

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
DAWGS ROLL NOLES**

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SEPARATED@BIRTH?



**LIGHT MIGHT &
JOHN PAPUCHIS**

**FIGHT NIGHT
JOE TESSITORE**

[THE COMPLETE SEPARATED@BIRTH? COLLECTION](#)
[THE FSU COACHES COLLECTION](#)
[THE SPORTSCASTERS COLLECTION](#)

“I felt sad, mad, and I wanted to punch Nick Saban in the face.” ~Shep Johnson, 10-year-old, after the game.

Things are a bit glum here at the Dawgmeister household today. I haven't had to write about a loss in a couple of years. I've forgotten how to do it. This ain't USC. Or USC.

In a world covered in blood and rent by conflict and chaos, the college football season has been my respite for many years now. It allows me to tune out war, hate, mass killings, propaganda, and climate disasters for a little while every day, and much of the weekend, and watch men try to best one another on the field of play. Politics might slip in now and again, and it's a violent sport, but on the whole, it's all about the games. Without them, I might have leapt into the abyss.

I'm not quite ready to take that leap after losing to Alabama, but I'm feeling this loss, because it was close enough to being won. A penalty that pushed back a field goal attempt just enough to put an upright in the way. A fumble so close to the goal line that it's amazing that Alabama only got three points out of it. A fourth-down play for Alabama that should have been reviewed, yet the next day produced the following reports from different sources:

“[Milroe] flipped a pass to Isaiah Bond, the ball landing softly in the wide receiver’s waiting hands.” ~Washington Post

“There was a botched call by the officials on a fourth-down catch from Isaiah Bond that led to an Alabama touchdown.” ~AJC

When a booth includes Gary Danielson and spends a good five minutes at halftime saying that the pass caught by an Alabama player was incomplete and should have been reviewed, it makes you wonder why the Washington Post covers sports at all.

But excuses are for losers, even when they are legitimate. Alabama, for the most part, won the line of scrimmage. Remarkably, UGA outgained Alabama 321 yards to 306, but the difference came on the ground, where UGA just couldn’t get going after that first magnificent drive, one that had me thinking it was our day. But the rest of the first half was all Alabama. Even when we were only down 10-7, it seemed that we were behind by 20.

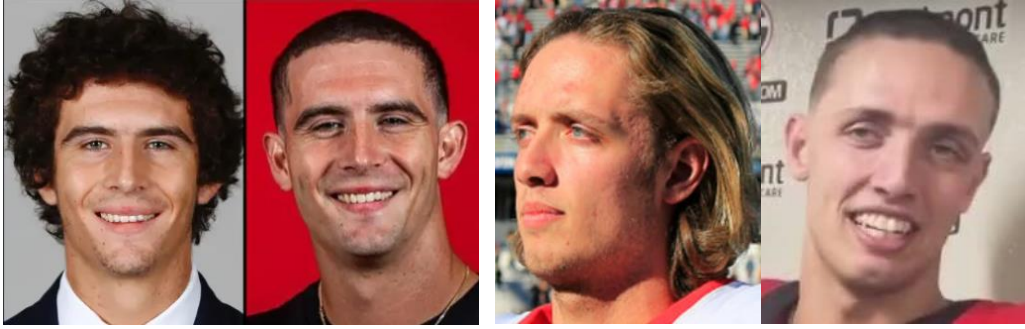
I noticed that after Alabama scored on a wheel route when Raylen Wilson got caught in traffic and Jam Miller had a free path to the endzone, the coaches moved to more experienced players. Xavian Sorey took those reps at LB, and Dan Jackson got a lot of snaps in the secondary. This was no time to give young guys game experience. There was too much at stake. Unfortunately, we just didn’t seem to have enough firepower to make up the difference, and the guys we rely on most in the passing game were limping and the guys we handed off to, terrific all year, were getting stuffed at the line.

Ultimately, the team showed the resiliency that Coach Smart has praised all year in staying in the game and having a shot to win toward the end, but we couldn’t quite finish. And so the dream of a threeppeat came to an end, and this team’s greatness took a shot to the gut and left the players humbled and headed toward the second tier of bowl games.

We will surely have attrition as guys consider NFL careers and as the portal opens possibilities for players elsewhere. We’ll know before long what next year’s 2-deep will look like heading into spring practice, and as the bowl season allows a lot of cultivation of talent among the younger Dawgs. A loss can be a great motivator and teacher. But we’ll never see this group together in quite the same way again, assuming that some NFL-bound players will focus on draft preparation. I’d like to offer my personal thanks to all they gave this year and throughout the streak. It’s been fun and inspiring, even if it ended on a sour note.

I read, with respect to Quinn Ewers likely decision to return to Texas for another year of experience, where NFL teams prefer that a college QB have a minimum of 25 starts before declaring for the draft, lest they end up with Mitch Trubiski. I’m guessing that Carson Beck is aware of this, has some unfinished business in Athens, and will return. Meanwhile, it’s worth thinking what made him such a great QB, and what needs to happen once he moves his own game on to the next level:

WHAT IT TAKES TO QB THE DAWGS: BEFORE AND AFTER



WHO'S NEXT?



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 Physical Activity and Learning Program (PAL) is an after-school enrichment program focusing on stimulating children's learning & academic achievement, increasing physical activity and health behaviors, and promoting family guidance.

