

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
DAWGS SHOW DEBOER DA DOOR**

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THE ALABAMA COLLECTION
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Alabama running back Johnny Cain, 1930

“I’ve got confidence in our run wall, and if we’re flattening blocks and playing aggressive at the second level, I expect our run defense to be able to handle the run game. . . . If we’re playing Vanderbilt football and we’re structured, and we have intensity at the point of attack, we can make those run plays hard and force them into higher-leverage pass situations on third down.” ~Clark Lea, mid-week

For one half, Coach Lea’s plan worked pretty well. Against the run, anyhow. One thing that’s become apparent in the first five games is that UGA can adapt its offense to what a

defense is trying to stop. If you are determined to stop the run, Gunner can punish you with the pass. And that's what he did for a half. Cover a wideout, and Gunner has tight ends and backs to feast with. When Vanderbilt made halftime adjustments, we began to pound them with the run. Nobody fills the stat sheet. It's the distribution in relation to the situation that matters here.

"Just as Oklahoma coach Brent Venables said he felt his team was able to go toe-to-toe with Georgia's vaunted offensive and defensive line in a 41-13 loss, Lea felt the Commodores did the same thing." ~post-game media observation

If losing by a ton of points in a game where UGA knelt out the clock at the goal line constitutes toe-to-toe, if finishing the game against reserves, and if being compared to Oklahoma's blowout loss is a good thing, then these programs have a lot of work to do.

An AJC post-game headline read: **Georgia knows it can win because of, not just with, QB Gunner Stockton.** Why is that even a question at this point? Why does Gunner continue to be underestimated and regarded as just OK? Does anyone still think he can't throw deep passes? What exactly does this guy need to do, besides being a consistent winner, to get people to understand that he's an outstanding football player? Here's a statement in Sunday's coverage: "Forever underrated QB Gunner Stockton was efficient as always." Yes, efficient, the highest praise anyone seems to be able to come up with when Gunner's name comes up. How about terrific player, low ego, team guy, and unsurpassed leader?

My post-game note from The Scowlmeister expressed a concern for our pass rush. Throughout the game, *mi hermano*, in for the game, noted that we weren't blitzing, instead relying on the DL to create pressure, which they didn't do enough. So, what's going on defensively? I think it was a schematic decision by the coaches, rather than a failure of the players, who rushed four against five OL and whatever help they got from RBs and TEs. It was often hard to tell from the stands exactly what Vandy was doing, although whatever we did on offense or defense, a guy wearing UGA gear behind us couldn't believe how stupid we are about everything, no matter how great the lead became.

A bigger problem: Vandy backup QB Blaze Berlowitz—actually, their starter for the first couple of games—was blazing for much of the day, especially the first half when Vandy made the game competitive. Yet another gift from New ~~Mexico~~ America State to Nashville. He would be the starter at Oklahoma. Actually his whole-game stats weren't that amazing: 12-of-23, 190 yards, 1 TD, 1 INT. But he played a whale of a first half. His only bad moment came via a great play by Ellis Robinson and his highlight interception. Junior Sherrill, their excellent wideout, also was a menace. Vandy is a pretty good team, and Oklahoma is fortunate not to have to play them this year.

As big a factor as anything on Saturday: the heat and humidity. I got worn out just being in the stands. I think our second half domination was in part a conditioning and depth issue, coupled with the offense's long drives that wore down their defense and gave ours a good rest. The crowd was a bit rowdy at first, but toned down as the game went on. Fans started leaving the stadium, especially those facing the sun, in the second half. It

was just an enervating environment that Vandy had trouble playing through for the full 60 minutes. Kirby Smart has built a roster that could weather it.

It's pretty easy to love Dwight Phillips, who has taken advantage of Frazier's injury to become integral to the offense. This cat worked for two years to develop the strength to be more than just a really fast guy who can run jet sweeps, the earliest touches of his career. Now he's breaking tackles, an indication of how hard he's worked in the off-seasons to become central to the RB rotation through dedication in the weight room.

