIDED FOE  
SHANE BEAMER**

**&**

**IDAHO  
MASON PETRINO**

**SEPARATED@BIRTH?: BONUS MATERIAL**



**No Mo'  
JUSTIN STEPP**

**&**

**NOHO  
ANTHONY CARRIGAN**

[THE COMPLETE SEPARATED@BIRTH? COLLECTION](#)

[THE SOUTH CAROLINA COACHES COLLECTION](#)

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**Fulton County Jail Mug Shot of the Week**

With the eyes of the nation—at least, those who can get ESPN—focused on Boulder and Tuscaloosa, the Dawgs got off to another slow start. I heard a few boos, along with calls for the offensive coordinator to be fired and for Dylan Raiola to replace Carson Beck at QB. It was slow indeed, and temporarily concerning. Then the second quarter began, and all was forgiven and forgotten, more or less.

But look around and see that other teams got off to slow starts, e.g., Tennessee and other ranked programs. I'm not going to say the noon start was the issue, because it was noon for everyone. We just took a few series and a whole quarter to get rolling.

Thank heaven for underrated, under-recruited, undersized walkons, without which this program would not have had the success it's enjoyed of late. Mekhi "The Human Joystick" Mews's punt return got things rolling, the ball took the right bounces off ankles and other body parts, and the rout was on as scheduled. We had the latest spectacular play by Malaki "The Human Highlights Reel" Starks. We had everyone but Amarius Mims take a turn at running back. And we had an afternoon that was hotter than the hinges of Hell to make our roster depth useful, albeit not enough to keep those skanky 3 points, scored against our backups, off the board for Ball State.

It's hard to generate insights over such a mismatch, but I'll offer one. We don't seem to be dominating the line of scrimmage on offense with what many thought would be an even better OL this season. I think we're starting to see how great a player Darnell Washington was, an absolute beast playing off-tackle. I was amazed at the ignorance of people like Mel Kiper, Jr., who said he wasn't "productive" because he didn't catch 10 passes a game. But Darnell was productive on every snap, just not with a measurable unless you count the yardage picked up by running backs. He was also the second-favorite target just among tight ends, making "production" the wrong way to think about a player of such great impact. Of all the players we lost to the draft, he's the one most difficult to replace. The remaining TEs are terrific players, just not dominant blockers.

When I got home I watched the tape of the Colorado-Nebraska game, which was disappointing in competitiveness. CU is now 2-0 against what appear to be weak teams. I was amazed to see Georgia Tech reject Jeff "The Human Turnover" Sims playing QB for Nebraska, and thought, man, they might lose all of their games this year if that's their QB1-and-only. Nebraska was awful, and he was terrible.

But my main impression was that the broadcast was heavily, often exclusively loaded in Colorado's favor. Dawgmeister Analytics charted the references made in the booth by Johnson and Joel "Former Colorado QB" Klatt to the respective coaches of the two teams, resulting in the following tabulation:

Deion Sanders: 1,469 references

Coach Prime: 3,931 references

Matt Ruhle: 3 references

I don't think I've ever seen a game allegedly called by nonpartisan national broadcasters so heavily slanted toward one team and one coach. Both teams had new coaches who'd

had success with other programs. Both teams were in a rebuild after being godawful. But only one team appeared to the guys calling the game to be worth talking about.

I'd provide a report on Alabama's loss to Texas, but I'm a Charter Spectrum subscriber. For now. Before the weekend's games, I had a bit of back-&-forth with the Huskermeister, a Nebraska grad, and he agreed with my forecast of an Alabama win. But I was less confident as the game got closer. I opined that Jalen Milroe would be the 4<sup>th</sup> string QB at UT behind Arch Manning, and he apparently lived down to my expectations. Alabama's leading tackler was Trezmen Marshall, who transferred to Alabama because he was down the depth chart at UGA. Alabama's vaunted OL lost the line of scrimmage, with RBs averaging 3.1 yards-per-carry. Jermaine Burton, who left UGA to win championships with Bryce Young and catch gobs of passes so that Mel Kiper, Jr., could consider him productive, exploded for....2 catches. Someone posted on something called "X" "A.D. stands for Alabama's Daddy."

All in Tuscaloosa. Maybe David Pollack was right last year when he told Nick Saban on the air that there's a new sheriff in town. Maybe Alabama no longer puts the fear of God in opponents and beats them before the opening kickoff. Maybe everyone who picked Alabama to win the natty, as they predict every year, is overconfident in Nick Saban's ability to win because he is Nick Saban. And maybe it doesn't bother me one bit to see them come back down to earth with the rest of us.

### **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*  
**Georgia Conflict Center.** Since its inception in 2010, GCC has sought to serve the Athens, Georgia community and beyond, working in collaboration with our community partners to build a just and equitable community. From the beginning, the primary focus of our work was teaching conflict skills to help children, youth and adults embrace conflict as a natural part of life and an opportunity to learn and grow. Over the years, we have honed the focus of our work to build peace with justice by advancing restorative practices within communities, schools and institutions. Today, GCC's work is advanced by a dedicated core leadership team, a committed Board of Directors, school-based restorative coordinators and a collection of GCC-connected experts and collaborators.

