



COMMODORE CREED

**WORK ON YOUR WEAKNESSES
UNTIL THEY BECOME YOUR STRONG POINTS**

**REMEMBER THAT A GREAT EFFORT IS USUALLY
THE RESULT OF A GREAT ATTITUDE**

**DEDICATE YOURSELF TO A MIGHTY PURPOSE.
WIN WITH HUMILITY, LOSE WITH GRACE**

IGNORE THOSE WHO DISCOURAGE YOU

**WORK TO IMPROVE YOUR MORAL AND SPIRITUAL
STRENGTHS AS WELL AS YOUR PHYSICAL ONES**

**REMEMBER THAT HOW YOU CONDUCT YOURSELF
OFF THE FIELD IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS HOW YOU
CONDUCT YOURSELF ON THE FIELD.**

**TALENT IS GOD GIVEN - BE HUMBLE
FAME IS MAN GIVEN - BE THANKFUL
CONCEIT IS SELF GIVEN - BE CAREFUL**

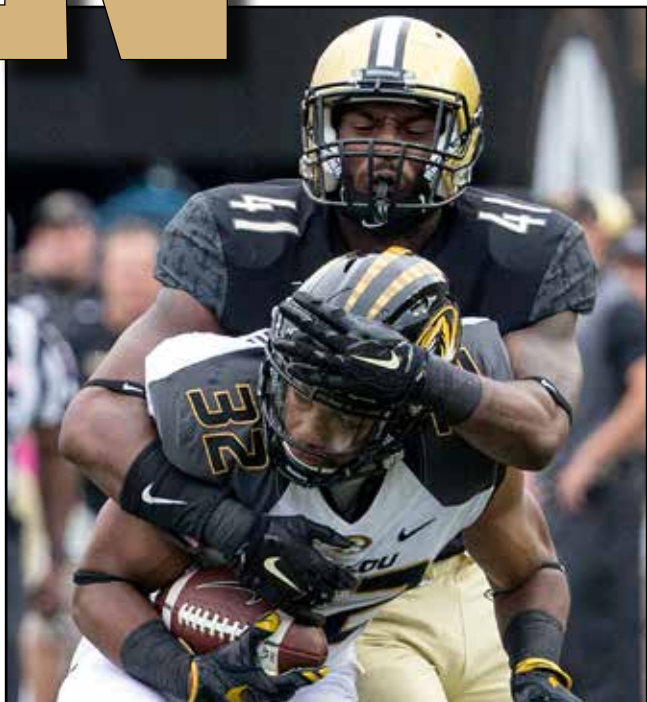
**DON'T ASK TO BE DEPRIVED OF TENSION AND DISCIPLINE
THESE ARE TOOLS THAT SHAPE SUCCESS**

**DO WHAT HAS TO BE DONE, WHEN IT HAS TO BE DONE,
AND AS WELL AS IT CAN BE DONE**

**REMEMBER THAT WHEN YOU ARE NOT WORKING TO IMPROVE,
YOUR COMPETITION IS.**

**ALWAYS GIVE YOUR BEST.
PRACTICE LIKE A CHAMPION
PLAY LIKE A CHAMPION**





DOWN

FACTS/SCHEDULE/CONTENTS

TEAM INFORMATION

COACHING STAFF

Derek Mason Head Coach/Def. Coordinator
 C.J. Ah You Defensive Line
 Gerry Gdowski Recruiting Coordinator/QBs
 Jeff Genyk Special Teams Coordinator/RBs
 Cortez Hankton Wide Receivers
 Osia Lewis Senior Defensive Assistant/OLBs
 Andy Ludwig Offensive Coordinator/TEs
 Chris Marve Inside Linebackers
 Marc Mattioli Defensive Secondary
 Cameron Norcross Offensive Line
 Kevin Abrams Graduate Assistant (Specialists/Off.)
 Tate Benton Graduate Assistant (Def.)
 Javon Marshall Graduate Assistant (Def.)
 Quinshon Odom Graduate Assistant (Off.)
 James Dobson Head Strength Coach
 Tyler Clarke Assistant Director, Strength
 Aaron Hill Assistant, Strength
 Matt Manninger Assistant, Strength
 Ben Schumacher Assistant, Strength

