

## **THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST: DAWGS PROVIDE NO GATOR AID**

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### **SEPARATED@BIRTH?**



**WALKON & TALKS ON  
CHRIS DOERING CRIS COLLINSWORTH**

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

“I felt like I’ve been able to cut it loose a little bit and not worry about what could happen. Just playing quarterback and having fun.” ~Gunner Stockton

“He’s wired for these type moments because he’s tough and this team believes in him. The offensive line? I mean, they see it. They see how that kid plays. They want to play for him. They want to compete for him. The backs, too, the receivers, they love Gunner. I mean, Gunner’s the most lovable guy because he never crosses anybody. He’s just Mr. Positive and, ‘yes, sir, coach. Yes, sir, coach.’ You can’t get him to say anything.” ~Kirby Smart

And it turns out he was hurt, too. And he lost Colbie Young for the season on the third play of the game. And he kept leading scoring drives till the final knee, keeping up with and finally surpassing a dynamic Mississippi offense.

After the Mississippi game, Gunner Stockton did his “[watch flex](#),” showing his Timex to the crowd to tell them it’s time to milk the cows.

In case you are wondering, here are the nation’s highest-performing quarterbacks after this week. The rest are at [2025 College Football Season Leaders Total QBR | ESPN](#), and you’ll find all of this year’s preseason Heisman and All American QBs well down the list.

## College Football Total QBR - 2025 Season Leaders

Season Leaders

Weekly Leaders

All-Time Bests

2025

All Conferences

Total QBR - All Conferences

| RK | NAME                                                                                                       | QBR  | PAA  | PLAYS | EPA  | PASS | RUN  | SACK  | PEN  | RAW  |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|
| 1  |  Jayden Malava USC        | 92.1 | 56.5 | 257   | 59.0 | 51.7 | 4.2  | -1.7  | 4.4  | 90.8 |
| 2  |  Gunner Stockton UGA      | 91.0 | 52.8 | 283   | 58.8 | 38.8 | 20.3 | -4.9  | 4.5  | 87.4 |
| 3  |  Taylen Green ARK         | 90.9 | 62.0 | 325   | 63.5 | 35.8 | 37.6 | -10.8 | 0.8  | 87.9 |
| 4  |  Julian Sayin OSU         | 88.4 | 41.5 | 228   | 42.2 | 49.0 | -4.5 | -1.9  | -0.5 | 86.9 |
| 5  |  Fernando Mendoza IU      | 87.7 | 42.0 | 243   | 42.4 | 38.2 | 6.6  | -4.5  | 2.0  | 85.8 |
| 6  |  Diego Pavia VAN          | 85.2 | 42.0 | 281   | 45.0 | 38.8 | 9.0  | -3.1  | 0.2  | 82.5 |
| 7  |  Brendan Sorsby CIN       | 85.0 | 44.4 | 265   | 48.6 | 37.5 | 10.9 | -1.3  | 1.5  | 85.1 |
| 8  |  Trinidad Chambliss MISS  | 84.4 | 37.9 | 259   | 44.3 | 32.2 | 13.2 | -3.5  | 2.3  | 82.1 |
| 9  |  Luke Altmyer ILL         | 84.4 | 36.0 | 265   | 37.7 | 42.9 | 3.8  | -12.5 | 3.6  | 80.4 |
| 10 |  Devon Dampier UTAH       | 83.2 | 34.7 | 305   | 43.2 | 27.9 | 13.5 | -2.8  | 4.6  | 76.5 |
| 11 |  Haynes King GT           | 82.8 | 35.3 | 274   | 43.1 | 22.9 | 20.8 | -1.4  | 0.6  | 79.3 |
| 12 |  Ty Simpson ALA           | 82.6 | 33.2 | 288   | 39.9 | 48.7 | -0.2 | -9.7  | 1.1  | 76.8 |
| 13 |  Cameran Brown GAST       | 82.6 | 33.2 | 186   | 26.4 | 19.6 | 11.1 | -3.1  | -1.1 | 86.4 |
| 14 |  Demond Williams Jr. WASH | 81.2 | 36.9 | 287   | 43.5 | 38.5 | 19.0 | -12.4 | -1.7 | 79.2 |
| 15 |  Carson Beck MIA          | 81.0 | 20.5 | 215   | 25.8 | 32.1 | -2.1 | -3.1  | -1.0 | 72.9 |

You know that college football is in crazy times when Vanderbilt and Virginia are ranked, and Florida State, Clemson, and Penn State—all with rosters that the gurus say are loaded with draft picks—have losing records over half-way through the season. And Georgia Tech is unbeaten.

During the Mississippi game, midway through the second quarter, I had a conversation with my game-day guest, Studs McMachoman, and we agreed that the first team to stop the other's offense would likely win the game. Put us in the booth, folks; we called that one right.

It was a sensational afternoon in Sanford Stadium. The weather was perfect. The crowd was jacked to the point where I couldn't even hear Foghorn Bullhorn's screaming at the refs over interference calls. There was a flyover from a putt-putt plane headed to Ben Epps Airport. And if you like scoring, there was a whale of a game played between the hedges.

