

**Week 10**

**Opponent: Kentucky Wildcats**

**Kickoff: 12:30 PM**

**TV: Lincoln Financial (Jefferson Pilot, whatever)**



OK, that was not what we had in mind for that game. The offense went from looking like world beaters to just being beaten. The defense again looked ragged. Special Teams weren't very special. Just a collapse across the boards in the biggest game of the year. It's a headscratcher. Now we've got a Kentucky team that's scraping around looking for a defining win in a season defined by injuries nearly as plentiful as UGA has faced. Hopefully Richt and staff can get the team past the disaster that was last weekend and focused on a Kentucky team that is dangerous.

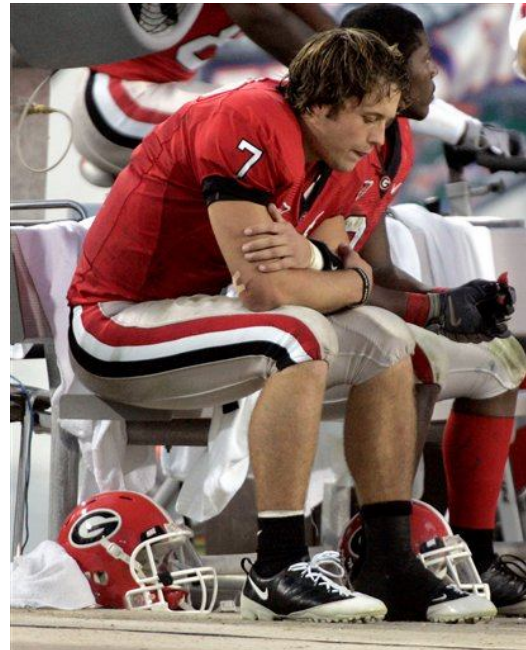
### **About the UF Game**

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Ugh, this is like taking the bandages off of a wound that's still fresh.

Man that was ugly. I won't get into my full thoughts on the game because this is a family rated thing, but it wasn't anything anyone expected to see. Even the biggest Gator fans looking through their finest denim colored Oakleys couldn't have realistically expected that.

I won't get into the full analysis of the meltdown but I will touch on a couple of things. One, I'm not saying officiating lost us the game by any means. You don't lose by 39 points and blame the officials for the loss. I will say that there were several KEY calls that went against us that provided UF with results. The missed spot on UF's 2<sup>nd</sup> drive was inexcusable and really set the tone for the day. How they blew that, blew the review and yet managed to overturn the Tebow TD, I'll never know. Did they not have a single camera on the opposite side of the field? I'm assuming they were all on Tebow's parents or Urban Meyer's headset or something equally useless.



The hands to headgear call on us that negated the INT was quite possibly the single largest penalty in the history of sports (ok, exaggerating a bit there, but it was huge). It was a correct call, but its impact was massive.

Lastly, I've got to admit that after all the hype of UF's offense with the new running game, I was surprised to see that it was UF's old offense that destroyed us so completely. We thoroughly contained Demps and Rainey yet somehow managed to allow the reigning Heisman trophy holder and quite possibly the most dangerous weapon in college football (Harvin) to run free all day. Missed assignments and poor execution on defense made it look like UF was barely trying. That's why it was so demoralizing. You got the feeling that if they really were trying it would've been worse. For whatever reason Florida was ready and UGA wasn't. We've got to figure out in a hurry what makes us ready. By us I mean the team. Forget all this jersey color foolishness. Forget all of these other motivational ploys. I hope someone on the team is embarrassed enough to step up and at least in-house, make a speech like Tebow made to the press, a speech that says I'm fed up of being embarrassed and I'm going to put it all on the line the rest of the season. Maybe someone has. I certainly hope so.