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DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ Relying on news articles from September generated by the Lamestream Sports Media, *Sports Illustrated's* Artificial Intelligence content creator has named Deion Sanders Sportsman of the Year.
- ☞ 2nd place: Taylor Swift.
- ☞ 3rd place: George Santos
- ☞ 🏈 A Coveted Dawgmeister Game Ball goes to J.T. Daniels, with best of luck in his forthcoming coaching career.
- ☞ 🏈 A Coveted Dawgmeister Game Ball goes to Fran Brown, with best of luck in taking Syracuse to a conference title, in whatever conference they might be in by the time he rebuilds the program.

- ☞ Up in Michigan, the entire team is saying that “the worm has turned.” The phrase originated in 1546 when British author John Heywood penned the proverb, “Treade a worme on the taylor, and it must turne agayne.” Shakespeare adapted it in Henry VI, Part 3: “The smallest worm will turn being trodden on” to signify that even the most defenseless creature will strike in defense when attacked. I guess when you have opened a scandalous can of worms, and are trying to worm your way out of accountability, you can spin it however you want. But, as Shakespeare might say, those cheaters are worm’s meat to me (Romeo and Juliet, III.i.106).
- ☞ NASA reports that it received several messages from UFOs claiming that they had spotted Jenny Dell from deep space late Saturday afternoon.

SAT PREP SESSION

SAT Question of the Week: The 247 Composite site has ranked the Dawg signees within the program. What is the all-time rank of these Dawgs among all Dawgs signed since this site began producing rankings?

Thomas Brown
 Nick Chubb
 Brenton Cox
 Damon Dumas-Johnson
 Jacob Eason
 Keith Marshall
 Kenny McIntosh
 Zach Mettenberger
 George Pickens
 Trenton Thompson
 Roquan Smith
 Matthew Stafford
 Travon Walker

Answer:

- 4. Trenton Thompson
- 7. Jacob Eason
- 8. Matthew Stafford
- 22. Keith Marshall
- 40. Travon Walker
- 48. George Pickens
- 59. Brenton Cox
- 64. Nick Chubb
- 77. Thomas Brown
- 95. Roquan Smith
- 125. Todd Gurley
- 181. Zach Mettenberger
- 234. Kenny McIntosh
- 246. Damon Dumas-Johnson

THE COVETED DAWGMEISTER GOOD GUY OF THE WEEK AWARD

GOOD GUY ARCHIVE

Aulden Bynum was a low-ranked lineman coming out of Valdosta's Valwood School in 2013, the #42 tackle in his class, #51 player in Georgia, and #558 player nationally, in spite of being the best player on an unbeaten team his senior season. At UGA he redshirted, then gradually worked his way onto the field, starting a handful of games during his UGA career, mostly as a blocking tight end. Of the position switch that required on-the-job training, the team-oriented lineman said, "I'm just trying to do whatever I can to help out." He took advantage of his studies, earning four Crosswy-Mackey Families Football Scholarships as an Agriculture and Applied Economics major, awarded his degree on time in 2017. He also found time to do a lot of good-works volunteering, helping with youth development at Camp Sunshine with children with cancer, with the kids at Extra Special People, with disadvantaged youth in the Devoted 2 Youth Quail Hunt, with the Eagle Scout Project of the Boy Scouts helping out homeless people, and as a mission Team member of the First United Methodist Church of Valdosta to . . . the badlands of the Bahamas. His football prospects ended with his final game at UGA, opening the door to other possibilities. He advanced through a series of positions, including sales rep positions with Atlanta-area companies specializing in medical equipment, including Lima Corporate, HipXpert, Artelon, and MicroPort Orthopedics. Since 2018 Aulden has used his business acumen to own and lead AMB Medical, Inc., a Smyrna-based company that sells medical, dental, and hospital equipment, and that supplies merchant wholesalers with medical merchandise. Aulden's a great example of how a football scholarship can open doors for the vast majority of athletes who don't go pro. Football requires discipline and intelligence, and is often a major character-building experience for those who take its lessons to heart. I expect to see Aulden continue to become prominent in the world of medical supplies and a pillar of the Atlanta-area communities he uplifts through faith and service. We could use a few more good men like him no matter where we live.



SEPARATED@BIRTH? BONUS COVERAGE

On Sunday I first read that UGA would play Louisville in their bowl game. Then it was Penn State. Doing my Dawgmeister Due Diligence, I prepared S@B features for both games, then found that we would play FSU. In a season-end-clean-the-closet bonus for all four of my readers, I present what might have been:



**SUNSHINE SCOOTER &
LEE CORSO**



**FUN TIME HOOTER &
BOB UECKER**



**D-LINE &
DEION BARNES**



**HE LYIN' &
JAMES HARDEN**

THE FORECAST DAWGS VS. FLORIDA STATE

FSU thinks they got screwed by being bypassed to make room for two one-loss teams. Hard to argue with that. They got screwed.

A non-playoff bowl game can be very hard to predict, because the lineups themselves can be very hard to predict. Will Mims, Bowers, McConkey, Dumas-Johnson, and even healthy guys looking to prep for the draft decide not to play? Will anyone hit the portal? Will coaching staffs be intact? Your guess is as good as mine, and I don't have one.

FSU has a good defense, and so do we. They will play backup QBs against us, which will work to our advantage. And we have no idea of which of their NFL prospects will suit up. It's just unpredictable. Yet predictions are my game.

Of course I pick the Dawgs, because that's what Dawgmeisters do. Because the defenses appear healthier and more intact from my perspective here on the couch, I'll go with something relatively low-scoring. The Dawgs close out a great, if ultimately unsatisfying, season with a W. Thanks to the program for making these last three seasons special and historically significant. It's been a lot of fun. UGA 24, FSU 20.

Can't wait for spring practice.