

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:  
DAWGS BLAZE PATH TO GLORY**

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**SEPARATED@BIRTH?**



**RAZORBACK & SLAYS IN BACK  
ALEX MORTENSEN & KYLE RITTENHOUSE**

**SEPARATED@BIRTH? BONUS COVERAGE**



**WIZ FOE & FRESNO  
COWARDLY LION & TRENT DILFER**

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

[THE GA HS QB COLLECTION](#)

[THE KYLE RITTENHOUSE COLLECTION](#)

[THE SPORTSCASTERS COLLECTION](#)

[THE COWARDLY LION COLLECTION](#)



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

**This week's Erik Ainge Award for firing up opposing fan bases goes to:**



**BALONEY INFLECTION &  
TONKA HEMINGWAY**



**STONY COMPLEXION  
MEDUSA**



**RECKONED SHITTY &  
ERIK AINGE**



**SECOND CITY  
JOHN BELUSHI**

**THE SNL COLLECTION**

“I probably say like one of the loudest, Texas A&M. Texas A&M a good one. Tennessee can get pretty loud, too, as well. So between them two.” ~T. Hemingway

“All's well that ends well.” ~W. Shakespeare

Another slow start, this one lasting a half. I was seated behind Coach Knute “Bear” Lombardi, who was raining down hate on Mike Bobo, beginning with the first series and no doubt lasting late into the night. Brother Willy was in Athens for the game, and we were impressed at the Coach's vast knowledge of what should have been done on the previous play throughout the game. And when the play didn't succeed, he knew who was to blame, when he wasn't blaming Carson Beck.

I didn't watch the game with The Scowlmeister, but I imagine that it wasn't pretty. The first half gave us little to cheer about, and some of the faithful rewarded the team's effort with boos and jeers. Not from my seat. I was deeply concerned at our 3-point total and the 11-point deficit to a team we were supposed to blow out of the stadium. But boo my own guys? No way.

Not to create any of those nasty false equivalences, but a lot of teams once again started slowly. Alabama against a lousy SFU team; Tennessee against a surprisingly impressive Florida team; and plenty more around the nation. The scoreboard showed a lot of teams

that couldn't get early traction, often against overmatched opponents. To game-wrecker Mykel Williams, the Dawgs sleepwalked through the first half before a caffeinated second half revealed the team we hope they can be. And that team looked mighty good.

South Carolina came to play. They were terrific in the first half. I don't think I ever saw Ohio State's WRs get as open on our defense as the wideouts did for the Gamecocks in the first half. It was a bit of a stunner to a home crowd that's grown accustomed to, and likely complacent about, our defense's dominance. On the post-game radio broadcast, the guys talked about adjustments we made in coverage and in the pass rush to produce a very rough second half for Rattler after he looked so good in the first. The defensive pressure chased him all over the field, forced picks on their last drives, and shut down their passing game the way we obliterated their rushing game.

I've got to give Coach Beamer a lot of credit for preparing his team for this game. Another tough critic, Kirby Smart, was also impressed: "Hats off to Shane Beamer and his team. What a tremendous job those guys did. They came into a tough environment with some relatively young players. They showed great composure and started with a really great plan against us. I thought they out-executed us for sure in the first quarter. I told him, 'Your kids played hard.' They played really hard."

When all was said and done, I was glad for a tough, competitive game that required our guys to dig deep and come back from a double-digit deficit. Teams don't improve blowing out cruddy opponents, either physically or mentally. Games like this are important in developing team character and toughness. We might have expected 60 minutes of fire and brimstone, but the most important 30 minutes were all Dawg and sobered the players up to the fact that opponents practice and want to win too, especially against the nation's most dominant team. Even Coach Knute "Bear" Lombardi didn't have much to complain about in the second half, at least not out loud.

Another point made on the post-game broadcast was that one thing Mike Bobo has historically done is ride a hot running back. We rotated a lot early, but when Dajion Edwards started to hammer hard on their defense, he stayed in there and wanted the ball, and he ran like a champion. It's good to have him back. That cat is a gamer.

So, a slow start to the games and, in a sense, to the season. The record and ranking still look good, but we are not yet a great football team. We complete the exhibition season next week, then the real games begin. I'm happy that we had this one to sober up the players to the fact that they are beatable; that the last two seasons are in the past and it's up to them to write their own histories. No amount of coaching from the stands will change the real dynamics of the season. That's up to the guys on the field.

### **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 Preface is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that jump-starts childhood literacy by pairing high school mentors with elementary school students to set them up for a lifetime of learning. Headquartered in Gwinnett County, Georgia – one of the most diverse and fastest-growing counties in the nation – our model is founded on the simple idea that **relationships matter**. After just 10 weeks with Preface, young students are going from functionally illiterate to reading at or above grade level.*

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### **SAT PREP SESSION**

**SAT Question of the Week:** Who is the subject of the following actual quote from a knowledgeable insider, uttered at the beginning of 2023?

“There should be a plan. But there is no plan. I think they just don’t know what to say. He is in isolation, of course. He doesn’t like speaking with people anyway. He has a very narrow circle, and now it has gotten narrower still.”

