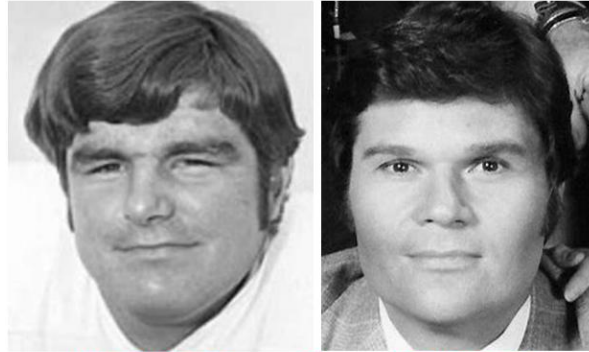


THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST: DAWGS COW THE LONGHORNS

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SEPARATED@BIRTH?



**PRO BOWL & SO DROLL
JERRY SEINFELD FRED WILLARD**

THE COMPLETE SEPARATED@BIRTH? COLLECTION
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R.I.P. beloved program staffer Miss Kim Allen, who passed away on Monday at the age of 45. [Obituary for Kimberly Elaine Allen](#)

After one quarter, with Georgia behind by 4, Kirby Smart was interviewed briefly on the sideline and noted how it was a warm day, and that conditioning would be a factor by the fourth quarter. But by the fourth quarter, the reserves were in, and it didn't end up mattering. This was a Dawg Day Afternoon from the second quarter on, until the reserves gave up two fourth-quarter scores to, for a change, give the opponents the late-game advantage.

During the week, following the first CFP ranking, Mack Rhoades, Baylor AD and CFP selection committee chair, said, "We looked at Georgia, and again, really good football team. I think Gunner Stockton at quarterback has really progressed, it certainly feels like they have more confidence in him and are doing a lot more with him."

I can see that Mr. Rhoades is not among my 5 readers. At the beginning of the season, I noted how Mike Bobo and Kirby Smart brought Carson Beck along at a moderate pace, sticking to the base offense with no frills while he got comfortable at QB. And they have done the same with Gunner. For Stockton, having 2 cupcakes to open his career as starter further narrowed the playbook to keep the offense under wraps, and perhaps to help the new guys and freshman OL players get snaps where they could do their assignments against an opponent who could be dominated. But the Lamestream Sports Media interpreted that modest beginning as a sign of modest ability, because Stockton wasn't putting up huge stats, while also sitting out much of the first two games' second halves.

According to broadcaster Dave Pasch, Stockton is “sneaky athletic.” That’s the sort of backhanded compliment Gunner’s been handed all year, a suggestion that he’s not a great athlete, just a sneaky one. But please watch the games, people. Playing the game at his level requires an athlete, pure and simple.

We’ve now seen how well Gunner plays in the second half of the biggest games. And now the rest of the nation is saying, Gosh he’s improved, rather than, Damn, this cat could always play, as anyone knows who followed his HS career, when he set state records in in passing touchdowns and total touchdowns. Now that the competition has ramped up and he’s comfortable taking snaps when it matters, he’s playing even better, and the nation is surprised, even as broadcasters continue to be awed whenever Arch Manning, another backup for 2 years, completes a pass.

We didn’t need a fourth quarter comeback on Saturday, but the question remains: What is it that makes a great fourth-quarter team? The most common explanation for the Dawgs’ ability to win games in the final quarter, especially when coming from behind, is “resilience.” And their mental toughness is surely a big factor. But so is conditioning, coupled with depth. These guys are tough because their practices toughen them up, and they take practice seriously, as their coaches demand they do. Conditioning matters in four-quarter games, as they all are in the SEC. Let’s not forget how much physical work they put in so that the mental work has an opportunity to shine.

Against Mississippi State, a competitive but not outstanding team, one that had played other ranked teams closely and into OT, the Dawgs continued to do some things well, and added a few things that really made a difference. On offense, they continued to grow, with the OL often including two true freshmen on the right side; and their blocking helped give Nate Frazier the openings that made him look like the homerun hitter we all assumed he’d be when he signed.