A QUICK LOOK

Head Coach Derek Mason (3rd year)
 Career Record 7-17
 2015 Team Record 4-8
 2015 SEC Record 2-6 (4th in SEC East)
 AP/Coaches Top 25 Rank n/a
 Home 3-3
 Away 1-5
 Home Attendance 192,802 (6 games)
 Average Home Attendance 32,134
 Number of Bowl Appearances 7
 All-Time Bowl Record 4-2-1
 Last Bowl 2014 BBVA Compass
 Last Bowl (W/L) Houston (W, 41-24)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Location Nashville, Tenn.
 Founded 1873
 Undergraduate Enrollment 6,883
 Nickname Commodores
 Colors Black and Gold
 Conference Southeastern
 Stadium Vanderbilt Stadium (40,350)
 Surface Synthetic (Shaw Sportexe)
 All-Time Record 588-600-50 (.497)
 Nicholas S. Zeppos University Chancellor
 David Williams II Athletics Director
 Jason Grooms Asst. AD/Director of FB Operations
 Matt Britain Asst. Director of FB Operations
 Austen Everson Director of Player Personnel
 Eric Lammers Director of Recruiting
 Rayna Stewart Director of Player Development
 Tom Bossung Asst. AD/Head Athletic Trainer
 Ryan Blakney Quality Control (Off.)
 Cedric Calhoun Quality Control (Def.)
 Mike Morita Quality Control (Off.)
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2016 VANDERBILT SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Kick (CT)	City	Venue
Sept. 1	South Carolina *	7 p.m.	Nashville	Vanderbilt Stadium
Sept. 10	MTSU	3 p.m.	Nashville	Vanderbilt Stadium
Sept. 17	@ Georgia Tech	11:30 a.m.	Atlanta, Ga.	Dodd Stadium
Sept. 24	@ Western Ky.	3:30 p.m.	Bowling Green, Ky.	Houchens Industries-Smith Stadium
Oct. 1	Florida *	TBA	Nashville	Vanderbilt Stadium
Oct. 8	@ Kentucky *	TBA	Lexington, Ky.	Commonwealth Stadium
Oct. 15	@ Georgia *	TBA	Athens, Ga.	Sanford Stadium
Oct. 22	Tenn. State	TBA	Nashville	Vanderbilt Stadium
Nov. 5	@ Auburn *	TBA	Auburn, Ala.	Jordan-Hare Stadium
Nov. 12	@ Missouri *	TBA	Columbia, Mo.	Faurot Field
Nov. 19	Ole Miss *	TBA	Nashville	Vanderbilt Stadium
Nov. 26	Tennessee *	TBA	Nashville	Vanderbilt Stadium

* denotes Southeastern Conference opponent



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STAT LEADERS/CREDITS



RETURNING POSITION STARTERS

OFFENSE: 8

NAME, POSITION	2015 NOTES
Kyle Shurmur, QB	Guided 'Dores to SEC wins over Mizzou & Kentucky in five starts.
Ralph Webb, RB	Set team sophomore record with 1,152 rushing yards, also had 7 TDs.
Darrius Sims, WR/RB	Registered 110 receiving yards and 250 rushing yards in dual role.
Trent Sherfield, WR	Topped team with 51 catches, 659 yards, three TDs as 1st-year starter.
Caleb Scott, WR	Set career highs with 24 catches, 339 yards, two TDs in nine starts.
Barrett Gouger, OG	Gouger notched 10 starts at right guard in third season on line.
Bailey Granier, OT	First-year contributor made three late-season starts at right tackle.
Will Holden, OT	Holden started every game after moving from right to left tackle.

DEFENSE: 7

NAME, POSITION	2015 NOTES
Adam Butler, DL	Finished with three QB sacks, seven tackles for loss in eight starts.
Nifae Lealao, DL	Posted 18 stops starting last four games, split reps with Jay Woods.
Zach Cunningham, ILB	1st Team All-SEC; Topped team in tackles, tackles for loss, QB sacks.
Torren McGaster, CB	Finished with 41 solo stops, 13 passes defended as 12-game starter.
Tre Herndon, CB	Had 47 total tackles, four passes defended as first-year starting CB.
Oren Burks, SAF	Led team with three INTs; added 59 total tackles as 12-game starter.
Arnold Tarpley, SAF/NB	Contributed 36 tackles in seven starts at safety and nickel back.

