

## **THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST: DAWGS MESS WITH MISS**

[WWW.THEDAWGMEISTER.COM](http://WWW.THEDAWGMEISTER.COM)

[THE DAWGMEISTER ON FACEBOOK](#)

### **SEPARATED@BIRTH?**



**FLACCID GRIP & ACID TRIP  
PETE GOLDING & JERRY GARCIA**

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

[THE MISSISSIPPI COACHES COLLECTION](#)

[THE ROCK 'N' ROLL COLLECTION](#)

This was the week where picking Alabama to continue its mastery over UGA was *très chic*. To Paul Finebaum, “I’m in. I once picked Georgia against Alabama, and a friend of mine said, ‘Don’t ever pick Georgia against Alabama.’ Guys, you know it. The record is pretty supportive of Alabama winning. I think it’s 9 out of the last 10.” Dawg legend David Pollack said, “I think Georgia’s offense is going to really, really struggle without Drew Bobo. I have Bama winning this game in the rematch. I think it’s going to be a 27-14 game. I think Georgia’s really gonna struggle offensively.”

Then there’s Mark Ruelle of Winners and Whiners: “Georgia’s inability to get to the quarterback will be its undoing on Saturday. Don’t discount the urgency of the Tide here, needing the win to get back to the College Football Playoffs after missing out last season. The Crimson Tide will get the job done and earn their 9th trip to the College Football Playoffs, an all-time high.”

And let’s not leave out CFN’s Pete Fuitak: “Georgia doesn’t force enough takeaways, and they have to control the clock to pull this off. It’ll come out firing a bit more than normal, and it’ll take the fight to the Tide from the start, but this will be Simpson’s game. The late heroics against Auburn will be a sort of breakthrough moment, even this late in the season, and Alabama’s hold on Georgia - winning six of the last seven - will continue with - what else? - another thriller.”

OK, we can’t beat Alabama, can’t block, can’t rush the QB, don’t force turnovers, play a boring ball-control offense, lack urgency for this game, will get torched by Alabama’s amazing QB, and will lose in a thriller.

Do these people actually watch the games?

When was the last time we had trouble rushing the QB? The second half of the season produced a new approach, which was to blitz more often, and from many different formations, positions, and angles. We've held the last 4 opponents to 10 points or less, the longest streak in 54 years for the program; and three of those games were against Texas, Georgia Tech, and Alabama, each with a Heisman-touted QB and ambitions to win the playoff. Running into Georgia's stone wall defense may have eliminated them all.

Said Ty Simpson in the aftermath, "We know we're the best offense in the country." Yet aside from one ref-assisted touchdown drive, Alabama's incomparable offense got totally stoned in every facet of the game.

Georgia's defenders, when not running wild in the Alabama backfield, were blasting their ballcarriers at the line of scrimmage. You may have heard about Alabama's -3 rushing total, aided by 3 sacks by a defense whose "inability to get to the quarterback" was an early-season problem rectified by outstanding coaching, the emergence of younger players at the expense of some upperclassmen, extraordinary depth in the freshman and sophomore classes, and a wee bit 'o' passion, fire, and energy.

I was especially happy to see a couple of forgotten men come out of the game as heroes. Even on Sunday morning, Cole Speer was described as "Georgia's nondescript reserve receiver" (Gabriel Burns, AJC), and a "walk-on receiver" (Mark Schlabach, ESPN), which is only half correct. For a guy who was a candidate in many fans' minds to enter the portal, Cole stuck around and made the play of his life. Another forgotten man, Roderick Robinson, has been rounding into shape after fighting injuries since he got here, and scored the game's first TD. I love these guys, sticking it out and delivering when called on.

And my Player of the Game? Malachi Tolliver. I'll confess that I was concerned after he struggled in his half against Georgia Tech. I listened to too many commentators who have concluded that Drew Bobo is, like another famous coach's son, worthy of having his jersey retired, making him irreplaceable. But somebody must have had a good week of practice, because the offense didn't miss a beat with Tolliver—like Bobo, a three-star recruit—managing the center position, the third most important position on the field given the play-calling duties it involves. And don't think Stacey Searels sat around fretting all week. Malachi was ready, if under the radar of the Lamestream Sports Media, and the OL was superb all day.

