

THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST: DAWGS SPIN GOLDEN EAGLES INTO STRAW

WWW.THEDAWGMEISTER.COM

SEPARATED@BIRTH?



**PLAYED AT MAINE
BOBBY WILDER**

&

**FRAYED AT BRAIN
HOWARD DEAN**

THE COMPLETE SEPARATED@BIRTH? COLLECTION
THE VERMONT POLITICIANS COLLECTION

They're baaaaaaaaaack.

That's the UGA defense I'm talking about. The big question going into the opener was whether the defense could restore its dominance after last year's mild dropoff. The answer: Hell yes.

The Dawgs' defense does tend to start out with a bang. In the 6 season openers prior to Saturday's endzone-free blowout, UGA had given up 2 TDs, total: to Arkansas in 2020 and to Tennessee Martin in 2023. Clemson was supposed to be a major test. Cade Klubnik had a 5-star recruiting rating after high school ball in Texas, cradle of quarterbacks, and a year as a starter under offensive genius Garrett Riley. Clemson was ready to show they were back in the playoff hunt. And they got stoned all night at the line of scrimmage, not to mention the second and third layers of the defense. It was a glorious performance, one that suggests that the players were a little honked off about all the questions about their lost dominance.

According to Dawg fan favorite Mike Griffith, "**Stock down: The Georgia defensive line** was gouged too often, and lower body injuries to starting defensive tackles Warren Brinson, Nazir Stackhouse and Mykel Williams (ankle) are cause for concern."

I somehow missed this disappointing performance. Here's what I saw from that stock-down defensive line:

Clemson Passing						
	C/ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	INT	QBR
Cade Klubnik	18/29	142	4.9	0	1	40.8
TEAM	18/29	142	4.9	0	1	--

Clemson Rushing						
	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	LONG	
Phil Mafah	16	59	3.7	0	9	
Keith Adams Jr.	1	6	6.0	0	6	
Jay Haynes	1	-1	-1.0	0	0	
Cade Klubnik	4	-17	-4.3	0	0	
TEAM	22	47	2.1	0	9	

Clemson amassed 2.1 yards per carry. Maybe it was that one run in which they got 20% of their rushing yards that caught Mike's attention; they sure did gouge us on that play. And then there was that 6-yard run, and if you add those top two runs, you get one-third of their DL-gouging rushing attack. And that's with most DL starters out of the game for a spell with injuries, and other guys sitting out altogether with their own maladies. Yessir, Mike, we are concerned about the DL room. So is Tennessee Tech, I'm sure.

And we played offense, too, mostly in the second half. The game raised some interesting questions. Branson Robinson, a guy I have been very enthusiastic about, ran 7 times for 12 yards. It seemed to me he never got any blocking, and ran mostly between the tackles. Was Clemson simply too stout to pound the ball on? Is Robinson still recovering from last year's devastating injury, and not yet explosive? Only the guys in the film room and locker room know for sure. Frazier was the more effective runner on Saturday. Did they block better for him? Was the second half playcalling better suited to his style? Does Frazier read and react to holes better than Robinson? Is Frazier just that good? I can't say. But it was good to see the offense break out the running game in the second half. It sure made Carson Beck's day a lot better.

Dabo explains the biggest thing:

"Biggest thing is when you don't finish, . . . you got to play four quarters."

"Biggest thing, when you get beat like that, that's on the head coach. "

"Again, biggest thing to me was missed opportunities in the first half."

From former Macon Telegraph reporter David Hale: "Dabo Swinney, still fighting the good fight against things like the transfer portal or the steam engine...."

Meanwhile, life in stock-down Gainesville looked like this on Saturday:



And, from their devoted media following after the game: [Florida's flop means things will get hot for Billy Napier \(gainesville.com\)](https://www.gainesville.com/story/news/2021/09/12/florida-flop-means-things-will-get-hot-for-billy-napier/7911117002/)

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

Blankies 4 My Buddies. Our mission is to provide an extra dose of comfort to kids who need it. Whether we're collecting blankets, books, or food, we strive to empower kids and their families who are dealing with difficult situations like illness, loss, grief, food insecurity, and homelessness. We initiate projects we believe will make their load lighter.

What We Do

Grief Programs - B4MB raises awareness about the needs of children and teens who are grieving a death and provides education and resources for the parents and guardians who support them. Our programming includes community crisis support, grief support groups, school education sessions, professional workshops, and trainings.

Blanket Donations - We donate blankets to individual kids facing challenging situations and organizations that serve those kids.

Youth Initiatives - Through our initiatives, we offer opportunities for youth to make an impact in their own communities.

School Education Sessions - If a tragedy occurs in the school community (a student or teacher dies; there is a mass shooting in the area), B4MB would be able to go into the school to help children cope with grief, and teach them how to be sensitive to those who are grieving.

Professional Workshops - We host professional workshops and trainings for those working with children who have experienced grief or loss.

Events - We host food giveaways, book giveaways, blanket drives, and more to bring communities together to help one another and to inspire youth to get involved.

