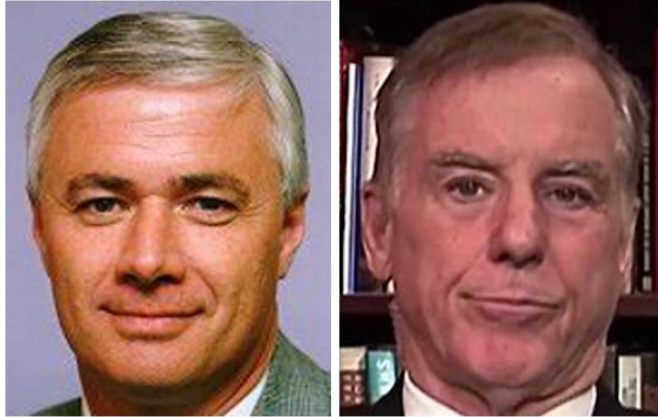


**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:  
DAWGS HAMMA BAMMA AND SLAM THE OVERTON  
WINDOW SHUT**

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**SEPARATED@BIRTH?**



**THE TEAM  
DENNIS FRANCHIONE**

**&**

**THE SCREAM  
HOWARD DEAN**

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

[THE ALABAMA COACHES COLLECTION](#)

[THE VERMONT POLITICIANS COLLECTION](#)

**SEPARATED@BIRTH? BONUS COVERAGE**



**THE VOICE      &      FIRST CHOICE  
MORGAN WALLEN      GUNNER STOCKTON**

[THE COUNTRY MUSIC COLLECTION](#)

[THE GUNNER STOCKTON COLLECTION](#)

*The Overton window is the range of subjects and arguments politically acceptable to the mainstream population at a given time.*

“As you expect, I am very concerned about Gunner. The [Austin Peay] game was not fun. We shall see.” ~The Scowlmeister, midweek

[note: The Scowlmeister is also very concerned that the sun will rise in the west, the earth will start spinning on an equatorial axis, and that Pat McAfee will evolve a brain.]

Weekend Predictions: Don't bet on a Falcons, Georgia or Tech win this week ~Michael Cunningham, AJC, pregame forecast supreme

"We had a lot of naysayers about Gunner. He played his tail off today." ~Kirby Smart, post-game

"These are games we practice for and dream of, and it was amazing." ~Gunner Stockton, post-game

Anybody still concerned about Gunner Stockton?

I'll confess that I was a little surprised that we were the betting line favorite at kickoff. UT was at home with their 6-figure crowd, and they had vowed to be loud. The Lamestream Sports Media has been waiting to pounce on UGA and so cranked it up to high Heupel hype. We had not done to our first two cupcakes what Tennessee had done the week before to East Tennessee and, before that, a good Syracuse team. The trending pick was UT among studio personalities and the social media crowd. It all added up to a bit of a trepidatious on-ramp to a game with potentially season-defining consequences as an early-season sorting of the playoff candidates.

Tennessee came out like a house afire, with Joey Aguilar completing his first 14 passes for 213 yards and 2 touchdowns and staking the Vols to a lead that seemed to be about 50 points. The crowd was in full-roar mode and salivating to finally beat UGA after a decade of defeats, glad that their QB trade with UCLA had been a steal. After that, Aguilar went 10 for 22 for 158 and two picks, and the best Hispanic-surname athlete on the field was Joenel Aguero.

Like you, I felt pretty blitzed by that first quarter. We matched their first score promptly, but Tennessee just kept coming. I felt pretty gloomy, almost Scowlmeister-esque, as UT seemed to score at will while we began to stall out. My own feeling pre-game was that our defense would hold UT down, and the O would finally open up and run plays that weren't on tape. Our first play on offense confirmed my best hopes for a more diversified offense. But the defense got torched in the first quarter, and after clamping down and getting UT out of rhythm, got torched again late in the game.

What perhaps is the most exceptional thing about this game is that, for the most part, the right side of the OL was manned by freshmen, both redshirt and true, and they got the job done. They weren't spectacular, but they helped us put up 44 points on a highly-regarded defense. And the DL rotated a lot of man-child guys of their own. We knew coming in that we have a young team, made younger when Earnest Greene had to sit out. What is surprising is that the young cats on the OL appear to be ahead of the ones on the DL. And we subbed all the way down to #4 on the depth chart at right tackle, all freshmen, all mammoth, but all inexperienced at this level, and in that stadium.

Big change from last year: Through three games, one at Neyland, no interceptions from QB1, no drops by WRs. Gunner took three sacks from UT, and some opinionators think he needs to get through his reads faster when rolling out, so there is room to improve. What I like is how other QBs around the country have gotten blown up into Heisman favorites—Manning, Klubnik, Lagway, etc.—while less glamorous types like Stockton have been assigned to lower tiers of the rankings. Manning (booed by his own fans after 10 straight incompletions), Lagway (5 picks), Klubnik (2 losses and so-so play), and others with great measurables often get shiny-object attention from the Lamestream Sports Media and their social media enablers. I like our guy plenty.

