

Welcome to the August 27th Edition of the View from the Cheap Seats. We'll be going over some other games of interest today along with reviewing our first opponent of the season, GSU.

NC State v. South Carolina

Tom Obrien starts his second season at the helm of NC State, and I'm sure he is hoping for better results this year. The BC team he left last year had a great run, while NC State finished

Offense USC

Beecher will start for USC and Spurrier seems to be pretty comfortable with him managing the game well.

Rank will be the tailback over Mike Davis, bit of a surprise there.

They'll have a good receiving core led by Kenny McKinley, Lecorn and Brown.

Offense NCST

Russell Wilson, a RSF, will start, and that would be a big concern going against their defense.

However, they have a line made up of JR's and SR's, so it might balance out.

Defense USC

Munerlyn, Cook, Brinkley, and Norwood make this unit quite formidable. They struggled down the stretch last year giving up almost 1000 yds rushing in their last three games. That's deceiving though because Brinkley was hurt, him being back brings another dimension to their D.

Defense NCST

None of the guys on this unit jumped out at me the way USC's do, but that might be because I haven't seen them play in person. You'd have to think USC has the advantage here.

Conclusion

I think USC will handle them on both sides of the ball. Having an unproven QB against USC's defense would scare the heck out of me. They are going to be very, very good there. I also think USC will be

able to move the ball on their D, plus it's a night game at Williams-Brice.

Bama v. Clemson

Alabama

Overall Breakdown:

Alabama will present a significant challenge for UGA. They have a very good offensive line anchored by Andre Smith, an All-American candidate, who's in his third year starting at left tackle. He is a mountain of a man and very good at both pass protection and run blocking.

John Parker Wilson has been criticized often by media and Bama fans alike, but I think he is better than folks give him credit for. He averaged almost 225 yds per game passing and threw 18 TD's last year, and against SEC defenses, that is not at all bad. Further, Alabama is installing more intermediate passing options to take advantage of his strengths.

They have two running backs averaging over 4 yds per carry in Terry Grant and Glenn Coffee. Grant is especially good outside the tackles and has excellent speed and scored 8 rushing TD's last year as a freshman.

They lost two good receivers in DJ Hall and Matt Caddell, and one of those holes might be filled with promising freshman Julio Jones.

Last year, they averaged over 26 ppg against SEC opponents, and if they can get a receiver to step up, the offense will be pretty good.

On defense, they were not able to sack Stafford once last year, and that was a major key to UGA staying in the game. New DC Kevin Steele will certainly be focused on that for the game this year in Athens.

Bama has athletes to be sure, and Saban has recruited quite well since arriving in Tuscaloosa.

Their defensive front three (they play a 3-4 scheme) boasts a senior and two juniors, Bobby Greenwood being the leader of that group.

At linebacker, Rolando McClain is a stud that would start on any team in the country, only a SO too. However, the talent they have other than McClain is not so proven, and the suspension of Prince Hall is a big hit to the defense.

They have another stud in the secondary is Rashad Johnson. He will be an NFL player and probably an early pick as well.

Clemson Offense

Will this be Bowden's year? He normally starts quite strong, and they are touted as a potential conference and national champion.

Their QB Cullen Harper has really impressed me. He has a good arm, great touch, and runs the offense well.

They have two very good backs in James Davis and CJ Spiller.

Aaron Kelly is an excellent, all conference receiver.

Their line is all seniors and one junior, so they should be able to give Bama a good test up front.

Clemson Defense

Ricky Sapp leads this defense, and they seem to constantly produce high grade ends in this program. Their linebackers are also productive, and Chris Chancellor is excellent in coverage for the secondary. I think they were ninth in total defense last year, so this is a good unit.

Conclusion

UGA fans like to talk about AJ Green, but Bama has a good Fresh in Julio Jones. Jones is slated to start and go up against Chancellor more than likely. I think you'll see Bama try to control the line early with runs, then open it up on the outside with passing to the heralded freshman.

We like to talk about SEC being the dominant conference, and I agree with that across the all teams. This will be a good litmus test for the SEC though as a team picked to finish third in its division gets to go up against the conference favorite from the ACC. This is going to be a great game.

TN v. UCLA

Well, we get to see a couple things here, Clawson's debut in big boy football and Nuehiesel's first step towards getting UCLA on probation. This does not look like a very good contest on paper actually, as TN seems to be a prohibitive favorite.

UCLA Offense

Word out of Westwood is that the team looks sharp so far. Nuehiesel can coach, so that's not a surprise. Kevin Craft will start at QB after most of the others were hurt at various times throughout the last few months. He's going to be green and going against a good UT secondary.

Their line is a mix of upper and lower classmen, and I think UT's defensive front will be able to control this battle.