## UK Offense

- The UK offense has struggled mightily this year in the wake of all-everything QB Andre Woodson's departure and a slew of injuries. They've struggled to find any rhythm on offense and are a mere 99<sup>th</sup> in total offense and 83<sup>rd</sup> in scoring offense at under 22 ppg. Their pass offense (88<sup>th</sup>) and rush offense (85<sup>th</sup>) are both struggling, but this bunch gets better as the games get closer. I've watched two different games (Bama and Ark) where they looked awful for 3.5 quarters before busting out.
- At QB, UK started the season with So. Mike Hartline getting the majority of the snaps, including the first 8 starts. A pocket passer, Hartline put up a pedestrian 54% completion percentage and 8 TDs to 7 INTs. Freshman Randall Cobb took over at QB last week after seeing time in several games under center. He started the season at WR in order to get his considerable talents on the field. As a QB, he's put up stats very similar to Hartline, but brings the running dimension to the table.
- At RB, several guys have gotten attempts this season. Leading rusher Derrick Locke is out for the year. In his place, Tony Dixon has gotten the bulk of the carries although Alfonso Smith and Moncelll Allen have gotten numerous touches as well. Smith is a burner with excellent speed and is probably the most dangerous of the UK backs. Last year he averaged over 7 ypc but has seen that taper off to just over 4 this season.
- The UK WR corps took a huge hit when Sr. Dicky Lyons was lost for the year. With the loss of Lyons and Locke to injury and the move of Cobb from WR to QB, UK is entering this game missing all three of their top 3 receivers in terms of catches and yards. With Cobb under center, UK essentially has no WR threat. Their RBs all pop up all over the receptions list, so look for lots of screens and dumps into the flats. TE T.C. Drake is solid.
- The UK OL has been banged up somewhat this season with 2 guys out for the year due to injury. LT Gary Williams is the star of the line although his 6-3 height isn't prototypical. At RG, freshman Jake Lanefski will be making his first start after losing the season-long starting RG last week. Despite the injuries, the group has done an excellent job protecting the QB, leading the SEC in sacks allowed at 1 per game.
- **Bottom Line:** The UK O has struggled a lot this year. Cobb has given them a spark on offense but they're still not doing much. Since the 41 points they put on Western Kentucky in the 4<sup>th</sup> game they've averaged a mere 14.2 ppg. That run of five games also happens to be all of their conference games they've played to date. With the loss of Lyons and the move of Cobb to QB, they've become much more of a ground attack team, utilizing Cobb as a runner from QB far more. Look for us to stack the box and play a similar defense to what you saw against LSU. UK doesn't have the physicality of LSU up front and they have nothing like Charles Scott to really pound us. After the success we had containing UF's small, quicker RBs, we should be OK this week...unless Percy Harvin transfers to UK.
- **Key Matchup to watch when they have the ball:** Watch Ellerbe against Cobb. Apparently Ellerbe is near 100%. If so, he'll likely end up running around chasing Cobb a good bit. If we're able to limit Cobb's effectiveness as a runner, we should limit them greatly.



## UK Defense

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- Man, Hal Mumme would have killed for a defense like this. This ain't the UK defenses of old that just rolled over and did nothing. No, this group is physical and knows how to hit. Yes, they gave up 63 to Florida, but if you watched that game at all you know that early special teams disasters derailed them and they never got close to going. UK is 18<sup>th</sup> nationally in scoring defense but would be 6<sup>th</sup> if you took out the Florida debacle. They're 26<sup>th</sup> in total defense, being slightly better against the pass than the run.
- Myron Pryor is a force inside. Jeremy Jarmon is a force outside. The front 4 starters consist of 2 JRs and 2 Srs. This is a solid group with excellent size and experience. Look for LB Johnny Williams to move up to DE in pass rush situations. He leads the team in sacks with 4.
- The stars of the UK defense reside at LB. OLB Braxton Kelley holds a team high 68 tackles and always seems to be around the ball. MLB Micah Johnson is an excellent specimen. At 6-2, 250 he commands the middle of the field. Despite missing two games this season he's 2<sup>nd</sup> on the team in tackles and leads the team in tackles for loss with 9.
- The UK secondary is led by CB Trevard Lindley. His 4 INTs on the season tie him for the team lead with ball hawking safety Marcus McClinton. Lindley's 9 pass breakups are more than double the next guy on the team. Sr. CB David Jones provides excellent experience on the other side of Lindley. The other safety spot is a bit of a question mark where a couple of freshmen are listed 1-2 on the depth chart. No one has really emerged there.
- **Bottom Line:** This UK defense has played very, very well this year with the exception of the UF game. Considering how poorly the offense has played this season it's even more impressive. They're 2<sup>nd</sup> in the SEC in sacks and tackles for loss. They play solid, physical defense and were stout enough to man up to Bama and play them toe to toe in a defensive struggle and not really back down. The Florida game was a complete anomaly to their defensive season, as the defense has played well enough to keep them in every game, losing their other two games by a combined 10 points. This will be a tough matchup for us coming off consecutive weeks of facing LSU and Florida. Given our issues of keeping Stafford upright last week and the strength of the UK pass rush, look for us to really focus on establishing the run. Johnson is a solid MLB, but like Brinkley at SC, he's big, and if we can make him run sideline to sideline all day we should have some success.
- **Key matchup to watch when we have the ball:** The AJ Green vs. Travard Lindley matchup should be a good one. When he was matched up with Vandy's DJ Moore all day he had a breakout performance. Lindley is as good a CB as we'll face all year so it's another opportunity for Green to show off his development.



## The UK Game Overall

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What is there to say at this point? Last week in a game where we had the entire season in our hands we dropped the ball...both literally and figuratively and in a lot of ways we didn't see coming. Offense, defense, special teams and coaching were all flops on Saturday. It was as if Urban Meyer himself penned the script of our demise. We simply just fell apart in every imaginable way. I'm anxious to see how our team responds from that. Kentucky is a solid football team. If we show up the

way we have for a few games this season we'll get beaten. For those of us that made the trip up there two years ago, we know that feeling.

It's important to remember that it was only two years ago (and the last time we went to Kentucky) that the wheels seemed to come off the season in a late loss to UK that we just never seemed able to put away. You may recall that we had several missed FGs and turnovers which kept a scrappy UK team in the game close enough to pull out a win late. This UK team possesses a much better defense than we saw that day. I'm anxious to see how we respond.