[**DONATE HERE**](#)

Disconcerting Signals: Critical Thinkers Do Their Own Research

"I don't believe in space. I'm real religious, so I think we're alone right now. I don't think there's other planets and other stuff like that. I thought I used to believe in the heliocentric thing where we used to revolve around the sun and stuff. But then I started seeing flat earth stuff and I was like, this is kind of interesting. They started bringing up valid points." ~ Tyler Owens, Texas Tech safety and hopeful for either the NFL or NASA

SAT PREP SESSION

SAT Question of the Week: Which Dawg DB from the 2023 team is described in the following recruiting profile?

Georgia HS defender who came in as a 5’-11”, 180 pound safety prospect and son of a football coach and English teacher. Graduated high school as class salutatorian, senior class president, math league MVP, Key Club initiate, graduation speaker, and AP student. A two-year starter in HS, he was considered a coach on the field for the defense, and also served as backup QB on offense; also considered to have a future in coaching at the high school level. His football team made the state semifinals his senior year. He was also an exceptional baseball player and aggressive basketball defender while playing point guard. Not an elite recruit, he got some offers and took some visits, but got a late offer from UGA and took the opportunity to play for his dream school. Finance major.

- A. Kamari Lassiter
- B. David Daniel-Sisavanh
- C. Dan Jackson
- D. Javon Bullard
- E. Malaki Starks
- F. Jacob Fleming
- G. Colby Smith
- H. Patrick Taylor

Answer: Kirby Smart, Bainbridge HS Bearcats

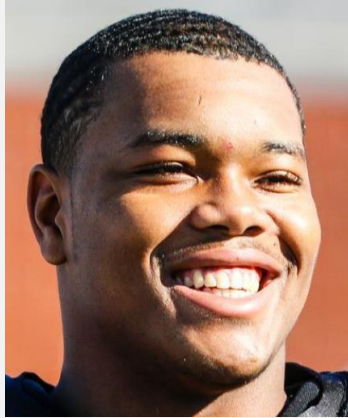
DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ [Flaco, New York’s famous owl, had rat poison in his system when he died](#)
~March, 2024 headline, proving Nick Saban’s theory about what happens when you get a big head
- ☞ “I like running into people. I like running over people. It’s just a mentality. Their mouthpiece better be in because mine is in, and I’m coming for you. That’s pretty much it.” ~Micah Morris
- ☞ Headline from last week: Officials with Bobby Dodd Coach of the Year Foundation and Peach Bowl announced Georgia Tech coach Brent Key has been selected as The Dodd Trophy coach of the week.
- ☞ “Helps when you’re the only team playing.” ~Little Woolly
- ☞ “It just is what it is, you know. Like, I’m really not using it. It just kind of is what it is, you know. Like, they scored late. I don’t really have necessarily a problem with it. But it is what it is.” ~Neal Brown, W. Virginia HC

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

Travon Walker sure can play football. The top pick in the 2022 draft has gone on to anchor the Jaguars’ defensive line and help turn around a team that had scraped bottom before he went to Jacksonville. The Thomaston native from Upson-Lee High School was a multi-sport star whose #44 has been retired, and it’s hard to keep track of his many accolades from his high school days. Overlooked was his starting role on an ULHS basketball team that won 71 straight games and consecutive Class 4A titles.

At UGA he was the best player on a national championship team, and got academic support from a Bill and Susan Robbins Family Football Scholarship. Travon was here and gone in three years, but made progress on a degree in Sport Management. While here he wore a chain with the words "More Than Sports" letting everyone know there was more to him than football. He also plays the trombone, like to hunt, and is a warrior working in the yard. Since going pro, Travon hasn't forgotten his roots. He launched The Travon Walker Foundation to support Upson-Lee high school's athletic department and his college alma mater to boot. He got the ball rolling with five gifts of \$44,000 to Upson-Lee and UGA to support their sports programs, and also has returned home to hand out Thanksgiving turkeys to families in the area and has organized backpack fundraisers. It's great to see a guy who is More Than Sports do so much good for his hometown and alma maters. Somebody's mama raised her boy well, and the rest of us are the beneficiaries.



THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. TENNESSEE TECH

The Dawgs get an early breather, and an opportunity to rest some guys who got dinged up and play some of the guys who got on the field on Saturday during the fourth quarter. Games like this can get out of hand, and this one no doubt will. I think that Kirby will show some mercy with a lot of subbing, and the class not to humiliate his opponent too much. Still, it'll be a beatdown. Dawgs over the Golden Eagles, 56-0.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: TEXAS OVER MICHIGAN

Texas is a much-hyped program; Michigan had their year in 2023 and now has its work cut out to show that just because they cheated, they shouldn't be denied their wins. Is UT as good as advertised? Most teams that lose their top 2 RBs for the season will be depreciated, and I'm guessing that they will have to rely on Quinn Ewers more than they'd imagined to make a playoff run. But, they've got a solid roster and I think should have enough to win this one. The SEC makes an early statement in Ann Arbor. Big House, Schmig House. Tell that to Appalachian State. (Some things never get old.) Horns hook Wolverines, 35-24.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: IOWA STATE OVER IOWA

Kirk Ferentz enters his 8th decade as coach in Iowa City, virtually all unremarkable. His juiced up offense is ready to average in double figures this year. Matt Campbell has only been at ISU for about a decade, with annual reports of his departure never fulfilled. This early in-state rivalry game should be a great scouting opportunity for punters. I'm taking the Ames boys to win this thing, 17-9.