The Dawgmeister's Weekend Forecast:
Dawgs Deck Tech

WWW.THEDAWGMEISTER.COM

SEPARATED@BIRTH?



Loss is Precipitous Geoff Collins & **Austin's Nemesis Dr. Evil**

THE COMPLETE SEPARATED@BIRTH? COLLECTION
THE GEORGIA TECH COACHES COLLECTION
THE AUSTIN POWERS COLLECTION

I think I'm starting to see what all the fuss in the preseason about Jaden Reddell was all about.

I'll confess I was apprehensive throughout the first half of Saturday night's game. SC made a smart move to receive the opening kickoff, which prevented us from scoring first and putting the Gamecocks on their heels, and then on their backs. Sellers was running and cutting as though he'd never hurt his ankle. UGA wasn't cruising through SC's defense, and SC looked as good as their national ranking. It looked as though it would be a long, hard night on the gridiron.

But even with all his moving and shaking, Sellers wasn't getting SC into the endzone. Six points at halftime. And that's where it stayed the rest of the night as UGA got in gear and showed everyone who owned the line of scrimmage, where the endzone was.

Sellers is a great player. But he was the second-best QB on the field in the biggest game of SC's season. Chris Fowler said at one point, in an effort to give a boost to poor little Gunner Stockton, "He doesn't put up gaudy stats, but he's very effective" or some such nonsense. How is 19-of-23 for 281 yards and a TD not a gaudy stat (OK, the TD to Dandridge was mostly a handoff)?

What do media members see when they watch Gunner play? An efficient fellow who has great teammates? How about a guy whose passing is sharp and accurate at every level of

the route tree? Gunner's called runs didn't amount to much yesterday. But that was about the only part of his game that wasn't clicking, and that was because of the blocking, not his running.

First-rounder LaNorris Sellers ended with 10-of-18 for 87 yards and a pick, along with 9 carries for a sack-depleted 24 yards. Of course, that was against what is shaping up as the nation's best defense; and Gunner plays behind what should finally be a Joe Moore Award-winning OL, which gave him airtight protection. But he's a hell of a lot more than a lucky guy who happens to quarterback an exceptionally talented, deep roster, one that began the season short on experience and now plays like veterans.

UGA is, in the season's national rankings, #1 in overall efficiency, #1 in offensive efficiency, and #7 in defensive efficiency. I suspect that if they only computed these stats using lineups consisting of regulars, before blowouts have led to subbing and some defensive lapses, we might be #1 in defensive efficiency as well. And our special teams look pretty good too. Even our punter's placement where the ball is supposed to go, right Coach? Is that why Stockton, even after he's been the best QB on the field of every game except Auburn, when Brown was at his best and Stockton got a stinger on the first play, gets underestimated so widely and consistently?

ESPN can't even spell his name right: "Nate Frazier ran for 94 yards and two touchdowns while Gunnar Stockton threw for 281 yards and a TD."

Coach Beamer said afterwards, "I apologize to our fans for the second half." Don't worry, Coach. A lot of teams have gotten smashmouthed into the turf by Georgia this year. At least they made a game of it for a half, leading Gunner to say afterwards, "Yeah, it wasn't 30-0 at halftime, but we found a way to win." Or ten ways to win. That's how this year's Dawgs play the game. And there's more to come.

Disconcerting Signals

A high school football coach in Oregon was fired shortly after a 63-0 game that was called at halftime. Not the losing coach; the winning coach. Marist Catholic in Eugene, OR, fired head coach Zach Loboy after the Spartans, through ungodly decisions by Coach Loboy, not only ran up the score against a Cottage Grove High team that had only 16 players available, but also attempted two onside kicks, including one with just under two minutes left to play in the first half when the score was 56-0. Despite failing to recover the second onside kick, Marist scored again with less than 30 seconds left after intercepting a pass.

From an internet source: The compassion of Jesus is a central theme in the Gospels, reflecting His deep love and mercy towards humanity. Jesus' compassion is evident in His healing of the sick, feeding of the hungry, and His interactions with those marginalized by society. Jesus' compassion extends to His teachings, where He emphasizes love, mercy, and forgiveness. In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus illustrates the importance of showing mercy to others, regardless of social or ethnic boundaries.

- A Coveted Dawgmeister Game Ball goes to Will Rogers, the coach who led Sumter County to its best football season in history in 2025, and stepped down after the 2026 season to be closer to and care for his ill mother.
- A Coveted Dawgmeister Game Ball goes to Gabe Harris for wearing a Guardian helmet. I wish more players did.

