

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
DAWGS CHOMP GATORS**

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SEPARATED@BIRTH?



**DICK PIC
BRETT FAVRE**

&

**TICK, TICK...
BILLY NAPIER**

[THE COMPLETE SEPARATED@BIRTH? COLLECTION](#)
[THE FLORIDA COACHES COLLECTION](#)
[THE CREEPS COLLECTION](#)

“I really believe Billy Napier is going to be the coach at Florida for a long, long time.”
~Florida AD Scott Stricklin, preseason endorsement

SEPARATED@BIRTH?: BONUS COVERAGE!



**HIRED BILLY
SCOTT STRICKLAND**

&

**WIRED SILLY
BEAVIS**

[THE CARTOON CHARACTERS COLLECTION](#)

Early in the week, The Scowlmeister wrote saying how worried he was about the Texas game. Now, The Scowlmeister worries about whether the sun will come up in the morning, so his glass-half-empty concerns were no shock. The thing is, I was worried

too. Along with a few million Dawg fans who shared the general opinion that UGA had played some great halves, and has had some great moments, but had yet to play a full game. And we'd need one to take down the Mighty Longhorns in their own pasture.

After the game, Coach Smart told the sideline reporter, "We came to eat!" As one of my three readers noted, seared and charred beef was on the menu. It was a feast for the ages.

Texas came into the game flying high, ranked #1 and heavily favored to take UGA out of the title race. But look a bit closer at UT's weak schedule, heavy with home cooking: one neutral site game against league bottom-feeder Oklahoma, one away game against fading Michigan, and an easy home slate of Colorado State, UTSA, UL-Monroe, and another low-tier SEC team, Mississippi State, albeit one that's come to life somewhat in the last few weeks. The Lamestream Sports Media misread this romp through a cupcake schedule as a sign that Texas is back, baby. For the season they play 7 games at home and 4 on the road, plus the OU showdown in Dallas, a home-ish game. This schedule was tailor-made to get UT into the playoff for a team that, like Ohio State, is in natty-or-bust mode. And like OSU, they've now got a loss to overcome to make the tournament.

None of these other opponents on UT's schedule had anyone named Jalon Walker. I suspect that they haven't lost their last game for 2024, with 3 SEC road games ahead. As we've seen repeatedly, going on the road in the SEC is never a sure thing. For that matter, playing league teams at home is no guarantee either. Right, OU? Right, UT?

Against UGA, and at home, UT couldn't get it done. The 15-point loss was one of the three worst losses for a #1 team playing at home in college football history, and the first since 1982. That's a whopping, and in front of one of the biggest audiences, both in-person and in front of the tube, of the season, and beyond.

The game featured two preseason Heisman candidates. Neither played a Heisman-worthy game. Beck, who shredded Mississippi State just a week before on his home field, was inconsistent and was pressured into three picks. Quinn Ewers felt the heat, too, on his way to a scoreless first half and ultimate benching for wunderkind Arch Manning, the darling of the studio crew and UT fans who insisted that, because his name is Manning, playing him was the only way for Texas to get back in the game, even though his two series produced zero points and the same ragged level of play. In the first half, UGA's defense put on as good a show as I've seen from the Bulldawgs since the weekly bludgeonings that our two championship teams laid on their opponents, against a team who'd been blowing teams out of the stadium all season.

On the bizarro interference call reversal following a near-riot by UT fans: When you reward fans who endanger players and coaches by hurling projectiles onto the field because you don't like the call, you are essentially telling them: That worked, do it again the next time you want to overturn a penalty you don't like. I think they made the right call with the reversal, but I don't see how you don't also flag the fans for their violent response and delay of game. Surely that was unsportsmanlike conduct [according to the](#)

[rule](#), “Any other unsportsmanlike act or actions that delay the game.” What am I missing?

I’m seeing freshman LB Chris Cole on the field a lot. That cat has played his way past some highly-ranked linebackers to become a regular. Now, [he was a major stud coming out of high school](#). But so were the others. He’s this year’s C.J. Allen, the freshman LB who is already locking down a position early in his career.

