

## **2017 Georgia Football Postgame Notes vs. App State, Sept. 2, Athens, Ga. (Sanford Stadium)**

**\*Successful Season Opener:** No. 15 Georgia posted a 31-10 win to open its 124<sup>th</sup> year of football. The Bulldogs are now 94-27-3 in season openers including winning 18 of their past 21 and 2-0 in openers under Kirby Smart.

**\*Chubb, Michel Attack:** Senior tailbacks **Nick Chubb** and **Sony Michel** combined for 183 yards and three touchdowns to pace Georgia's attack. Chubb had 15 rushes for 96 yards and two TDs while Michel had 16 rushes for 87 yards and 1 TD. Chubb scored the game's first touchdown to give Georgia a 7-0 lead at the 0:39 mark in the first quarter and then ran into the end zone in the third quarter to make it 31-0. He now has 31 career rushing touchdowns, which is sixth on the school's all-time list.

Michel's performance included a 44-yard run that set up Georgia's second touchdown of the game. He also scored his 18<sup>th</sup> career rushing touchdown to give UGA a 21-0 edge in the second quarter. One play after Michel's 44-yard run, true freshman QB **Jake Fromm** connected with senior WR **Javon Wims** for a 34-yard touchdown catch. Wims finished with three catches for 81 yards and a score. This was Fromm's first career touchdown pass and second TD catch for Wims after he recorded a 4-yard score in the 2016 Liberty Bowl.

**\*Getting Defensive:** The veteran Bulldog defense held the Mountaineers scoreless and without a trip to the Red Zone in the first three quarters. The last time Georgia held an opponent without a point in the first half was at South Carolina last year. The Bulldogs led 14-0 and went on to win 28-14 against USC. App State's lone TD came after an INT that resulted in only a 21-yard drive. Georgia junior DT **Trenton Thompson** and junior LB **Roquan Smith** led Georgia in tackles with six apiece. Redshirt sophomore DB **J.R. Reed** had a sack, a forced fumble and five tackles. Reed redshirted last season after playing his freshman year in 2015 for Tulsa.

**\*Firsts:** Following a first quarter injury to starting QB **Jacob Eason**, true freshman **Jake Fromm** got his first action at the 6:30 mark in the opening period. He completed his first career pass, an 8 yarder to sophomore TE **Isaac Nauta**. Fromm finished 10-for-15 for 143 yards and one TD. Another first was sophomore **Mecole Hardman** grabbing his first career pass, also an 8 yarder. Hardman switched from defense to offense in the offseason. He also added a 23-yard kickoff return versus App State. Freshman **D'Andre Swift** caught a 5-yard pass from Fromm for his first career catch as well in the first quarter and finished with three catches for 18 yards and six carries for 31 yards.

On special teams, junior **Nick Moore** handled all snaps on punts in the first two quarters. Senior SN **Trent Frix** snapped on the extra points for the Bulldogs. Frix snapped for redshirt sophomore **Rodrigo Blankenship** who hit a 23-yard field goal and was 4-for-4 on PATs.

A total of 16 true freshmen made their Bulldog debut tonight. Last year, a dozen true freshmen played in the season opener.

**\*New Specialist:** Georgia featured a new punter versus the Mountaineers. Graduate transfer **Cameron Nizialek** punted five times for an average of 43.8 (long of 53) with Moore snapping. Nizialek also handled holding duties for the Bulldogs on field goals and PATs. Nizialek punted for three years at Columbia University before transferring after earning a degree in economics.

**\*Starters:** True freshman **Andrew Thomas** started at RT. He is the first true freshman to start on the offensive line for Georgia since John Theus in 2012. Sophomore DL **Tyler Clark**, sophomore DB **J.R. Reed** and redshirt sophomore LG **Pat Allen** also started for the first time in their careers.

**\*Points Off Turnovers:** App State converted two interceptions into 10 points. The first INT thrown by graduate **Brice Ramsey** turned into a TD with 5:41 left in the contest to avoid a shutout. QB Taylor Lamb scampered in 20 yards to cap a 3-play, 21-yard drive to make it 31-7. ASU notched another INT off Ramsey with 1:49 left in the game and managed a field goal to make it 31-10 with 26 seconds left. Georgia did not force any turnovers.

