

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:  
DAWGS ROPE-A-DOPE HORNS**

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**SEPARATED@BIRTH?**



**MASTER OF BOLD RUSH & AFTER THE GOLD RUSH  
STEVE MCMICHAEL                      NEIL YOUNG**

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Before the game, I was pretty confident about how it'd play out. Mississippi State has had trouble stopping the run game, and we've had trouble getting our run game off the ground. So I figured that on Saturday, we'd do a lot of rock-pounding to get in rhythm. Meanwhile, MSU was starting a raw freshman QB who was more dangerous on the ground than in the air, so I figured we'd pack the box and contain them at the line of scrimmage.

Just how it turned out, right?

It was a strange sort of day at the stadium. The Dawgs scored 41 points on a ton of yardage, but also seemed to stall out for this reason or that. Every time we built a commanding lead, we lost it soon thereafter. Mississippi State was bound and determined to make a game of it, and they did in ways that raised some concerns heading into the Texas game.

We were inadequate stopping their passing game, which may have followed from a lack of pressure, coupled with coverage errors. That's not a good sign as we head to showdown against a team that believes it has two first-round NFL picks at QB. Coach Smart noted that several of his top DLs weren't in uniform on Saturday, but then, a great part of the program's recent success has come from depth, not only for fourth quarter dominance but to cover for injuries. We did pull away with a Richt-like time-eating drive in the fourth quarter, and that was satisfying. But as everyone in the stadium and in front of the tube, including the players, can tell you, the team hasn't put

together complete games this season. Great halves, for sure. But that will only get you so far in this league.

The post-game radio show, always a feature of the drive home, spoke to all of these issues, which were then aired out in the media coverage Sunday morning. Among the issues: The team has yet to establish a clear identity. On the one hand, they have often played good situational football, doing what's needed to compete against different opponents. That shows versatility. But too much versatility can lead to a mixed identity. I'm guessing that the coaches are going to work on this issue in practice this week, along with pressuring the QB and preventing the deep throw, which Texas will be much better at than MSU was, even as MSU really scalded our defensive backfield at times.

Yes, it was an odd day at the stadium. The fans took up Coach Smart's challenge to be more of a noise factor than they were vs. Auburn, but then, many fans hit the exits way too early in a game that MSU kept making competitive. I'm not sure where they were going that was better than finishing out the game, but it must have been really important. The team played down-hill on offense in terms of points and yardage, and rarely needed to punt, but it wasn't always convincing. The defense's early dominance—MSU barely moved the ball for much of the first half—was coupled with some catastrophic lapses that led to scores.

But, a win's a win, and an SEC win is an SEC win, and halfway through the season the team's at 5-1 and heading to Austin for a game of great national significance. I'm hoping for a great week of practice and four quarters of great play against a worthy opponent. This is what the season is all about.

### **Disconcerting Signals**

- ☞ “I can tell you what would have happened in the days that I was there. We would have tried to rip the ‘C’ [for Captain] off his jersey. We would have lit him up, from every coach, every player. ... Everybody would have been on this dude's head, like we don't do that.” ~ex-Tide RB Damien Harris on Malachi Moore's outbursts during and after the loss to Vanderbilt
- ☞ “I think the thing I want to make sure Bama fans know is that this guy has been rock-solid and been a critical, critical piece, along with others—there were others as well—of keeping this thing together since January, OK? When a lot of guys chose to leave, this guy stood firm. This guy loves Alabama football.” ~Kalen DeBoer on Moore after the loss
- ☞ [5 Reasons Why You Should NEVER Use Rat Poison!](#) by Nick Saban
- ☞ “Like a dull knife, ya just ain't cuttin'. Ya just talkin' loud and sayin' nothin'.” ~James Brown

### **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*

**Charles Richard Campbell Foundation**, founded by former Atlanta Falcons defensive lineman Calais Campbell. The CRC Foundation was established in honor of the late Charles Richard Campbell. His philosophies included community activism, goal setting, celebrating achievements, and the solid belief that you can do whatever you set your mind to do. He believed in teaching life skills to young people that would allow them to overcome the adversity they face in their everyday lives, in order to become well-prepared adults. The CRC Foundation is the direct result of his teachings, and through its mission Charles' legacy will continue for years to come. The CRC Foundation is committed to making the world a better place by developing our community to reach its full potential through mentorship, education and providing resources. We do this in honor of Charles Richard Campbell who stood for hope, integrity, and the belief that every person deserves the opportunity to live out their dreams.

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### **SAT PREP SESSION**

**SAT Question of the Week:** Each of the following Dawg RBs is a retired NFL player. Rank them in order of most to least productive in the NFL as measured by total rushing yards in the regular season.