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
The Bobby Dodd Institute seeks to empower people with differing abilities to maximize their potential by securing economic self-sufficiency, independence and inclusion within their communities. We do this by offering programs and consulting services for individuals with disabilities and their loved ones. Our business services provide the economic engine that drives our mission forward, while simultaneously creating job opportunities for people of all abilities.

DONATE

SAT Prep Session

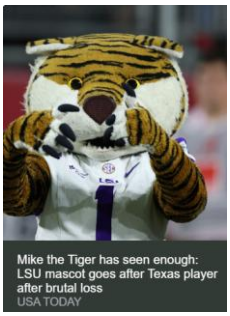
SAT Question of the Week: Bobby Thompson was responsible for one of the most iconic at-bats in major league baseball history, his three-run walk-off pennant-winning homer in 1951, known as the "shot heard 'round the world." Who was on deck when he hit his famous home run?

A. The Scowlmeister
B. Satchel Paige
C. Casey Stengel
D. Otto Graham
E. Chipper Jones
F. Hank Aaron
G. Jackie Robinson
H. Eleanor Roosevelt
I. Big Balls
J. John Foy

Answer:

On deck was a rookie outfielder signed from the Negro League Birmingham Black Barons, Willie Mays.

Dawg Doots



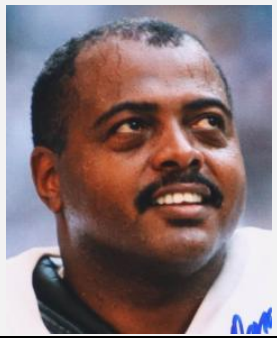
- One more thing about insurance commercials. If insurance companies are so trustworthy and entertaining, why are there so many ads and billboards for lawyers who save us from those skanky, predatory insurance companies?
- Today's phonics lesson: Pronounce the following from the AJC: "Drew Miller drew scorn after mishitting a punt."
- "I don't even know if he is likable anymore. It's not even the dog thing. Kirk Herbstreit is likable because we were told he was likable. Because he's just like vanilla, he was just there. And then upon further scrutiny we're like, what's likable about him?" ~Barstool Sports personality and Ohio State grad Mark Titus
- The Kirby Effect: "This NFL coach quit sugarcoating his feedback. It had a surprising benefit"
- "Coach Swinney is going to win another national championship." ~Coach Swinney
- "It don't seem to me that the better team was victorious." ~Coach Deion Sanders after the better team won on Saturday
- Recycling update: "Butch Jones' firing Tuesday led to a lot of speculation around Hugh Freeze, the former Auburn, Ole Miss and Arkansas State head coach who happened to make several podcast appearances this week." ~The Athletic
- Prank of the Year: 'GO NAVY' becomes 'GO ARMY' after overnight prank at Navy football stadium

The Coveted Dawgmeister Good Guy of the Week Award

Good Guy Archive

Ray Donaldson was born in Rome, GA in 1958, one of nine children born to mother Wilma and his father, who died just before Ray's birth. He played football and basketball for the Rome Wolves; for football he played both ways. He was mighty good, earning All America and All State honors and committing to the G. At UGA he started out at linebacker, but injuries led Coach Dooley to urge him to make the switch to center on the OL. After resisting a move to a position he'd never played, he gave it a shot. And he never looked back. He beefed up to the 300 pound range and became the first Black player to play center, both at UGA and in the NFL. Although the Dawgs were good but not great—averaging 7 wins a year in his time on the roster—he was named All SEC and All American in 1979. From UGA he went to the Baltimore Colts, who moved within a

few years to Indianapolis. He was the 32nd pick in the 1980 draft, after which he anchored the Colts' OL from 1980-1992, earning 6 Pro Bowl appointments, one 2nd team All Pro honor, and one Super Bowl ring with Dallas in 1995 toward the end of his 17-year NFL career. In the pros he was viewed as one of the Colts' most dominant players. Said assistant coach Rick Venturi, "He was just a monster. He was a dominating center. That guy was a dominating force." His teammates called him "Bulldog" based on his UGA background, and also because he was one tough dude. He at times clashed with his coaches and the guys in the C-Suite, speaking his mind when he disagreed with them, leading to a reputation as an irritable grump, one belied by his relationship with his teammates. But his notoriety for being cantankerous with management led to his release, leading to a contract with Seattle, then Dallas, where he became the league's oldest starting center at age 37 and earned a Pro Bowl selection. Said his Colts' roommate Chris Hinton, "Ray was misunderstood. He spoke his mind, but I don't think there was ever any bad intention. That was Ray. That was Bulldog. He was very, very well-respected on the offensive line." After retiring, Ray settled in Indianapolis, where he began coaching high school ball. But accolades from his playing days were still coming. He was elected to the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame and Rome-Floyd County Sports Hall of Fame. On a legal front, he was among the ex-NFL players who settled a $765 million concussion lawsuit with the league. NFL accolades have not followed, in spite of the belief of many that he is a Hall of Famer, with the oversight likely due to the overall losing record of his teams. These days, Ray is an assistant coach for the Indiana Valor of the Women's Football Alliance, a flag football league. He's still getting after it, teaching the game and how to compete. Sometimes people who resist management aren't the troublemakers they are made out to be. Good trouble is a real thing. A lot of people are glad that Ray made it on their behalf.



