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September 2019 Edition



COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW

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GET TO KNOW THE WRITERS



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JJ Lanier is a native of North Carolina and studied communications at Appalachian State University. JJ currently resides in Asheville, North Carolina. JJ is an expert on the NFL and college basketball. JJ is also an insider on all things ACC.



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The Southern Sports Edition was created to offer sports opinions from a southern perspective. The Southern Sports Edition offers some of the top sports minds and opinions from around the South. From coverage on High School Football to a beat on the Atlanta Braves, the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets, SEC, ACC and all southern sports with actual southern opinions. The Southern Sports Edition is currently distributed in Southeast Georgia and Northeast Florida and growing everyday.

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2019

GEORGIA PREVIEW

The Big Dawgs By Kipp Branch





UGA is loaded in 2019. Kirby Smart is a recruiting machine. Smart enters the 2019 season with an overall record of 32-10.

UGA won the SEC in 2017 but lost the National Championship game to Alabama and lost the SEC Title game to Alabama in 2018.

Jake Fromm leads the offense; JR Reed and Monty Rice will lead a faster more athletic defense in 2019. Andrew Thomas will lead the best offensive lineman in the country. The Swift/Herrien/White/Cook running back rotation will beat teams to a pulp.

discussing which band to go listen to downtown after the game midway through the second quarter.

Sept. 14: ARKANSAS STATE: Tougher than expected for a half then UGA pulls away in the third quarter and wins 45-14.

Sept. 21: NOTRE DAME: Athens, Georgia will be the center of the college football universe on 9/21. The Irish roll in and it will not be a cakewalk like most UGA fans expect.

This one will be a war. Zamir White has his coming out party as UGA eats up yards and clock to put ND away 27-17.

If UGA wears the black jerseys, then put the Dawgs on upset alert right now.

Oct. 5: at Tennessee: UT is still two recruiting classes away. Dawgs win in Knoxville 38-17, and UGA takes the lead in the series for the first time in 30 years.

Oct. 12: SOUTH CAROLINA: Carolina's schedule is brutal, and Muschamp is trying to get them back in the mix in the SEC East. UGA has too much talent and

either. Dawgs win 38-21.

UGA clinches the SEC East for the third straight year.

Nov. 16: at Auburn: Unbeaten UGA rolls to the Plains and I smell trouble brewing for the Dawgs. Auburn will be solid on defense, but will they be good on offense?

Will Gus still be employed by November? If he is then I smell upset. Auburn upsets UGA 24-21 in Jordan Hare.

Dawgs fall to 9-1. History tells us that UGA lays an egg against someone every season, right? Enjoy this November contest folks. Auburn lobbied the SEC and won and now the Deep South's Oldest Rivalry moves to October in 2020 and beyond.

Heck, maybe with that pansy move UGA rips Auburn a new one, 35-17 and stays unbeaten on the season.

Nov. 23: TEXAS A&M: Everyone is jumping on the Aggie bandwagon. Not me. The Aggies lost their leading rusher and leading tackler, nor am I sold on Kellen Mond at QB.

Senior Day in Athens as UGA rolls



Georgia's talent across the board is well documented. This team should contend for a National Title this season and next season if Jake Fromm returns.

My game by game predictions:

Aug. 31: at Vanderbilt: Season and SEC opener at night in the Music City.

Vandy will be sky high and UGA has not always played so well in Nashville. Jake Fromm and a solid run game will spell doom for the Dores as UGA takes care of Vandy 38-13. George Pickens starts making a name for himself at Wide Receiver.

Sept. 7: MURRAY STATE: UGA drills Murray State 52-7.

Fromm and company will be

wins at home 41-14 to stay undefeated.

Oct. 19: KENTUCKY: UGA blew out UK's best team in 40 years in Lexington last year, and UGA is better in 2019. Kentucky is not as good as they were in 2018. Dawgs win 49-17.

Nov. 2: vs. Florida (Jacksonville): Dan Mullen has been popping off about UGA all "Talking Season". Kirby isn't much on talking but look for UGA's best effort of the season in this one. Dawgs win the World's Largest Outdoor Cocktail Party 35-20 over a good Gator squad.

Nov. 9: MISSOURI: Kelly Bryant didn't get a national title ring from Clemson last year and he won't get a victory in Athens

38-24. UGA goes to 11-0 on the season.

Nov. 30: at Georgia Tech: Jackets go to a pro-style offense with option attack players. Georgia Tech will get better fast by focusing on the Atlanta area in recruiting. Dawgs go to 12-0 with a 42-17 blistering of the Jackets.

