

BULLDOGS-EXTRA

'Apparently a lot of old people still use them': Why Stetson Bennett uses a flip phone

**McClain Baxley**

Athens Banner-Herald

Published 10:36 a.m. ET Jan. 8, 2022 | Updated 9:35 p.m. ET Jan. 8, 2022

INDIANAPOLIS — One of the underlying levels of the mystique of Georgia's starting quarterback Stetson Bennett this season has been his approach to social media.

He has a Twitter, where he's retweeted Pierce County football highlights and some tweets about the DGD Fund. On Instagram, he's verified and has more than 37,000 followers where he mostly posts about the DGD Fund.

This summer, Bennett went to the Verizon store in need of a new phone. He thought about the time spent on social media and on his phone in general.

More: Some UGA fans 'tired of getting hyped up' are hesitant or superstitious about national title

The former walk-on from Blackshear took a look at all of the technology and new updates that have come to cell phones and opted for a different choice — a flip phone.

"They actually still sell them at the Verizon store," Bennett admitted Saturday morning at the CFP National Championship Media Day. "Apparently a lot of old people still use them."

Bennett has started 11 games this season for the Bulldogs, throwing for 2,638 yards, 27 touchdowns and seven interceptions. He's also rushed for 283 yards and a touchdown.

More: Looking for tickets to the Georgia-Alabama national championship? Prices are dropping

Throughout the season, fans and media members have been critical of Bennett's play and head coach Kirby Smart's decision to start Bennett over former five-star quarterback JT Daniels. The "outside noise" played a factor in the quarterback ditching his old smart phone and sticking with his laptop and tablet for more limited social media consumption.

"I had a bunch of school coming up the next semester, I had football," Bennett said. "And I was like, 'I've got all this stuff to do, all this important stuff. Let's try not to let anything get in the way of that focus and just go get a flip phone.'"

He assured everyone that the flip phone wouldn't stick around forever, he joked saying he wouldn't become "a nomad."

But his teammates support him as a quarterback, and as a flip phone user.

"Every time I see Stetson he's either learning up on something or on his flip phone," senior DL Jordan Davis said. "He's that guy you want to be around."

More Championship Coverage

More: 'One more, Stet!': The unbreakable bond between Stetson Bennett and friends from JUCO season

More: Photos: UGA football team departs for national championship in Indianapolis

More: Georgia football 'fired up' as it arrives in bundled-up Indianapolis for championship game

More: They were big Georgia football fans. Now their families root for Bulldogs thinking of them

McClain Baxley is a recruiting reporter for the Athens Banner-Herald and the USA TODAY Network. Reach him by email at mbaxley@onlineathens.com or on Twitter

at @mcclainbaxley.