

THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST: DAWGS OFFER NO CLEMENCY TO CLEMSON

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GRAYSON HIGH SCHOOL & PHIL MAFA **CHASTENED BY WILL CHRIS ROCK**

THE COMPLETE SEPARATED@BIRTH? COLLECTION
THE CLEMSON COLLECTION
THE COMEDIANS COLLECTION

The Dawgmeister's Weekend Forecast is guaranteed to be all-natural, plant-based, and cholesterol-free.

It seems that over the summer, three men walked into a bar on Peachtree St. One wore UGA gear, one wore a Braves jersey, and one had on a Clemson hat. The bartender asked the guy wearing the UGA t-shirt what he wanted, and he said, "Gimme a W & W." And the barkeep said, "Coming right up, and Go Dawgs!" and brought him a Whiskey and Water. He next asked the fellow wearing Braves regalia what he wanted, and he said, "I'll have an S & S." And the bartender replied, "That's a Scotch and Soda. Here's to your health, my good man, and let's hope the Bravos get healthy this summer." He then turned to the fellow wearing a Clemson cap and asked what he wanted. The Clemson fan, looking very pleased with himself, smirked and said, "Bring me a 13." The bartender, looking puzzled, asked, "A 13? What is a 13?" The Clemson fan shook his head in disbelief, looked knowingly at the other two men, rolled his eyes, turned to the bartender, and said, "Dude, do the math! That's a 7 & 7."

And so begins another season of college football. Last year's penultimate game ended the Dawgs' historic winning streak. The historic Orange Bowl rout of FSU provided a degree of redemption, but not quite enough to erase the taste of a loss to Saban and Alabama where a blown field goal, a fumble near the goal line, and a catch that was a drop made the outcome excruciating, and made our postseason anticlimactic. There was so much to cheer about until the SEC championship loss, and so much to lament in its aftermath.

But let's take to heart Thomas Paine's revolutionary statement in *The American Crisis*: "We have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly: it is dearness only that gives every thing its value."

Sometimes endless winning can make people in the stands and on the couch complacent. It just seemed that the Dawgs had figured it all out and were never going to lose again. I'm hoping that it prepared us for the hard conflicts ahead in the toughest schedule in memory, and produce triumphs of the greatest glory. Wins are dear indeed. Let's not take them for granted.

But let's take them.

Yes, welcome to another year of Fake Football News from The Dawgmeister, hosted again by The Dawgbone, the galaxy's most awesome collection of football information, and my weekly dithering as well. We're heading into one of the most intriguing seasons of the century, with huge changes in the structure of the game and colossal turnover for every program in the nation. Even guys from the Ivy League are hitting the portal for new opportunities. And even the hedges at Sanford Stadium will be new. It's a Brave New World, and that's both exciting and a bit unsettling.

This year there's no long and easy entrance ramp to the schedule. We get rolling with Clemson, a program that is desperate to prove that their best days are ahead and not behind. They've definitely dropped back from being an annual championship contender, but their coaches, players, and fans are devoted to the belief that championships are their entitlement. They see a victory over UGA as the way to launch their comeback from outside the playoff to somewhere in the top 12. Can they do it? Can you wait till the end of this episode of Dawgmeister's Weekend Forecast to find out?

Then [bring ya ass](#) to the 2024 season.

A lot has been made of which true freshman will play first. When Coach Smart calls me for our weekly consultation about the team, I'm going to recommend that 6'-11" Jahzare Jackson be squarely in the middle of the DL on opponents' PAT and FG attempts. If they can score, that is.

In a Dawgmeister Exclusive, here is a hidden-camera photo of RB coach Josh Crawford explaining to Mike Bobo and Kirby Smart what his plan is for the Clemson game:



I Shall Release Roderick!

Are you ready to kick this thing off? Hold my beer, coach—I'm going in.



A Coveted Dawgmeister Game Ball goes to [Scott Cochran](#), featured over the summer for his battle with opioids that he began taking for debilitating migraine headaches. He's an example of the courage it takes to take on an addiction and come out clean on the other end. I hope the Bulldawg Nation stays behind him and sends him the love and support he needs to win the fight of his life, one day at a time.



And a Coveted Dawgmeister Game Ball goes to Carson Beck, who drives a Lamborghini and has yet to be issued a speeding ticket.