SEC Championship: UGA finally breaks the Alabama jinx and beats the Tide 31-24 in another title game classic between these two teams.

UGA goes into the College Football Playoff as the #1 team in the country.



2019

MIAMI PREVIEW

Storm Brewing In Miami By JJ Lanier





If you had asked me three years ago to place a significant amount of money on which coach-Kirby Smart at Georgia or Mark Richt at Miami- would be the first to leave, I would have doubled down on Smart, no questions asked.

The storyline surrounding Richt was just too good; a well-respected coach returning to his alma mater in hopes of returning them back to national prominence. Oh well, sometimes the story has a Cormac McCarthy ending rather than a Disney one.

So, out goes Richt and in comes Diaz, freshly removed from a two and a half week “vacation” we’ll call it, as Temple’s Head Coach.

It’s always difficult to gauge how much of an impact a first-year coach, let alone first-time head coach will make, but the Miami native and former Broyle Award winner (college football’s top assistant) is as highly regarded as they come; very Kirby Smart-esque, if you will.

Being a defensive coordinator at heart- tell me if you’ve heard this before- it’s no surprise that one of Diaz’s most important decisions was who he brought in to be offensive coordinator. Diaz’s choice of Dan Enos as OC says two things:

1. Diaz has someone on that side of the ball he can trust to execute his vision. Enos has been around for a while and has enough experience as a coordinator that Diaz should know exactly who he’s getting.

2. Enos’ reputation has really been built off his success with quarterbacks, including Tua Tagovailoa this past season. This is vital considering what I’m about to bring up next.

Outside of the uncertainty Diaz brings as a coach the big question in Coral Gables, “Who will be the Hurricanes starting quarterback?” was answered in a very unexpected way.

Originally, the QB battle was thought to be a two man race between N’Kosi Perry, who started the back half of last season for Miami and Ohio State transfer Tate Martell, who is shaping up to be the greatest college quarterback never to play.

Instead, the job went to redshirt freshman Jarren Williams; someone both Diaz and Enos feel has the biggest upside of the three.

Normally when you have a new coach, offensive coordinator, and starting quarterback you try to temper expectations a bit. While that’s probably not a bad idea for the ‘Canes, their schedule is actually as favorable as they could ask for.

Outside of their season opener against Florida, their two opponents that should be the most difficult, Virginia and Virginia Tech, will both be played at home, in Hard Rock Stadium.

If Miami is able to at least split those two games, the rest of their ACC schedule sets up nicely for them to make a run at the Coastal Division title. The only other real stumbling block could be Florida State, but they have even more question marks than Miami.

With Diaz at the helm and the number of defensive starters Miami has returning, fans should feel pretty comfortable with that side of the ball.

If Enos and Williams can get the offensive side on track, a 9-3 season isn’t beyond the realm of possibility.

There’s a new regime, along with a renewed sense of hope in Miami, a sentiment they’ve gone through more often than not lately. It feels like this could be the start of something special for the Hurricanes and their fans, but I’ll stay away from any predictions; they normally don’t turn out quite like I expect.



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MOVING FORWARD AND "FEELING WHOLE AGAIN"

When Melanie Smith was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease while still only in her 30s, she was understandably shocked by the news. "I was very much in denial," says the now 43-year-old St. Simons Island resident. "Accepting such an unexpected and life-altering diagnosis was a battle for me." Gradually, the disease began to affect her balance, walking and ability to carry out daily tasks — like brushing her hair or opening a car door.



Luis Paucar, OTR/L, MBA; Melanie Smith and Lisa St. Pierre, P.T.

In 2019, Ms. Smith could no longer endure the increased severity of her symptoms. Determined to become as healthy as possible for herself and her young son, she turned to the experienced, licensed therapists at the Southeast Georgia Health System Outpatient Rehabilitation Care Center.

"They gave me hope and confidence," Ms. Smith says of her rehabilitation therapy team, which included physical therapist Lisa St. Pierre, P.T., and occupational therapist Luis Paucar, OTR/L, MBA.

A Great Team

Ms. St. Pierre showed Ms. Smith ways to improve her balance and core strength so she could better control her movements. While physical therapy cannot cure Parkinson's, it can help make the condition more manageable. The goal was to improve Ms. Smith's functional mobility, allowing her to complete daily tasks.

Mr. Paucar helped Ms. Smith with the fine-motor skills she lost due to Parkinson's, skills that she needs for daily tasks, such as writing, brushing her teeth and opening prescription medications. "We worked on improving her endurance, since Parkinson's can cause fatigue, so that she has the strength and stamina to perform daily tasks," explains Mr. Paucar.