Several storylines have been rehashed in the aftermath of Saturday's comeback win. Before the game, the entire Game Day crowd picked UGA to win, with several of the experts counting on Georgia's resilience to carry them to victory—and yes, that indeed happened. The Gunner Stockton Story took a new turn as the Lamestream Sports Media has finally caught on to the fact that this cat is a baller, not just a poor man's Stetson Bennett or consolation prize after Carson Beck's departure and—before Saturday and his regression to last season's tendency to throw the ball to the other team—Beck's great season in Miami. The narrative that UGA lives on grit got reinforcement, and the belief that it lacks playmakers deserves to be retired given how many offensive players contributed to the win. The offensive line got some regulars back but continued to rely on the pups, who have remarkably been penalty-free in both hostile opponents' stadiums and the friendly confines of Sanford, all big games where mistakes can cost a

team the game. And the concern that our defense is below championship-level ability got both confirmation, and once again in the fourth quarter, refutation.

What the Dawgs did was score on every possession and, eventually, leave the punting to Mississippi. Somebody, please, point out that Mike Bobo is calling some mighty fine games, although we could use a few new plays for inside the 5 yard line. The media is yapping about how the defense isn't stopping people, except when they really need to. Lost in the chatter is the fact that the team is very young and still learning, and that they continue to shut down opponents' running games: 88 yards for Mississippi on Saturday. More pressure from our pass rush would help, but from what I can tell, we rely on the DL to get at the QB rather than blitzing much, so perhaps they are better than they appear to stat-minded observers.

Seemingly overlooked in Mississippi's success before Saturday is their schedule. Saturday was their second away game of the season, in which they play 8 games in Oxford and 4 on the road. Their other away game before Saturday was a one-score win at Kentucky. That's quite an advantage in the W-L department. I was pretty sure that our crowd noise would be a factor and that their Ferris State transfer QB would be affected, but had to wait a few hours for that to kick in. Mississippi played an excellent game, just not quite good enough.

Even The Scowlmeister's cup runneth over after a lifetime of being half-empty.

### **Gator Update**

The Florida game is up next, even as Billy long ago became the frog in the boiling pot: cooked alive in his own juices while thinking he's alive and well. As of this writing, he still has a job in spite of speculation that he'd be in early retirement by Sunday.

There's a peculiar belief out there that Florida is a first-tier job, which is why the Lamestream Sports Media offers people like Dan Lanning, who has a much better job, as replacements; and the Florida crowd, while booing Billy even in victory, is now fixated on Lane Kiffin. But let's take a closer look.

Historically, Florida's W-L-T record is 770-452-40

Steve Spurrier's term produced a 122-27-1 record.

Urban Meyer went 65-15-0.

So, other than those two exceptional runs, over the course of its history, Florida has gone 583-410-39, which lands you in the middle of the standings, assuming that about a quarter of those wins came over teams like SW Arkansas Bible College, not to mention pre-Diego Vanderbilt. Before Spurrier, when Florida went to a bowl game, it was typically the Gator Bowl, or the Liberty, Tangerine, Sun, Aloha, or Freedom Bowl. Florida has won three consensus national championships, one under Spurrier, two under Meyer. But outside those two outliers, Florida has been a medium-level program, aside from now, when it is a stanky program. Who will be next to wear the headset in Gainesville? Probably not anyone good enough to join the outlier group and win big.

One of the trademarks of the Napier Era is that Florida will play one outstanding game, and then get outplayed in the next. So the talent is there. It's the consistency that's missing, and that seems to be a coaching issue. When Napier's team wins a few, it's a sign that better things are a-comin'. But they are never here to stay.

Nor is Billy Napier

### **Disconcerting Signals**

"Tell the truth, always."

"If you lie...it's over."

"If you cheat to win, then you've already lost."

~Jim Harbaugh

Crocodile Dundee, or Gator Gunner?



### **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 **Atlanta Thrive**, our mission is to empower parents to disrupt inequities in education and create a more equitable and prosperous future for all students. We strive to help build a community where every child has access to quality education, regardless of their background, ensuring they have the opportunities to succeed and break the cycle of poverty. We envision a world where students experience a world class education, where they're empowered, have options, and can lean on adults, family and educators to provide guidance and support of choosing their own paths aligned to their strengths and interests.

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### **SAT PREP SESSION**

**SAT Question of the Week:** Who the heck are these guys?

1. Joey King
2. John Reid
3. Josh Niblett
4. Bryant Appling
5. Shelton Felton
6. Franklin Stephens
7. Sean Calhoun
8. Byron Slack
9. Adam Carter
10. Roger Holmes

**Answer:** According to On3, these are the highest-paid Georgia high school football coaches.

1. Joey King ([Carrollton](#)) \$219,215
2. John Reid ([Rome](#)) \$175,706
3. Josh Niblett ([Gainesville](#)) \$175,706
4. Bryant Appling ([Buford](#)) \$173,688
5. Shelton Felton ([Valdosta](#)) \$152,421
6. Franklin Stephens ([Burke County](#)) \$151,545
7. Sean Calhoun ([Colquitt County](#)) \$148,421
8. Byron Slack ([Cook County](#)) \$146,117
9. Adam Carter ([Lowndes](#)) \$145,471
10. Roger Holmes ([Dublin](#)) \$144,859

### **DAWG DOOTS**

- ☞ If Brady Quinn and Evan Washburn were assigned to the same broadcast, could you tell them apart?



