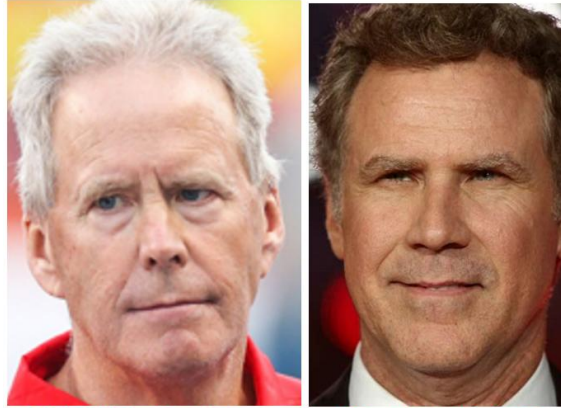


THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
DAWGS SAY YO MAMA TO OUR MOTHER

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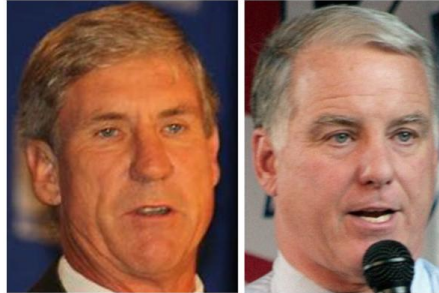
SEPARATED@BIRTH?



NEGLIGENT LOBO & EMINENT LOCO
BOB DAVIE WILL FARRELL

[THE COMPLETE SEPARATED@BIRTH? COLLECTION](#)
[THE NOTRE DAME COACHES COLLECTION](#)
[THE COMEDIANS COLLECTION](#)

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RENEGADE & RETROGRADE
BILL LYNCH HOWARD DEAN

[THE INDIANA COACHES COLLECTION](#)
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SEPARATED@BIRTH? BONUS COVERAGE!



SIDELINE REPORTER & CANINE RIPSNOTER
LAURA RUTLEDGE PIT BULL

[THE SPORTSCASTERS COLLECTION](#)
[THE DOGS COLLECTION](#)

The clutter has now been removed from the field, and I'm not talking about water bottles at Texas. If I were a partisan of Alabama and South Carolina, and maybe even Mississippi, and if I saw the first round of the playoff, I'd be thinking, who enshittified the playoff field by letting those losers in, and keeping us out? Maybe your schedule does matter, and beating a bunch of unranked and mid-major teams isn't such a playoff-worthy accomplishment. I don't think the teams watching from home would have decided on a white-flag punt *à la* Curt Cignetti when it was their last chance to salvage the team's biggest game of the year.

After two blowouts, by the time of the Clemson-Texas game, my only hope was for a competitive game. It took awhile, but at least Clemson eventually gave it a shot. Unlike the vast majority of game narratives concocted by the Lamestream Sports Media, the rematch of Klubnik and Ewers, foes in Texas high school playoff lore, was actually pretty compelling. Until the game began. Clemson ultimately got back into it in the only first-round game that had any sense of competitive urgency. But not nearly enough.

Before his Hoosiers took the field against Notre Dame, Coach Cignetti told the studio team that "We don't just beat top-25 teams, we beat the shit out of them!" based on Indiana's pasting of then-25th Nebraska, a team that ultimately fell harshly to earth; to which Nick Saban, his former mentor, said, "One thing you didn't learn from me, is all the shit you talk." With increased exposure, Cignetti has gone from the nation's assistant principal to a bit of a dick.

Post-game, Cignetti observed that "When you play good people who move faster, quicker change of direction, they're harder to tackle." Yes, that's true. Notre Dame indeed did dominate Indiana after both teams made the playoff with schedules made for winning, which it turns out was a major attraction of the Indiana job for Cignetti. Next week the Irish play the varsity.

To the AJC's Gabriel Burns, who sounds very Irish to me, "The Irish are the years-long dominant, big-brand behemoth that expects to take this stage every winter." Actually, most of their years as behemoth came [before most of us were born](#). And this year's one-loss record included a lot of wins over the likes of Miami (OH) and other behemoths.

It's now time for Round 2, where strangely enough the first-round winners are, in two of the games, favored heavily to beat the teams with byes, presumed to be higher seeded because of their superiority. We'll be hearing from Lane Kiffin shortly on this topic, I'm sure.

And awaiting them are the Georgia Bulldogs, who began the Round 2 wagering as slight underdogs but then emerged as slight favorites, at least for the moment, until the winds shift and a few knucklehead start believing in the luck of the Irish again. Are the Dawgs up to the moment, in spite of their lack of smothering dominance like teams of recent yore? Their coach thinks so: "I don't know that I've had a more mentally tough team. They just keep coming and keep coming. They never say 'die'. I have a lot of respect for the leaders in that room because of what they've been through. Probably the hardest

schedule in history that we've ever had. They endured it, they came out on top, and they fought their way through."