As for the game itself, after their considerable personnel losses this year, UK is not a team built to come from behind. They simply don't have the explosiveness that some of their predecessors had. If we can convert our early possessions into TDs (not FGs) and establish a strong defensive presence, I think we have every reason to believe we'll win, but the longer they stay in it, the more they'll be able to rely on their experience in all of the close games they've played this season. We need to go up there with the same attitude we took to Baton Rouge (at least on offense). Score early and with ruthless efficiency.



### Positional Notes

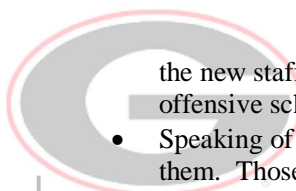
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- Honestly can't think of much to say here this week...
- Richard Samuel looked solid in his time late in the game and would seem to be an excellent change of pace back from Moreno and King. With that said, I think someone needs to really work with him on when to bring the ball out of the endzone on a kickoff. After you've fumbled it around for a minute or two is not such a time.
- We need to get Aron White the ball more. He's just a big play guy I guess. 2 career catches. 1 TD, 1 long reception to get out of our own endzone in a close game in Baton Rouge.

### Random Thoughts

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- You may recall the discussion of SC's horrible run of coaches where Richt would've already been 2<sup>nd</sup> in wins or something. Well, If Richt had managed to put up his 79-21 record at Kentucky, he would easily be their winningest coach. Currently Paul "Bear" Bryant ranks atop the UK win list after going 60-23-5 in his 8 seasons there. The 2-4 spots on the all-time wins list at UK are occupied by guys with career losing records. Ouch.
- Speaking of SEC coaching tenures, with the exit of Fulmer, Richt has the 2<sup>nd</sup> longest tenure at his school amongst SEC coaches, with only Tuberville ahead of him. Given Tuberville's situation, Richt could be the longest tenured coach in the SEC by January.
- I managed to pull myself off the floor after our game to watch the Texas-Texas Tech matchup and I'm really, really glad I did. What a game. I was pulling for Texas in that game because I felt like they had the best chance of keeping Florida out of the title game, so of course they lost. I'm now a huge Texas Tech fan. I'm also put in the unenviable position of pulling for Saban to beat Florida in the SECCG. My head hurts thinking of that. I dub that the Ego Bowl. For the record, I expect Florida to absolutely destroy Alabama mostly just to spite me.
- With Fulmer stepping down, it'll be interesting to see who takes over at UT. Whoever it is will have some challenges. The talent there is down for anyone not wearing #14 (that'd be Eric Berry). They have no natural recruiting advantage. Getting rid of Fulmer was probably the best move for them down the road but I wouldn't be shocked to see a downturn for a few years while



the new staff gets settled, especially if they bring in a Mike Leach with a completely different offensive scheme. If I'm Leach I certainly wouldn't leave TT for Tennessee.

- Speaking of jobs... Washington, Clemson and Tennessee are all open and Auburn could be joining them. Those are some pretty big jobs. The offseason coaching carousel should be fun to watch. Whoever ends up with Lane Kiffin will be in an interesting dilemma. If he ends up being good he'll be gone in 2-3 years...back to prove himself in the NFL.
- I think I've just about decided that the Plus-1 is the best alternative for deciding the national championship. It's essentially a 4-team playoff. An 8-team playoff would be completely tied to the conference champions and two at large schools and that scares me because Notre Dame would put some weird clauses in there to get selected every so often if they are in the top 35 or beat at least two service academies or something. College Football is so special because of the regular season. I don't like tying it only to conference titles because then the non-conference games are meaningless. Say GT manages to go undefeated and ranked #1 (shudder) going into the final matchup against UGA. Say UGA wins (51-7 works). In an 8-team playoff, as long as they beat Wake or Duke or whoever it is that they would be playing in the ACCCG, they'd still be in. Not so in the Plus-1. Keep the regular season sacred.
- I really, really hope the Rose Bowl gets stuck with USC-Ohio State II to preserve their Pac 10 vs. Big 10 sanctity after they passed on us last year. It's looking more and more likely that that will happen as long as Penn State makes it into the title game. If UF somehow slips past PSU or TT stays undefeated, that Penn State vs. USC matchup could be really interesting. At this point, USC is clearly the team on the outside looking in of the whole thing.
- By the way, even if we were to win out, the odds of us getting a BCS bid are slim to none. UF would have to lose to SC, Vandy or FSU and then get beat by Bama or Bama would have to slip up against LSU or Auburn and get clobbered by UF for us to even have a shot and even then it's a stretch. Outside of that we look like a lock for a bowl game we would have drooled over under Donnan...the Cotton, the Capital One, etc. Far and away the Cotton is the most intriguing. Assuming LSU loses to Bama they'd have 3 losses and by the end of the season would be ranked around #20 or so. If so, I'd imagine we'd have a good shot at ending up in Dallas against one of the Big XII's big 4 (Texas, TT, OU or OkSt) or maybe even Missouri in easily the best of the non-BCS matchups...albeit one that occurs at 11 AM New Year's Day. Of that group, if we ended up playing Ok State it'd be an interesting case of facing the team you open with the following season. Odd.

Have a safe weekend,  
Jody

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