**SIDELINES  
EVAN WASHBURN**

**&**

**RIDES PINES  
BRADY QUINN**

- ☞ And if you needed a fur coat, from whom would you borrow it?



**SIDELINES & CARBINES**  
**KRIS BUDDEN MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE**

- ☞ “If we keeping it a buck right now, we're ass.” ~Cam Ward on losing, or something.
- ☞ [Brent Key has drawn attention to Georgia Tech by putting steak before sizzle.](#)
- ☞ “Yah, but the sizzle is more fun.” ~Lane Kiffin

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

**James Cook** signed with Georgia after a stellar career at Miami Central Senior High, transferring to Miami Northwestern Senior HS for his final semester after finishing his football career. He was often known as Dalvin Cook’s little brother, even as James walked his own path as a player. He was precocious enough to reclassify, after his freshman season, his graduating class, taking extra classes and doing well in them. Nonetheless, by his senior year at UGA he talked about his greatest area of improvement: “I think I got better at locking in on academics, knowing that I’m a senior, and knowing that I can finish. I’m just kind of keying on that and wrapping things up with that. School is something that I’m much better at now than when I was a freshman or a sophomore.” While graduating high school in three years and leading his football team to three state championships, James competed on the track team in the spring, running the 100m, 200m, and 400m sprints and, remarkably for a 5’-11” guy well short of 200 pounds, threw the shot put for the Miami Central track team. James arrived at UGA at a very congested time in the RB room, including fellow classmate Zamir White, the nation’s top-ranked back before his terrible knee injury. The two were a great tandem, playing as freshmen in spite of the upperclass talent at the position and ultimately being the thunder and lightning pair of a national championship team. James did have one bad incident with an arrest in December 2019 for driving with an open alcohol container and driving without a valid license while greatly exceeding the speed limit and wrecking his car and five that were parked at roadside. Good guys are not perfect. He served his penalty and did well in his Housing Management & Policy major, earning a Col. Robert L. Jackson Family Scholarship along the way and serving as team captain for several games, a sign of respect from coaches and teammates. James went on to become a second-round pick of Buffalo. After fumbling on his very first carry, he became a backfield stalwart and Pro Bowler, exceeding his draft projection by becoming a three-down back, even at a size better suited to a gimmick role. James has been one of the driving forces of Buffalo’s recent success as RB1 in a high-octane offense. We look forward to seeing him maintain his excellence and keeping Buffalo in contention through the remainder of his NFL career.



## **THE FORECAST**

### **DAWGS VS. FLORIDA**

I'm hoping that the bye week will heal a lot of Dawg injuries, and that we'll have depth on the OL in Jacksonville. Which version of Florida will show up? Good Billy or Bad Billy? Or Billy's temporary replacement until Florida convinces Jon Gruden that they are his destiny, and he is theirs? Which Georgia will show up, start slowly and catch up, or start fast and stay ahead? Doesn't matter to me, as long as we're on top at the end. And we will be. UGA 28, UF 17.

### **NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: LSU OVER A™ M U**

This is one big game. I once lived out thataway and never understood how A™ M U came to be seen as a nationally-significant program. Even in the old Big 8/Big 12 and its endlessly easy pickings at Kansas, Baylor, etc. But year after year, we hear that this is their year. I'm not that convinced that LSU is a threat, but maybe they are, in spite of their loss at Vandy. I think they'll be the better team on Saturday. Tigers 28, Aggies 24.

### **NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: SOUTH CAROLINA OVER ALABAMA**

It was hard to find an upset, so I'll go with LeNorris Sellers over Alabama. Actually the QBing will be pretty big in this game; both are mighty good. Alabama has the better roster, but Alabama has lost in the past when a transcendent QB talent has taken snaps against them. Sellers has been hurt, but is sensational when healthy. And that's my ticket to victory. SC 30, Alabama 27.

### **NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: TENNESSEE OVER OKLAHOMA**

Originally I had Ohio State-Penn State in this slot. So much for thinking ahead. So it's back to the SEC. Both teams have excellent records, and both have hotshot portal QBs, assuming that Mateer's injury allows him to play better than he did in OU's loss to Texas. Maybe next year they'll get Nico Iamealeava to transfer in. But for this game, I just have a hunch that the team in orange will come out ahead. UT 34, OU 30.

### **NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: RUTGERS OVER ILLINOIS**

I still have trouble believing in Illinois, though by the time they play this game, they might be leveling out to a .500 record, leaving me without a ranked team to pick to lose. Rutgers is nothing special, but Greg Schiano is the only coach who's lifted this program since Rutgers beat Princeton 6-4 in 1869. I think the score will be a little higher this time, with the Garden State Scarlet Knights coming out on top, 27-24.

