

THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST: *DAWGS BURN AUBURN*

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[Georgia Bulldogs Projected to Suffer First Loss of 2025 Season to the Auburn Tigers](#)

~Sports Illustrated, August, 2025

“Yeah, right.” ~Little Woolly

I love a good drama. But I much prefer a good blowout, with the Good Guys on top.

Saturday the Dawgs dominated a weak Kentucky team. Kentucky entered the game with wins over Toledo (now 3-2, make that 2-2 against teams at their own level of competition) and E. Michigan (now 1-5, with a win only against Billy Napier’s old Ragin’ Cajuns). Their losses were a blowout loss with 4 turnovers to S. Carolina, and a 1-TD loss to the mighty Mississippi. It was a game we were projected to win by 20.5 points, and hey, we beat the spread even after beginning to sub out the front-liners in the third quarter. The game lacked the adrenaline surges of the previous weekend, along with the insane crowd noise, the drama, the heartbreak, and the long and agonizing car ride home in the wee small hours of the morning. And for that, I’m thankful. Just imagine Penn State’s plane ride home from Los Angeles.

It's hard to get overly excited about winning a game we were supposed to win, by the spread we were supposed to win by, but it sure beats the alternative. The team, in spite of the notorious noon start, came out firing and never let up till the reserves gave up a fourth-quarter score and the people who’d bet on the game started getting a little nervous. But since I never make sports wagers, I was serenely above such concerns.

There were some excellent outcomes for every unit on the squad. Said Mark Stoops after the game, “Offensively, a lot of times, I don’t think people give them enough credit, they

may not look very flashy, but they are very hard to defend, they are very physical and keep you off balance.” That sounds right to me. Gunner keeps getting more confident with running the show, and the backs and receivers are helping him out. And the baby pups on the OL are improving with game reps. There’s a lot going on and a lot to build on when we’ve got the ball.

Defensively, UK ran 22 times for 45 yards, with a long of 7 yards, and were never much of a threat in the air. Now, UK does not have much of an offense, so let’s not get excited. But they were pretty much squashed except for one first-half TD and one late score against the freshman team. A very satisfying afternoon.

Special teams were terrific as well. For a good bit of the game, I began to wonder if UK’s punter might be the match of our own Brett Thorson. But then that 60-yard punt that Humphries downed at the 1, that was pretty fabulous. The excellence of the place kicking unit has become so predictable that it’s hardly worth commenting on, except when an opponent whiffs on a gimme and we are reminded that special teams play takes a lot of precision and practice.

And, so, another one down as we head to the mid-season SEC schedule. There’s a lot of excitement ahead, starting next week and pretty much lasting through the playoffs. Our fans still can’t be bothered with staying till the end of an easy win, and that’s too bad. I’m not sure where they are going when our reserves are getting their game snaps, but I hope it’s a really good time. Those young guys finishing out the games have worked hard to push the starters in practice, and to advance their own development. They deserve to have their fans get behind them when they get their opportunities and their preparation for when they are in the rotation. Before long, you’ll be seeing many of them in the first half. So damn, people. Give them their reward and hang around another 20 minutes to appreciate their contributions to the program.

Disconcerting Signals

“I get asked a lot how this basketball program has become so competitive over the last eight years. But for me, I believe it was God’s plan to give us this success, success beyond what we deserve. To give us this platform.” ~Bruce Pearl after winning the first game of March Madness, 2025

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

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Hope Haven of Northeast Georgia, Inc. is a private nonprofit corporation whose primary purpose is to provide services for individuals with developmental disabilities who reside in the Athens-Clarke and surrounding counties. Hope Haven's mission is to prepare, empower, and connect adults with developmental disabilities to strengthen our community. We envision a world where adults with developmental disabilities will be able to fully integrate into the community independently.

Core Values:

People & Purpose-Driven: We embrace diversity by recognizing individual talents. We celebrate abilities by supporting a vibrant life centered on expressiveness and choice.

Innovation & Inspiration: We promote growth by opening the door to endless possibilities. We encourage and assist individuals in self-advocating, practice building unique skills, and motivate one another to grow and flourish. Empowering individuals to reach their full potential is at our core.

