The Dawgmeister's Weekend Forecast:
Dawgs Give Mizzou the 23-Skidoo

WWW.THEDAWGMEISTER.COM

SEPARATED@BIRTH?



ONCE A 'NOLE DEREK NICHOLSON & DUNCE AND TROLL KASH PATEL

THE COMPLETE SEPARATED@BIRTH? COLLECTION
THE MISSOURI COLLECTION
THE KASH PATEL COLLECTION

"We're in a league where it's going to be brutal. It's going to be tough. And the team that's standing at the end is going to be the one that pushes through everything and perseveres." ~Kirby Smart after the Florida game

"If you can't stop the run versus those guys, it's a long night. . . . I think [Kirby] does a really good job of creating toughness in his program and discipline, and you can see it in his team." ~Pete Golding, mid-week

A number of observers of the Florida game thought that Mike Bobo called a questionable game in the second half by just pounding the rock into the core of the Gators' defense and running out the clock. Of course I love to watch us run up the score, but I also love watching us win. And when all's said and done, the Kirby Smart philosophy is to establish the run, take shots when opponents pack the box, outmuscle defenders in the trench, and keep opposing offenses off the field. Sometimes, that's not too sexy or extravagant. But it does win games.

And what a win it was in Oxford. Trinidad Chambliss was a media darling and true star, and also the proud owner of one of college football's greatest narratives: the small college guy who came into the SEC and beat the big boys, positioning himself for the Heisman and #1 pick in the draft. His scrambling ability is legendary, and his arm is impressive. And on Saturday, he ran a lot without going anywhere but backwards.

Even a guy on the couch could see what Schumann's boys were fixin' to do. Blitz like crazy in multiple lanes so the scrambles always led Chambliss into even more trouble. The guys tasked with maintaining the edge and leveraging Chambliss back toward the middle contained his threat to run wild. Their Lacey-less backfield had nobody who could get far against our front. Just a week ago, some were saying that our defensive showing against Florida was one of our greatest performances in memory. And against Mississippi, they did it again. These cats, playing an SEC schedule with ranked teams left and right, are sixth nationally in yards per play allowed. They are the kind of defense that helps teams win championships.

One of the trademark characteristics of this year's offense—consistent with the team's longtime approach—is to distribute the ball so that no one player can be keyed on. No Jeremiah Smith as the featured player or individuals with huge stats. Just a whole lot of really talented guys doing their jobs, blocking for their teammates, running their routes and assignments, and winning as a team without worrying about who's going to make All SEC.

I sure do feel sorry for Bobo Haters this morning. They bitch and moan no matter what happens on the field. Please let me know what they have to complain about. This season, Georgia has outscored opponents 108-14 in the first quarter and 230-57 in the first half. In recent years, the offense has started slowly and had to catch up to win. Not now. UGA is in the top 10 nationally in offense (tied for fourth in yards per play) and are in the top 20 nationally in plays of 20+ yards, and Saturday's bevy of big plays surely will give that ranking a boost. The offensive coordinator is a pretty big factor in our ability to bury teams by halftime and coast to the finish line. Well, except for the increasingly bizarre loss to Auburn. But look around. We're not alone in having an inexplicable showing in this wacky season.

Gunner Stockton had another terrific game. Here is his stat line compared to Chambliss, considered by many to be the nation's top QB:

Georgia Passing

	C/ATT	YDS	TD	INT
Gunner Stockton #14	9/15	186	4	0

Ole Miss Passing

	C/ATT	YDS	TD	INT
Trinidad Chambliss #6	18/34	170	0	1

As a runner:

Gunner Stockton #14	6	28	1	15
Trinidad Chambliss #6	9	-12	0	11

The top QB in this game was our own version of Superman. Seen this show before?



One play that has been a playbook staple, and that we ran little of, is that WR screen. Some fans are tired of the play, which I think we run to spread the defense for our inside run game, making it effective even when the gain is small. Some think that Branch was exceptional at it, and that we don't have any receivers who run it as well. I've wondered if it's the receiver, or the blockers who are not moving out the defenders. Surely defensive coordinators are scheming against it. But it really wasn't part of the game plan on Saturday. Gunner only threw 15 passes, and mostly they were downfield, which is how he managed to produce more yardage than Chambliss with under half the throws.

The last two weekends have been Georgia football. Dominate with power and conditioning, coupled with technique and schematic excellence. The second half of the Florida game, I think, was all about physical superiority, and fans complained that there weren't enough explosives. The whole Mississippi game was a show of our dominance, and there were gobs of big plays too. If that's the team's identity, then these guys will play well past the bye game matchup in the playoff, and toward the championship game.

A Coveted Dawgmeister Game Ball goes to Clarke County HS great Hezekiah Millender for his scout team performance mimicking Trinidad Chambliss and helping the defense prepare for his scrambling.