Disconcerting Signals

"We try to teach our guys, use football to create the opportunities, take advantage of the platform and the brand and the marketing you have available to you. But as far as paying players, professionalizing college athletics, that's where you lose me. I'll go do something else, because there's enough entitlement in this world as it is." ~Dabo Swinney, owner of a 10-year, \$92 million contract but longing to find the simple life as a barista at Jittery Joe's

[R.I.P., Michael Brochstein, a.k.a. Senator Blutarsky](#)

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
Charlayne Hunter-Gault Giving Voice to the Voiceless Fund: Provide support and encouragement for University of Georgia students engaged in projects that "give voice to the voiceless," the charting light of the work of Charlayne Hunter-Gault.

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SAT PREP SESSION

SAT Question of the Week: Which college football program was a rival coach referring to with the following observation after the 2023 season?

"It was like a bunch of mercenaries, just trying to get their own stats. They were all over the place. You'd toss it outside, and you'd see their guys going all over the place, so undisciplined. It was unbelievable. You had no idea what they were trying to get done. There's just so much going on with NIL, all the distractions. Like, I don't know if everyone in that building will all have football as priority No. 1. We knew they were a big transfer portal team. With that, when teams like that are going well, you have

momentum and things are good. But then you have situations like [they] had, where people become independent contractors. That can really set you back if you don't have a good culture."

Army
Clemson
Georgia Tech
Harvard
Liberty
Miami (FL)
Mount Union
Nebraska
North Carolina
Notre Dame
Ohio State
South Carolina
Tennessee
Texas Christian
Université Paris-Sorbonne
Wisconsin

Answer:

Lincoln Riley's USC Trojans

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

The dictionary listing for Damn Good Dawg might just include a picture of **Will Muschamp**. He not only needs no introduction, he's got [one of the most extensive galleries](#) in the Dawgmeister's Separated@Birth feature. How many people are so devoted to the team that he would take a lesser assignment in order to bring a talented new guy on board in his old job? When the coaching staff decided to bring Travaris Robinson in as co-defensive coordinator and safeties coach, someone had to take a step back voluntarily to create the opening. Will had been the head coach at two major SEC rivals, and coordinator at another, along with coordinating the defense and being head-coach-in-waiting at SEC newcomer Texas. He is one of the most qualified position coaches and coordinators in NCAA football and probably the NFL as well. Often such men have huge egos that produce a hubris that would make such a shift too great a demotion to bear, and be off to the many programs who'd take him in a second. But Will is a Dawg's Dawg, and knew that bringing in a dynamic new coach on the staff was more important than his own feelings of importance. No doubt he'll continue to have a great impact on coaching and recruiting; he's such a fantastic football man and asset to the team. He'll continue to serve his alma mater in ways that will contribute to the winning culture and winning performance of the young men on the field. We should truly cherish his dedication and loyalty, and feel grateful for what he does for UGA, including setting his own ego and interests aside to produce a staff that on the whole is a little bit

stronger. Thanks for all you've done, and all you do, Coach. DGD indeed; there aren't any better.



DAWG DOOTS

- Using the same AI technology employed by Sports Illustrated magazine to select its 2023 Sportsman of the Year, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has named Deion Sanders the Nobel Laureate in Chemistry for 2024.
- A Dawgmeister Hat's Off to Tight End prospect Vander Ploog from Fullerton, CA for taking the early lead in the Best Name in Class of 2025 competition.
- "You go to war with the army you have, not the army you might want or wish to have at a later time." ~Mike Norvell Donald Rumsfeld
- "Cheaters ~~never~~ prosper." ~Jim Harbaugh
- From the Spring Camp notes: Inspired by Hot Rod: "New defensive backs coach Donte Williams was wearing a helmet during practice for some reason."
- Actual front-page story headline in January: Jim Harbaugh to Bring Multiple Michigan Couches in New Venture (msn.com)
- In announcing his boycott of the Heisman award ceremony, Johnny Football stated that he is "humbly removing myself from the Heisman trophy ceremony [because it] doesn't sit right with my morals and values that [Reggie Bush] can't be on that stage with us every year." Humility, morals, and values: Johnny Manziel's trademark qualities.
- Tallahassee Democrat headline from Saturday morning: [How Mike Norvell rebuilt Florida State into College Football Playoff contender](#)
- From after the game: [Grading Florida State football: Coaching staff lets team down](#)



CRETIN AND WRECK & BEATEN BY TECH
BILLY NAPIER MIKE NORVELL

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- ☞ “You’ve just got to let the cat go play.” ~Kirby Smart on Carson Beck during spring practice

THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. CLEMSON

And it’s time to tee it up amidst the fiberglass at the Benz! The Dawgs are undertaking the Schedule from Hell, and it will be quite a season as they battle ranked team after ranked team. Can we do it? Hell yes. I’m all in on these guys.