Collaboration & Inclusion: We utilize a team approach that includes the individual, family, friends, and community to advocate for inclusive activities that support needs in all aspects of the individual's life. We strive to promote giving back to our community through volunteer opportunities and by building meaningful relationships.

Dignity & Respect: We recognize the worth and potential of each individual we serve and protect their dignity. We acknowledge the intrinsic value in one another and make certain to respect the rights, opinions, and choices of all.

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SAT PREP SESSION

SAT Question of the Week: Who is the author of the following quote: "I owe a lot to my parents, especially my mother and father."

Urban Meyer
Stephen A. Smith
Aaron Rodgers
Alex Rodriguez
Taylor Swift
Knox Kiffin
Colin Cowherd
Shannon Sharpe
Hugh Freeze
Steve Pearl
Brian Harsin
George Santos
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Elon Musk's 14 children

Answer:

Greg "The Shark" Norman

DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ Pseudonymuncle (soo-duh-NIM-uhnk-uhl) noun: An insignificant person writing under a pseudonym.
- ☞ I think a lot of people owe Quin Ewers a profound apology for demanding for two years that he be benched in favor of the wunderkind behind him on the depth chart.
- ☞ Last week Arch Manning accidentally knocked a Barbie Doll off the shelf at Walmart, and stared her down for five minutes.
- ☞ Why does a QB with “all the tools” along with a sensational name, playing for three years for a QB whisperer and offensive genius, have what so many are calling [bad mechanics](#)? I’m just asking questions.
- ☞ And why do broadcasters, after he makes a bunch of terrible throws, focus on his one good throw as indicative of his amazing superpowers?
- ☞ Meanwhile, here in the real world, per ESPN on Sunday morning:

SEC Conference Total QBR - 2025 Season Leaders

Season Leaders

















Weekly Leaders

All-Time Bests

2025

SEC

Total QBR - SEC

RK	NAME	QBR	PAA	PLAYS	EPA	PASS	RUN	SACK	PEN	RAW
1	 Gunner Stockton UGA	89.5	36.4	187	37.9	22.5	15.5	-3.0	2.6	88.3
2	 Trinidad Chambliss MISS	88.3	29.0	170	30.8	20.1	9.4	-0.7	1.9	85.4
3	 Taylen Green ARK	88.1	42.5	227	41.7	22.7	22.1	-3.5	0.4	87.5
4	 Diego Pavia VAN	83.4	33.7	239	35.5	33.9	3.5	-1.6	-0.3	81.3
5	 Ty Simpson ALA	82.2	26.2	206	29.4	35.0	0.6	-5.8	-0.4	79.0
6	 Beau Pribula MIZ	78.2	28.5	197	30.1	29.3	5.6	-4.9	0.0	81.8
7	 Garrett Nussmeier LSU	76.8	18.4	215	25.0	21.5	2.1	-3.8	5.2	70.8
8	 John Mateer OU	75.5	18.9	196	22.9	21.8	3.5	-2.2	-0.1	73.1
9	 Joey Aguilar TENN	72.0	19.3	198	23.8	26.6	-2.7	-1.9	1.7	73.4
10	 Jackson Arnold AUB	70.2	8.9	228	17.6	14.6	15.9	-12.7	-0.2	60.0
11	 LaNorris Sellers SC	65.4	8.8	154	13.7	15.6	8.4	-10.9	0.5	64.4
12	 Marcel Reed TA&M	65.1	8.9	207	16.5	19.6	1.7	-5.2	0.3	60.9
13	 DJ Lagway FLA	60.3	-2.2	199	6.5	13.1	0.2	-5.3	-1.5	47.2
14	 Arch Manning TEX	60.1	2.6	199	8.8	5.8	7.0	-3.0	-1.0	53.4
15	 Blake Shapen MSST	54.2	-4.7	222	5.1	15.6	-2.6	-8.7	0.9	44.6
16	 Cutter Boley UK	37.6	-7.3	117	-1.0	4.9	-2.3	-4.7	1.1	34.4