1. Jimbo Fisher
2. Nick Saban
3. Jim Harbaugh
4. Ryan Day
5. Brian Kelly
6. Bill Belichick
7. Butch Davis
8. Geoff Collins
9. Butch Jones
10. Dan Mullen
11. Urban Meyer

**Answer:** The object of this observation was Coach Vladimir Putin.

### **DAWG DOOTS**

- ☞ A Coveted Dawgmeister Shout-Out to Lyle Henley, UAB strength coach, for his enshrinement in [The Dawgmeister's Bad Hair Hall of Fame](#).
- ☞ “So, all we do is take the teams that win the most games at the end of the year, put them in the playoffs. But do you really get the best teams? When they told me that we would be favored against three out of the four teams that got in the playoff, I’m like, why aren’t we in the playoffs? Does that mean they have a better team or does it mean that those people don’t know what they’re talking about? I really don’t know that. But I’m not being critical of anybody. But if you’re going to have parity, you have to have a better way of figuring out who has the best teams, not just because you lose two games on the last play of the game.” ~Nick Saban, head Rat Poison distributor at another school in Alabama, on why the regular season shouldn’t count, and why Las Vegas oddsmakers should determine the

playoff contenders, uttered in relation to the 2022 season but no doubt to cover the 2023 season as well

- ☉ After studying the Florida standards for teaching geography, the Big 12 has begun proceedings to add the University of Alaska-Fairbanks, the University of Hawaii-Mānoa, the University of South Florida, the University of Maine-Orono, San Diego State University, and Московский государственный университет for the 2024 season.
- ☉ “There was a snap early. They clapped. They simulated our snap count and our guys heard the clap, and they snapped the ball. We had a whole play, like a goal-line play. What happened was the ball got snapped early because they simulated the snap count and clapped their hands and our center snapped the ball.” ~Jimbo Fisher whining about Miami’s cheating, the only way to beat a Jimbo Fisher team
- ☉ “Coach, that’s called ‘disconcerting signals.’ I appreciate how hard it is to keep track of words with 4 syllables.” ~Little Woolly
- ☉ Dylan Raiola has earned the reputation of being a humble and team-oriented guy. During one UGA game this year, he went and fetched beverages for other recruits in the stands. That’s no prima donna. I wonder if his dad’s career as an offensive lineman helped to shape the character trait of humility. They are the bass players of football, setting the foundation so others can get headlines. That’s a good model for the national QB1 to have in keeping his own ego in check and understanding the importance of leading by example and with an unpretentious personality.
- ☉ Butch Jones’s Arkansas State Red Wolves are currently 1-2 following their victory over 0-3 Stony Brook, after starting the season with an aggregate 110-3 scoring deficit. They are 6-21 since he instituted a new culture upon his hire in 2021.
- ☉ In the binder titled: “RELENTLESS, Mel Tucker Brand Guidelines,” appears the claim that “The Mel Tucker Brand is a story brand driven by an omni-channel strategy. This approach fits the brand as it reflects Mel as a person and a professional: authentic, dynamic, multi-faceted, high impact and resilient.”

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

What would you think of a cornerback with measurables of 5’-8”, 165 pounds? How about a stick of dynamite that size? That would be **Glenn Ford** coming out of Columbus-Carver HS in 1994, where he earned All American honors playing above his weight. Jim Donnan brought him to Athens on a scholarship, where he lettered for four years and started for three, often lining up alongside safety Kirby Smart. At UGA Ford completed two undergraduate degrees, in Consumer Economics and Housing Development. After graduating he had a shot at playing in the NFL, but injuries led to his retirement and redirection. That direction was coaching and teaching the game, including stints with the Washington Redskins [now Commanders] and Cleveland Browns, aided by his participation in the Bill Walsh Diversity Program. Returning to the Atlanta area, Glenn founded and became CEO of [DareU Academy in Atlanta](#), which specializes in developing young football talent at all positions. DareU seeks to “train and expand the minds of every young person who has the dreams of going to college, and we will develop a game plan to get them towards their aspirations,” Ford says. “We have set our sights high and are changing lives. We are so inspired by the courage, hard work,

and the determination of our kids that it drives us to take our organization to new heights in support of them.” His students have included a number of young men who have taken their talents to Athens, all shaped and advanced through Glenn’s tutelage. He’s become a highly respected authority among college coaches who rely on his recommendations, and has been considered for assistant coach openings at UGA based on the quality of his work with high school players. Glenn was an asset to UGA, and he is now an important figure in the lives of a lot of young men, whether they play college football or not. Keep it up, big fella. Your inspiration has provided the role model for a lot of young people whose lives have been enriched by your example.



### **THE FORECAST DAWGS VS. UAB**

I predict....a slow start, then a deluge. You can't take a guy who's never coached before and put him in charge of a program, and have that program become competitive overnight. And he won't. Dawgs continue to work out the kinks and get ready for some real football, while getting valuable reps for the backups and their many recruiting stars. Dawgs romp, 48-3.

### **NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: OHIO STATE OVER NOTRE DAME**

I never believe ND is going to get past being among the “best of the rest.” Even Touchdown Jesus can't elevate them to OSU's level. ND lost its offensive coordinator to Alabama, where he's pulling off the miracle of making the Tide offense ordinary—perhaps a [disaster](#)—after being the [target of Irish fans](#) for his mediocre work. And they will put another plodding, workmanlike offense on the field in his absence. Buckeyes roll: OSU 38, ND 17.

### **NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: RUTGERS OVER MICHIGAN**

Rutgers thrashed the Owlmeister's dear Temple in Week 2, suggesting that either they are on the upswing or Temple will continue to be haunted by the ghost of Geoff Collins. Meanwhile, Michigan continues to tell the nation that they have the best OL, best RB, best QB, best coach, best stadium, and highest chutzpah quotient in the land. Sounds like rat poison to me. I'll take the Scarlet Knights in an Appalachian-State-style win in The Big House as the Wolverines look ahead to their big matchup with.....Nebraska in Week 5. Rutgers 28, Michigan 27.

*Caution: Before wagering your actual money, check my track record this season. It's worse than Tyler Buchner's completion percentage.*