When I first saw this season’s schedule, I thought, no way we can go unbeaten. But then, who’s better than UGA? The only comparable roster is at Ohio State, and they will maul their way into the playoff this season, facing the likes of Northwestern and Purdue week in and week out. We will have a pretty slim margin of error against our SEC schedule, especially in the key games away from home.

The main concern among my consultants and me—that is, The Scowlmeister and Little Woolly—has been whether or not we’ll get dominance from the defensive line, or just excellence. But Lordy, the linebackers are tremendous, and in spite of the turnover and youth infusion, the DBs look pretty solid to me. And then there’s the offense, where every position is loaded. UGA runs 6 deep in scholarship backs, plus Cash Jones and his 7.6 yards-per-carry and 8.4 yards-per-catch last year. I think we’ll play 4-5 in most games when the room is healthy, keeping them fresh and ferocious, with guys like jet-propelled freshman Dwight Phillips playing on specialty downs. We might be a couple of RBs short in the opener, but have plenty to cover their absence.

Gary Danielson last season made one of his astute observations—yes, he’s astute, and his passion for Nick Saban doesn’t undo his ability to break a game down. He said that because UGA had so many different guys capable of making plays, a defense had no idea of what Beck would do on any play. Our coaches weren’t promoting one guy for All America status by featuring him over others, and won’t again this year, I think. I don’t believe, for instance, that Trevor Etienne will lead the nation in rushing, as one observer has predicted, because he won’t get 20 carries a game. Anybody who takes the field is a threat, and nobody needs to be The One And Only Man.

I think that the offensive record book will get a makeover this year, but on the team level, not individual, with the possible exception of the QB position, where we don’t rotate. So even if the defense doesn’t have Jalen and Jordan plugging things up at the line of scrimmage, there are plenty of ways to win football games, and we have them in the offensive schemes, playbook, and personnel. And yeah, that defense will be mighty good too. And who’s got a better kicker and punter than them Dawgs?

Clemson is a solid opponent who needs this game desperately. But they’ll go home wondering what hit them. UGA 63, Clemson 3

Note: Dawgmeister point spreads in the mirror may appear bigger than they are.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: MIAMI OVER FLORIDA

The Napier Era begins its Death March in Week 1 of the 2024 season. Will he be around by the UGA game? Not at this pace. Miami isn't exactly making its fan base ecstatic with the Cristobal hire, but I think they are in better shape than the Gators, who figure to be in the SEC's bottom 4, especially given the intensity of their schedule. Dawg fans can begin their gleeful *schadenfreude* toward the program that, under two coaches, owned UGA, but otherwise has been an ordinary team historically. Coach Napier somehow believed that the fans would be patient while he took a decade to build the program up to Spurrier levels, but he must have been thinking of some other team in some other Gainesville—but then, not even the Red Elephants of Gainesville HS would tolerate this bunch. Miami 34, Florida 21.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: TEMPLE OVER OKLAHOMA

I annually provide The Owlmeister with a forecast that matches his fervor for the Owls. Why not start off the season with a gift for the ages? Temple has really fallen of late, apparently unable to recover from the loss of “Minister of Mayhem” Geoff Collins—the self-described greatest defensive mind in all of football—to Georgia Tech and now to UNC as Defensive Uncoordinator. And now the Owls have lost D’Wan Mathis to the Davenport Panthers by way of the portal. But I think they’re ready to go. I’m guessing that OU will be looking past Temple and on to the challenges of whatever league they are in this week—wait, I think it’s the SEC. Oklahoma matches FSU by taking itself out of the national championship race with an opening-game home loss to Temple: Owls 23, Sooners 21.