The studio and broadcast teams said several times that Mike Bobo needs to “take off the training wheels” for Gunner, based on two games of limited playcalling against overmatched teams so as not to put the playbook on tape. It’s also worth remembering that the coaches started Carson Beck’s term as starter with caution, only opening up the offense as he got increasingly comfortable as QB1. So, between the tendency to help a QB get established before winging it around the field, plus the need to stick with the basic plan till games got serious, our offense produced a misconception out there that Gunner himself is limited, that the team lacks an offensive identity, and that the offensive coordinator needs replacing. Still buying that impression?

Leave it to Coach Smart to sum things up: “We’re nowhere near where we need to be. We’re a long way from being there, but boy, we’ve got some kids that aren’t afraid to fight.”

## **Disconcerting Signals**

**Who went to Princeton, and who went to UGA?**



## **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 **Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students** is a nonprofit organization operating to inspire and provide leadership for a statewide movement on*

quality early learning and healthy development for all children ages birth through five. GEEARS was established in 2010 to help business, civic and government leaders maximize the economic return on the state's investments in early care and learning. GEEARS will maintain our focus on increasing access to quality and affordable child care. At the same time, we will increase our efforts related to healthy child development and family wellbeing. This increased effort will help ensure that families have access to the holistic supports needed to achieve more equitable outcomes.

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### **SAT PREP SESSION**

**SAT Question of the Week:** Que pasa with these hombres?

Jeff George  
Ron Powlus  
Tim Couch  
Brock Huard  
Peyton Manning  
Brock Berlin  
Greg Paulus  
Matt Barkley  
Mitch Mustain  
Tate Martell  
Jacob Eason  
Kyler Murray  
J.T. Daniels  
Jaxson Dart

- A. Each of these quarterbacks began high school as a defensive back.
- B. Each of these high school quarterbacks went on to an All American career in college and sterling career in the NFL.
- C. This is the horn section for the Austin, Texas Latin Funk band Grupo Fantasma.
- D. These guys were all Taylor Swift's boyfriend in 2021.
- E. Each signed up for Grindr before realizing it was not designed for folks like them.

**Answer:**

All on this list won the National Gatorade Player of the Year award for high school football.

**Bonus:** How many Gatorade Player of the Year awards have been Georgia Bulldogs?

**Answer:** Eason, Daniels, and Arik Gilbert. All transferred.

**Bonus II:** How many POYs ended up playing baseball?

**Answer:** Joe Mauer.

## DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ [Fire, passion, and energy in Texas](#)
- ☞ “The health status of Arch Manning has been thrown into question after Texas’ superstar quarterback appeared in visible pain following a throw in Saturday’s 38-7 win over San Jose State.” ~On3
- ☞ “Superstar??” ~ Little Woolly
- ☞ “San Jose State?” ~Granny Butts
- ☞ Is it just me, or does the Falcons’ new offense tip off every running play by having Charlie Woerner go in motion and show exactly where the play is designed to go?
- ☞ Dan Mullen’s record at Florida before getting fired: 49-34
- ☞ Billy Napier’s after Saturday’s loss: 20-21
- ☞ Who knew that, in transferring from App State to UCLA, Joey Aguilar was taking a step down in home game attendance?
- ☞ Not a joke or AI-generated image: This is the crowd at the UCLA-New Mexico game Friday night.



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

Bulldog fans know **Malaki Starks** as one of the most gifted athletes to ever play between the hedges. His acrobatic interceptions, hard hitting tackles, and blanket coverage of receivers earned him All American honors and a lot of YouTube highlights. His play earned him Finalist recognition for the Bronko Nagurski Trophy and Jim Thorpe Award, along with other honors. As a true freshman on a national champion, Malaki led the defense in total snaps for the season. It’s hard to be humble when you’re that great a player. But the well-grounded Starks is all that, and more. He came to UGA from down the street in Jefferson, where he played QB and DB and dominated every game, earning a 5-star recruiting ranking, being named the consensus #1 Athlete in his class, and gaining the attention of every college program with a pulse. And he delivered on that promise, earning the appreciation of Dawg fans everywhere. But his Good Guy status follows from his contributions to the community. Malaki was one of 11 players named to the 2024 Allstate AFCA Good Works Team based on their commitment to community service. Malaki has conducted a football camp at Atlanta’s Cabbagetown Park for 30 young athletes through the Wilderness Works Football Camp. He’s led UGA campus tours through its Next Gen Tour of UGA, including a spontaneous football camp for those in tow. Malaki has reached into his NIL earnings to donate \$10,000 to Athens-area schools, a contribution made through his relationship with the Georgia Teachers Initiative, created by the College Football Playoff Foundation. He provided 16 kids from



the Boys & Girls Club of Athens with \$300 gift cards available through Dick's Sporting Goods during the Christmas holiday. When not balling out on the field and in the community, Malaki was scoring in the classroom, majoring in Sport Management and Business and earning the Herbert and Burdelle Mobley Family Scholarship and the Susan & Mark Tomlinson Family Football Scholarship. Malaki is now off to the NFL after three years of college excellence. Expect to hear much more about him on and off the field, making the Bulldog Nation proud and helping to invigorate the communities that are fortunate enough for him to call home.