In addition, he provided education on devices that make daily living easier and safer for Ms. Smith, such as utensils with special handles for eating. After a few weeks of therapy and commitment to exercise, Ms. Smith began to see results. "I have the strength to turn over in bed, which I didn't have before," she says. "I can now do a yoga pose and keep my balance. And I can grab things better."

Expert Local Care

Ms. Smith says her therapists were fun, compassionate and "knew exactly what they were doing." They taught her exercises to continue at home after her sessions ended. What's more, since the Health System offers Outpatient Rehabilitation Care Centers in five locations, including St. Simons Island, she didn't have to drive far to see them. "I was able to stay on St. Simons to get the help I needed to start feeling whole again," she says.

"We provide the best possible care to our patients — whether it's a weekend warrior athlete, joint replacement patient or someone with a significant neurological diagnosis, like Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis or stroke," says Paul Trumbull, P.T., MBA, director of Rehabilitation and Sports Medicine Services.

For more information about Southeast Georgia Health System Outpatient Rehabilitation Care Centers and its five locations, visit sghs.org/rehab.

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2019

ALABAMA PREVIEW

Rolling Tide By Kenneth Harrison Jr





Alabama has been the gold standard in college football for almost a century. The Crimson Tide won their first national championship in 1925 and they have more than any other program (17). They also have the best coach in the sport, Nick Saban.

Since showing up in Tuscaloosa, back in 2007 he transformed them into the best program of the past decade. They are the bullies of the SEC and outside of their own fan base most fans have grown tired of them.

They had another undefeated season and made it to the national championship game again. They play Clemson almost every year in the CFP but this time the result was shocking. They were blown out 44-16. This was the worst loss of Saban's career since he's been at Alabama.

Bama is led by Heisman finalist Tua Tagovailoa. He started the season off great but he started getting injured late. His play slipped, possibly because of this or maybe defenses started to adjust to him. He passed for 3,966 yards, 43 touchdowns and 6 interceptions.

They normally are loaded at running back but they have a big hole to fill this season. They lost senior Damien Harris and junior Josh Jacobs. Jacobs was drafted in the first round, the 24th overall pick.

The Tide reload every season and they have the top ranked running back in last year's recruiting class, Trey Sanders. The five-star back suffered a serious foot injury last week and he's out indefinitely.

The schedule works in their favor. The season starts on the last day of August, a neutral site game against Duke. The game is in Atlanta and this will be an easy blow out win.

This is the first home game against New Mexico State. The Aggies

are completely overmatched. The Crimson Tide should score no less than 50 points in this win.

Alabama travels to Columbia, South Carolina. The Gamecocks are an average team so this will be another easy game.

They return home to face Southern Miss. Bama should score 40-plus points and the starters should be able to sit on the bench in the second half.

Ole Miss comes to Tuscaloosa. The Rebels are on probation for three years. They recruited well under Hugh Freeze but that has come to an end.

The talented players from those teams transferred last year. They are a shell of themselves and don't stand a chance.

Alabama is taking a trip to College Station. Texas A&M has not beaten the Tide since they first joined the SEC in 2012. This is a very one-sided series and that won't change. This is a very tough environment to play in though.

Tennessee has the worst luck in the SEC. They are the team in the East that has to play Alabama every year. They'll get demolished yet again.

Arkansas is a bottom dweller in the West. Bama will beat them by at least three touchdowns.

This is the toughest game of the year, home against LSU. Last season The Tigers lost 29-0. I think they put up a better fight but still lose by double digits.

Mississippi State has developed into a solid program over the last decade. They do not have the talent to beat the Tide though.

This is the tune up before the season finale versus FCS Western Carolina. This is another blowout victory.

The season ends at Auburn. The Tigers have so many question marks that I don't see them being able to compete.

I expect them to finish the regular season undefeated and get back to the CFP.



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FLORIDA PREVIEW

Gator Bait By Kipp Branch





Dan Mullen has led the Florida football program back into the spotlight.

Mullen coached UF to a 10-3 record in 2018 and a drilling of Michigan in a bowl game. The Gators have 8 starters returning on defense led by C. J. Henderson, who is the best defensive back in college football. This defense can get after the QB.

The Gators are loaded at WR maybe only second to Alabama in the SEC. Depth is a huge concern on the offensive line where UF cannot afford any injuries.