**\*Injury Report:** Sophomore QB **Jacob Eason** left the game at the 6:30 mark in the opening period. He sustained a knee injury on an Appalachian State sideline hit that was ruled a personal foul. Eason finished 1-for-3 for 4 yards.

**\*Up Next:** #15 Georgia (1-0) faces Notre Dame (1-0) next Saturday in South Bend, Ind. The Irish knocked off Temple 49-16 earlier in the day. NBC will televise the game at 7:30 p.m.

#

#

## **Appalachian State postgame notes**

- > Senior quarterback Taylor Lamb rushed for a team-leading 66 yards on 10 official carries, including a 20-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter. Eight of his carries netted 90 yards, but two sacks cut 24 yards off his total.
- > With his 32-yard run in the first quarter, Lamb has had a carry of at least 30 yards in four straight games and a carry of at least 20 yards in seven straight games.
- > Running back Jalin Moore finished with four catches for 34 yards, all in the first half. In his first two seasons with the Mountaineers, Moore totaled five catches for 32 yards.
- > True freshmen Thomas Hennigan and Malik Williams started at receiver for the Mountaineers. The last time a true freshman receiver started a season opener for App State was the Michigan game in 2014.
- > Noah Hannon became the first true freshman to start an App State season opener at center since Alex Acey in 2011. Acey started all 12 games as a freshman despite being a walk-on who missed most of preseason camp with an injury. He was a starter at right guard in his final three seasons.
- > In addition to the three true freshman starters on offense, true freshmen Xavier Subotsch (punter), Markell Clark (defensive line) and Tim Frizzell (linebacker) also played.
- > Senior linebacker Devan Stringer recorded a sack, his first since the 2015 regular-season finale against South Alabama. He now has 5.5 sacks in his career.
- > Senior safety A.J. Howard led App State with 11 tackles, two off his career high of 13 against Liberty as a true freshman in 2014.
- > Sophomore defenders Desmond Franklin and Jordan Fehr posted their first career interceptions.

## Georgia vs. Appalachian State – Sept. 2, 2017

### Georgia Post-Game Quotes

#### Georgia head coach Kirby Smart

##### On the win:

“That was a long time coming for our kids. They’ve worked really hard. We have a lot of respect for Appalachian State. Our team played really hard in the second half. ... Our kids were persistent. We talked about chopping wood and keeping it going.”

##### On Jacob Eason:

“We’re not sure how long Jacob is going to be out. We don’t know the extent or how long.”

##### On Jake Fromm:

“We didn’t have to make a lot of adjusting. Jacob and Jake have similar qualities. Jake’s a good player and we’re excited about what he can do. Jake managed the game well. We’ll keep working to get him better.”

##### On the defense:

“Coach (Mel) Tucker did a tremendous job and the kids played hard for him. He’s so passionate. We just kept executing.”

##### On special teams:

“The punting flipped the field. Cameron (Nizialek) did a great job. The coverage did a great job. Rodrigo (Blankenship) kicked it in the end zone and was a weapon.”

##### On Notre Dame preparation:

“We’ve got a huge game next week. That’s a great opponent on both sides of the ball and in the kicking game. ... We’ll make it simple for the players. We’ll go out and get ready to go play. Notre Dame is a good football team, a great program. We’re excited for the opportunity. We’ll get prepared because it will be a physical, tough game.”

##### On the young players:

“We’re still not where we need to be. We don’t have enough depth at some positions. When players get an opportunity to play, what are they going to do? We need more people playing winning football when we put them in the game.”

#### Sophomore tight end Isaac Nauta

##### On the offense’s performance...

“We did a good job today. There’s definitely stuff we’ve gotta clean up, but overall I’m proud of everybody. They fought hard.”

##### On sophomore quarterback Jacob Eason’s injury...

“Obviously, (Jacob Eason) is one of our brothers. You never like to see that for a guy. We’re all gonna rally around him and it’s going to be good.”

##### On freshman quarterback Jake Fromm’s performance...

“We’ve practiced so hard and those guys get a lot of reps, so Fromm came in and he did a great job. We knew he was gonna do good for us and he’s a good player, so we were excited.”

