The Dawgmeister's Weekend Forecast:
Dawgs Don't Miss on Revenge Tour

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Miss that dope? & Lane Kiffin



Misanthrope The Grinch

THE COMPLETE SEPARATED@BIRTH? COLLECTION
THE MISSISSIPPI FOOTBALL COLLECTION
THE GRINCH COLLECTION

"And now," cried Kirby, "Let the wild rumpus start!"

And that was one wild rumpus of a first half. The wildest part was possibly the worst decision in the history of the Georgia-Florida game, perhaps in the history of football: Confirmed Dawg-hater Aaron Philo's underhanded throw into the void, where Ellis Robinson made the easiest interception of his life. From there, it mostly got worse for the Florida Gators during one of the most up-and-down seasons in their up-and-down history.

By halftime, many Florida fans had changed into their Halloween costumes, dressed as empty seats in the Benz.

I was surprised by the point spread on Saturday. Keep in mind that I'm not the wagering sort, so never place bets on games, and I think that sports wagering is a national plague. Yet, since point spreads exist, for the sake of argument, per DraftKings:

- Moneyline: Georgia Bulldogs (-470), Florida Gators (+360)
- Spread: Georgia -12.5
- Total: 56.5 points

I'm not even sure what the first item means. But the other two, I'm highly perceptive about. And I thought that the spread was too great, assuming that Good Florida would be the team that showed up, while Bad Florida remains in recovery from some whopping losses. The Gators were riding high on a win over Texas, while Georgia was feeling lousy following its incomprehensible loss to an Auburn team that has been getting destroyed by other SEC teams.

The spread turned out to be too small. And it's hard to achieve a total of 56 points when one team only scores 8.

Georgia came to play on Saturday. That defense, my oh my. I pity the fool who has to line up against these cats. Florida was lucky to score at all. Jaden Baugh couldn't get past the line of scrimmage after being touted as a Heisman candidate and nation's top runner for his play in dominating wins, if not in losses. Chris Cole said afterwards, "We knew coming in that we had to be able to stop the run." Mission Accomplished. Aaron Philo looked as though he was a kid playing in the backyard against a bunch of grownups, and Trammel Jones wasn't much better. Chris Cole, oy vey. The defense is playing lights out. They'll need to next week.

I'm a bit surprised to see the Sunday reports where Gunner Stockton was reported to have played a subpar game, or "workmanlike" in the words of one commentator. His passing numbers weren't off the charts, but he ran for tough yards, as he always does, and he would have looked better statistically with a little help from his friends. And the running game was clicking, which is the basis for our offensive strategy. Gunner outrushed Florida in the first half and didn't turn over the ball. Got a problem with that?

I'll also note that pretty much every QB in the country has had some rough games—and Gunner's was hardly rough, as it was against Auburn—or, at least those who play competitive schedules. The weekly Heisman rankings have oscillated week by week as QBs have gotten stuffed or beaten up. The best candidate is Jeremiah Smith, who is surely great, but also doesn't handle the ball on every play and so doesn't get blamed for offensive shortcomings. He's mostly critique-free because he matters on a dozen or so plays a game (and makes most of them), unlike QBs. Meanwhile, as teams lose in this loss-heavy season, their QBs tend to lose respect. As all three of my readers are well aware, I'm all-in on Gunner and wonder why you'd look at our rout of Florida and criticize the quarterback.

And so we have now arrived at November at 7-1, tied at the top of the SEC with…..Kentucky, which absolutely nobody saw coming. The remaining games are against dangerous Mississippi, dangerous South Carolina, dangerous Missouri, and Georgia Tech. It's the SEC alright. Are y'all ready? I think them Dawgs will be.

- A Coveted Dawgmeister Game Ball goes to Gunner Stockton, who is among the finalists for the National Scholar-Athlete Award, making him a finalist for the William V. Campbell Trophy, given to the top scholar-athlete in the country.
- A Coveted Dawgmeister Game Ball goes to Coach Quincy Carter, whose Heritage HS team from Conyers became the 16th team in GHSA history to win a region after going 1-9 or 0-10 the previous season.