Before and After, Mike Norvelle



in 2020 upon leaving Memphis for FSU (age 39)



in 2026 upon being relieved of his duties (age 45)

Disconcerting Signals

Kansas State University will take out a bank loan to pay a $12-million settlement it reached with its fired basketball coach, Jerome Tang, who was fired in February just after his team suffered a blowout loss. Tang had said the team's players did "not deserve to wear this uniform" and that "there will be very few of them in it next year." The university claimed he embarrassed the university. KSU fired Tang for cause, threatening to void a nearly $19-million buyout, which Tang disputed. KSU AD Gene Taylor said the department didn't have cash available for the payout, that it isn't subsidized by the university, and that he didn't want to hit up donors for the money because he'd already asked for too much to cover other shortfalls.

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 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

Aniz, Inc. is a nonprofit health and support services agency located in the heart of Atlanta. We are committed to promoting emotional and physical wellness by providing mental health support, substance use counseling, and preventative health education. Through our dedicated efforts, we strive to empower individuals and communities to lead healthier, more fulfilling lives.

DONATE

SAT Prep Session

SAT Question of the Week: Who is the author of the following quote, and about whom was it made? "I know that league. That's exactly the kind of guy you want in that league. To be able to make plays, but also have the toughness and the grit that the rest of the huddle is going to go, 'Holy Mackerel,' we've got to play hard, because this guy is. We've got to take it to his level."

A. Kirby Smart, talking about Andrew Smart
B. Lane Kiffin, talking about Knox Kiffin
C. Cooper Manning, talking about Arch Manning
D. Peyton Manning, talking about Marshall Manning
E. Deion Sanders, talking about Shedeur Sanders
F. Tony Reno, talking about Dante Reno

Answer: IMG Academy coach Gregg Studwara, talking about UGA commit Jayden Wade

Dawg Doots

- Be careful what you wish for: "I want Georgia at their best; I want to face Kirby Smart. I want to face that tough defense." ~Trinidad Chambliss before the game
- "I'm not here for my job. I'm here for these young men. I'm not, I'm not built like that. Like, like, I'm really not. I'm really, really, really not." ~Deion Sanders after losing again on Saturday
- "He's Making 10 Million. Give It Back": Colorado Fans Lose Patience With Deion Sanders' Reasons After Loss to Arizona State ~Sunday morning headline

- It's so hard to identify the worst commercial airing this fall. I'll begin by eliminating all political ads, which are generally odious and, thank heaven, are over for this cycle. The highest among eligible ads is, collectively, insurance ads. Even amidst such hideous competition, I think that the Liberty Bibberty ad, along with the Liberty emu ad, both capped off by that stupid Liberty jingle, have enabled them to edge out the Aflac Nick & Deion & Duck series, the Progressive series featuring both Dr. Rick and Parentamorphosis and the whole Flo and Jamie affair, and the rest. Who on earth is buying insurance based on these idiotic commercials? And for that matter, who on earth is voting based on advertising propaganda?
- **It seemed like a good idea at the time:** Kyle Whittingham, who left Utah for Michigan (likely one and done); Justice Haynes, who left Alabama for Michigan and then for Georgia Tech; FanDuel wagerers who bet that Ohio State would have 40 or more yards in the middle two quarters of their game against Oregon; Paul Finebaum, who jumped on the Jon Sumrall bandwagon before the season; Nebraska, which re-upped Matt Ruhl after starting 6-2 in 2025 and fearing he'd bolt for Penn State; Shaquille O'Neal, who joined Lane Kiffin's pregame celebrity entourage before LSU got blown out vs. Alabama; everybody who transferred to LSU, thinking Kiffin was a radiant superstar of a coach.
- "Using AP rankings for consistency, Kiffin is 7-7 against ranked SEC opponents since the start of the 2022 season, when he was still at Ole Miss. For comparison's sake, Kalen DeBoer began his Washington tenure that same year. He is 15-4 against ranked conference opponents, including 9-4 in the SEC at Alabama. You'd never know which guy was the subject of a three-school bidding war last year, and which one found himself on some hot-seat lists." ~Sunday's *New York Times*
- "I called victory formation. I called victory formation, just letting everybody know that. I called victory." ~Coach Michael Vick after his QB did not run the victory formation and Norfolk State fumbled and lost the game.