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### **SAT PREP SESSION**

**SAT Question of the Week:** Which of the following does not belong on this list?

1. Stetson Bennett
2. Caleb Williams
3. Dan Marino

4. Garrett Nussmeier
5. Kurt Warner
6. Gino Torretta
7. Brock Purdy
8. Josh Booty
9. Jordan Travis
10. Riley Leonard
11. Steve Bono

**Answer:** Josh Booty (#12) is the only player on this list who did not wear jersey #13.

## **DAWG DOOTS**

- ☞ [Malcolm Mitchell: I worked as hard at reading as I did at football \(ajc.com\)](#)
- ☞ Following concerns about some Dawgs' hazardous driving habits, Coach Smart has hired The Dawgmeister Driving and Finishing School to teach the players proper techniques behind the wheel. [We have now released the first online learning module available for students everywhere](#) of a lesson in slowing down and executing a proper K-turn.
- ☞ "We're gonna go beat the heck out of Florida State." ~LSU coach Brian Kelly, prior to FSU game
- ☞ "We thought we were somebody else. We thought we were the two-time national champion Georgia Bulldogs or something. I don't know what we thought, but we were mistaken." ~LSU coach Brian Kelly after the Tigers got blown out in the second half against FSU
- ☞ "Nada de caca, Sherlocka." ~Little Woolly
- ☞ My dear departed mother, a stickler for all things linguistic, used to be annoyed that the mother of a former NBA star spelled her son's name "Isiah" instead of "Isaiah." I won't tell her about Dawg walkon WR Izayah Reeves.
- ☞ A new crime I was not aware that existed: "According to a USA Today report Sunday, the complaint was filed by Brenda Tracy, a prominent sexual assault prevention advocate, who claims [Coach Mel] Tucker sent her gifts, asked if she would date him if he wasn't married, and *masturbated without her consent during a phone call.*" Not that I've tried it myself, mind you. I've got boundaries, you know.

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

### **GOOD GUY ARCHIVE**

"Marcus kind of led the whole charge. He got everybody together, and we all kind of spiraled together and the message was, 'It's time to wake up.' There was no more stalling, no more excuses. Basically, it was, we have to have it now. I'm just happy we were able to get it." And led by **Marcus Rosemy-Jacksaint**, whose name has baffled many a broadcaster, the Dawgs came back from a 14-point deficit to beat Ohio State in the 2023 Peach Bowl. The Pompano Beach native has done that a lot for UGA. Marcus distinguished himself at St. Thomas Aquinas HS, ranked in the top 5 or 10 WRs nationally according to every service. At UGA he has not put up flashy stats, like most people in a rotation in which the ball gets ample distribution. But his contributions

weren't all about the receptions. Marcus is a ferocious and eager blocker, clearing space on the perimeter for backs and receivers who need interference and pancakes to spring a long gainer. But he's made some big catches too. His first TD came against Florida his freshman year on a play when he injured his ankle and spent the rest of the season in rehab. Injuries the next two seasons put two of his WR brothers on the bench, and with Pickens and Mitchell watching, Marcus got the job done in every facet of the game. Reports from the summer between the championship seasons described his coaching and mentoring of younger Dawgs, the sort of leadership that Kirby Smart needs among his players. The business major earned himself an Aubrey Cecil Rhodes Sr. Football Scholarship to support his studies, showing leadership and achievement off the field as well. Marcus hasn't rewritten the record book, but he's done a lot more than stats can measure. If you're looking for connection, then you need some glue. That's a quality that not every star player has, and that every team needs. Marcus has been a team leader, and will continue to do so in football and beyond.



## **THE FORECAST**

### **DAWGS VS. SOUTH CAROLINA**

The Dawgs have an opportunity to avenge the worst loss of the Smart Era. It might date to the Jake Fromm Era, but we have memories around here. I read somewhere that for Spencer Rattler, interceptions are a feature, not a bug, and I look forward to seeing our defenders force his bad throws and haul them in like a Joro spider on a mosquito. We still might not see the complete playbook unless SC plays over their heads. I'd like a competitive game, mainly for our players' development, but would accept a blowout. Dawgs 41, Cocks 10.

### **NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: TENNESSEE OVER FLORIDA**

OK, this is hardly a marquee matchup, but there isn't much going on between top 25 teams. So I'll take this one. It's in The Swamp, now known as The Bog. Nobody's going to do a puff-piece documentary on this team. The real question concerns whether Florida will do what Auburn did: Dump their mid-tier hire before the season's over in Y2 of their social experiment. Saturday won't help make a case for Billy to be around to welcome his highly-ranked recruiting class to Gainesville; and SEC fans everywhere are sending valentines to Dan Mullen for cratering the Gator roster to the point where it couldn't be rebuilt without a Colorado-esque portal overhaul. I'm less convinced than the Lamestream Sports Media that Josh Heupel has built a program ready to challenge

for championships. But he should be able to beat bottom-feeders like Florida. Vols 51, Gators 17.

### **NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: MISSISSIPPI STATE OVER LSU**

Not possible, you say? What do you think “upset” means? And then ask Florida State about how invincible LSU is. Maybe give Dabo Swinney a call too. This game’s in Starkville, and I’ve got to pick a weekly upset according to my contract with The Dawgbone in order to earn my year-end bonus, so this is it. Let’s take the home team in a shocker as the mighty LSU Tigers go down again, this time with a league loss to drop them to the bottom of the SEC West: MSU 31, LSU 30.

*The Dawgmeister Guarantee: My forecasts are not for betting purposes, as my dismal record so far this season makes clear. But for those willing to invest their hard-earned shitcoin in a friendly wager, and want to go with recommendations that are every bit as accurate as a Jeff Sims pass, knock yourself out.*