

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
DAWGS TELL TIGERS "I'LL HAVE YOUR STRIPES!"**

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**MY GUY &
GUNNER STOCKTON**



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SUPERMAN**

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**DEALIN'
STETSON BENNETT**



**DYLAN
TIMOTHEE CHALAMET**

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Special sportscasters vocal S@B: Cris Collinsworth & Dane Bradshaw; Steve Lavin & Mike Fratello

"Ain't this shit crazy?" ~Todd Monken, August

Welcome to another year of Fake Football News from The Dawgmeister. Thanks again to the Dawgbone for providing this forum, which I and all 4 of my readers appreciate.

Long ago, well into Oklahoma's historic 47 game winning streak that included 2 national titles, OU played woebegone Kansas and only won by a few touchdowns. Ages before there were social media outlets for trolls to submit their idiocies to, a fan wrote to the local paper that the close game indicated that Coach Bud Wilkinson was clearly out of touch with the modern game and all washed up, and needed to be replaced by a bright new leader so that the program could continue its winning ways.

And now, today.....

[Are Georgia Bulldog Fans Growing Impatient With Head Coach Kirby Smart?](#)

“Never argue with stupid people; they will drag you down to their level and beat you with experience.” ~Mark Twain

And thus begins the 2026 season, where Indiana is the new national power, and survival goes to the financially fittest. I'm not sure how well I fit into this brave new world. But I'm going to give it another try. I've had all my testosterone booster shots and am ready to take on a new season.

The Dawgs are hitting the “What have you done for me lately?” phase of the Kirby Smart Era. That question has come up both locally and with national commentators and talent evaluators. We've now gone three years since the back-to-back seasons that made it look as though UGA would never lose again. Unfortunately, that period soon was washed away by the rise of NIL, where one megadonor can change the course of history (see Mark Cuban and Indiana). Having \$100 million or so lying around can buy you a lot of talent. Or it could fund a state's health care system, house the homeless, feed the hungry, and support public schools. Naaaaaah.

But back to them Dawgs. Most prognostications I've seen have UGA in the middle of the top ten or so. But they are absolutely ga-ga over Texas in the SEC and Ohio State and Notre Dame nationally, and are not ruling out Indiana doing it again. Texas, of course, has a QB whose uncles and grandpa were really good players, so he surely must be incredible too. Ol' Gunner over at UGA is viewed as a spunky little fellow of meager pro potential. Their head-to-head record suggests that the Dawgs have the advantage here, but don't tell anyone with a social media account.

Of course, there's more to this game than the guy taking snaps. When I look at our roster, I see a lot of guys who can play, coached by a lot of guys who can coach. Wiley old Sark keeps getting pumped up as a genius, in spite of his record; and that rascal Lane is viewed as the greatest genius and social media troll in history, in spite of his own history. They make such better media celebrities than our guys. Good thing we actually play games to see who's in fact better.

And thus the games begin. We start with some warmups, then hit the schedule that counts. I tend to view these early games as designed to get execution of the base

packages down, or on occasion, remove one pretender from the championship race. Last season, the national Lamestream Sports Media jumped over UGA's low-stat production against early-season fodder as an indication of a decline in talent. They apparently are not aware that coaches who put in the whole package against cupcakes are showing too much of their hand. I urge Dawg fans to take these games for what they are, enjoy the opportunity to see the guys down the depth chart, and anticipate that the fully operational Death Star won't be unveiled until Oklahoma comes to town.

I watched a lot of state playoff games in the spring. The best offensive player I saw was Dawg DB Ty "Boogie" Green. The best defensive player I saw was Dawg OL Zyk Helton. Go figure.

In the offseason, Gunner Stockton agreed to a new deal for his compensation for his senior season. The specifics were not released, although it appears that he low-balled his compensation so more money could go to teammates. Dawgmeister Analytics has found a few juicy parts of his deal, however. He will get one year's free Jiffy Lube services for his grandpa's pickup truck, and another cow for the farm back home.

-  A Coveted Dawgmeister Game Ball goes to D.J. Shockley, commencement address speaker for the 2026 UGA graduation ceremony.
-  A Coveted Dawgmeister Game Ball and R.I.P. goes to Anne Donaldson, award-winning Athens art teacher and designer of the original red Power G football helmet in 1964.
-  A Coveted Dawgmeister Game Ball goes to the Women's Outdoor track and field team, winner of back-to-back national championships.

Disconcerting Signals

In 2025, U. of Cincinnati fans repeatedly chanted "Fuck the Mormons" as No. 11 BYU was on its way to a 26-14 win. The game was played a day after the Mormon church community delivered a truckload of 27,000 pounds of food to the UC campus pantry, which provides students, staff, and faculty assistance for food insecurity.

