

## A FIRST DAWG OF GEORGIA FOOTBALL “BUTCH”

As many of you know, college football is a favorite past-time of many Georgians and every football team is not complete without their mascot. UGA did not always have the “Dawg” as their mascot. Before 1947 a goat and a few bull terriers had filled in as mascots until Butch, the fearless English Bulldog, came into the picture. Butch holds a special place in the University of Georgia’s history as he became a first bulldog mascot in 1947 and was from Warner Robins, Georgia. Butch served admirably from 1947 until 1951, and during the off season was just an ordinary dog.

In the summer of 1951 tragedy struck when Butch escaped from his pen and was found running loose in Warner Robins by a police officer. The officer claimed Butch was sick due to his slobbering from the mouth; so the officer shot and killed Butch. The owner of Butch, Mr. Mabry Smith, had a veterinarian examine the mascot and indicated he was perfectly healthy when he was shot. Butch was buried at 506 Watson Boulevard, located on the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> Street and Watson. This was the site of the Mabry Smith family business, Smith City, which closed in 1959.

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