The Coveted Dawgmeister Good Guy of the Week Award

Good Guy Archive

Kedric Golston came to UGA from Sandy Creek HS, where he was a major star: Parade All American, Georgia Sportswriters Association All State, 2-time Fayette County Player of the Year, 3-time All-County. He was also a 2-year starter in basketball and finished 2nd in state in wrestling as a junior. These achievements landed him in the Sandy Creek HS Hall of Fame. His football trajectory was thrown off course by a car accident toward the end of high school in which he was thrown from his vehicle, leading to two weeks in intensive care and a long rehab that included the installation of a steel rod in his leg. But just a year later, he became the first true freshman to start a season opener on the UGA DL in nearly 20 years. He continued to excel, being named Freshman All-America 3rd-team and Freshman All-SEC 1st-team by *The Sporting News*. After his first year he had the rod removed, a procedure during which a 4-inch calcium deposit was discovered on his hip and removed. Like many who labor in the trenches, Kedric wasn't done being injured. He broke his shoulder blade during a practice the next year and missed several games, and played through more injuries as his career progressed. His determined play led to the Coaches Leadership Award for defense and All-SEC honorable mention, along with a degree in child and family

development. Good guys learn from their mistakes, and Kedric made one along the way, selling his 2002 SEC championship ring, a sort of rules violation that seems quaint in today's game. He also got into a fight at the Classic City Saloon in Athens when he came to defend teammate Derrick White and ended up with a misdemeanor charge and one-game suspension. From there Kedric was a 6th round draft choice who played 11 years in the NFL as a force on the Washington Redskins' DL. He's now a football man for life, recently named head coach at Stone Bridge High School in Ashburn in Loudoun County, Virginia, after replacing legendary program founder Mickey Thompson and his 24 seasons at the helm. He was recently quoted as saying, "Coaches have been a huge part of my life. Even as a high school student to a collegiate athlete, as well as an NFL player, I've always had a ton of respect, not only for coaches, but for teachers and administrators. To have this opportunity to be a part of the great history and tradition here at Stone Bridge is kind of a dream come true. Success always has three parts to it. It has hard work, discipline, and accountability. Those are the things that whether you're a successful coach, a successful student, or just successful in life that I think transfer over." Stone Bridge is an ideal destination for Kedric, given that the team's mascot is the Bulldogs. There's Dawg in them-thar Bulldogs, and Kedric's the man to bring it out. He says, "We are all in our community. Whether you're in band, whether you're an athlete, whether you're in the drama department, or whether you're into art or photography, I think the one thing that brings us all together is that we're Stone Bridge Bulldogs. We are all Bulldogs regardless of how we want to express our talents. We are all one." Ya damn right, both in Athens and in Ashburn. Championships await this DGD and the DGDs he's forming in Virginia.



The Forecast
Dawgs vs. Missouri

I scouted Missouri vs Texas early in the day. They are a very good team who got beaten up by UT's excellent defense and let the game get away in the second half. That's good news for UGA, given that among our strengths is our stamina and conditioning as clock ticks down. (Ignore the Auburn game, please.)

Simmons has a very live arm. Where I see a question mark is his tendency to throw deep to double-teamed receivers when checkdowns would make for a sure thing. He can be downright Beck-esque in that regard. UT hit him pretty hard, and his knee looked wobbly after a while. Mizzou's strong RBs didn't do much against UT's DL, which is Texas's strength. So our matchup has some favorable elements.

Texas seemed to have a lot of wide-open receivers on Saturday. That's when Manning is at his best: when the WRs are 10 yards in the open and there's no pressure on him. Which is true of any decent QB. I can't diagnose why Missouri had such trouble covering the UT receivers from the couch, but it does seem promising, especially if we get the running game going, which we seem to do rather well, and which we ought to do even better as Frazier gets his legs and conditioning back.

If we nearly skunked Mississippi in Oxford, Missouri is in for a long afternoon in Athens. And I think they will be. Dawgs over Tigers, 31-10.

National Game of the Week: Texas over LSU

This is one of those games where you hope that both teams lose. But the Kiffin Effect makes it easy to go with Texas. Wouldn't it be grand to have LSU compete in the Old El Paso Sun Bowl, which you can't spell without LSU? Both teams have been inconsistent this year, and both have strong defenses. I think that will lead to a low scoring game that leaves LSU wishing they'd hired Bob Chesney instead of a social media troll. I've always wondered how Sarkisian and Kiffin keep getting these jobs. Maybe one of them will have an answer by Saturday night. Horns over Tigers, 20-17.

National Upset of the Week: Oklahoma State over Texas Tech

It's entirely possible that Oklahoma State is better than Oklahoma this year, even if their decisions to go to different conferences ended a rivalry as hateful as any. Who knew that North Texas was so loaded, or that a team (OSU) with 92 new players and 13 old ones could come together so fast? Though having 20 guys follow the coach from UNT no doubt accelerated the acclimation. I've seen a bit of Texas Tech, and wonder if all that money they put into players' salaries is producing teamwork. How about another monkey-wrench in this twisted season: OSU 35, TTU 31.