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 the **Georgia Tree Council**. Our organization was established in 1988 as the Georgia Urban Forest Council (GUFC) by a group of visionary citizens who saw the need to address urban forestry issues in the state of Georgia. Our mission is to sustain Georgia's green legacy by partnering with individuals, organizations, and communities in raising awareness toward improving and maintaining Georgia's community forests. We accomplish our mission through: quarterly educational meetings and workshops on vital urban forestry topics, a Landmark and Historic Tree Registry, our signature annual*

Georgia Tree Conference, the Excellence in Urban Forestry Awards, and the Georgia ReLeaf program. Georgia Tree Council programs give members and supporters opportunities for networking in their fields and for gaining leadership skills in addressing the challenges in their own urban forests. All of Georgia Tree Council's educational programs offer continuing education units and opportunities for professional development. We also strive to help other nonprofits and volunteer tree boards in their efforts to improve their community forests.

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SAT PREP SESSION

SAT Question of the Week: Which sports figure spoke the following words of wisdom?

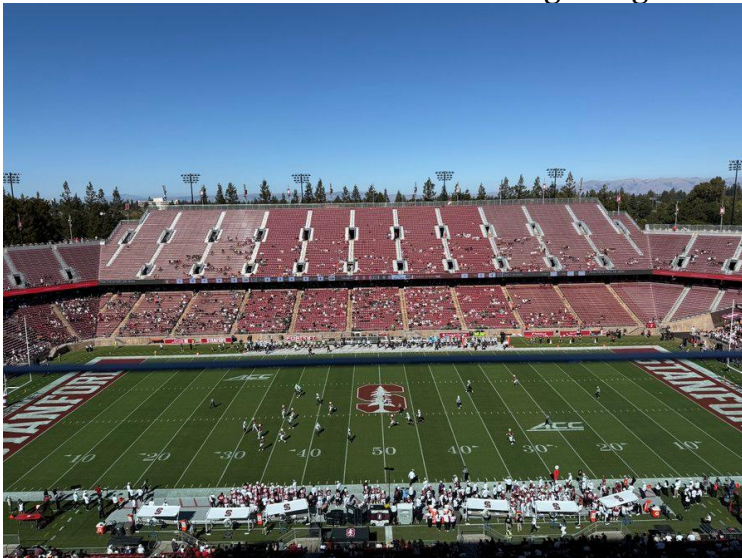
“Age is a question of mind over matter. If you don’t mind, it don’t matter.”

- A. Bill Belichick
- B. Aaron Rodgers
- C. Tom Brady
- D. LeBron James
- E. Albert Pujols
- F. Ryan Fitzpatrick
- G. Lionel Messi
- H. Chris Paul
- I. Chris Berman
- J. Udonis Haslem
- K. The Scowlmeister
- L. Pete Carroll

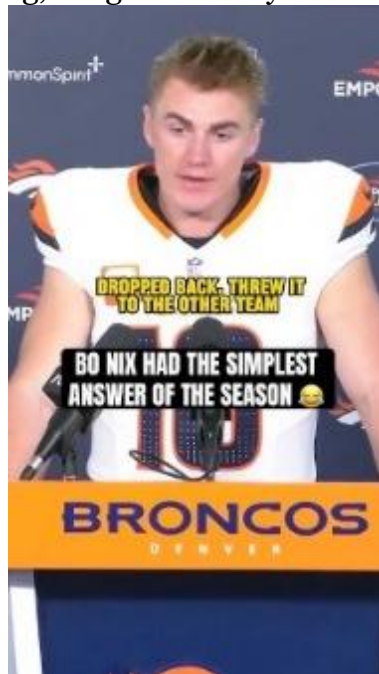
Answer: Leroy “Satchel” Paige

DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ This is the actual crowd for Stanford’s game against visiting Hawaii:



- ☞ According to internet rumors, Erika Kirk is now dating The Scowlmeister.
- ☞ [Who had the power G logo first - Green Bay, Georgia, Grambling.....or was it Rye High?](#)
- ☞ Sports reporting according to the *New York Times*: “The first time Jared Wilson, a New England Patriots offensive lineman, is seen on the Super Bowl broadcast on Sunday, some viewers may wonder why he has such a big helmet. It’s called a Guardian Cap, and Mr. Wilson is among about two dozen National Football League players who have worn the helmet covering in games this season.” Thank you for this update on Mr. Wilson.
- ☞ Once we had Gurshel. Then there was SoNick the Hedge Dawg. Now, with Gaston and Glover holding down the OL, we’ve got Don Juan.
- ☞ Important news on WR Walter Blanchard: “Also played baseball, ran track and fished for his high school.”
- ☞ After millennia of searching, Diogenes finally finds an honest man:



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

Chris Cole came to UGA from Salem, Virginia, a top prospect who has become an indispensable player in the Dawg Defense. In football, Chris has not relied simply on athletic ability. To Coach Smart, “He works really hard, and he’s got great toughness and length. He’s got multiple positions. He plays all over the field for us, and he’s just a joy to work with. He’s a note taker, a student of the game. When you talk about successful people, they have pride in their performance. He has a lot of pride in his performance. . . . He’s long, he’s rangy, but the number one thing is he’s a high-effort player.” As a result of his preparation, he has become a versatile defender and important contributor to the team’s defense. To a guy who has often had to block him in practice, Lawson Luckie, “He’s just a dude that brings an insane amount of energy. It’s sideline to sideline. He’s

everywhere, man. He runs so hard every play. He's just wild, man. His hair is always on fire." His versatility not only creates headaches for opposing coaches, it requires extra preparation for Chris: "It's definitely like a lot of film, because I bounce around everywhere. Just like tying down on what my job is, depending if I'm playing Jack, Star, Money, just like anytime I'm on the field. It's knowing my job and what I'm supposed to do." Chris comes from a strong family, which, he says, "has played a big role for me. They've always supported me throughout my whole life. ... They're basically my 'Why.' Just me, as a person, I always just know to never give up and just keep doing my best." His best doesn't end on the gridiron. Just before the 2025 playoff game, he went home to Salem and volunteered to help with the Roanoke Sheriff Office's "Shop with a Deputy" service. Being a role model to the kids back home matters to Chris: "For me it definitely means a lot. This community has meant a lot to me growing up. Being blessed and being able to give back to them while I have a couple days off is a blessing for me, to put smiles on kids' faces." But he didn't stop there. He also visited young patients at Carilion Children's Hospital during a Christmas toy drive, handing out toys to kids confined to a hospital bed for the holiday. To Chris, "No child should miss out on the joy of Christmas, especially while fighting to get better." Chris works mighty hard at making himself better, and part of being better is being a better member of his community. We are lucky to have such a well-rounded, humble, and generous guy representing UGA every place he goes.



THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. TENNESSEE STATE

UGA tends to avoid running up the score against lower-track teams; they save that for teams like TCU and FSU. This one's a warmup game for the SEC schedule, and I think we'll see a lot of guys getting their uniforms dirty, even as we limit the playbook to the basics on both sides of the ball. Perhaps the biggest question facing the program is: When Gunner concludes his day, who will run out as QB2? Ask Stetson Bennett if that question is written in stone in the preseason. Across the roster we'll get a sense of who's on the 2-deep, and a glimpse at the 3- and 4-deep. That's enough of a treat for me. Dawgs hit the ground running: UGA 47, TSU 3.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: CLEMSON OVER LSU

"If (football) was about (what) people predicted, I would have been gone a long time ago, all right? It's about what you do we got everything we need, we don't make excuses, we're going to get what we earn this year. I don't know who wrote that song, but

the one thing about haters, when you win, it don't matter what they say, and when you lose, it don't matter what you say." ~Dabo Swinney, ACC media days, 2026

The nation's warm gaze will turn to Kiffin's LSU debut, an event whose expectations are as great as they were when Brian Kelly came to town to save the program. All attention will be on the great Lane as he paces the sidelines and draws the cameras. Over on the other sideline, the recently-maligned Dabo Swinney will try to restore Clemson's faded glory and try to remind the Tigers' fans that he's still got some game in him after a few tough years. But fans, boosters, and administrators have short memories, as Mike Gundy knows, another guy who was his school's greatest all-time coach whose teams declined, especially without a big payroll, which you really need to get talent to enroll in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Dabo surely has more to work with, but the great Lane Kiffin undoubtedly has even more. That's why Clemson's win will be all the sweeter. Clemson 31, LSU 30.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: OHIO U OVER NEBRASKA

With apologies to the Huskermeister, of course. Nebraska made the dumbest decision of all time when it bailed on the Big 12 to join the Big 10, in the process throwing out their great tradition and settling in as a mediocre program. They just can't seem to make it happen anymore, and playing league games against the likes of traditional rivals Rutgers and UCLA doesn't inspire the Big Red to get excited. Nor does getting blown out by Indiana and Ohio State. Ohio U was once the landing spot for ex-NU coach Frank Solich, run out of town when it turned out he was no Tom Osborne. They're under new management this season, and what better time to spring an upset? Ohio U 23, NU 21.