

## **THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST: BULLDOGS BULLDOG BULLDOGS**

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### **SEPARATED@BIRTH?**



**INJURED IN PROS  
ANTHONY TUCKER**

**INURED TO FOES  
SHAKA SMART**

**[THE COMPLETE SEPARATED@BIRTH? COLLECTION](#)  
[THE MISSISSIPPI STATE COACHES COLLECTION](#)  
[THE MARQUETTE COACHES COLLECTION](#)**

Sometimes, football isn't the only thing that matters in the fall. Sometimes it's dwarfed in importance by our tragic world. I'm beginning this week's missive with an appeal to help our fellow Southeasterners recover from Hurricane Helene. Please consider donating to any of the following organizations. If you need assistance from storm damage, there are some links at the end of the list. Thanks on behalf of all who have been affected by the weather.

[Metro Atlanta-based Food Security for America \(FSA\)](#) | [Send Relief's hurricane relief fund](#) | [Caring For Others](#) | [The American Red Cross](#) | [The Salvation Army of Georgia](#) | [Atlanta-based CARE](#) | [The North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church's Early Response Teams](#) | [AmeriCares](#) | [Episcopal Relief & Development Hurricane Relief Fund](#) | [Direct Relief](#) | [Kearney Center](#) | [Feeding the Carolinas \(4agc.com\)](#) | [Humane Society](#) | [World Central Kitchen \(WCK\)](#) | [NC Disaster Relief Fund](#)

If you need assistance

[Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency](#)

[Georgia Region of the American Red Cross](#)

[Hurricane Helene: Resources & Support - Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina \(foodbankcenc.org\)](#)

And thanks again for helping out people whose lives have been altered by the storm.

Meanwhile, a storm of upsets took place around the nation, once again. Kirby Smart has maintained over and over that winning on the road in the SEC is always hard, even as

those in the stands and press box and on the couch holler back that it ought to be easy for teams with the best players. The NFL's mantra for many years was that "On any given Sunday, any team can beat any other team." Saturday, too. We should never take wins for granted. Even when the scoreboard says differently, teams show up to win, and somebody's got to lose.

Georgia took down a competitive visitor on Saturday. The win wasn't especially stylish or sexy, but it was a hard-earned victory over an opponent that was desperate to win.

A lot of the postgame interviews pointed to Trevor Etienne as the key player on offense, and he sure played a major role in the win. I'll confess that I wasn't convinced before the season that he'd be The Man. Often, a player coasts on a family name. I've seen backup QB Arch Manning, who's played alright filling in for Quinn Ewers, on Heisman watch lists. C'mon, man.

I'm happy to say that I underestimated Etienne, who has turned out to be our most effective RB. Nate Frazier, who has impressed with the ball in his hands, needs to improve on pass protection to get more snaps; and Branson Robinson either plays behind poor blocking or is still returning to form, or both. It's quite a benefit for them, and those waiting their turn, to see a guy ahead of them doing things they need to improve on to earn the coaches' trust.

According to Coach Smart, on defense "You gotta do sometimes what you call 'open a can of whoop-ass' and we didn't do that." I'm like most observers, thinking that the defense doesn't seem quite as dominant as those of the last 3 years. The stats bear that out to a degree. I sometimes wonder if I'm idealizing the past, with my memory selectively recalling the crushing performances of the Davis-Carter-et al. teams. Then sometimes I wonder if those guys were just special, and likely not to be matched. But then, I look at the scoreboard and the other team is in single digits, so maybe the current group is pretty good after all. The standard for our defense is incredibly high, and that's a big reason that we usually win games.

Several media sources on Sunday morning referred to the game as a "grind." And maybe it was. But grinding is part of the team's vocabulary, and they do it well. I'll take a grinding win any day. If that's the character of this team, then let's ride it and see how far we go.



[Eli Drinkwitz is Building a MONSTER at Missouri – Here's How! | The 105 Podcast](#)



A Coveted Dawgmeister Game Ball goes to a pair of old Dawgs who are hitting it out of the park in their post-UGA careers, per the Athens Community Choice Awards for 2024. It's no surprise that both have previously been named Good Guy of the Week by The Dawgmeister.

[Dr. Bradley Register](#), an offensive lineman from a few decades ago, was voted a finalist for Best Orthopedist for his work at the Athens Orthopedic Clinic.

[Marshall Morgan](#), placekicker extraordinaire from about a decade ago, was voted a finalist for his wealth management for Merrill Lynch in the Investment Firm category.

## **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 Athens Area Diaper Bank**

Diapers cost over \$1,000 every year, a cost that nearly 1 in 2 families struggle with in our country. Government assistance programs, like food stamps, Medicaid, and WIC, do NOT cover diapers. There are over 8,000 children at risk of diaper need in the Athens, GA community.

#### **WHAT IS THE FALL-OUT OF DIAPER NEED?**

**PHYSICAL:** When families struggle to afford diapers, they report re-using soiled diapers or keeping a baby in a dirty diaper too long. This can lead to persistent diaper rash, UTIs, and staph infections, as well as the associated medical costs.

**GENERAL WELL-BEING:** When families struggle to afford diapers, they must decide between buying diapers or other basic needs like food and rent.

**FOOD INSECURITY:** 28% of parents who report experiencing diaper need say that they skip their own meals in order to afford diapers.

**MENTAL:** 70% of parents who report experiencing diaper need say they feel stressed or anxious about their responsibilities as a parent. 53% say they feel judged negatively because they could not afford diapers.

**EMOTIONAL:** Diaper need is correlated with maternal stress and mental health need.

**SOCIAL:** Without clean diapers, babies are not able to participate in early childhood education and social opportunities.