Marcus Everett returns for his fourth year with the team, and he's very experienced. He's gone against USC before, so he knows what it's like to compete with a fast defense.

UCLA Defense

Simply put, they are good. This unit has been the calling card for the Bruins the last few years, and they return Jr's and Sr's across almost every position. One thing for Dawg fans to note...their starting free safet is Rahim Moore, who we tried to steal at the last minute.

UT Offense

UT will have a balanced offense this year with a very deep running backs rotation. Foster, Hardesty, and Creer are all good backs with speed and power. They have Taylor and Briscoe on the outside, and these two are productive receivers. The tight end Cottam is supposed to be more involved this year as well. The question here is, how good will Jonathan Crompton be at delivering the ball? He's more mobile than Ainge, but man, Ainge tore us up with those quick passes and post routes. I don't think Crompton can duplicate Ainge's success against us...can he?

A wildcard here is how Dave Clausen's offense will fair against SEC speed. The guy has won everywhere he's been, and there is no reason

to think his scheme wont work. I have a feeling UGA is in for a severe defensive challenge.

UT Defense

On defense, UT has a major concern in their front 7. We made their defense look like world-beaters last year, one that finished 70th in the nation in total defense, and I hope we plan to take it to them this year by running right at them. Because, I think their secondary will be very good. Eric Berry has a chance to be a Heisman contender his Jr/SR years, especially if they line him up behind center on offense. He is an extremely talented kid and one I wish we could have gotten.

Conclusion

I think TN will win this game. It'll be good to see Clawson's offense up against a good D this early, might tell us something to expect for our game. I'm not thinking this will be a blowout at all, but I think UT will be ready, playing with a chip on their shoulder after losing to Cal, another PAC 10 team last year. It could be close, but I think UT will be able to control the line on both sides of the ball and the clock.

UGA v. GSU

Chris Hatcher just suspended eight players, including four starters

Lee Chapple and Antonio Henton will both try to replace Walter Payton Award winner Jayson Foster

They return just 11 starters from last year's 7-4 season, and three of those were suspended

Defensively, Georgia Southern does return eight players, including former Ole Miss linebacker Quentin Taylor (6-foot-0, 240)

Otherwise, the Eagles will bring an extremely youthful team to Athens as Hatcher expects most, if not all, of his 25 true freshmen to play this fall.

Georgia Southern did beat eventual champion Appalachian State 38-35 in Boone, N.C.

UGA

First game jitters and The Appalachian State factor- don't come out of the tunnel thinking you've already won the NC

Breaking in a new kicker- Walsh will be kicking field goals for us, and I think it's crucial he get that first kick out of the way. Nerves should calm down after that.

Playing without Southerland for the first time- Chappas gets most PT, then turning to Fields and Boyd

Who starts on the line with Boling and Studivant out – Chris Davis (C) Josh Davis (T), Tripp (T), Vance (G), Cordy Glenn (G). That is a really young unit, most of whom have never played a meaningful minute. This would scare the heck out of me if we were opening with LSU, but I think we'll be okay for this game.

Subs- Harden (G) Jones (C), Anderson (G), Strickland (G) building depth

Defenses first test against a "spread" offense- Do we start laying the wood and set the tone, or do we save our more intricate schemes for latter in the season. I'd prefer we come out ready for blood and put

GSU down early, hopefully big. I don't think that will happen though, at least based on the last time we played. There are many kids on GSU who either played with our kids in HS and/or wanted a scholarship from UGA. They'll be a lot of pride on the line for GSU, and they'd love to make a name for themselves. I was pretty nervous at halftime in 2004. We won by 20, but it wasn't really as close most of the game as the final score would indicate.

We will see freshmen AJ Green, Tavarres King, Ben Jones, Blair Walsh, Caleb King, Cordy Glenn, Marcus Downtin, and John Knox. Who else might get in the game...Carlton Thomas, Christian Robinson, Bacarri Rambo, Nick Williams, Dontavious Thomas?

Conclusion, we should have a good ballgame for 2 ½ to 3 quarters. At that point, our depth and size should start to wear them down. I'd love to see one of our freshmen WR catch their first TD pass. I'd also like to see our line dominate and give up no sacks. I'd like to see mostly three and outs on defense or at least very few sustained drives. And as mentioned before, I'd like to see our kicker put one through the uprights. I'm nervous this week, not because of our opponent but because it's the start of a very hyped team. I started feeling it Monday morning at work, and it had been almost nine months since I last had the feeling. I'm so excited to get this baby kicked off.

One last note, we have now launched the first five segments on the web, and we'd really love to hear your feedback. This is a show done by us but for you. Please let us know if you have ideas for content or if you'd like to come on the show. We'd be more than happy to have other Dawg fans or fans from our opponents come on and give their opinions. Just go to Viddler and create an account. You can make all your comments right there. Thanks so much for watching everyone.