

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
DAWGS HOLD THE KEY TO KY**

WWW.THEDAWGMEISTER.COM

SEPARATED@BIRTH?



**KENTUCKY'S G.O.A.T. &
MARK STOOPS**

**A PLUCKY GLOAT
DR. EVIL**

[THE COMPLETE SEPARATED@BIRTH? COLLECTION](#)
[THE KENTUCKY COACHES COLLECTION](#)
[THE AUSTIN POWERS COLLECTION](#)



R.I.P. Christian Angulo, Ricky Aspinwall, Cristina Irimie, and Mason Schermerhorn

Yes, there was football on Saturday. But nothing can bring back these innocent victims of last week's horror at Apalachee High. It's worth pausing to remember their lives and do what we can to prevent another school massacre.



The Dawgs have now won 41 consecutive regular-season games, 4 short of Oklahoma's historic record. Both streaks are amazing. But are they comparable? Not even close.

OU's streak came before scholarship limits, when a top program could hoard all of the talent and leave their competition to fight over the crumbs. (Scholarship limits may increase in the next few years, which is irrelevant to the current argument.) In 1973, the NCAA responded to Title IX, which equalized funding for men's and women's sports, by limiting football scholarships to 105. The number was cut to 95 in 1978, then 85 in 1992.

Bud Wilkinson's Oklahoma juggernaut was possible in large part because all of the good players signed with a few programs, which is why Oklahoma and Nebraska dominated their league for so many years over the likes of then-cruddy Kansas State and Oklahoma State. See also Ohio State and Michigan in the Big 10 and their dominance over Northwestern, Indiana, and 6 other teams. You young'uns, there was once a time when a league's name identified the number of teams competing, or perhaps the schools' region of the country. The Big 8 became the Big 12 when it added 4 teams. Now? Fuhgeddaboutit.

The OU streak came between 1953-57, when Wilkinson could sign unlimited numbers of players, and when those players wore leather helmets as the plastic alternative was being developed. In 1954 he had 11 running backs on the roster. This stockpiling not only provided unlimited depth, but kept players off the teams at Kansas, Iowa State, etc. The competition for traditional powers was far weaker in that era, because the top players all played for a handful of teams.

Compare that to today, not only with the 85 scholarship limit, but the portal's disruptive influence on team continuity. UGA's record has come in an era of distributed talent such that almost every Power 4 opponent is a threat. Kirby Smart's Dawgs pulled it off during the SEC's dominance of college football and thus stout scheduling annually. The streak also came during the uncertainty of Covid, the unlimited possibilities of transferring, and the unleashing of NIL as a recruiting tool for both high school kids and players on somebody else's roster. It's hard to stay on top in the current era. Just ask ~~Virginia Tech~~ Florida State Notre Dame.

And yes, we did have a game on Saturday, and it was everything we would expect from playing a very weak opponent. I think they shouldn't count the stats from games like this; or, at least keep them in a separate category. (Notre Dame excepted.) The Dawgs dominated a team that didn't have a single player who'd crack our 4-deep, and so coasted as expected. Mission Accomplished. We did get to see the freshman team play the fourth quarter, which is a nice reward for them and our first look at the next generation of talent, even if it cost us a shutout. But whomping a low-tier team at home is nothing to get excited about. The SEC games ahead: Now that's something to fire us up.

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 Native Plant Society. The Georgia Native Plant Society (GNPS) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the stewardship and conservation of

Georgia's native plants and their habitats. We involve ourselves in all sorts of activities to support our mission. Some of our activities include:

Meetings – held at one of our chapter locations
Educational activities – workshops, field trips and symposia
Grants for research and scholarships
Plant Sales hosted by our chapters
State-level Newsletter (NativeSCAPE) plus chapter newsletters
Plant rescues (saving plants threatened with destruction)
Partnerships with communities and public places to establish/restore native plant preserves

[DONATE HERE](#)

SAT PREP SESSION

SAT Question of the Week: Why did Jamon Dumas-Johnson transfer to Kentucky?