The Forecast
Dawgs vs. Georgia Tech

Tech has already had their Auburn moment against Clemson, and that's all they are allowed by the Marquis of Queensbury rules. They have played the Dawgs tough the last few years, but that run ends this season, unless Haynes King gets a last-second eligibility ruling.

At intervals during the Vandy-Florida game, I watched GT get blown out at home in front of their half-empty bandbox stadium (per the Scowlmeister) or half-full stadium (per the Young Scowlmeister) early Saturday afternoon. Or make that just plain empty by the fourth quarter. How long ago was it that No Bluff, Mo' Gruff, No Fluff, So Tough,

No Guff, The Right Stuff Coach Key was going to run this state and play for championships, while trash talking UGA about who hates whom and who will dominate this rivalry? Right, last year.

This year? Here's what Coach Key said about the UGA game after Saturday's pounding: "We're going to show up. I promise you that." My, how their goals have changed.

Here's the state of the program in Atlanta, per Coach Key after WF scored TDs on 7 of their first 8 possessions: "We'll watch the tape, we'll watch the film, we'll watch the guys on the field (and) how they are on the sideline when they come back. You are going to play the guys that are going to go play. If you look at the tape and see guys quit, then of course we're not going to play guys that don't want to play." And when the portal opens, perhaps we'll see the whole team quit, rather than suffer through another season on the well-named Flats, which characterize the tires on the Ramblin' Wreck.

Well, at least Tech won over Clemson. That should do it for 2026. How did Clemson lose to these guys? C'mon, Dabo.

I don't anticipate much drama next Saturday. Tech is quite terrible, and it's possible they'll have to start their 3rd string QB; and who knows what'll happen if he gets hurt. UGA is quite good. The things we do well are things they do poorly. UGA 49, GT 0, which may actually be the halftime score.

National Game of the Week: UCLA over USC

Remarkably, on Rivalry Weekend, there is a single game featuring ranked teams. And remarkably, the outcome of the Big 10 race will be in part decided by two teams from Los Angeles. I always take grit over glamour, which means that almost any team over USC gets my pick. Seems that USC always wins just enough for Lincoln Riley to promise great things in the future. Maybe it'll happen again, but not with the assistance of a cross-town rivalry win from the long-downtrodden Bruins. UCLA's magical season gets a reboot after their loss to Michigan, which—like the acorn finally found by the blind squirrel—was predicted by The Dawgmeister. Meanwhile, USC's season takes a familiar path: Bruins 31, Trojans 28.

National Upset of the Week: ATM U over UT

Texas A&M has annually been a disappointment to its somehow-still-devoted fan base since the beginning of time. Here they go again, no matter who's the coach and who's on the field. Splash coaching hires don't pan out, and are very costly when the buyout payments come due. On teams with a pay-to-play philosophy in the hope that a bunch of unaffiliated mercenaries will somehow cohere into a team, players seem to care more about their NIL packages than about how to play together, practice hard, make personal sacrifices, and win by doing their assignments. The Aggies have the third-largest player payroll in the SEC at $45-$50 million, and are tied with Vanderbilt for last in the league with a 1-7 record.

Then there's Texas, where no matter how lousy he plays, Arch Manning gets credit for wins produced by their defense. After his 4-yard quick-dump pass to win the Ole Miss

game, we got headlines like “Texas Longhorns QB Arch Manning helped his program make history with an incredible game-winning TD at the end of the fourth quarter in a 22-21 win over the LSU Tigers.” Incredible, huh? Looked like a short, quick throw to an open receiver to me, one that covered one air yard. Manning said later, “I think in a bunch of years I'm going to tell everyone we had a game-winning drive and everyone’s going to forget the three picks.”

Well, maybe you hope they’ll forget how cruddy you played till a play where, as one report called it, “Texas got the go-ahead touchdown after Brown quickly motioned out of the backfield to the left. He was open in the flat and had an easy touchdown as LSU's defense was late to travel with him.” And LSU once again showed against Tennessee that their own splash hire might have been a bad idea. UT has been playing with fire all year, and I think this time get burned by a truly bad team. Aggies pull one of the season’s big surprises—and that’s saying a lot—and win this one, 21-20.