Disconcerting Signals

Part Un: "Former Alabama coach Nick Saban, a once-legendary leader of men whose decision to spend his golden years attempting to sell you insurance and timeshares while hanging out with Ted Cruz and Pat McAfee, is basically an argument against

retirement as a general concept, said on the set of 'College GameDay' that 'If I was coaching right now, I'd be trying to get (Mississippi State quarterback) Kamario Taylor to get into the portal.'" ~Will Leitch
Part Deux: "Mr. Saban needs to work on his use of the subjunctive mood, along with his understanding of the tampering rule." ~Little Woolly
Part Trois: "I know God has a plan. I love this team and I love Mississippi State. . . . I couldn't ask for better people in my corner than my family, Coach Lebby, our incredible medical staff and Bulldog fans. Their care, support and love mean everything to me. There's a lot of football left, and I'm all in with my guys. Starkville is home, and I can't wait to be back playing the game I love." ~Kamario Taylor



QB Sam Leavitt pays rapt attention while being coached up by ex-Rebel coach

With basketball season beginning, I am pleased to report the results of my federally-funded use of Dawgmeister Analytics, using money withdrawn from Harvard's researchers, to report on the changes to the game since my own youth.

Back in the Day	Nowadays
Traveling	Euro Step
Palming	Dribbling
Bad Shot	Three Pointer
Mid-range Jumper	Bad Shot
Payola	NIL
No-show Summer Job	No-show Summer Job
Ref to coach: Sit down and shut up	Challenge noted, everybody take 10 while we watch 20 replays
Bad Ballhandler	3-and-D
Pivot Foot	Foot
Bounce Pass	Pocket Pass
The Lane	The Painted Area
Hook Shot	Jump Hook
Defending the Rim	Defensive 3 Seconds
Foul Shot Lane Violation	Nothing to See Here
Score	Score the Basketball
No! No!	Floater
What are you doing out there?	High Pick & Roll
White Home Uniforms	Whatever
Fallaway Jumper	Step Back Jumper

Playing Out of Position	Stretch Four
Point Guard, Shooting Guard, Small Forward, Power Forward, Center	Positionless Basketball
No Cross-Court Passes	Skip Pass
Don't Give Up the Baseline	Give Up the Baseline
Three Point Play	Old-Fashioned Three Point Play
Hard Foul	Flagrant Foul 1 & 2
Tim Hardaway	Tim Hardaway, Jr.
Box Out	Nah
Standing Around	Spotting Up
Pick and Roll	Pick and Pop
Jump Ball	Alternating Possession
Taking the Charge	Flopping
Four Corners Offense	Shot Clock
Domestic Rosters	International Rosters

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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Since 1989, **Our Daily Bread** has operated as a community kitchen to offer nourishing meals and other vital resources to Athenians facing homelessness and extreme poverty. Located at First Baptist Church of Athens on Pulaski Street, Our Daily Bread serves more than 500 guests each week, providing a safe, judgment-free space for neighbors to find a healthy meal and relational connection. The table may be set around a meal, but the mission of Our Daily Bread is to be a resource hub for those in need of help. Men and women who come for breakfast and lunch can access hygiene kits, health screening, job training resources, and more.

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SAT Prep Session

SAT Question of the Week: Which athletic figure uttered the following when asked about his impending retirement? "Fade into Bolivian, I guess."

A. Aaron Rodgers
B. Otto Graham
C. The Scowlmeister
D. Houston Nutt
E. Archie Manning

F. Monte Kiffin
G. Eli Manning
H. Michael Oher
I. Bruiser Kinard
J. Tommy Tuberville
K. Big Balls

Answer:
The speaker is that classy dude featured in a new documentary, Mike Tyson

Dawg Doots

- After Florida's decisive 52-28 win over Ole Miss, Finebaum said on ESPN's *First Take* that "They're back" and that Florida is now "a legitimate College Football Playoff team." He credited Sumrall with instilling discipline and physicality — qualities he said are rare in modern college football — and likened the coach to the kind of leader who can deliver a championship "in the near future."
- "I felt bad for both quarterbacks at times because I don't know that either one of them independently played good enough for us to win the game, but I also don't know that it's really fully fair to evaluate either one of them fully because I don't think there was enough help around them. Not just the offensive line. We had receivers misaligned today, not run the right route, or run the wrong route a handful of times. The timing on things were off." ~Jon Sumrall
- "The Gators didn't help the Gators enough tonight." ~Jon Sumrall
- "I don't care who we put at quarterback. If we don't get better on the offensive line, tight end, running back and receiver, our quarterback has no shot, like no shot in hell of playing really good." ~Jon Sumrall
- Oklahoma's season in a nutshell.
- A sign that your team stinks: Colorado fans stormed the field and tore down the goalposts after beating 4-4 Kansas State, with both teams now tied with Kansas for last place in the Big 12.
- At the very bottom of a very weak league:

Florida State Seminoles	1-4	.200	141	157	3-5
Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets	1-4	.200	117	176	2-6