Earlier in the day, Sean McDonough and Greg McElroy were discussing Alabama and Tennessee. They agreed that neither team has quite the level of playmakers that they’ve had the last few years. One exception: Ryan Williams may ultimately become the greatest WR in Alabama history. But Justice Haynes and Jam Miller aren’t Derrick Henry and Najee Harris. And then there’s the discipline issue, a staple of the Saban regime but now marred by an endless series of yellow flags thrown on Tide miscreants. I suspect that the Alabama fans have already turned irrevocably on Kalen DeBoer. I mean, he took heat for wearing a t-shirt instead of a Saban-approved polo shirt a week ago, and made a wardrobe correction for Saturday. But a second loss on the season, and still in mid-October—that’s unacceptable, and not amenable to a change in attire.

UGA is now 6-1. They have shown that they can blow out a top-ten team like Clemson on a neutral field. They have shown that they can dominate a cupcake like Tennessee Tech at home (and not everyone has won their home payday games this season). They have shown at Kentucky that they can win a rock fight on the road. They have shown that they can come back from a ridiculous halftime deficit at Alabama and nearly pull off the W. They have shown that they can beat SEC teams from the bottom half of the standings (Auburn, Mississippi State) while playing unevenly at home. And now they’ve shown that they can go into a game that the entire studio, along with a lot of fools in Las Vegas, predicted they’d lose, and beat the top-ranked team in every phase of the game. That’s what they call situational football: adjusting to the competition and doing what’s necessary to win. I’m hoping, and now thinking, that we’ll keep it up for the stretch run.

Disconcerting Signals

“I don’t give a f***! All these p*#*y n**!***s ... B**ch a** n**!***as Y’all readin’ all this half-a** s**t. ... I don’t f**k with y’all.” ~Kadarius Toney on being benched by the Super Bowl Champion KC Chiefs

“That’s definitely something I’d say that Florida didn’t have, our locker room wasn’t the closest. We got along, but coming here and seeing how all the guys get along. I wanted to play in December, too. That also played a big part in me transferring. So I said, I can stay and be Running Back Two on a losing team or go somewhere and possibly be Running Back One and win a natty.” ~Travis Etienne

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 Professional Association of Georgia Educators. Charitable gifts to the PAGE Foundation enhance the work of the Professional Association of Georgia Educators. Donations support PAGE Professional Learning; scholarships for aspiring and current teachers; and statewide academic programs, including the PAGE STAR (Student and Teacher Achievement Recognition) program, the PAGE Academic Bowl for Middle Grades; and the PAGE Georgia Academic Decathlon. The PAGE Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization.

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SAT PREP SESSION

SAT Question of the Week: Why did the NFL decide have a two-minute warning at the end of each half, and later, for the overtime period?

- A. The players are pretty tired, and need a rest before the crucial last two minutes of a half.
- B. The officials need to huddle to make sure they all know the rules.
- C. TV networks need to add a long commercial break in order to pay the bills.
- D. Jerry Jones needs a bathroom break.
- E. Roger Goodell always goes and makes a wager with two minutes to go in the half.
- F. Nobody knows.

Answer:

When I was a lad, the official time was kept by an on-field official, and the scoreboard clock by a scoreboard operator. The two were not synchronized. Here's an old scoreboard, which was approximate in its timekeeping:



The two-minute warning was a time to synchronize the scoreboard with the official clock and inform teams that two minutes remained. As technology developed, the stadium scoreboard clock—by then, digital rather than analogue—became the official clock, beginning with the upstart AFL and upon the merger with the NFL, throughout the league.

Now college ball, like the NFL, does it to cram in a few more commercials.

DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ Lordy will I be glad when this election is over and broadcasts aren't larded with dystopian political attack ads.
- ☞ [Does your dawg bite?](#)
- ☞ Lincoln Riley, in his dead-of-night escape from Oklahoma for the paradise of USC, has managed to tank two historically fabled programs with one move. At OU, he inherited a very healthy program and abandoned it along with his QB after scoring a lot of points and giving up almost as many. Now at USC, [he's the Second Coming of Clay Helton, except less successful.](#)
- ☞ [Lincoln Riley has familiar response to USC's loss to Maryland - Los Angeles Times \(latimes.com\)](#)
- ☞ There have been a lot of surprises this season. None has surprised me more than Indiana 56, Nebraska 7.

