

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
DAWGS MAJOR-SACK RAZORBACKS**

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It was pouring at Sanford Stadium on Saturday. Pouring points, that is.

The Dawgs showed some great execution while the first rotation played for about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the first half. Somebody's been practicing, it appears. But these games are nothing to gloat about, because it was more a scrimmage than a true game. Once in a blue moon, a low-tier team goes into a big-time stadium and comes out with a win. Western Michigan comes to mind. But for the most part, these are days to get everybody's uniform dirty, or as was the case on Saturday, soaking wet.

A few random thoughts in the absence of any insights available from such a beatdown:

After going 13-16 for 234 and 5 TDs in less than a half—and after throwing 8 TDs and 4 incomplete passes on the season, competition notwithstanding—Gunner Stockton has dropped to 35th place in the Heisman race ranking. However, his NIL portfolio now includes free air in his pickup truck's tires for one year at his neighborhood Citgo station.

After his performance in Ann Arbor, John Mateer has risen into the top 5. Dante Moore (QB rating of 20.6) is now the leader.

True story: After Oklahoma State (88 new players, many from N. Texas) beat 23.5 point favorite Oregon, one week after getting blown out by Tulsa, delirious fans tore down the goal posts and, in the absence of a river, threw them into a nearby pond.

It seems inevitable that current players get compared to old ones. Now we're getting Bowers->Reddell, and Washington->Williams, and that's just at tight end. In my view, we should let these guys be themselves. They're terrific on their own terms. No need to compare them to legends.

Here's a happy thought: There was much fretting in the offseason about UGA's receivers, who were too inexperienced to be counted on. They are turning into a big strength, though, as Dawgmeister Analytics computed them to be. One big improvement is in the absence of drops. On Saturday, the ball was mighty wet, and they just kept catching passes. At times it looked as though the teams were playing Catch the Greased Pigskin, but that wasn't a problem for the receivers. Much to look forward to with this crew.

I read something this week about the staff turnover at Arkansas. According to the report, the new OL coach runs a system that doesn't fit the Pittman recruits. So they are ill-matched to their own schemes. We went through similar shifts in player body-type preference when we went from Pittman to Luke to Searels. I think that Rauscher will provide more continuity than the other recent changes have allowed. But I expect Arkansas to be showing the effects of the transition. I think that our DL will have a pretty good time on Saturday.

Gunner is one a select few Dawg QBs to throw 5 TDs in one game, a rare occasion. Remember Aaron Murray vs. New ~~Mexico~~ America State, 2011?

Feeling great about the first two games? Me too. Let's hear what Coach Smart thinks in this patchwork of comments from his presser. Leave it to Coach to sober up a fan and media base inebriated by, among other things, gaudy stats against low-tier teams:

"We got a bunch of guys that aren't ready to play. If we have a backup go in right now, we're in a lot of trouble. We've got guys who aren't ready to play, couldn't execute the game plan. They all want to play, but they couldn't. I was proud of the guys who played early, but sloppy second half. I did think that we got to improve in a lot of areas, and then we had some guys finish the game kind of sloppy that showed they weren't quite ready. There's guys that want playing time and think they're worthy of playing time that just proved to me they don't deserve it. You can do something about it by going out there and practicing. [White uniforms?] If we play like we did in the second half, hell no. It's fun when you score every possession you're in, that's what makes it fun. But is that real? Do you think we're going to do that in SEC play, score every possession? The opponents haven't been SEC opponents, so it's all rosy and dandy until you go on the road and you gotta play somebody of SEC caliber and it's hard. So it's gonna be a high deal of adversity. When you score 70, you're gonna have a lot of fluffy stats. I don't care about stats. I really do not care. The one that you guys are chasing, you guys will reward them. You will say we scored 70 and 60. And the only thing I'm worried about is how the hell we're gonna play on the road next week."

Arkansas lost big at Utah on Saturday. Utah coach Morgan "The Anti-Kirby" Scalley said afterwards, "We try and be as efficient as possible. Creativity's part of that. If all of a

sudden it doesn't work, then it's like, 'Oh, you were too cute'. But it worked, so hooray for us!"

Yes, hooray for you. Meanwhile, according to one report, "Silverfield's second game at Arkansas showed how far the Razorbacks have to go to be competitive on the Power Four level. KJ Jackson completed 14 of 34 passes and had trouble moving the ball without the support of an effective run game (61 rushing yards)."

Well, you never know. Just ask Oregon, where nobody's saying "Hooray for us!" Never take an opponent for granted, especially on the road, when they are practicing to win, even when they aren't expected to.

The day's biggest game was Ohio State-Texas, late enough for Dawg fans to catch after drying out. The media credit Arch Manning with the comeback, but I think that Texas was much better conditioned at the line of scrimmage, and so dominated OSU in the second half. UT benefitted from recovering 2 potentially disastrous fumbles by their offense, OSU missing an in-range FG, UT converting on 2 4th-and-long plays during the comeback, better pressure on Sayin and coverage of Smith, and much else besides QB play.

Disconcerting Signals

If they struggle, send them down to the minors: "The NFL has increased its accountability measures under vice president of officiating Ramon George. Football Zebras has learned that three officials recently hired by the NFL have been dismissed, but it is the novel way that this was carried out that is noteworthy. The three officials were essentially relegated back to Power conferences in college football, a move that was specifically brokered by George, according to five officiating sources. Previously, officials that have been dismissed were on their own accord to return to collegiate football."