Another area that I didn't see mentioned in Sunday's coverage was the way our RBs moved the pile, at times assisted by a mountain of linemen pushing them forward. It's hard not to outrush a team that amasses -3 yards on the ground for the game—heck, I got 3 more yards than Alabama did—but we just seemed to have an urgency to our game that Alabama lacked, something that Laura Rutledge commented on at one point from her vantage point on the sidelines. Alabama's longest run for the day was 5 yards, and

their rushing total was only the second time *in school history* that it has ended with negative rushing yards. And don't listen to anyone who channels Jameson Williams and complains that "If Jam Miller had played, it'd have been a different story." Unless he could block, he wasn't going anywhere either. And we had plenty of Dawgs in the tent, too.

Another overlooked area in the media accounts was the way we used the whole roster. Our fourth quarter resiliency has been noted to account for our great fourth quarter wins, but one thing that's happened of late is that we take leads and hold them. One reason is depth, in conjunction with conditioning: We just seem to be fresher, stronger, and more dominant with three quarters of play behind us. Yet another overlooked factor is the sheer size of the OL in the Searels Era, and how they wear teams down over the course of a game, making the fourth quarter advantageous for the offense. That boring ball-control game really adds up when you try to stop it for four quarters. Add it all up and you get a historic win over a historic opponent in a historic game.

The media mavens were not kind to Alabama in the aftermath. [Over at Yahoo! Sports](#), the former Auburn All-American Hannah Stephens opined that DeBoer is a lousy, timid coach for not benching Ty Simpson at halftime, the way Nick Saban once did with Jalen Hurts in a championship game. She didn't say who should have replaced him, but yanking him was surely the right choice: "There's no polite way to say this, so let's not pretend: Kalen DeBoer should have benched Ty Simpson after the first half. Period. End of story." Because a backup with hardly any game experience—non-Simpson QBs at Alabama this year have thrown a total of 31 passes—could stand up to the Georgia rush and win the game. Why wouldn't a miracle happen again on Saturday? It's all so simple.

Yahoo! Sports writer Jay Busbee summed it up well: "Saturday marked the first time in the history of the SEC championship that any team had been shut out through the first three quarters. Even Alabama's *band* got blown out of the building. As the Million Dollar Band played 'Basket Case,' Alabama's traditional fourth-quarter rallying cry, the many thousands of Georgia fans in attendance drowned them out with chants of 'U-G-A!'"

On the whole, it was a great day to be a Georgia Bulldog. I think that the coaching job our staff did this season was as good as we've ever seen. The offensive staff under Mike Bobo seemed to have a scheme for every occasion, a call for every situation, and the personnel packages to make it all work. Glen Schumann and his defensive staff took a bunch of kids and turned them into men over the course of the season, turning early-season struggles into a dominant unit that is second to none, including the studs on UGA's championship teams now anchoring NFL playoff teams. Coach Smart's well-timed gambles and surprises made a big difference all season, especially those on special teams. What a great job the whole staff did in 2025, and the foundation is set for the rest of the decade.

The anaconda was with us on offense, defense, and special teams on Saturday. Glory, Glory, Glory!

## **Disconcerting Signals**

“I’d like to let all you old fucks know I hate you too. Never got along with that class of people, teachers, principals, you name it. Since I’m a kid, always hated me, it’s kind of a part of life now. The thing about old white people and old ESPN people, those are really the people that hate me the most at this stage of life. Now, granted, there’s some other groups that certainly have threatened my life on a pretty regular basis. I’d say they hate me too. But throughout the entirety old whites and the old ESPN people over the last like three years have really hated me. That’s who all the producers are of GameDay too. So now you know that’s it’s been a fun run. College football is great. Cheers! Have a great day.” ~Pat McAfee

## **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*

**Resilient Georgia** builds bridges between public and private partners across the state to create an integrated behavioral health network of services and resources for Georgia’s children (0-26) and families. Resilient Georgia is among the only organizations focused on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) prevention and increasing trauma-informed awareness and care delivery through statewide coalitions.