QB Feleipe Franks is the straw that will stir the Gators drink on offense in 2019. Could Franks end up being the best dual threat QB in the SEC this fall, or will he struggle in the big games like he has against UGA over the past two seasons?

Florida schedule and my predictions:

Aug. 24 vs. Miami: The U isn't ready for UF this season.

This game is being played in Orlando and Gator Nation will take the place over. When you see how many Gator fans arrive in Orlando, you'll understand why UCF is hiding from the Gators.

Miami looks to be starting a freshman at QB and C. J. Henderson and company will be salivating at the thought of that.

Miami gets pretty much dominated in this one and the Gators roll to a 34-13 whipping of the Canes.

Sept. 7 vs. UT Martin: UT Martin wilts quickly in the Florida heat. UF rolls 55-10

Sept. 14 at Kentucky: An angry bunch of Gators take a business trip to Lexington and get revenge on a Kentucky team that ended the streak last year in Gainesville.

UF starts another long winning streak against Kentucky and wins this contest 34-17. Gators go to 3-0 on the season and move into the top 6 teams in the country.

Sept. 21 vs. Tennessee: Tennessee gets drilled in Gainesville. The Vols won't be able to block that Gator defensive front and fall by three TD's. Let's say 34-10. The Swamp is never too kind to Tennessee. Gators go to 4-0.

Sept. 28 vs. Towson: Who the hell scheduled this game? Florida 62-3. Gators roll to 5-0.

Oct. 5 vs. Auburn: Are the Gators ready for the spotlight yet? LSU looming and with an Auburn team fighting to keep Gus employed.

The history books show that Auburn has had some success in the Swamp even during the Spurrier years. This one will be a tough contest and Florida wins with a late field goal. 27-24 to go to 6-0 on the season.

Oct. 12 at LSU: The entire nation will be tuned into this one as two top five teams meet in Death Valley. LSU will be a 10-12 win team in 2019. I think the Cajuns eat Gator tail before, during, and after this contest. Florida falls in a tough environment 28-21 to fall to 6-1 on the season.

Oct. 19 at South Carolina: Will there be an LSU hangover? There will be for a half and then some way the Gators rise from the ashes and make a fourth quarter comeback and beat Carolina in Columbia 28-24 to go to 7-1 and set up the game of their season.

Nov. 2 vs. Georgia: The Cocktail Party in Jacksonville is always a great setting for rivals that absolutely hate each other.

Florida has pointed to this game all talking season. Brenton Cox entered the transfer portal and landed at UF after leaving UGA about two weeks ago.

The Gators are raving about the things Cox is doing in practice elevating him to rock star status in Gainesville. In their excitement they are overlooking the fact that Cox fell to third string at his position on the depth chart in Athens before he jumped into the portal.

Florida falls to a UGA team that is more talented and has a better game manager at QB 38-24. Gators fall to 7-2 on the season.

Nov. 9 vs. Vanderbilt: Vandy gets drilled 41-17 in Gainesville. Gators go to 8-2.

Nov. 16 at Missouri: A month ago I picked Mizzou in this game. The closer the season gets I know Mizzou can't out athlete Florida.

Florida finds a way to win this game the secure a spot in a NY6 Bowl. Florida goes to 9-2 with a 35-30 win.

Nov. 30 vs. Florida State: The Willie T era comes to an end for FSU in The Swamp. Florida gets to 10 wins with a statement 45-17 win over FSU to go to 10-2 on the season.

Florida is back to being Florida again.