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

It’s unusual for a championship team to start a walkon. But that’s what happened with a high-character guy named “**Dirty Dan**” **Jackson**, an anchor of the UGA defenses of the last few years. Dan came to UGA from North Hall HS in Gainesville, where he was a star athlete but not regarded as a major college prospect. Dan started both as an RB on offense and DB on defense, earning All-State recognition as a DB during his senior season to go with his 2018 Region 7-AAA Player of the Year award and Team MVP as a junior and senior. Dan also lettered in basketball and track all four years and graduated

with the school record in the 110-meter hurdles. Yet, no one came calling when scholarships were being offered. UGA passed on him too, leading Kirby Smart to say when Dan's eligibility finally expired, "Man, to think that guy came to Georgia on his own, without us even recruiting him, and to make the plays he's made. That hit fumble will be one for the ages because he wasn't just hitting a normal dude. That guy's a competitor. A lot of respect for Dan. He didn't even have to come back this year. He debated whether he was going to play football again this year. I think about where we'd be without him, just a lot of respect for him and his leadership. Really, all these kids that want to go and transfer and change and do all this, look at a guy like Dan Jackson. He is what college football is all about, guys. He's not asking for more money. He's not trying to go somewhere else. The guy just loves Georgia." And Georgia loves him. Dan developed into a terrific Power 4 safety, earning Coaches All-SEC Third Team recognition and being nominated for the Burlsworth Trophy, given to the most outstanding football player in America who began his career as a walk-on and has shown outstanding performance on the field. In the classroom, Dan made the SEC Academic Honor Roll as an agribusiness major. Even with all these achievements, his greatest contributions may have been off the field. Dan was rewarded in 2024 with an appointment to the SEC Community Service Team that honors a student-athlete from each school who gives back to his community through superior service efforts. Dan volunteered at Camp Sunshine to help provide recreational, educational and support programs for children with cancer and their families. He also served the Athens Boys & Girls Club and volunteered at the Thumbs Up Mission, which serves the needs of cancer-stricken families. Dan was also a participant in the ESP Bulldogs & Buddies program, supporting kids with disabilities and, along with teammates, visiting hospital patients to help raise their spirits. In his copious free time, he volunteered to help seniors out through the Meals on Wheels program. Dan may well have a future in football, but no matter what he does, this guy's a champion and a winner, one for the Bulldawg Nation to embrace as one of their heroes.



THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. AUBURN

There's another coach on the hot seat, and he's Freezing. Meanwhile, as Hugh might say, it's time to tee it up for another tough road game. No puttering around here. We've got to hit it down the fairway and stay out of the rough. No (sand) traps with this one: It's Auburn, a rivalry game, and one with many bitter outcomes for both teams. This time, it'll go Georgia's way. Dawgs club Tigers and give them a wedgie on the way out: 31-17.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: OREGON OVER INDIANA

Indiana finally gets to prove they can beat one of the big boys. Well, they did destroy Illinois, who beat So Cal, but those chains of victory can lead to some poor predictions. Oregon is another level up, and they are really clicking, not that Dan Lanning would admit to being partial to clicks. Until Indiana beats a top program, I'll temper my excitement about their revival, which is impressive even if mainly built on the backs of so-so competition. They are a truly horrendous program historically, so this instant rebuild has got to mean that there's some admirable program building going on in Bloomington. It also means that every fan base and athletic director at every football program that's below championship level will think, What we really need is a new coach. But be careful, y'all. You might just get what you are asking for, and find yourself in another 10-year rut. Meanwhile, even the great Curt Cignetti needs at least another year to get to the point where they can compete with Oregon. Ducks over Hoosiers, 35-21.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: USC OVER MICHIGAN

USC's sensational hire of Lincoln Riley somehow managed to diminish two programs, Oklahoma and USC. He had inherited a sound program from Bob Stoops, charged it with exciting offense and spectacularly bad defense, then left under the cover of darkness for the glories of Los Angeles, where he imported his approach at Southern Cal, scoring lots of points and often giving up even more. We'll see how well Michigan can succeed in the post-cheating era that also positioned its former coach for a fabulous new opportunity in Southern California, one where bothersome rules are less of a factor. Both teams are desperate for this win, and Michigan should be favored. And that's why this game meets Dawgmeister Analytics' strict criteria for an upset pick. Trojans 41, Wolverines 35.