Vandy and Arkansas might not be playoff teams, but they provided UGA's defensive backs with two of the best receivers they'll see all year, Sherrill and Marshall.

To Dawn of the Dawg's Trevor Michael, Georgia's win was "lackluster." Not here. It was a tough game, hard-fought on both sides, with some high-end playmaking and supreme competitiveness, and ultimately a blowout-level score that included pulled starters and that would have beaten the spread if we hadn't gone into the Victory formation at the end. Luster isn't just flashy plays, although we made a few of those. It's winning in the trenches, being deeper and better conditioned than opponents, and spreading the ball around on offense. It's not always glamorous and not remotely star-oriented enough for starry-eyed media and public observers who only follow stats. But 5-0 with 3 league wins has plenty enough luster for me. And it makes for a good statistic, too. In fact, the only one that matters.

Shiny new object update:

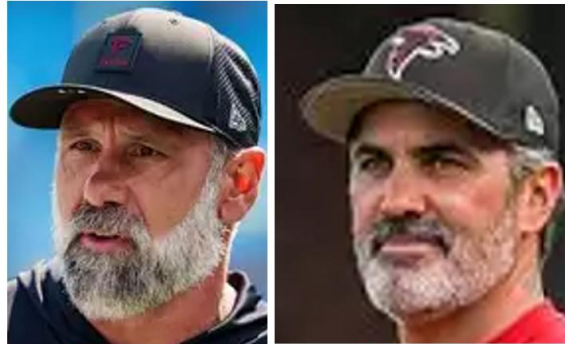
-  Resurgent Florida and program savior Jon Sumrall got the snot beaten out of them by Missouri.
-  Not quite so new, but until Saturday, seemingly new to the Lamestream Sports Media: Jadan Baugh ran for 11 touchdowns in Florida's first four games. Against Missouri, he racked up 13 yards on 12 carries, including 12 yards on his first carry.
-  Program savior Bryce Underwood is possibly headed for a benching. He was described Sunday morning as "a \$12 million quarterback who can't read a defense."
-  He and program savior JuJu Lewis can perhaps sit together.
-  Actual program savior Kamario Taylor, who I thought last year was amazing, got pounded by Alabama after running circles around Missouri, which ran circles around Florida.
-  After losing in a home game blowout, former Shiny New Object and program savior Deion Sanders and Colorado are now 2-3, 0-2 Big 12, with a one-point win over 1-3 GT and a victory over 3-3 Big Sky member Weber State and constant media attention over the impending Florida State opening.

And, from the post-game Sanders quote board:

"The score is not indicative of who these guys are and who we are. I don't believe so. It's just very unfortunate. I expected a win. That's what I expected today. A tremendous win that would've made the bye week so much better. We're going to work. We're going to right the wrongs, looking to see how some of the young men respond. We've been

horrible. Don't sugarcoat it. We've been horrible. What did we have, seven points? You're not going to win. You're not going to win.”
Not included among the guilty: the head coach.

BONUS MATERIAL, FALCONS EDITION



**SAN FRAN
JEFF ULBRICH**

&

**PENN MAN
KEVIN STEFANSKI**

Disconcerting Signals

Bloomberg [reported](#) that brides are buying \$14 spells from witches on Etsy to ensure that their \$100,000 weddings are not marred by blizzards or downpours.

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

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The United Cajun Navy is a grassroots nonprofit organization headquartered in the United States, recognized for its prompt and dedicated responses to natural disasters. Established in the Cajun region of Louisiana, this volunteer-led group achieved national prominence following its efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Equipped with boats, trucks, and a strong sense of community responsibility, the United Cajun Navy specializes in life-saving rescue operations, humanitarian assistance, and logistical support in regions severely impacted by floods, hurricanes, and other catastrophic events.