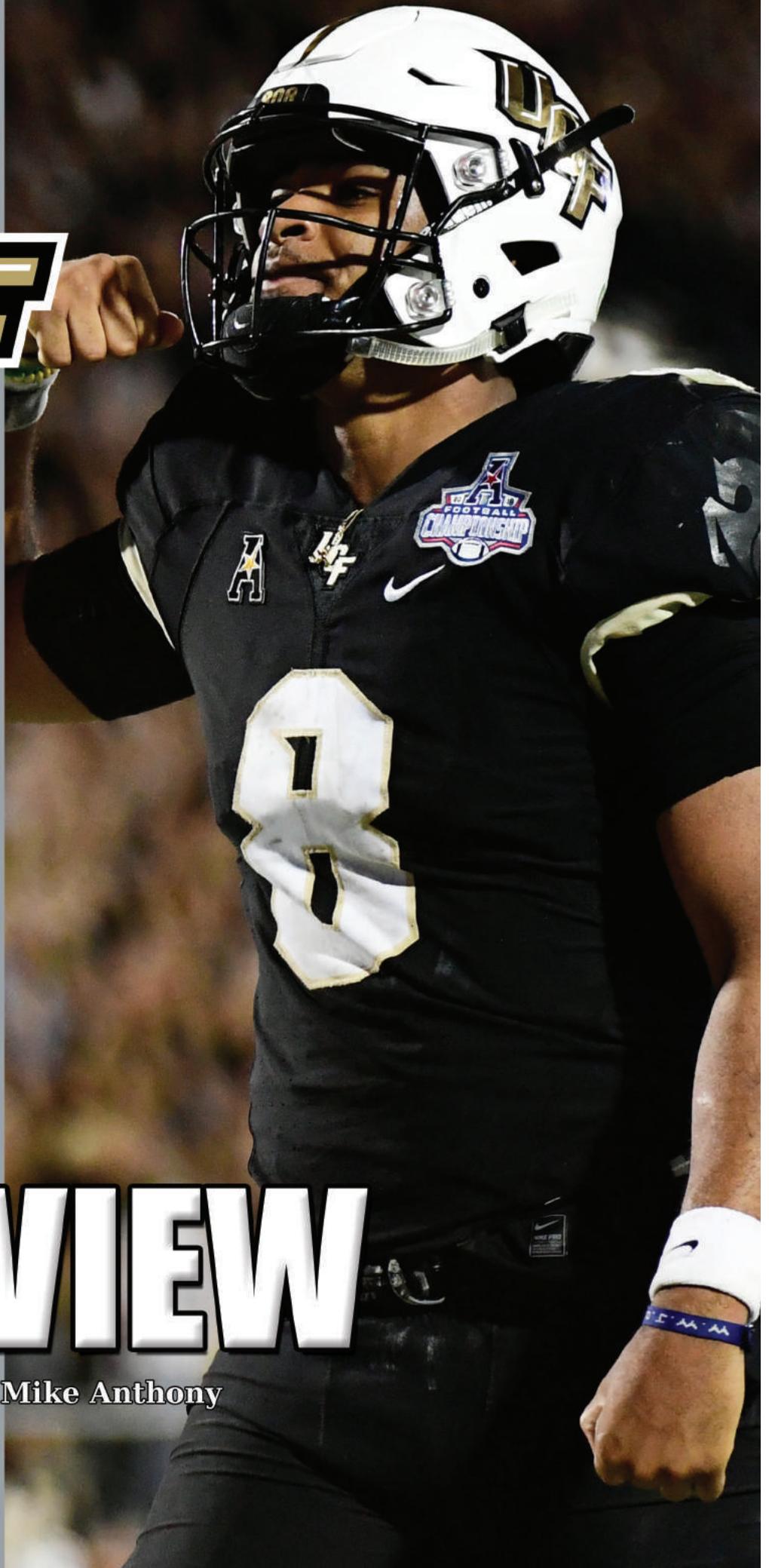




2019

UCF PREVIEW

Knights Crusade By Mike Anthony





For any P5 school, an undefeated record followed up by a 12-1 showing would be cause for fans and national pundits alike to wonder if a dynasty is on the horizon.

But for a G5 school, even those incredible showings lead to questions about how far it might fall off in the next season.

Such is the plight of Central Florida in 2019.

To be sure, there are plenty of question marks for the Golden Knights as they enter the new season.

Chief among those is the absence of quarterback McKenzie Milton, whose second consecutive Heisman-level season was cut short the day after Thanksgiving last fall due to a devastating knee injury that will keep him out for all of this fall and still has his playing career very much in doubt of ever continuing.

There is also the loss of more than half of the defensive starters from last year's squad.

The Knights were good - but not great - throughout 2018 and will have to find plenty of answers this time around.

If UCF can continue to jump out ahead of opponents, the defensive rebuild will be helped greatly by an experienced secondary that will make life tough on trailing teams trying to rally through the air late in games.

Brandon Moor and Nevelle Clarke return at both corners and Richie Grant is back at safety, giving the Knights a stellar secondary.

But despite the continued absence of Milton, it's the UCF offense that will once again make the Knights a favorite to win the AAC and continue to loom in the national polls.

Former Notre Dame starter Brandon Wimbush will step into the void behind center and - while not the passer that Milton was - can do plenty of damage on the ground.

Wimbush will be surrounded by the Knights' top two rushers from last season in Greg McCrae and Adrian Killins, as well as receiver Gabriel Davis and his seven touchdown catches from 2018.

Even more important to the Knights' continued offensive firestorm, UCF figures to feature,

arguably, the best offensive line in the conference. Three All-AAC honorees return to the Knights' front and can be depended on to keep the chains and the scoreboard moving as Wimbush assumes leadership of the offense.