## **THE FORECAST**

### **DAWGS VS. ALABAMA**

Alabama's thumping of Wisconsin brought to mind what broadcasters so often say of a QB: Give him time in the pocket, and he'll pick you apart. Of course, that applies to any decent QB. But Ty Simpson had all day against Wisconsin, and indeed picked them apart. Either the Badgers are not so good, or Alabama has an OL for the ages. Simpson is terrific when he has time. The Dawgs, then, need to get their rush on and pressure him so he can't just play catch with his receivers.

Both teams have two weeks to prepare, and repair. I'm hoping that the OL injuries will clear up, that the problems that produced so many deep balls to get behind our secondary get addressed, and that the Dawgs continue to play up to the level of the opponent. One of UGA's advantages is that they have a rotation of 5 RBs, each with a unique skill set to be used situationally, e.g., Josh McCray at the goal line, Cash Jones on passing downs, etc. And a pretty nice array of WRs, again with a range of abilities. If the OL can get it done, we'll be done with Alabama and do to their dominance what Tennessee couldn't do to ours. Dawgs 34, Tide 28.

### **WEEK 4 NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: MIAMI OVER FLORIDA**

Next Saturday, Carson Beck gets to beat Florida with a new uniform on. The media has converged on Billy Napier like vultures on roadkill, or perhaps like LSU on a D.J. Lagway pass, and they are fighting the flies for morsels of his remains. I'm not a great fan of "The U" and wonder why, out of 5,832 institutes of higher learning in the USA (as of last week, anyhow), they have decided to call themselves The U while simulating a set of goalposts with their hands. But, the world has many wonders, one of which is Florida's coach, and the wonder is: Who will replace him? Let's see, Urban Meyer? Lane Kiffin? Jon Gruden? Nick Saban? Dan Lanning? Bill Parcells? Ron Zook? Rush Probst? Brian Harsin? So much to choose from in draining the swamp and starting all over,

again, if anyone wants the job at this point. But meanwhile, there's a game on Saturday. Canes 31, Gators 17, Vultures 100.

#### **WEEK 4 NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: TEMPLE OVER GEORGIA TECH**

Here I get to rectify a great oversight in not acknowledging The Owlmeister's beloved Temple's 2-0 start, with both victories of the blowout variety. Forget the opposition's lack of talent. 2-0 at Temple after the last few seasons is a feast at the temple. Ignore the Oklahoma game. Please. Meanwhile, Tech has emerged as an ACC contender and playoff possibility, and I hear that their fans are still on the field after they beat Clemson. I'm sure it'll be all clear by next Saturday when Temple comes to town. Nobody on earth thinks Temple will win, which is why they call them upsets, longshots, and impossible dreams. But you heard it first here: The Owlmeister may now gloat that, as the program that launched Geoff Collins' career as a head coach, Temple now gets to beat the team he forsook them for. It's Temple's time. Owls 21, Jackets 20, with no buzzer-beating field goals to bail them out.

#### **WEEK 5 NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: OREGON OVER PENN STATE**

Dan Lanning to Florida. Sure thing, dude. He'd bail on most people's dream job to try to revive the gator corpse in the Swamp. He'd leave the state of Oregon for the state of Florida. Sure thing. Penn State meanwhile is in natty-or-bust mode behind the wizardry and magic of James Franklin, whose name I've actually seen on the Who's Next? lists in Gainesville, Florida. Franklin's got lots of talent at THE Pennsylvania State University, but he's had that before. Much is made of their dynamic backfield, and some of those cats are pretty good. But in Eugene, they are quackers about them Ducks, and it's great to see the Kirby Smart coaching tree showing its beautiful foliage in the fall. Oregon 35, Penn State 30.

#### **WEEK 5 NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: ARKANSAS OVER NOTRE DAME**

The Kirby Smart coaching tree does it again. Sam Pittman has been given a much longer leash than has been provided for other coaches. His task: to make Arkansas competitive, something we've not seen this century, and maybe last century too. Notre Dame continues to ride the reputation dating to Knute Rockne that has overinflated their stature in the game many a year later. Even with a home loss to ATM University on Saturday, Lou Holtz thinks they will win the natty and the Super Bowl, as he indicated when he said, "Xwzzzffphrtrwqpnzzzzssxxxpppwgdscvb." But those wise words will turn to confetti on the Arkansas sideline by game's end, which will coincide with Notre Dame's playoff hopes ending. Hawgs 24, Irish 21.