#### Sophomore wide receiver Mecole Hardman

##### On Sony Michel running the ‘Wild Dawg’ formation...

“Sony’s running the ball pretty good, so why not just give it to him direct and let him do his thing? It depends on how the game’s going, who’s had a good game and how that goes.”

##### On Javon Wims’ performance...

“Javon showed out. I enjoy seeing him go up and get the ball and playing more physical than he has been. I love for him to put on a show and I’m here for him.”

##### On Jake Fromm’s performance...

“Jake came in and did his thing. You can’t complain about that. I think we prepared Jake to do what he did in practice and what he did today out here on the field.”

#### Junior defensive lineman Trenton Thompson

##### On the defensive performance...

“We just keep working, ‘cause we won’t stop. We’ve gotta keep staying together because if we don’t, something else could happen.”

##### Confidence heading into next week...

“The confidence is in the game plan our coach has for us and how we practice Monday through Thursday ... As long as we stay together at practice, understand what we have to do as a unit and as a defense, and our offense is gonna hold our back.”

## Georgia vs. Appalachian State – Sept. 2, 2017

### Appalachian State Post-Game Quotes

#### Head coach Scott Satterfield

##### On how to build on tonight's game...

"There are certainly a lot of things we can correct and fix, we played a lot of young players tonight, started three true freshmen on offense. This is their first college game; they just got here in July, so to come in here in this environment, I thought they played well. So we've got a lot to build off of. Georgia's a really good football team, and they'll have a great year, so hopefully we will too as we move on."

##### On Fromm's entry into the game and performance...

"We prepared for their offense, and they still ran the same offense. Eason was a little shaky to start the game, and our defense was playing really well. Fromm comes in, and he hits the first two balls, and they get first downs. They get a little bit of momentum, and I thought Fromm played well throughout the rest of the day. They leaned on their runningbacks, and their runningbacks, I thought, ended up wearing us down and having a really good second half."

##### On Georgia's depth on defense...

"They have such great length throughout their front seven. Coming in to the game, if there's a weak spot, maybe the secondary. I thought they played well in the secondary as well. Of course we've got two true freshmen out there, and it's hard for them to get loose at times. But [Trent Thompson] is a really good football player, and [Roquan Smith] and [Natrez Patrick] at linebacker, and then you've got two big bodies [Lorenzo Carter and Davin Bellamy] on the outside. They're 6-5, 6-6, they're just a really good defense, and they've played a lot of football in their time here, and I think they'll end up being one of the better defenses in the SEC."

#### Senior QB #11 Taylor Lamb

##### Playing inside stadium ...

"It was a cool experience. I came to games as a kid and I know a lot of guys on that football team there, a lot of alumni from the school. So it was cool to see those guys and play in Sanford Stadium."

##### On the defense ...

"I think we played well at times but the penalties and we were behind the sticks. So the third and longs, the second and longs, you're not going to like the outcome against a team like that when you're in those situations. SO we have to fix those minor things. Our offense is based off staying in front of the sticks so we have to fix those things and get back to it next week."

Biggest challenge of the game ... I think just getting in a groove, we had a good play then a penalty or a bad play behind the sticks so getting in a groove out there. We got in a groove kind of in the second quarter there but you know you have to give a testament to that defense. They're extremely good, they're fast, they're big and they had a good game playing against us."

#### Senior OLB # 28 Devan Stringer

##### Georgia offense ...

"They did really well. They're a very challenging team and they have a lot of weapons. They kept pounding the ball, pounding the ball until it worked. We gave up some big plays that really hurt us. I commend our fight to the end, we kept fighting. We got some turnovers there in the fourth quarter and we continued to show up and fight."

##### The freshman QB...

"He played pretty well [for a] freshman quarterback coming in. You know what I'm saying? He set his feet, he made good decisions, and he threw the ball well. He kept us off tempo a little bit."

##### Playing here...

"It was great, a great way to start my senior year. We didn't get the outcome we wanted but like I said we fought to the end and I'm really proud of my guys. We have a lot to work on but we're going to get there."