THE COVETED DAWGMEISTER GOOD GUY OF THE WEEK AWARD

GOOD GUY ARCHIVE

Patrick Beless is not a name that leaps to the top of a Dawg fan's consciousness when recalling players from the past. The Atlanta native was a Dawg placekicker from 2011-2015, when Marshall Morgan held the position, relegating Patrick to a backup role. But every team needs a solid backup in case the front-line kicker gets cramps or can't perform, even if he never gets called to action; he's the insurance policy you hope you never have to cash in. What else might a backup kicker do while not kicking footballs? Plenty, if he's got the right stuff. In the absence of a sports scholarship, Patrick made it through UGA on a variety of pre-NIL academic financial support programs. He was initially a Zell B. Miller Academic Scholarship recipient, awarded for excellence in high school classes with the proviso that they maintain their good grades in college. He sure did that, earning a spot on the SEC Academic Honor Roll, and ultimately being awarded a Christian Walker Football Scholarship, sponsored by Christian's father Hershel to provide a full-ride athletic scholarship to reward excellent performance on the field and in the classroom while being a good steward of the values of UGA. Patrick earned this accolade for his exceptional work ethic, determination, teamwork, and skill. As a senior, Patrick won the team's Senior Scholar Award, to accompany his being named to the J. Reid Parker Director of Athletics Honor Roll. But he also contributed to the football program, if not on Saturdays, then for the rest of the week. To reward his rock-solid citizenship, he received the team's Iron Man Award for displaying excellence in the areas of commitment and performance both on and off the field through perfect attendance at workouts, practices, team meetings, classes, or academic appointments for a calendar year. Since graduating in 2015, Patrick has been making UGA look good in the business world. He is now a Surety Practice Leader and Bond Broker at Brown & Brown Insurance of Tennessee in Brentwood. We may not remember him much for his football play, but he'll continue to score points in other areas of life. Good guys like him are hard to come by.



THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. FLORIDA

Florida has gotten better as the season's progressed, and now has entrusted their season to a freshman QB. As we know from Mississippi State, some of these young dudes are ballers. But they tend to make mistakes under pressure. I think that UGA wasn't sharply focused against MSU and so let the kid wing it and keep the game competitive. I doubt if we'll take on Florida with a relaxed frame of mind. Owning Texas on their field, and then having 2 weeks to prepare for the game, should give us a game plan that will minimize Lagway's effectiveness. What we then need is a consistent game from our offense. Will we sputter? And will it matter if we do? I'm taking the Dawgs to overcome whatever obstacles pop up in two weeks and continue their march to the playoff: UGA 38, UF 14.

THE 2-WEEK NATIONAL FORECAST

WEEK 9

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: ALABAMA OVER MISSOURI

This game's among the best matchups of the weekend. Missouri hasn't quite lived up to its early-season promise, achieved largely against weak opponents, but does have a gamer at QB in Brady Cook, as he showed in gutting out Saturday's shaky win over Auburn. Luther Burden is a great player, and they've got some other guys, but I don't think they have Alabama's depth or front-line talent. And Alabama will be out to prove that there is life post-Saban and post-Vandy. Alabama has had its struggles since its dynamite first half against Georgia. But I think they'll put Missouri in its place. Just as I was confident they'd blow out Vandy. Tide 28, Tigers 24

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: VANDERBILT OVER TEXAS

Why not? Vandy 34, Texas 31

WEEK 10

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: OHIO STATE OVER PENN STATE

And now, we finally find out what James Franklin has up in Happy Valley. Is it another almost-good team, or will PSU have a breakthrough against an OSU team that couldn't quite play past Oregon? I will believe that PSU is a top team when it finally beats another one. And that hasn't happened yet. Buckeyes 31, Lions 28

**NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: S. CAROLINA OVER ATM U & ARKANSAS
OVER MISSISSIPPI**

Yes, it's a double load of upsets once again in the SEC. I think that SC is pretty good when LaNorris Sellers is healthy—just ask Oklahoma—and that they'll catch ATM U looking ahead under the assumption that showing up will be good enough; call it the Jimbo Hangover. I'll take the Gamecocks over the Aggies, 30-28

And watch out for Sam Pittman's Hogs. They've played his way off the hotseat for now. Meanwhile, for reasons that exceed Dawgmeister Analytics' capacities, Lane Kiffin's recent losses are believed to be the reason he'll bolt for Florida when the inevitable happens to Billy Napier, unless Billy wins a few more, in which case, he'll bolt for Florida State, unless they've already set their hearts on Deion Sanders. Losing is the new winning. I'm going to tack another onto Lane's résumé. Arkansas 40, Mississippi 34