Over the years, the United Cajun Navy has built partnerships with local authorities, relief agencies, and communities to enhance its disaster response capabilities. Our organization often mobilizes volunteers from across the country, providing not only emergency aid but also ongoing support for rebuilding efforts after disasters strike.

Through effective use of social media and technology, we coordinate missions swiftly and efficiently, offering hope and help to those affected by crisis situations when traditional resources are overwhelmed.

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SAT PREP SESSION

SAT Question of the Week: Who made the following declaration: “We don’t care if they’re asleep or awake. We’re going to make them stand up.”

- A. The cast of Riverdance.
- B. The Taiko percussion group of Japan.
- C. The administration of the Athens-Clarke County Demolition Derby.
- D. Foghorn Bullhorn on his relationship with game officials.
- E. The flyover boys from the Oklahoma and Vandy games.
- F. The Sanford Stadium scoreboard operator.
- G. The jokers who put tacks on the seats at Bryant–Denny Stadium.

Answer: Alabama wide receiver Ryan Coleman-Williams, referring to Alabama fans too bored, tired, and indifferent to stand for the National Anthem.

DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ Said the AJC’s Mike Griffith after the Oklahoma game, “Mateer, who, like Curtis, has dual-threat skills, still managed to find some success throwing the football (25-of-34, 231 yards, 2 TDs) that, without the three turnovers, could have posed a problem.”
- ☞ “Yeah. Bummer about those three turnovers. Otherwise, great game!” ~Little Woolly
- ☞ “UNC stayed within a possession of top-five Notre Dame for most of the second half. By the final whistle, the stands were nearly empty.”
- ☞ Note to the three women who spent much of the game standing up and waving to their friends across the stadium: News flash: You might think that you are visible from the front, and invisible from the back. But you are not.
- ☞ Stanford beat Georgia Tech last week 34-27 but lost by 54 points this week to Wake Forest.
- ☞ Pretty neat revival going on up there in Lexington. Gotta love a coach who takes a job he always wanted, and not the job that will lead to his next job.
- ☞ Coaching carousel observation of the week: Because nobody’s been fired yet except a couple of coordinators, "It's a weird year. It's a weird year in candidates, a weird year in jobs, a weird year with money."
- ☞ "The season ain't over." ~Dabo Swinney, who seems to adopt more of a folksy country-boy diction the worse things get.
- ☞ R.I.P. [Slinger Francisco](#), [The Mighty Sparrow](#), the King of Calypso

THE COVETED DAWGMEISTER GOOD GUY OF THE WEEK AWARD

GOOD GUY ARCHIVE

David Weeks was a national OL recruit out of Marist HS in 1990, and considered a recruiting coup for Ray Goff and UGA. David played center, guard, and tackle from 1991-5. More recently, he has returned to the limelight through his sons West, Whit, and Zach, who play for LSU, with Whit attaining social media celebrity for dating Landry Kiffin. Even Good Guys have flaws. As a recruit and multiple-sport athlete, David was deluged by coaches' calls and visits to the point of exhaustion in a pre-internet age where contact was more immediate and personal. And there was, like today, considerable BS from coaches. As David described it on his visit to Notre Dame, "The offensive line coach turns to us and says, 'If I can get all four of you recruits to come to Notre Dame, the four of you will be bigger than the Four Horsemen.' I thought, no way four knucklehead offensive linemen would be bigger than the Four Horsemen of Notre Dame." On his visit to Georgia Tech, he relates that "Chad Chosewood is in line behind me for breakfast one morning. There is a long line of recruits and I ask him where he is thinking about going. He says, 'I can tell you one thing, I sure as hell ain't going here.' And I say, 'Yeah, neither am I.' He told me he thought he was going to Georgia, and I said, 'I am leaning that way, too.' There were a bunch of other guys committed to Georgia—at Tech on their official visit—and we all got together and talked about it. So the majority of us that were at Tech on an official visit decided to commit to Georgia." Damn Good Dawgs all. And then there was that "Four Horsemen" coach Joe Moore at Notre Dame, namesake of the Joe Moore Award, who called him five straight nights after his commitment to the G and said, "David, you will never be a success in life. You had the opportunity for a national network after you are done. You'll have connections all over the country, and you want to stay down there and be a redneck at the University of Georgia?" Yep. He's no redneck, and is now a successful restaurateur in Athens, owning 9 Barberitos restaurants, 8 Dunkin's, and 4 Newk's Eateries. Like any good OL, he's content to let his employees get all of the credit. He's also been active with the Oconee County Board of Education, serving two terms, including one as chair, before his business interests and the development of his sons' own football careers began to take priority. David credits athletics with instilling discipline, strategy, and team-first mindset, qualities that have contributed to his career in restaurant management. He's also helped to organize youth sports in Oconee. Maybe there's a David Weeks Award available for those who follow his example. He seems more deserving than the lout they named the OL award for.



THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. ALABAMA

Alabama could be 0-10, and I think that the Dawg Nation would be apprehensive about the game. We've done this drill too many times before to be cocky about playing these guys, even after the Saban closet has been cleaned out, and it's all DeBoer's show these days. Their QB is one of this season's shiniest new objects, and apparently is as good as people think he is. I was too busy watching UGA to take in their whomping of Mississippi State, which in the past would have been a snooze, but took on importance with a pair of shiny new objects at QB to behold. All we've got is good ol' Gunner and his coon hound, a serviceable little fellow who nobody outside Athens thinks is anything more than a capable game manager. I'm banking on our defense to change that narrative, and for Gunner to do what he does, which is play winning football. Can their talented-but-callow QB fathom our defense and put up points, something only done before by our opponents in the fourth quarter when we've cleared the bench? Can Alabama continue to dominate the second half of games against a team that has excelled in second halves as long as the top rotation is still playing? Great questions, if I do say so myself. Both teams are looking outstanding, but only one can win. Dawgs 27, Tide 24.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: OKLAHOMA OVER TEXAS

This one could also double as the Upset of the Week. Maybe I'll hit the weekend double. Oklahoma couldn't have played worse offense at Sanford Stadium if they'd tried to. Somehow, OU doesn't have running backs, and their QB is a tough athlete with bad QB skills. But they do have a stout D, and maybe David Stone will be healthy by the time they tee this one up in Dallas. On the other sideline is a coach who keeps getting the best jobs without doing much with them, and a QB who gets overhyped every time he ties his shoelaces. This is one of those rivalries where you toss out the record. I watched it growing up as a kid when it was always seen as a national game, before they were in the same conference. OU is always loaded with Texas recruits. It means a lot to both programs and their fan bases. And I'll take Oklahoma in a defensive game, 16-14.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: PENN STATE OVER SOUTHERN CAL

Amazingly, USC remained ranked after losing at home to Oregon after the season's cheapest shot took Moore out of the game. Oregon's got a pretty good backup, though, and he (like everyone else) ripped the Lincoln Riley defense up. How did they remain ranked? Somebody's algorithm needs a reboot, even if USC managed to pull one out over Washington on Saturday; UW's 3 wins have been against 2 creampuffs and 1-4 Washington State. Over at THE Pennsylvania State University, they are still getting their own reboot under Matt Campbell, everyone's favorite next-coach-up for about a decade. He now has to show he deserved it, raising questions about his suitability in a major conference in their blowout loss to historically terrible Northwestern, along with a loss to Wisconsin and their hot-seat coach, onetime shiny new object Luke Fickell. Meanwhile, PSU is both trying to honor Joe Paterno, and trying to address the horrific abuses that took place on his watch. Good luck with that. Anyhow, it's in the Lions' stadium, and it's against Lincoln Riley. That adds up to a PSU upset win, 38-28.