One thing that Dusty Dvoracek did well in the booth—as might be expected of an old DL—is explain the blocking schemes. The Dawg Nation has always been quick to criticize Mike Bobo, but somebody is designing those schemes, and I’m guessing that Stacey Searels, another coach the fans grumble about, has something to do with them as well. And the TE blocking schemes are impressive too, and show their team-first mentality in that they seem happy to be out there knocking defenders out of the play. And for all the griping about flanker screens, we’ve seen what happens when Gunner fakes the pass and defenders run to cover Branch while others run free. Cmon, people. There’s a lot to love about how the offense is shaping up, and how the coaches are designing schemes and plays that are putting points on the board.

Defensively, the new twist was more blitzing by linebackers as a way to address the lack of QB pressure we’ve had. I also look across the front 7 and hardly see any upperclassmen. Maybe the pups on the DL will eventually be in the backfield more, but till then, I think that the blitz packages will be where the pressure comes from.

The game went so well that Coach Smart has nothing to bitch about except the long bus ride from Tupelo, birthplace of Elvis Presley. And on the way back to the hotel, I'm sure that they were singing "Hound Dog."

Disconcerting Signals

Here's how artificial intelligence provided me with an up-to-date picture of Lincoln Riley:

Lincoln Riley

Lincoln Riley is the **head coach of the USC Trojans college football team**. He has served as head coach of the Trojans since 2022. The Trojans represent the University of Southern California (USC) in the Pacific 12 Conference (Pac-12) and compete as part of the NCAA Division I Football Bowl Subdivision. Riley accepted the head-coaching position at USC in 2021. [Wikipedia](#) [+1](#)



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

At the **Georgia Council for Recovery**, we educate, advocate and create safe and empowering environments that support the dignity and value of what's right and what's working with individuals, communities and systems! We are guided by the belief, value and principle that through many pathways of self-directed care, recovery is possible for everyone. We nurture hope by supporting others with empathy, compassion and integrity! As a result, we facilitate connections and conversations among people combating the discrimination faced by individuals & families confronted with substance use challenges and disorders. We do this to save lives and bring hope, joy and happiness and to create a world where recovery is promoted, valued and sustained!

[**DONATE**](#)

SAT PREP SESSION

SAT Question of the Week: Who among the following was the real 40 year old virgin?

- A. Steve Carell
- B. Tim Tebow
- C. Chelsea Handler
- D. Peyton Manning
- E. Steve Bannon
- F. Wilt Chamberlain
- G. Elon Musk
- H. Lane Kiffin

- I. Anthony Weiner
- J. John Foy
- K. Big Boi
- L. Big Balls

Answer: David Henry Thoreau, author of *Walden* and *Civil Disobedience*, died at 44 without ever having consummated a relationship (or, for that matter, having had one at all). He wrote in his journal, "All nature is my bride."

DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ Things got so hostile around Auburn for Hugh Freeze that he decided he needed to hire himself an escort.
- ☞ Freeze is now rumored to be named the next commissioner of the PGA.
- ☞ The Falcons have inquired about having Peyton Woodring kick for them on Sundays.
- ☞ Likely Ivy League champion Harvard is suing the NCAA for giving the ACC champ an automatic bid, even though the Ivy League provides Harvard with stronger competition.
- ☞ Actual name of one of the two women who, over six months, rowed a boat across the Pacific Ocean this year without radio or navigational lights: Jess Rowe.
- ☞ Their message to young people: "Get off your phones!"
- ☞ Verge Ausberry has been named by Governor Jeff Landry as the next AD at LSU.
- ☞ What is wrong with the following sentence from Colorado athletic director Rick George this week? "I'm proud of Coach Prime. It's been a tough year what he's been through. He's been a trooper, been working hard, motivating. He's doing the things I want him to do as Coach. We just gotta win more FB games."
- ☞ Answer: It should be "trouper" to refer to a performer, as in "the show must go on," and not "trooper" as in "soldier."
- ☞ "Coach Prime has revolutionized college football and in doing so, has restored CU football to our rightful place as a national power. This extension not only recognizes Coach's incredible accomplishments transforming our program on and off the field, it keeps him in Boulder to compete for conference and national championships in the years to come." ~Colorado athletic director Rick George's statement when Sanders inked his new deal before this season's 3-7 start, 1-6 in the cruddy Big 12
- ☞ After giving up 105 points in two games, Deion Sanders fired his offensive coordinator.
- ☞ After his dog peed on the rug during Colorado's loss on Saturday, Deion Sanders got rid of his cat.
- ☞ "Tom Brady Says He Cloned His Dog" ~midweek headline
- ☞ "Kirk Herbstreit Has Now Been Cloned By His Dog" ~Headline in *Modern Dog* magazine.
- ☞ Actual photo of Brady getting his daily dog-walk exercise:



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

Here at RBU, we count on our backs to come in with a lot of accolades and high national rankings. And then there's **Cash Jones**. Cash walked on at UGA and has become a key rotational back for several seasons now. Often thought of a third-down back who is nifty catching passes out of the backfield—he was the team's leading receiver among the RBs in 2024—Cash evolved his game to earn time running on key downs between the tackles or [on the outside](#). Born and raised in Brock, Texas, Brock was a terrific high school player, and not just in football: He lettered in football, track, basketball, and baseball as a sophomore, the first person to ever letter in all four sports at his high school. Brock HS can go unappreciated in the vast talent base of Texas high school football, as the only school serving a small unincorporated city west of Fort Worth. Their small-school competition ultimately raised questions about Cash's considerable achievements. In 2019 he made Class 3A first-team All State while scoring 35 touchdowns and producing 3,000 total yards. One review of his high school career said, "On tape, Jones flashes outstanding vision, patience and short area quickness at the high school level. He played in a triple option offense and has shown the versatility to play running back, wide receiver, defensive back and even quarterback. He makes explosive plays at the high school level. Jones is also a threat in the return game." See for yourself at <http://www.hudl.com/v/2Ny8jJ> for this one-man army's high school tape. But colleges and recruiting gurus were unimpressed, considering the 5'-11", 180 pound back to be too small for the rigors of big-time college football, and not enough of a burner to overcome his size. 247 ranked him as the nation's #79 RB and the #210 prospect in Texas, and the various recruiting sites considered him a 2/3-star prospect. He had no Power 5 offers, though had his pick of scholarships from Florida Atlantic, Florida International, New Mexico State, and Army. He committed to New Mexico State, then enrolled at UGA as a walkon. The key moment came when Dell McGee gave him a shot as a preferred walkon. Another voice moved him to come to UGA: "God put something on my heart. I just felt like I had a great connection with coach McGee. He led me here, and it's probably the best decision I ever made." Not just in football; Cash earned a communication studies degree among his campus achievements. Cash is the kind of guy who can restore some measure of sanity and stability in the volatile world of college football. He's a study in perseverance and application, playing much bigger, faster, and better than everyone assumed of a little guy from a little school flying under the radar of the scouts and gurus. He's become a stalwart in the UGA backfield and reason to cheer the underdog and

overachiever. Guys like that always make it in life after the dirt on the cleats is long gone and the future awaits.



THE FORECAST **DAWGS VS. TEXAS**

This game is shaping up as the Big Game it was envisioned to be in August. It's fair to say that UGA owned Texas in 2024, when this year's QBs were backups to starters who were never quite what they were supposed to be. Now they get to write their own histories. Will we see the Arch de Triumph, or the Turret Gunner of Death? Will the teams' depth be a factor in a game of attrition? Will the stadium be mighty loud? Hell Yes. And the chapel bell will ring by night's end. UGA 30, Texas 21.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: ALABAMA OVER OKLAHOMA

OU won at Tennessee, so there's no reason to think they will be intimidated at Alabama. That doesn't mean they'll steal another win in the SEC. Although UGA needs for Alabama to drop one, I don't think this is it, in spite of the extra prayers being offered in Norman and Athens. Maybe I'm just used to picking Alabama. Tide 38, Sooners 35.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: PITT OVER NOTRE DAME

A talking head was asked to name the best team in the ACC, and he said without hesitation, Pitt. Now, I haven't watched a Pitt game since Tony Dorsett suited up for the Panthers, so have to take this guy's word for it. And I will. Pitt 35, ND 31.