

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
*DAWGS BURN AUBURN***

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SEPARATED@BIRTH?



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SLADE NAGLE**

&

**ON THE PLAINS
ALEX GOLESH**

[THE COMPLETE SEPARATED@BIRTH? COLLECTION](#)

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“Both teams enter Saturday’s [Georgia-Alabama] game with unbeaten records. That will not be the case at the end of the game.” ~Insight from AJC

“The only goal I really have is just helping my team win. I don’t really believe in self goals.” ~Dwight Phillips

“[Stockton] always goes out there and the way he prepares, I wouldn’t go to war with anybody else in America.” ~Earnest Greene

“Thank Heaven for Blake Stewart.” ~Little Woolly

On Saturday, the Southeastern Conference celebrated National Slobberknocker Day with tough, tight, consequential games all day long. They saved the best game for last.

The week before the game, the geniuses who wager on games made Alabama the favorite. After all, they were at home. They have beaten us often this century, even after

the coaching transition. Their QB had emerged as the shiniest new object in the nation, leading the ever-insightful Stephen A. Smith to opine that “I’m definitely higher on Keelon Russell. Gunner Stockton is efficient, he’s good, but he ain’t Russell. In the end this year, they (Alabama) are loaded, obviously they’ve got some horses that can put up points in bunches. Explosive plays are the norm for Alabama. Keelon Russell is that dude.”

And poor ol’ country boy Gunner Stockton was going to have to scrape by with his measly skills against Alabama’s top 10 run defense with reserve RBs and apparently little ability to put up points in bunches and execute explosive plays. What chance would UGA have playing on Nick Saban Field in Bryant-Denny Stadium in a hurricane against such an opponent?

Those “reserves” outrushed Alabama’s backs 206-161. UGA held Alabama to their lowest home scoring output in 15 years. Who’s explosive now?

Whatever we lacked in pressuring the QB vs. Vanderbilt, we brought with intensity on Keelon Russell. He made some plays, as good quarterbacks do. What he didn’t do was get into the endzone in the second half, when UGA took the lead and kept it.

Of course, here’s a typical feature of Sunday’s reporting: “If Georgia lands the No. 1 ranking, it should probably come with an asterisk.” The assumption is that the lack of a call took points off the board for Alabama, which would have won the game for them. Actually, it would have given them a shot at a field goal. The Dawgs knelt out the final two minutes of the game instead of going for a score of their own. But all such scoring is hypothetical. No asterisks needed.

After going 18-22 for 249 yards, a TD, a pick, and a 14-yard TD run; after hitting 10 different receivers; after going 9-10 for 104 yards on third down; after completing 5 of 6 passes for 146 yards and a TD on throws with 15 yards or more of air; and after leading #1 Georgia to a road win on a sloppy, windy day over Alabama, Gunner Stockton, in this week’s Heisman ranking, dropped to 123th, just behind Knox Kiffin. Per Stephen A. Smith, leading the pack is Keelon Russell, 16-30 for 185 yards, a TD, 4 sacks, and 41 yards on 9 carries, mostly scrambles away from pressure.

But being the best QB on the field every game only leads to media geniuses like the NY Times saying things like, “Stockton is, at minimum, a steady veteran quarterback.” And at ESPN: “Stockton played well.” No respect. Just great play and a ton of victories.

Stockton is apparently penalized by the fact that, in the words of Heather Dinich, Georgia is “the most complete team in the country.” We are strong at every position, and deep as well, as our RB rotation emphatically showed on Saturday. Surely, the media believes, that little guy who drives a 45-year-old pickup truck back to his home in the mountains for a meal of possum stew can’t be what moves our team to win, week after week. It’s those other guys who are winning the games.

But just as surely, we do have a complete team. Our OL has developed into a bunch of road graders. Our WR depth is highly productive, even without Canion playing this season; Craig Dandridge is one of the most polished freshman I've seen catching passes for the Dawgs. The TEs are justifiably celebrated. It's a great assembly of talent, all coached up admirably. Maybe, as suggested in the media, anybody could QB these guys. But only one is out there playing. And we're lucky he's here.