**ECONOMIC:** Without a supply of clean diapers, families can't send their babies to daycare. Without daycare, families can't go to work or school. By the numbers: 25% of parents experiencing diaper need have missed an average of 5.1 days of work each month because they didn't have enough diapers.

**[DONATE HERE](#)**

### SAT PREP SESSION

**SAT Question of the Week:** Rank the following schools' football stadiums from largest to smallest, and name the name of each team's stadium.

Allen HS (TX)  
Appalachian State  
Cincinnati  
Colorado  
Georgia Southern  
Georgia Tech  
Iowa State  
Mississippi State  
Northern Illinois  
Oregon State  
Temple  
Vanderbilt

**Answer:**

Temple Lincoln Financial Field 67,594  
Iowa State Jack Trice Stadium 61,500  
Mississippi State Davis Wade Stadium at Scott Field 60,311  
Georgia Tech Grant Field at Bobby Dodd Stadium 55,000  
Colorado Folsom Field 50,183  
Vanderbilt FirstBank Stadium 40,000  
University of Cincinnati Nippert Stadium 38,088  
Oregon State Reser Stadium 35,548  
Appalachian State Kidd Brewer Stadium 30,000  
Georgia Southern Allen E. Paulson Stadium 25,000  
Northern Illinois Brigham Field at Huskie Stadium 24,000  
Allen HS (TX) Eagle Stadium 18,000

### DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ “The only place that’s not hard to play in the SEC is Vanderbilt.” ~Nick Saban
- ☞ No better example of [the thrill of victory, and the agony of defeat](#). All on one play.
- ☞ What is more tiresome, commercials by the Kelce brothers, the Sanders family, or the Manning brothers?
- ☞ And how fascinating that the man with the least warm and inviting personality on earth, Nick Saban, is now a high-demand pitch man doing a parody of his least likeable traits.
- ☞ I saw that the latest name circulating to replace dead-man-walking Billy Napier at Florida is James Franklin. What I wonder is, why would Franklin leave a great situation at Penn State to try to (again) revive Florida, a historically mediocre program with two exceptional periods under exceptional coaches, one of whom assembled a roster of great athletes with no morals? Why would anyone?

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

The UGA football program has established an award honoring the courageous life and career of **David Jacobs**. An NFL-bound defensive lineman from Atlanta's impoverished Boat Rock community, David had his life take a sharp turn when he suffered a stroke after practice on Nov. 14, 2001, the first year of Mark Richt's tenure. His stroke included a vertebral artery occlusion caused by a blow to the head that made his neck whip violently, damaging the lining in the vertebral artery, leading to the development of a clot that stopped the flow of blood to his brain. The doctors at St. Mary's Hospital who examined him told his family that if his condition worsened, he'd be dead within a day; and that even the surgery only had a 2-3% chance of keeping him alive. Yet he survived, no doubt aided by a steady parade of teammates and coaches to the hospital to comfort and support him. If David worked hard to reach an elite level as a player, he had to double those efforts to recover from his stroke. How many NFL prospects have to spend time arduously re-learning how to simply walk? As reported at the time, Richt views David's journey to a successful adulthood as one of the most impactful stories from time at UGA. David's athletic competitiveness aided his recovery, allowing him to advance through therapy much faster than most, getting him out of his wheelchair within a month of his stroke. In his honor, Coach Richt established the David Jacobs Award for the Georgia football player who "shows courage to overcome adversity and finish the drill." And David was the first recipient of the award recognizing his fortitude. His recovery included speech therapy that left him better than before, when he had lived with a significant speech impediment. David is now a family man, married to his college sweetheart and the father of two sons, one of whom was offered a UGA scholarship as a HS freshman of considerable promise for the class of 2027. David is an account manager with Southeast Mortgage Corporation, where he is beloved and admired for his character and work performance. They just don't come any better than David Jacobs.



## **THE FORECAST** **DAWGS VS. MISSISSIPPI STATE**

The Dawgs get a little more home cooking against one of the league's weakest teams. I'm sure that Coach Smart will caution us all about how dangerous they are, and after Saturday, the team should be aware that nobody's safe from an upset-minded team that is desperate to salvage their season. If grinding is our new M.O., then let's grind it out.

I'll take the Good Guys to continue its march to the playoff. Dawgs keep on keepin' on: UGA 41, MSU 10.

### **NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: OREGON OVER OHIO STATE**

In a week with a lot of top 20 matchups, this one is the prize. It's unusual for me not to go with the Oklahoma-Texas game. But this game features two top-ten teams who are likely headed for the playoff, which I don't think is OU's destination, given their unstable QB situation. So this matchup gets the call for my national game pick. Ohio State has reportedly put together a "natty or bust" roster, and they do have a lot of NFL prospects....as does Oregon. Ohio State really hasn't been challenged yet, but also has played a flimsy schedule, so is a hard team to evaluate; beating patsies doesn't tell you much about how a team will play when the competition gets better. (See Mississippi's cupcake, home-cooking schedule prior to their loss to Kentucky.) I think that Oregon has the edge at QB, and that can make a difference, even as I am skeptical of Gabriel's qualifications for Heisman consideration given how short a passing game he operates. But, I think they come out of this a winner as Ryan Day once again comes up a little short. Oregon 35, Ohio State 34.

### **NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: ARIZONA OVER BYU**

I haven't seen either team, and don't know much about them; Western time zone games rarely make it to my screen. So I'll just ride a hunch and go with Arizona to upset BYU on the road, just as they did with #10 Utah after getting blown out at Kansas State. I am busy this week bringing peace to the Middle East, so don't have time to research their rosters to provide a rationale for this pick. So I'll just give you the outcome: Arizona 24, BYU 21.