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year. Can't wait for New Year's Day to see what happens next.



Alabama Jones and the Odor of Mendacity



Texas Jones, the Taylor Swift of college football

- 🏈 A Coveted Dawgmeister Game Ball goes to Jalon Walker for being named both **second-team All SEC** and the Butkus Award winner for **best linebacker in the nation**. Rumors that the seeding committee was somehow involved in the process have yet to be substantiated.
- 🏈 And Coveted Game Balls go to the team's new graduates: Tyrion Ingram-Dawkins (Housing Management & Policy), Cash Jones (Communication Studies), Noah Jones (Real Estate), Smael Mondon (Housing Management & Policy), Brandon Moody (Sociology), Tate Ratledge (Sport Management), Izayah Reeves (Housing Management & Policy), Samuel Shurtleff (Management), Arian Smith (Housing Management & Policy), Brett Thorson (Communication Studies), Herschel Walker (Housing Management & Policy), Jonathan Washburn (International Affairs)

Disconcerting Signals

"[Ohio State-Michigan] is the No. 1 rivalry in all of sports, not just college sports, and to see it devolve all the way down to this level, it just disrespects not only the institution, but the college programs themselves. More importantly, it provided a true safety hazard. We have a great rivalry. I enjoy the rivalry, win, lose or draw. That was a tight game. It wasn't a blowout victory. You know, Michigan should have taken its victory, and we take our loss on the chin and live to fight another day, concentrate on the next week and the next year, the next recruitment period. But instead, we have to have this conversation."

~Ohio state Rep. Josh Williams, who introduced a bill that would classify flag planting in The Horseshoe before, during, or after Buckeyes football games as a felony

“And study for finals.” ~Little Woolly

In a related story, Rudy Giuliani has introduced a law banning opposing players from [simulating a dice roll on the Madison Square Garden logo](#).

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 **Strong African American Families (SAAF) Program** is a 7-session program designed for youth aged 10–14 and their caregivers. The goal of SAAF is to build on the strengths of African American families and support parents and youth during the transition from early adolescence to the teen years with a specific emphasis on helping young people avoid risky and dangerous behaviors.

[DONATE](#)

R.I.P. Daniel “Big Dan” Inman

SAT PREP SESSION

SAT Question of the Week: The following are the nicknames of various college football stadiums around the land. Which is the most terrifying and intimidating to opposing teams and fans?

Boise State: The Blue
Kansas: The Outdoor Phog
Western Michigan: Where's Waldo
Dayton: Welcome Stadium
Georgia Southern: Prettiest Little Stadium
UAB: The Old Gray Lady
Montana State: The Litterbox
Pitt: The Big Ketchup Bottle
East Carolina: Rowdy Dowdy
Miami (FL): The Empty Stadium
North Carolina: The Tar Pit
Rutgers: The Birth of College Football

Answer:

Northwestern & Virginia: The Library

DAWG DOOTS

- Typo of the Month: Georgia's social media team announced Smart has been named a semifinalist for the Georgia [sic 'em] Munger Award.
- The Lamestream Sports Media has completely overlooked this development, but Matthew McConaughey, after entering the portal and looking for a new team following the SEC Championship game, has withdrawn his name and plans to return to Austin next year.
- Kirk Herbstreit was in the news when his son Chase committed to play QB for Michigan, Herbstreit's alma mater's hated enemy. What I want to know is this: Herbstreit has been on the road continuously since 1995, with his only companion a dog. How did he produce a son back home?
- A wild, wild state championship game: [Milton over Langston Hughes](#)
- Best name in the portal: ULM Warhawks quarterback General Booty.
- Why we prefer winning to losing: [Existential wellbeing may be of utmost importance to many people](#)
- HBO has announced its featured Hard Knocks team for next fall: The University of North Carolina.
- God is once again active in the portal: "Unfortunately, all good things come to an end, even though it's sooner than I would like. I will trust in God and his plan for me on my journey." ~benched Boston College quarterback Thomas Castellanos upon committing to Florida State, where he will replace the godforsaken D.J. Uiagalelei
- In a related story, God has entered the universe's portal in search of a better planet.
- In a shocking development, Bear Alexander is in the transfer portal again and has announced that Oregon will be the next university he transfers from.
- And you thought your house was too expensive: Laura Rutledge and hubby live in a log cabin in suburban Connecticut that cost them \$1.1M in 2021.