Ms. Dinich refuted the claim of Georgia that "They haven't played anybody. They haven't been tested. Those arguments no longer hold when it comes to Georgia." What surprises me is that, before the Alabama game, people thought that 3 straight wins over SEC teams, one of which just beat Texas, hadn't come against anybody. Blowouts can warp how people see opponents. 6-0 doesn't lie, however. I'll take Khalil Barnes' opinion about UGA's QB over any sportswriter's: "He's a killer, a cold-blooded killer. I don't think any moment gets too big for him, man. I'm proud to have him as my quarterback." Me too.

Disconcerting Signals

TCU Dress Code For Saturday vs BYU



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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Wonderfully Made began in 2022 with a conversation between two women—Kitty, who felt called to serve adults with intellectual disabilities after watching her nephew

face post-high school isolation, and Kelly, a nonprofit leader with a passion for building movements with eternal impact. What started as baking cookies in a home kitchen soon grew into something deeper: a vision not just for purpose, but for belonging. They realized what adults with intellectual disabilities needed most was not just a job—but a place to laugh, grow, celebrate birthdays, maintain life skills, and feel deeply known. In partnership with Peachtree Church, they launched the first Wonderfully Made Chapter: a day program centered in community, with a bakery as a joyful expression of purpose—not the point. Today, Wonderfully Made equips churches to do the same in their communities, because everyone deserves a place to belong.

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SAT PREP SESSION

SAT Question of the Week: Who is the author of the following quote: “I know in the past, we’ve played well in the beginning of the season, and then we just shit the bed at the end.”

1. Billy Napier
2. Brian Harsin
3. Hugh Freeze
4. Tommy Tuberville
5. Boozer Pitts
6. Otto Graham
7. The Scowlmeister
8. Kalen DeBoer
9. Lane Kiffin
10. Arch Manning
11. Lincoln Riley
12. Deion Sanders
13. Shedeur Sanders
14. Shilo Sanders

Answer: Pittsburgh Steelers safety DeShon Elliott

DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ Per Dinich: “Arch Manning's QBR on third downs is 38.1 (out of 100) [which is] worse than 100th nationally. The Longhorns are one of the least explosive offenses in the country.” But don’t worry. Arch, as the broadcasters always call him, remains, like Shedeur Sanders before him in the nepo-baby world of the Lamestream Sports Media, the top QB in college football.
- ☞ Here’s how much things have changed in Tallahassee: Mike Norvell’s possibilities of not being fired improved after Florida State rose from 53rd to 36th in the national rankings. That was before 3-3 Louisville blew them out of the stadium. FSU has now lost 11 straight true road games, and 13 straight away from home.
- ☞ Perhaps Buster Faulkner will not be the guy to fix the mess at FSU.

- ☞ Hard to believe for people who followed football 30-60 years ago: Nebraska has gone 10 years, 32 straight losses, without a win over a ranked team after losing late to Indiana on Saturday.
- ☞ If you saw Missouri-ATM U on Saturday, you may be like me and are wondering why Mike Elko was thought to be a great hire.
- ☞ Or did the Aggies hire the guy behind the counter at the hardware store to coach their team?
- ☞ ATM U is another program where the backup QB at Vandy would be their starter.
- ☞ Maybe Florida, too.
- ☞ The state of sports reporting in 2026: “Kentucky scores walk-off 2-point conversion in OT to upset LSU team that cost twice as much.”