While the Knights are once again supremely talented, a tough schedule lies ahead and will make their continued presence in the national polls a challenge.

Central Florida has a road date against a pesky Florida Atlantic squad in its second week before hosting Stanford and then traveling to Pittsburgh.

Two weeks later, the Knights travel to fellow AAC front-runner Cincinnati for a nationally televised Friday night showdown.

If UCF can survive all of that, it has a great chance of once again having a great argument for earning better rankings and more consideration for the national championship playoff.

If it doesn't, the Knights will be the latest G5 team to become the (undeserved) butt of jokes coming from the P5 while suffering a quick fall from grace as pollsters aren't much for giving the Cinderellas of the college football world the benefit of a doubt.





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2019

**GEORGIA TECH
PREVIEW**

Buzzing For 2019 By Kenneth Harrison Jr





Paul Johnson was the head coach at Georgia Tech for 11 seasons and the program started to struggle in his final years.

There was very little excitement because he recruited poorly and ran an archaic offense that no other Power 5 school uses.

Now, we are entering the first season under Geoff Collins. Prior to becoming head coach at Temple, Collins was one of the nation's most respected defensive coordinators, serving in the role at Florida, Mississippi State, FIU and his alma mater, Western Carolina.

He is the only coach to ever be nominated for the Broyles Award, given to college football's top assistant coach, at three different schools.

The biggest change for the Yellow Jackets will be the offense. CPJ ran the old school triple option out of the flexbone. Tech is now an Air Raid team and they do not have the players to do that successfully.

This is basically trying to fit a square peg in a round hole because the players on the roster were recruited to run the old offense. Under Johnson, they typically passed less than 5 times per game.

Now the quarterbacks are expected to read defenses and pass regularly. Quarterbacks James Graham and Lucas Johnson played in the spring game. Tobias Oliver got significant playing time last season but he's clearly a runner.

I do expect the offense to struggle. Under CPJ the offense was strong, and the defense was always weak. I expect the trend to continue on defense, at least for this season.

Collins is a defensive coach so he might help them improve some, but they still have a lack of talent. In 2018 they ranked 43rd nationally in total

defense. They gave up 368 yards per game and 29 points per game.

That stat is frightening when you consider that Tech normally controlled the clock on offense and dominated time of possession.

The season kicks off August 29 at Clemson. This is a Thursday night game so everyone will tune in to watch the defending national champions in Death Valley.

This used to be considered a rivalry game, but it is extremely one-sided now. They haven't beaten the Tigers since 2014 and that won't change now.

They begin September at home against USF. The Bulls beat GT last season 48-38. They had superior speed and talent then and I cannot see that being different now. South Florida should win.

An FCS opponent, The Citadel comes to town next. This will be an easy win and it should give the team some confidence.

After a bye week, Tech goes on the road to Philadelphia to face coach Collins' former team, Temple. The Owls were 8-5 last season. They did lose to an FCS team (Villanova) and they were blown out against the only ACC opponent (Duke) they faced in their bowl game. I think this will be a tough game but give the edge to GT.

The first conference game is against UNC in Atlanta. The Tar Heels are bad; this will be an easy win.

Next, they travel to Durham to face Duke. The Blue Devils have owned this series lately, but they lost their quarterback who was a top 10 pick. I'll take the Ramblin Wreck.

The next five games will be difficult. They include Miami, Pitt, Virginia, Virginia Tech and NC State. I think they have a chance in only two of them, Pitt and NC State.

The season ends at home versus UGA. Unfortunately, the Dawgs will annihilate Tech.

I think it will be tough to become bowl eligible, but the future looks bright.



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2019

FSU PREVIEW

War Chant By JJ Lanier





1976. Jimmy Carter was elected President, the first Rocky movie was released, and Apple Computer Company was officially formed.

It was also the last time the Florida State Seminoles football program experienced a losing season, until this past year.

Florida State's decline wasn't an obvious inevitability, staring you right in the face, but it's not like there

any better, not only from a record standpoint (5-7), but from a competitive one, as well. Their average margin of victory in their five wins was 10.8 points; normally not something to scoff at until you realize none of those victories were against a team that finished the season in the Top 25.

Plus, their average margin of defeat in those seven losses, two of which were to their in-state rivals, was 24.14 points.

At this point I'm sure you're thinking "I get it, last season was disaster. But, what about this year?" So, what about this season? Well, on paper, it certainly looks like there should be significant improvement.

to allow Blackman to utilize those weapons on the outside.

