

**DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
DAWGS LOOKING NATTY**

WWW.THEDAWGMEISTER.COM

[THE DAWGMEISTER ON FACEBOOK](#)

SEPARATED@BIRTH?



**BROUGHT FLAMBOYANCE & NOT CLAIRVOYANT
JAMES COOK RICHARD SHERMAN
[THE COMPLETE SEPARATED@BIRTH? COLLECTION](#)**

A Soldier Sent a Letter to His Mom in 1945. It Was Just Delivered. ~News story, January 11, 2022

The Dawgs hadn't won a natty since 1980. The Mailman delivered one Monday night.

What a night it was. Herbstreit and Fowler were watching one game while the teams played another. Perhaps they were persuaded by Richard Sherman's pregame prediction that "It's going to be Bama blowing them out again. It's so predictable. It's not even going to be close. It's going to be 35 to some teenage number—17 points." Pretty good there, Richard. You just had the wrong teams scoring the points. So much for the value of a Stanford education.

I assume that his characterization made Monday night's game a blowout, not even close. That's how our 41-24 loss in the SEC championship was described by everyone, a humiliating blowout. So let's use the same language when we are on the right end of a 15 point win. ***UGA beat Alabama in a humiliating blowout to win the 2021 national championship.***

The broadcast team, however, had their mind on Alabama, channeling Gary Danielson and his endless Sabanolatry. They said over and over that the UGA defense was gassed, and that they had their hands on their hips in fatigue from trying to keep up with mighty Alabama. Alabama's offensive pressure and ball control were going to have a major

effect on the fourth quarter, they warned. That's when the cumulative effect of fighting Alabama's talent and Saban's genius, and Bryce Young's brilliance, would wilt their will. The broadcast team had visions of the Iron Bowl dancing in their heads, assuming that Young was ready for another Heisman moment when the game was on the line. It's the inevitable Alabama Way.

Meanwhile, the incredible Will Anderson and his ferocious teammates would chase poor little Stetson Bennett, whom they repeatedly described as shaky, into oblivion and forced errors. Anderson's an outstanding player. On Monday, he was almost as disruptive as William Poole was for Georgia, something the broadcasters never noted.

	TACKLES				MISC		
	TOT	SOLO	SACKS	TFL	PD	QB HUR	TD
William Poole	4	3	0	0.5	2	0	0
Will Anderson Jr.	4	3	0	0	1	0	0

In the actual game, the one played on the field and not in the imaginations of people under Saban's spell, UGA dominated the fourth quarter, and Alabama was the team struggling to keep up. For all the attention devoted to Alabama's defensive front, Georgia was the team that held its opponent to 1.1 yards per carry and forced Young to throw 57 passes. That didn't stop the broadcasters from reminding everyone of what an amazing story Brian Robinson is, waiting his turn for glory because of all the NFL talent Alabama has handed the ball off to. He seems to be an honorable fellow. But he was the third-best back on the field on Monday. He had 68 yards on 22 carries on the night. James Cook had 67 on one carry.

The broadcast team, along with every writer covering the story, kept yapping about injuries to Alabama's receivers and what a different game it would have been with them in the game. Perhaps they missed the fact that all season, we played without Pickens, Blaylock, Gilbert, and Smith, and got limited snaps for Burton and Rosemy-Jacksaint. There was serious talent in shorts on the sidelines for much of the season and through the playoff. Many sportswriters, along with the broadcast team, reminded us repeatedly that poor mighty Alabama had to play their young receivers on such a big stage, and their dominance was compromised by inexperience at the position they had to rely on because we stoned their running game. You know, the way UGA relied on Bowers, Mitchell, and McConkey all year, and when we needed scores on Monday. If a couple of injuries degrades a team's capabilities and makes them uncompetitive, then they should have recruited better backups.

Bryce Young was a worthy Heisman Trophy winner. On Monday night, he was the second-best quarterback on the field, by any measure except yardage gained, which is what happens when you throw more than twice the number of passes as your opponent. He was dodging bullets all night, and occasionally taking them. The defense that had annihilated opponents in every game but one showed up in a big way, with relentless pursuit of a man on the run. There was one play that reminded me of those action movies where an attacker gets shot 20 times but still keeps coming. I think it was

Wyatt who was on the ground, crawling like a maniac toward Young, impossible to kill and determined to finish the play.

There was more attention to SB4's telephone and his one-time walkon status in the leadup to the game than to his tremendous accomplishments; more attention to his occasional flutterball than to his more typical accuracy and touch; more attention to his legs than his arm or head. It's still hard for many people to believe that he's a championship quarterback. None of those people are in Georgia's locker room. None of them know how to read a final score, either.

There are a lot of people to thank for bringing us such a historic season, from coaches through players through academic advisors through training room assistants and well beyond. It might be Kirby's first win on this stage, but it won't be his last. Alabama and Georgia are already heading up next year's too-soon rankings, and why not?

It's easy to look ahead. We'll return most of an OL and WR corps next year. I have no idea if SB4 will want to leave on a high note or return. The QB room might experience attrition via the portal, but I am only guessing here; who'll be QB1 is anybody's guess. We should be in good shape at RB and incredible shape at TE. The defense will have a much different look, as will the kicking game. It's possible that guys with eligibility remaining, but with NFL prospects, will declare Mission Accomplished and move along with nothing else to prove at the college level. That leaves few starters returning, but a lot of experienced guys and an incoming class that could leave its own historic legacy. A few years ago, Roquan Smith was viewed as a generational talent the likes of whom we might never see again. But Nakobe Dean is every bit as good as he was. If you look at the list of top tacklers for Monday's game, there's a good chance that all but Jalen Carter will be gone next year. That's a lot of talent and experience to replace. That's why Kirby Smart is such a relentless, passionate recruiter. The lineup will give sportswriters plenty to spill their ink about till September.

"I've never been around a group of players that really wanted it so bad and wouldn't be denied," said Coach Smart. And we have Kirby Smart and his program to thank for making it happen for us this season.