Make America Healthy Again, like in the Good Old Days



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

Connor Norman played HS ball at Peachtree Ridge. The undersized safety had two scholarship offers coming out of high school, Presbyterian and Gardner—Webb; and one rescinded offer from Army. After one year at Presbyterian, he transferred to UGA as a walkon after he contacted strength and conditioning coach Joe Tereshinski, who also managed the walkon program, and requested a tryout. He showed up and showed out, making the roster but having to redshirt, well beneath the radar of the coaches, whose focus was on recruited players. But walkons who play with desire start to get noticed, and Connor played his way to second team on the depth chart, getting his first break when he subbed in for Bacarri Rambo during a 2-game suspension. Those scout team reps suddenly became real-game reps, and Connor excelled. Said his position coach Scott Lakatos, “He just works hard. He does what he needs to do to prepare himself. Whenever there’s any extra work to be done, he’s there.” That work paid off with not only a scholarship, but ultimately, the appointment as team captain. Greg Bingham, his roommate and fellow scout-teamer, said that “If every coach had 120 Connor Norman’s on the team, then every coach would be happy. He’s coachable, likable, great friends with everybody. He’s just your typical hard-working guy that has earned everything he has, especially the scholarship.” Team-first Connor said that “I do all the same things regardless what happens with the depth chart. The same goes for this week, too. I just want to have my role on the team. Whatever role that is, I’m happy with that.” Connor’s football days ended with his graduation as a Kinesiology and Exercise Science major. From there, he attended Belmont for a doctorate in physical therapy, working in rehab in Athens and Nashville before returning to Athens, first at Piedmont hospital and then the UGA Athletics Association, first as Director of Rehab and then as the Director of

Sports Medicine. He's also a certified emergency medical technician, certified strength and conditioning specialist, and sports certified specialist through the American Physical Therapy Association; and is a certified Red Cross First Responder. Connor married fellow Dawg grad Hannah, with whom he has two kids, Hampton and Grady. No doubt he's still working hard, earning his way, and lifting the people around him through character and example. We're lucky to have him back home.



THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. AUBURN

Auburn's reboot has been less glamorous than the revivals at other programs that hired new coaches. But then, they had been down since Cam Newton left town, so maybe nobody expected much. So far they look like a middle-of-the-pack team that isn't yet ready to compete with the top of the league. But now that I think of it, so are the other teams with Shiny New Objects as coaches who won a few early games. Auburn's in a rebuild, and UGA is a complete team, and we're at home (don't tell Alabama that it can matter). Our guys have got to be feeling confident—but don't let the coaches know—and ready to play downhill against a team we've owned for most of this century.

Earlier I gave a shoutout to freshman safety Blake Stewart, who recovered the near-catastrophic punt fumble by the normally reliable Sacovie White-Helton. I believe I mentioned Craig Dandridge too. But how about those DLs, Vidal Sone and PJ Dean, who play early and often on what has developed into a stone-wall front seven? I think we've already forgotten that Zykie Helton (no relation) is a freshman; seems he's been out there manhandling defensive linemen forever. And Nick Peal, as has happened with so many of our RB pairs in the same class, has emerged as the better (so far) of the duo. He's become RB-5, down the rotation but a guy the coaches believe they can rely on when the main men go down with injuries.

So bring it on, Auburn. It's too bad that the rains cancelled the [Athens Vulture Festival](#) over the weekend, where the Auburn War Eagle typically makes an appearance. It would have been the highlight of your visit. Dawgs over Tigers, 35-13.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: OHIO STATE OVER INDIANA

This one's probably a toss-up. OSU's opening loss in Austin was, to me, largely a matter of inferior conditioning to play in the Texas heat. Of course, every media account said something like "Arch Manning and Texas...." no matter how little he actually

contributed to the win. The heat won't be a factor this time. The Buckeyes have the guy who continues to proclaim that he is the nation's greatest player—Jeremiah “No ‘I’ in Team” Smith—and he's a difference-maker. Perhaps he's the difference they need to take the league back from Indiana, especially with Michigan already a non-factor, Penn State being mediocre, Oregon a sinking ship, UCLA now considered a top tier team in the league..... In any case, as much as I respect and admire Cignetti and the historically great job he's done at a historically terrible program, I'll go with OSU, 31-30.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: FLORIDA OVER TEXAS

Florida's comeuppance vs. Missouri and South Carolina helped to quell Swamp Fever for a little while. And the Lamestream Sports Media still believes that Arch Manning is the easy #1 pick in the draft, in spite of some developing views that he's the 5th best QB in the SEC. It's hard to evaluate Texas when the media continue to worship wily ol' Sark and the incredible Arch, although some of that support fell when OU's kick went through the uprights, making this game a match between two programs who lost over the weekend to teams they were supposed to dominate. Who's the pretender here? I'll predict the SEC to continue to cannibalize itself with upsets and reshufflings of the standings and rankings. Gators over Horns, 27-24.