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

Tyler Clark came to UGA from the small but productive town of Americus, Georgia, which has produced not only a bunch of NFL players, but some coaches in Dan Reeves and Chan Gailey. Tyler developed into a four-star prospect who came to UGA in the same class as a lot of other outstanding defensive linemen, and was a fine player on a door-slamming defense. Fellow Americus Dawg Leonard Pope thought he was something special, saying, "Tyler is a great kid, man," and took on a mentoring role along with Tyler's dad Tommy. Pope said that Tyler comes from a good family, he's smart, and he listens, each a predictor of success on the field and beyond. He also talked about how Americus produces good people because it's a "great community" that supports its youth, even with the usual social problems affecting U.S. society: "I think the community knows, just like us athletes us know, that it's a once-in-a-lifetime chance. When a child like Tyler gets a chance to succeed and pursue his dream, it's only right for all of us to get together and try to push for that." Small-town values can be forged with simple pastimes; for Tyler, it was football, fishing, and washing his car. At UGA, Tyler was a solid player, and excellent student. For his efforts within the program, he was

rewarded with the team's defensive Own the Trenches award and co-winner of Defensive "Up Front" award, given for his hard work and toughness at the line of scrimmage. In the classroom he earned a Griffin Athletic Scholarship, an Atlanta-Greensboro Football Scholarship, and a Dr. & Mrs. Howard Williams III Football Scholarship to support his major in Sport Management. But Tyler wasn't yet done with football. Undrafted in 2020, he has continued playing on the margins of the pro game. He was on the practice squads of the Bengals, Bears, and Chiefs, and also played for the Philadelphia Stars of the revived USFL. He may or may not end up with a pro football career. But he's shown every sign that he'll be a winner wherever his path in life takes him.



THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. NOTRE DAME



Sean McDonough opined over the weekend that "Georgia, they keep winning, but it feels uncomfortable when you watch them do it. They keep finding a way to win, but it always feels like they're right on the tightrope. We saw a Georgia Tech team that's good, not as good as Notre Dame, really should have beat Georgia at the end of the year. It wouldn't surprise me at all if Notre Dame beats them." Not only that, ND fans have been chanting "We Want Georgia!" for the cameras. Well Irish fans in South Bend and the broadcast booth, guess what. You're the dog that finally caught the car. Now what are you going to do?

It says here: Get run over.

Much has been made of Carson's Beck's elbow injury, and it's something to make much of. Throughout the second half of the SEC Championship game, the broadcasters referred to Gunner Stockton as "the backup quarterback," which at that point, he was no longer. He was QB1, the greatest passer in Georgia state history, and a survivor of countless practices against the Dawg defense for three years. The cat's got game, and calling him the backup makes him sound like the Rudy that ND's defense will club to death like a baby seal. This belief ignores what he did against Texas in the second half.

Against Texas, Gunner threw one miserably ill-considered desperation pass that allowed UT to tie the game. I suspect he won't throw any more like that. Now, with several weeks' preparation and practice with the Ones, and a game plan suited to his mobility and roll-out capabilities, he'll command the offense and bring this win home.

There are many dozen other Dawgs who'll figure into the game's outcome, especially the defense and its marauding linemen and linebackers who shut down UT's running game. Notre Dame will not be playing at home before their adoring fans and the adoring Lamestream Sports Media. They won't be playing a team with a great record compiled against mediocre opponents. They won't be playing a team they can dominate in the trenches and outrun in the open field. They might still have fans in the booth. But the game won't put much cheer in their Irish whiskey.

UGA 63, Notre Dame 3.

THOSE OTHER GAMES

FIESTA BOWL: THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY OVER BOISE STATE

Ashton Jeanty has piled up the yardage against Mountain West teams and the occasional Georgia Southern, and played well against Oregon. What he hasn't done is play a schedule full of high-end opponents, week after week. He seems to carry the ball 25-30 times every game, which is harder against teams that exhibit Coach Cignetti's newfound knowledge, learned the hard way from not playing the likes of Purdue and Northwestern every week, that "When you play good people who move faster, quicker change of direction, they're harder to tackle." And they are better at tackling, too. PSU over BSU, 35-28

PEACH BOWL: TEXAS OVER ARIZONA STATE

Texas has lost twice, both to UGA. Arizona State has lost twice, to Cincinnati and Texas Tech. Do records matter? It depends on who's on the schedule. I'll go with the team whose backup QB is the darling of the fan base and Lamestream Sports Media, no doubt inspired by his 3 carries for zero yards vs. Clemson, but who is still their backup QB. Horns over Devils, 42-17

ROSE BOWL: OREGON OVER THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

I think the first match between these teams is too far in the past to draw a conclusion from, so this one's a tossup. I actually haven't seen much of Oregon this season, so can't say from personal knowledge what they've got. Ohio State put the hammer down on Tennessee at home, and appears ready to play anybody whose name doesn't begin with M. But I'll take the Ducks anyhow: Oregon over Ohio State, 31-28