The Coveted Dawgmeister Good Guy of the Week Award

Good Guy Archive

Robert Miles graduated from St. Jude High School in Montgomery, Alabama. Life in a segregated society can be difficult and dangerous, but he buckled down with his studies and was an excellent student to go with his athletic prowess. His school and family helped to shape the man he's become. He worked many hours on his grandfather's rural farm, good for strength and character. The family also owned a grocery store in the country town of Hayneville. Robert learned a lot about the benefits of eating a healthy diet: "My grandparents always had a vegetable garden with things like corn, peas, cantaloupe and watermelon. It was fun helping them cultivate and harvest in season. We

enjoyed working in the garden because we knew how great mealtime would be." Robert played football in high school, and also played on the school's state title-winning basketball team. Although he originally assumed he'd walk on at Alabama or Auburn, he came to UGA through the suggestion of a relative who'd joined the basketball program. He arrived UGA without a scholarship—St. Jude was not on the road map of many recruiters—walking on and earning a scholarship after standing out on the junior varsity his freshman year. From there he became a starter at defensive end on the national championship team of 1980. Robert's discipline and integrity have become central to his success after graduation. He was a 2-year GA with the football program while completing his degree, and kept working from there. Robert has served as an Assistant Athletic Director and in the Academic Counseling Unit. These days, Robert continues to serve the Athletic Association, recently as the Director of CHAMPS/Life Skills Program that prepares student-athletes for life after the final whistle blows, with a focus on academic excellence, athletic excellence, personal development, commitment to service, and commitment to career development. On Robert's watch, the UGA program—the nation's largest—was identified as a "Program of Excellence." Student-athletes learn the importance of earning their degrees, and have a great model of professionalism to follow in Robert. His three sons do as well, each now in an important position as a minister (Joshua), Georgia Theater manager (Caleb), and lawyer (Nathan). Robert is an easy guy to admire, and no doubt many UGA students see him as an inspiration and role model. Me too.



The Forecast

"Never prophesy, especially about the future." ~Samuel Goldwyn or Niels Bohr

Dawgs vs. Mississippi

The nation enters its 7th Separation Saturday in a season where the biggest winner is CHAOS. This weekend is loaded with high-stakes games, and one of them will be played Between the Buttcracks in Oxford, Mississippi. It's both a Revenge Tour game for UGA, and a game with SEC and National implications.

Both teams roll into next Saturday's game on the heels of big wins. Like everybody, they have key players injured. Let's call it a wash on readiness and ability. It then comes down to execution.

The Dawgs know that Mississippi is good, and at home. Neither team can afford a loss. The world owes Pete Golding a lot of thanks for wadding up the Lane Kiffin Legacy and flushing it promptly. He's done mighty well as a head coach, which not every excellent assistant ends up doing. And of course they have Chambliss taking snaps, and he's fun to watch and a threat on every play.

I do love how our defense is coming together. Chambliss is more nifty than powerful, as Byrum Brown was for Auburn. It'll take one locked-in defense to prevent him from taking over the game. Fortunately, we've got one. We've also got a relentless ground game to keep him off the field. That's the way I see it from here. Dawgs over Rebs, 28-27.

National Game of the Week: Miami over Notre Dame

This one could be the game that makes Notre Dame a questionable entry in the playoff. They have coasted through a weak schedule aside from their one big challenge, in which they fell short, although there's consensus that they had one play left on the clock. There's also a shoulda-been interference call that I didn't hear Herbie and Chris whine about for an hour, as they had done in a previous game they called during the 2026 season. But that's a problem for Herbie and his therapy dog to work out in a private session. For present purposes, this game really matters for both teams. I'm always skeptical of Notre Dame, which is still coasting on the success of Knute Rockne, no matter how little they've done since forever ago. Miami, for all their celebrated success this year, has mainly feasted on the dregs of the ACC, so it's not as if they are battle-tested. But I'll take them anyhow, simply because Notre Dame's independent status gives them so much unearned advantage in the playoff competition, and a second loss in their only two games of substance would perhaps make even the selection committee think twice about including them in the playoff. Miami 28, ND 21.

National Upset of the Week: Minnesota over UCLA

I originally had Oregon over Ohio State in this slot, but OSU's QB situation is so iffy that I'm not sure if that would constitute an upset. True confession: I don't know much about either team other than that UCLA's hire of the latest "Cradle of Coaches" factory at JMU appears to be a pretty good pick. I also know that Minnesota almost beat the Cardiac unit from Bloomington, IN on the road, and will be at home. I think it's colder in Minneapolis than at UCLA, and that's a big advantage for the home team. Here we go: Another one bites the dust. Or as Weird Al put it so poetically, Another one rides the bus, all the way back to LA. Gophers 21, Hoosiers 20.