- A. The funds that enticed Dumas-Johnson to Lexington came from Mark Stoops' compensation package provided by UK boosters when he turned down the ATM Machine University offer and stayed at Kentucky.
- B. Before heading off to the greener bluegrass of Arkansas, John Calipari finally admitted that UK is a football school, and gave Mark Stoops all of his NIL money to bring in some talent like JDJ.
- C. Dumas-Johnson really likes horse racing.
- D. Ashley Judd promised JDJ a seat next to her at UK basketball games.
- E. JDJ wanted to finally experience The Joy of Lex.
- F. Dumas-Johnson wanted to change his major to Biological and Biomedical Sciences, and was impressed with the quality of Kentucky's program.

Answer: Smael Mondon, CJ Allen, Jalon Walker, Raylen Wilson, Troy Bowles, Justin Williams, Chris Cole, Kristopher Jones

DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ “He’s him. Mark my words, he’s him.” ~Dillon Bell, speaking about Nate Frazier
- ☞ “You and your woke pronouns.” ~Little Woolly
- ☞ Georgia Tech, coached by a former Georgia Tech assistant. Syracuse, coached by a former UGA assistant. Coincidence?

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

Mekhi Mews left UGA through the portal after the 2023 season, and is the rare guy who left the program yet has been honored as a Good Guy. How could you not love a guy who, at 5’-8” tall, got no respect from college football programs and ended up playing a key role on a national champion? Mekhi was a terrific player at Central Gwinnett High School, and his coach told every recruiter to take a good luck at him. His honors were

extensive, even though he played on a team that went 1-9 his senior year: All-Region First Team wide receiver, First Team All-County, All-State First Team Offense, Region 8-AAAAAA Player of the Year, Gwinnett County Wide Receiver of the Year, GCPS 2021 Outstanding Senior Athlete, US Marine Core Distinguished Athlete Award, and in the classroom, Honors Graduate. One program offered him a scholarship: Olivet Nazarene University, an NAIA football program in Bourbonnais, Illinois. He thought he was better than that, and when UGA offered him to be a preferred walk-on, he took it. He didn't get into his state's top university in spite of his grades; he got admitted because of them, and was supported by a Zell Miller Scholarship for his time at UGA. At home he learned compassion through his special-needs brother, of whom Mekhi is protective and supportive. Once on campus, he zigged and zagged past a set of scholarship receivers and into the rotation, and also as the return man on the punt team. He represented the team for UGA's weekly media-day press conference, a sign of leadership and respect rarely extended to a walk-on. To explain his ascent on the depth chart, he said, "You just have to put your head down when you first come here. You just start at the bottom of the depth chart and put your head down and work. If you put in the work, this place gives you an opportunity to work your way up." He continues to rise, now a scholarship recipient and key contributor at Houston. He's one to watch, and even though he'll graduate from another university, he made his mark here and will always be remembered for his championship character and contributions.



THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. KENTUCKY

Due to the miracle of the recording function on my receiver, I was able to scout Kentucky in their debacle against visiting S. Carolina. They got beaten in every aspect of the game, but the most hideous performance came from their OL, which SC shredded, sending BVG on the run every play, and eventually to the sidelines. Lordy, SC managed to blow by the OL with a 3 man rush at times, as if they were Nebraska mauling Colorado. The broadcasters wondered if there would now be a QB controversy. I think they have an OL controversy. Those guys are terrible. And that was against SC, predicted to finish in the bottom half of the league standings. I usually expect UK to be tough in the trenches, rely on a few excellent playmakers, and arrive with a tough mind-set in all areas of the game. But something's gone terribly wrong in Lexington, and they'll get worse next Saturday. Dawgs over Cats, 31-3.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: FLORIDA OVER TAMU

Normally my national game of the week picks the winner—every time—of a matchup of ranked teams. But it's a bleak week for such games, so I'm going to a game of regional interest. Florida has a coach who is likely looking into plans for next year; TAMU has a coach who is making over a team run deeply into the ground by Jimbo Fisher. Maybe Florida is taking the position that the Gators are every team's Super Bowl, which is why the games are always so competitive stanky. But every team on Florida's schedule wants to see Billy Napier keep his job for many years, and this week, the Gators rise to the occasion. UF 21, TAMU 20.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: UTAH STATE OVER UTAH

Well you asked for an upset, didn't you? I don't know much about either roster, only that Utah is ranked and USU isn't. Often rivalry games produce upsets, so this is the one I'm taking. USU 28, UU 27