Regardless of your opinion on Willie Taggart bringing in Kendal Briles to run his offense, there should be a vast improvement.

On the defensive side it's more a good news, bad news situation. The good news is they bring 8 starters from last year's team. The bad news is the defense thought they were playing in the Big 12 conference, or at least they allowed the opposing offense to score like they were.

Does experience help if it wasn't very good to begin with? With the potential Florida State has on the offensive side of the ball the defense doesn't have to be reminiscent of years



weren't signs.

Entering last season, the Seminoles' previous three seasons had all been worse, in one form or another, that one before.

It all culminated in a 2017 season that saw a program, only a few years removed from a national title, forced to play a make-up game against an inferior opponent just to make it to .500, while also losing their head coach to another program; neither of which Florida State was used to.

Obviously last year wasn't

With Deondre Francois gone, the QB job is James Blackman's to lose. Considering the lack of support he received from the offensive line last year, Blackman did well in a role he was somewhat thrust in to.

There is plenty of talent in the backfield and at the wideout position, the main question on the offensive side of the ball is the offensive line.

Can the line run block well enough to get Cam Akers a few lanes to run through and can they be just competent enough pass blocking

past, but they do have to at least be middle of the road.

The bottom line for the Florida State faithful is that after two of the worst seasons they've gone through in roughly 40 years they should start to see the roller coaster begin its ascent back up the tracks.

Their schedule still has a few too many question marks to expect them to win more than seven or eight games, but fans should see the foundation being laid. I'm sure they wouldn't mind another 42-year streak.



2019

AUBURN PREVIEW

Plain Auburn On The Plains By Kenneth Harrison Jr.





For Auburn is a very interesting program. It seems like every 4-5 years they have a great team but in between that, the Tigers are average.

They finished the 2018 season 8-5 and demolished Purdue 63-14 in the Music City Bowl.

They lost star quarterback Jarrett Stidham, he graduated and was drafted by New England in the fourth round.

Gus Malzahn is an offensive coach and the Tigers are supposed to have an explosive offense. He needs a good signal caller for the offense to be at its peak. Malzahn is on the hot seat so it's going to be crucial for him to pick the right guy.

His overall record is 53-27 and he's 2-4 in bowl games. His best season was in his first year (2013) and the Tigers won 12 games and played in the national championship. Since then Auburn has hovered around the 8-win mark with the lone exception of the 2017 season (10 wins).

There are two true freshmen that will see significant playing time. Bo Nix is a five star recruit and he

was the No.1 dual-threat QB in the nation. The newcomer at quarterback broke numerous records while leading Pinson Valley High to back-to-back state titles with his father, Auburn legend Patrick Nix as the head coach.

He had more than 12,000 total yards of offense in his career and recorded 161 total touchdowns, including 127 scores through the air. He earned practically every in-state award you can imagine including the state of Alabama's Mr. Football.

Joey Gatewood is also competing for the starting quarterback spot. He's a 4 star recruit and the top ranked athlete in the country.

Gatewood is taller at 6-foot-5 and 233 pounds. He also draws comparisons to Auburn legend Cam Newton from his own teammates at Auburn, which he doesn't much like to hear, by the way.

Gatewood arrived at Auburn with incredible numbers from high school, even though he shared playing time at Bartram Trail in St. Augustine, Florida as a senior.

He still managed to pass for 1,468 yards and 12 touchdowns while also running for 1,100 yards and 16 touchdowns. He split reps with Riley Smith, who went on to sign with Boise State. They rotated series evenly, and the coaches never deviated from that plan, even when one quarterback may have been playing better than the other during the game.

The season kicks off August 31st against Oregon at AT&T Stadium, home of the Dallas Cowboys. The Ducks were 9-4 in 2018 and they are led by talented senior quarterback Justin Herbert. I give the edge to Oregon.

The next two games are home against Tulane and Kent State. Both are easy wins.

The first conference game is September 21st on the road at Texas A&M. I think the Aggies win this one.

They play Mississippi State at home the following week and beat the Bulldogs.

The next three games are all on the road against Florida, Arkansas and LSU. The game I fully expect them to win is Arkansas. Florida will beat Auburn. I think the LSU game will be close. They return quarterback Joe Burrow so I give the edge to the purple and gold Tigers.

They return home versus Ole Miss and that's a win.

After a bye week, Georgia comes to town. UGA wins this game.

The SEC plays scrimmage games before the season finale and Auburn's opponent is an FCS team, Samford. This is an easy win.