DAWGMEISTER GOOD WORKS OF THE WEEK

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Through **Education Matters** and MEU Radio Athens, A-CC High School Completion Initiative (HSCI) is providing job skill development, employment and internship opportunities to youth dreaming of careers in the fields of digital media, audio production, marketing, and journalism. Simultaneously, radio and the internet are used

as youth gang and high school dropout prevention tools that communicate to the general public that education matters and is the key to escaping poverty. Education Matters is a weekly, 60-minute long radio program - airing Saturdays at 10 AM on WXAG 92.7 FM and 1470 AM - that emphasizes the importance of completing high school and seeking post-secondary education. It trains 14-18-year-olds in the field of mass communications. Topics covered include grammar, writing, announcing, ad sales, marketing, program production, interviewing and research. MEU (Music, Education, Uplift) Radio Athens is a 24 hour, seven days a week internet radio station that provides youth a means of delivering messages they feel are vital to the well-being of their community. It is operated by youth between age 14 – 18. Acquired skills include programming, audio production, interviewing, organizational development and business operations. These skills benefit the participants in both the classroom, workplace, and life. To stay in the program, participants must pass all classes, improve school attendance, stay on track to graduate and avoid legal trouble. Participants also get mentors and exposure to professional, educational and life development activities.

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SAT PREP SESSION

SAT Question of the Week: Who does not belong on the following list, and why?

Alabama State
Arkansas Monticello
Baker
Concordia
Delaware State
Emory & Henry
Emporia State
Fullerton College
Georgia Tech
Kalamazoo
Richmond
Sacramento State
Savannah College of Art and Design
Southern Polytechnic State
St. Ambrose
Texas-Brownsville
University of Baltimore
USC-Sumpter

Answer: Each of these universities has adopted a stinging or biting insect or backyard pest as its mascot. Only Georgia Tech is called the Yellow Jackets. It makes one wonder why schools with mascots that are pests, with one exception, are low division competitors. The full list:

Alabama State Hornets
Arkansas Monticello Boll Weevils
Baker Bees

Concordia Stingers
Delaware State Hornets
Emory & Henry Wasps
Emporia State Hornets
Fullerton Hornets
Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets
Kalamazoo Hornets
Richmond Spiders
Sacramento State Hornets
Savannah College of Art and Design Bees
Southern Polytechnic State Hornets
St. Ambrose Bees
Texas-Brownsville Scorpions
University of Baltimore Bees
USC-Sumpter Fire Ants

DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ In other sporting news: [Fisher's colon punctured by eel that snuck in through his rectum](#)
- ☞ It appears that the Sloppy Jalopy at Georgia Tech is going in reverse.

THE COVETED DAWGMEISTER GOOD GUY OF THE WEEK AWARD

GOOD GUY ARCHIVE

A couple of years ago, the Dawgs signed an elite group of linebackers. The third-ranked member of this group was **C.J. Allen** from Lamar County HS in Barnesville, GA. In his first year, he was starting, ultimately becoming a Butkus Award finalist and playing his way into the first round of the NFL draft three years removed from high school. As an in-state kid, he was proud to be a Dawg: "You are a linebacker at the University of Georgia. That just means a lot to be able to put that 'G' on." For C.J., it was always team first: "I really, honestly think that team success leads to individual success," a fresh perspective in the me-first portal era. He wasn't just a baller, however; C.J. was a leader, saying, "I know what the young guys are going through. So I'm just being there for them. Now, I'm just trying to be that leader for the whole team. Keep the main thing the main thing. Be where your feet are. You show up on Day One, be on Day One. Don't think about Day 17." Leadership is in C.J.'s blood. He was one of 4 juniors named among the 20 semifinalists for the Jason Witten Collegiate Man of the Year, given annually to the college football player who has "...demonstrated a record of leadership by exhibiting exceptional courage, integrity and sportsmanship both on and off the field." C.J. has had as great an impact off the field as on. His mother set the example for him, raising him and his 5 siblings on her own. C.J. played a leading role in the film room, at the training table, and in the classroom where he was a 3-time appointee to the Athletic Director's Honor Roll. He also served his community, holding youth football camps in Barnesville, Athens, and Atlanta. C.J. was picked to represent the football program for the SEC Student Athlete Leadership Council, and also represented the Dawgs on the SEC's Football Leadership Council and Student Athlete Leadership Academy (LEAD). C.J. is one of those guys who is made to lead. Great leaders aren't just born; they work at

advancing their qualities to the point where others want to follow. There are many great things in store for this Dawg great.



THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. ARKANSAS

And now the varsity games begin. Arkansas is in transition, and in most cases, that takes a little time. (Ignore Indiana, please.) They couldn't win with Sam Pittman, who was expected to recruit better and only got by on being a good-guy for so long. It's now somebody else's turn. Meanwhile, the Dawgs are executing with head-turning sharpness. At least against lower-division opponents. They may not put up 63 points in Fayetteville. But they'll do enough to win. Kirby is acquainted with Dan Lanning, and so no doubt is aware that a highly-ranked team can go to a weak opponent's stadium and lose. Dawgs 41, Razors 6.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: LSU OVER MISSISSIPPI

I would love to see this one go the other way, but I think the talent difference will be telling. I can't stand the LSU program, LSU, the LSU Athletic Department and its coaches, the Louisiana governor, and the state of Louisiana these days, so picking them to win is a major development in my forecasting. It's hard to say what Mississippi will do so early in the Golding Era. I'll be pulling for them. But probably in futility. LSU 38, Mississippi 24.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: KENTUCKY OVER ATM U

I actually know little about these teams other than that one has gotten hyped for about 50 years without winning big games and championships, and the other is annually viewed as a nice bunch of kids who unfortunately decided to play in Lexington. I have no inkling about how UK will do in the post-Stoops era, and Alabama handled them at Kroger Field on Saturday. I simply have no confidence that this year will be any different for the Aggies than it has been since the Great Depression. Wildcats 28, Aggies 27.