[DONATE](#)

## **SAT PREP SESSION**

**SAT Question of the Week:** Who said the following? “Whereof one cannot speak, thereof one must be silent.”

- A. Lane Kiffin
- B. Pat McAfee
- C. Steven A. Smith
- D. Colin Cowherd
- E. Mike Griffith
- F. Deion Sanders
- G. A.J. Brown
- H. Shannon Sharpe
- I. Skip Bayless
- J. Joel Klatt

**Answer:**

Ludwig Josef Johann Wittgenstein in *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*

## **DAWG DOOTS**

- ☛ “The fan base went from wanting to build a statue for him to wanting to run him out of town.” ~Prominent Ole Miss booster

- ☞ “Can't turn a ho into a housewife. Ho's don't act right.” ~On3 reporter Ben Garrett, referring to the former Ole Miss coach
- ☞ “Time heals a lot of things, and having gone through this in this conference before, I sure hope that happens.” ~Lane Kiffin
- ☞ “They'll have to carry me out of here in a pine box.” ~Tommy Tuberville, 2 days before leaving Ole Miss for Auburn
- ☞ Bodacious Ignatius: Actual name of an eighth grade Ole Miss football fan
- ☞ [When a golf announcer calls a football game.](#)

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

**Quentin Moses** graced this earth from 1983 until February 12, 2017, when he died at age 33 in Monroe, GA, trying to save Andria and Jasmine Godard, the wife and daughter of his deceased high school friend Xavier Godard, in a raging house fire. Xavier had tragically drowned about a decade before. As attested to by ex-Cedar Shoals HS teammate, Quentin and Xavier “were pretty much inseparable. Off the field, they were just as close as could be, but on the field, they were both just the ultimate competitors.” At Cedar Shoals, Moses was a star, making the Athens Banner-Herald's All Area team and Honorable Mention All State as a defensive lineman, called “our Michael Jordan” by former teammate Jonathan Bush. Quentin was a prepStar All-Southeast Region and AJC Top 50 in Georgia, and named to ABH All-Northeast Georgia team. He was an important young man off the field as well; his niece Tracie Smith said of the man considered his family's “protector,” “My uncle was kind of like a dad, brother, all of that in my life. I would say we talked almost daily.” He was also recruited for college basketball. But he committed to UGA to play football in 2001, redshirting his first year and then becoming an impact player once he took the field, ultimately finishing in the national top 10 in sacks (11.5) and tackles for loss (20.5) and ranking 7<sup>th</sup> all time in program sacks. He ended up as a first-team All-SEC defensive end, a Rivals.com All-American, a Second-team Walter Camp Football Foundation All-American, a Third-team Associated Press All-American, and a *Playboy* All-American. Off the field he was a winner too, making the SEC Academic Honor Roll twice. Quentin was drafted by the Raiders in the third round of the draft in 2007. The Raiders cut him, a roster move that came on the heels of Xavier Godard's death, believed by many to have affected his performance in camp. He then signed with Arizona, who released him. He then signed the Dolphins for a four-year term. Quentin then went into coaching at Reinhardt University, where he worked with defensive linemen for five years before his tragic death. Head Coach James Miller said, “Quentin Moses was an integral part of our coaching staff, but more than that he was a person who believed in our student-athletes and worked hard every day to help each athlete perform at the highest level on the field and in the classroom. We will miss his leadership, and I will miss his friendship.” From his brother Preston, “If he was a friend to you, he was a true friend.” He added that if you think of Quentin, you think about love. Quentin's death at 33 was heartrending on many levels. He had excelled in everything he took on, and was greatly admired by his coaches, teachers, teammates, friends, relatives, and fans. For a sense of how beloved he was, see this [DawgNation story](#) published after his death. We can never get him back.

But he's given us a great example of how to live well and become the best possible person you can be.



## **THE FORECAST ROUND 1**

Oklahoma over Alabama  
TAMU over Miami  
Mississippi over Tulane  
Oregon over JMU

### **DAWGS VS. MISSISSIPPI**

What a strange time in college football, where teams whose coaches left for better jobs square off in the playoff, while the greener-pasture-teams watch from home. I don't see how a team whose coach dumped them for a better shot at glory are going to pull it together for a playoff run, especially when a guy like Lane Kiffin makes a loyalty demand and takes other assistants with him. The Dawgs meanwhile are getting better every day, and will be able to field most of the team for the game, with a month to heal and have Bloody Tuesdays seven days a week. Got to stick with my guys for this one. UGA 34, Mississippi 17.

### **OTHER GAMES**

Texas A&M over Ohio State  
Oregon over Texas Tech  
Indiana over Oklahoma