The final game is against their bitter rival and SEC bully, Alabama. The Crimson Tide will win.

This will be a tough season.





2019

CLEMSON PREVIEW

Become The Villian By JJ Lanier





As sports fans we tend to gravitate towards the underdog; it's human nature. So, when I hear about how we love to build our athletes up just so we can ultimately tear them down, I'm not sure I completely agree.

I mean, if we innately root for the underdog doesn't it make sense that we would pull against them once they reached the top of his or her profession and ceased to be the underdog?

Some of the most despised teams and athletes we currently enjoy watching fail are the same ones we once cheered for.

I mention all this because in college football Clemson has been that national underdog for the last few years. Not in the general sense that they are the surprise team that came out of nowhere, but because they don't play in the SEC and have been the only team to consistently put down the sports top program, Alabama.

But, after two national titles in three years and entering a season where they are one of the prohibitive favorites to win it all again, is Clemson in danger of crossing that line from national darling to college football enemy?

Any talk of Clemson being able to repeat as champions begins with Trevor Lawrence. The expectations laid on the rising sophomore's shoulders are almost unrealistic when you listen to what some people are predicting him to do, but having a game like he did in last year's title game will do that to a player.

The Tigers lost a fair amount of talent from last year's team, especially on the defensive side.

However, with the talent they have coming back on the offensive side of the ball, and Bret Venables' penchant for churning out top rated defensive regardless of who is on the field, I don't expect them to struggle.

Clemson will have the most talent on the field in every game they're currently scheduled to play, and it's really not even that close.

Speaking of the talent gap between them and their opponents, have you seen their schedule? They're likely to get more of a challenge during practice than they are against their opposition.

There are three games where they could possibly trip up, though. The first is Texas A&M at the beginning of the season, but the Aggies have to travel to Death Valley and I imagine Clemson will be ready.

The rivalry game against South Carolina is another one that can always be tricky, and it is in Columbia this year. Still, like the A&M game I can't see the Tigers looking past it. Plus, they'll have two weeks to prepare.

The one we're I could see them losing is away at N.C. State. The Wolfpack are an underrated team that could give Clemson some trouble, especially if the Tigers haven't been challenged up to that point. I wouldn't be surprised if that game winds up being much closer than most pundits think.

Either way, everything is set up nicely for Clemson to make a run at their third national title in four years, turning them into the premier program in college football.

There's a moment in *The Dark Knight* when the character Harvey Dent states "You either die a hero or you live long enough to see yourself become the villain." Clemson's success doesn't seem to be dying anytime soon; at what point does it live long enough to see them become the villain?

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12 BLX	13 BLX	14 BLX	15 BLX	16 MTG	17 MTG	18 MTG
19 MTG	20 MTG	21 OFF	22 @MIS	23 @MIS	24 @MIS	25 @MIS
26 @MIS	27 OFF	28 MOB	29 MOB	30 MOB	31 MOB	

JUNE

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
						1 MOB
2 @PNS	3 @PNS	4 @PNS	5 @PNS	6 @PNS	7 MTG	8 MTG
9 MTG	10 MTG	11 MTG	12 @BIR	13 @BIR	14 @BIR	15 @BIR
16 @BIR	June 17-19 SOUTHERN LEAGUE ALL-STAR BREAK			20 PNS	21 PNS	22 PNS
23 PNS	24 PNS	25 @MTG	26 @MTG	27 @MTG	28 @MTG	29 @MTG
30 CHA						

JULY

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
	1 CHA	2 CHA	3 CHA	4 @MOB	5 @MOB	6 @MOB
7 @MOB	8 @MOB	9 @MOB	10 OFF	11 MIS	12 MIS	13 MIS
14 MIS	15 MIS	16 MIS	17 OFF	18 @CHA	19 @CHA	20 @CHA
21 @CHA	22 BLX	23 BLX	24 BLX	25 BLX	26 BLX	27 PNS
28 PNS	29 PNS	30 PNS	31 PNS			

AUGUST

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
				1 @BLX	2 @BLX	3 @BLX
4 @BLX	5 @BLX	6 OFF	7 MIS	8 MIS	9 MIS	10 MIS
11 MIS	12 OFF	13 @TNS	14 @TNS	15 @TNS	16 @TNS	17 @TNS
18 @BIR	19 @BIR	20 @BIR	21 @BIR	22 @BIR	23 MOB	24 MOB
25 MOB	26 MOB	27 MOB	28 OFF	29 @JXN	30 @JXN	31 @JXN



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