*Qualifier: Some also caught a lot of passes although passing to RBs was limited to screen passes for the older guys. Trippi also played QB for several years and so his rushing output is deceptive. Some had careers interrupted by military service for WW2.*

Terrell Davis  
Robert Edwards  
Olandis Gary  
Todd Gurley  
Rodney Hampton  
Garrison Hearst  
Horace King  
Sony Michel  
Knowshon Moreno  
Patrick Pass  
Frank Sinkwich  
Charlie Trippi  
Herschel Walker

**Answer:**

Herschel Walker 8,225, plus another 5,562 for the AFL New Jersey Generals  
Garrison Hearst 7,986  
Terrell Davis 7,607  
Rodney Hampton 6,897  
Todd Gurley 6,082

Knowshon Moreno 3,616  
Charlie Trippi 3,506  
Sony Michel 3,243  
Horace King 2,081  
Olandis Gary 1,998  
Robert Edwards 1,222, plus another 3,022 in the Canadian League  
Frank Sinkwich 1,090  
Lars Tate 1,061  
Patrick Pass 526

## **DAWG DOOTS**

- ☞ If you still are celebrating Vandy's win over Alabama, take a few minutes and enjoy this [SEC Short](#).
- ☞ [Geoff Collins on Georgia Tech-North Carolina matchup: 'This isn't about me'](#)
- ☞ "That's a first." ~Little Woolly

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

We all know of **Jalon Walker**, the Salisbury, NC linebacker who has made invaluable contributions on the field at both inside and outside linebacker. He was a superstar in high school, rated by the 247 composite as a 4-star prospect, the #3 linebacker nationally, the #2 prospect in North Carolina, and the #44 prospect nationally. He was named the 2020 North Carolina Gatorade Football Player of the Year, the star of an 11-1 team on both offense and as a tight end on offense. Jalon was a finalist for 2021 High School Butkus Award and was named the Central Carolina Conference Defensive Player of the Year in both his junior and senior seasons, while also being honored with the Big 22 Player of the Year for best player in Charlotte area. He also competed on the school's basketball and track teams, holding, at 6'-2", the school record for blocked shots in a game (7). He was an instant rotation player at UGA and has always been productive. He's not just an exceptional linebacker, however. Jalon has served as the Georgia football representative on the Southeastern Conference Football Leadership Council, which has met with rules officials and medical advisors to improve the quality of the games in the SEC. This respect for his leadership qualities has come along with his strong academics, through which he received a Michael A. Kahn Family Football Scholarship. The son of a Division 2 coach, Jalon knows the game from a coach's perspective, saying, "I feel like being coachable is a great aspect to have. Being coachable and always following the gameplan is a good way to go." He's also, at his insistence, just another UGA student: "I've developed a relationship with a lot of the student population here, and I feel like I have a very positive relationship with a lot of regular student friends. They always sit there and are like, 'What do you have planned today?' [Laughs] Oh, I have practice, I have meetings, then more meetings and things of that sort." When we watch guys on the field, we often forget how much study they had to do to know what to do, and Jalon is a grinder in the film room. And he's the sharpest dresser on the team, by all accounts. Stay sharp, young man. You've got a lot of greatness ahead of you.



## **THE FORECAST**

### **DAWGS VS. TEXAS**

What a game! Who could ask for more? This is the game that gets UGA back in the championship race, a chance to beat the only unbeaten team left in the SEC. UT has gotten a lot of attention because it has such a celebrity at QB2. Whether he's as good as his name remains an open question. And unless QB1 gets hurt, he'll break most of his game day sweat in the warmups. Texas will have the home field advantage. There will be a lot of talent on both rosters and both coaching staffs. This week's preparation will tell us a lot about our team and our coaches, all of whom will need to make some adjustments to win this game. Can they do it? Hell yes. I'm taking the Good Guys in a thriller: Dawgs 31, Horns 30.

### **NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: TENNESSEE OVER ALABAMA**

This one's in Knoxville, childhood home and namesake of Knox Kiffin. That alone makes this game special. But there are two teams involved as well. Each took a bad loss on October 5, and each is thus desperate to win out. In this "do the math" version of the forecast, a loss for either team will put them on the fringe of the playoff. That's the precision we've come to expect from Dawgmeister Analytics. Anyhow, both teams have much-hyped QBs and the adoration of the Lamestream Sports Media. One team has to lose. Alabama has been playing with matches all month and the fan base is irate. Wait till you see them after next Saturday. I'll take the home team to end up with the W. UT 35, UA 34.

### **NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: ARKANSAS OVER LSU**

The Kirby Smart Coaching Tree has landed Dawg favorite Sam Pittman at Arkansas, where he's struggled to build a winner but may have turned the corner. Brian Kelly inherited a much stronger program and has maintained a successful but inconsistent level of performance, amidst championship expectations. Arkansas has taken out Tennessee and will have its game face on for this one. Who do you like, the blue-collar bunch in Fayetteville, or the glitzier group in Baton Rouge, the Big Red Rod? I think Sam knows where to stick that rod. Arkansas 28, LSU 27.