TOP STATISTICAL RETURNEES

RUSHING

	G	Att.	Net.	Avg.	TD	Long	Avg./G
Ralph Webb	12	277	1152	4.2	5	74	96.0
Darrius Sims	12	43	250	5.8	1	41	20.8

PASSING

	G	Effic.	Comp.-Att.-INT	Pct.	Yards	TD	LG	Avg./G
Kyle Shurmur	5	93.93	44-103-3	42.7	503	5	37	100.6

RECEIVING

	G	Rec.	Yards	Avg.	TD	Long	Avg./G
Trent Sherfield	12	51	659	12.9	3	44	54.9
Caleb Scott	12	24	339	14.1	2	37	28.2

DEFENSE

	G	UA-A-TT	TFL/Yds.	Sacks	INT	PBU	FF/FR	QH
Zach Cunningham, LB	12	69-34-103	16.5-56	4.5-32	0-0	3	4/4	0
Oren Burks, LB/SAF	12	35-24-59	2.0-5	0.0-0	3-31	6	1/1	0
Torren McGaster, CB	12	41-10-51	4.5-8	0.0-0	0-0	13	0/1	0
Tre Herndon, CB	12	35-12-47	1.0-6	0.0-0	0-0	4	0/0	0

Vanderbilt Athletic Communications was honored in 2012 with the "Super 11" Award by the Football Writers Association of America.



FACT BOOK CREDITS

The 2016 Vanderbilt Fact Book was produced by the Athletic Communications Office.

ON THE COVERS: The fact book covers are the work of Vanderbilt graphic designer Shaun Senn. Commodore student-athletes featured are:

Front Cover — Zach Cunningham, Andrew Jelks, Nifae Lealao, Kyle Shurmur and Ralph Webb.

Inside Front Cover — Oren Burks, Adam Butler, C.J. Duncan, Will Holden and Torren McGaster.

Inside Back Cover — Torey Agee, Nigel Bowden, Trent Sherfield, Darrius Sims and Arnold Tarpley.

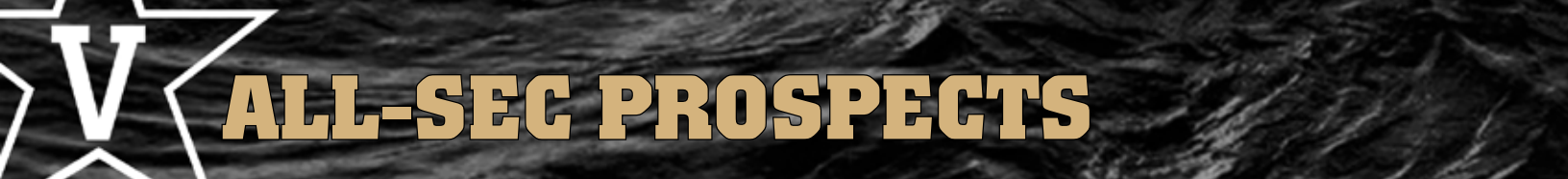
Back Cover — Nathan Marcus, Tommy Openshaw, Caleb Scott, Ryan White and Jay Woods

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ALL-SEC PROSPECTS



7 RALPH WEBB
JR - RUNNING BACK

- ★ Established freshman and sophomore team records for single-season rushing yards.
- ★ Doak Walker Award nominee rushed for 1,152 yards in 2015, 2nd most in Commodore history.
- ★ With 2,059 career rushing yards, ranks 4th highest among SEC active RBs.



41 ZACH CUNNINGHAM
JR - LINEBACKER

- ★ Unanimous First Team All-SEC Linebacker in 2015; Named to 2016 Bednarik, Nagurski, Butkus watch lists.
- ★ Ranked among SEC leaders with 16.5 tackles for loss, 103 total stops, and four forced fumbles.
- ★ Averaged 10.5 tackles vs. SEC competition, registering 11.5 tackles for loss in league play.

ALL-SEC PROSPECTS

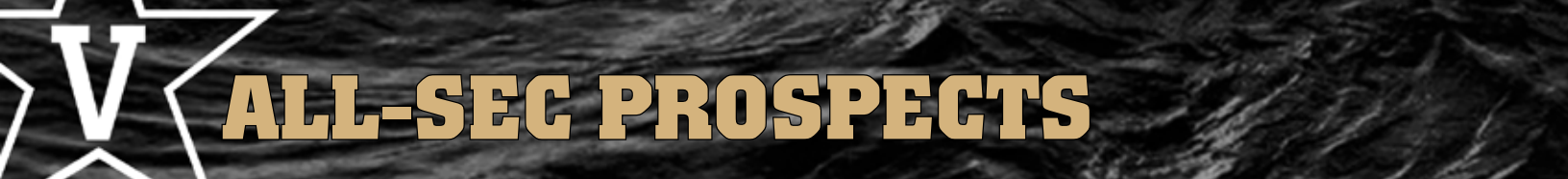


20 OREN BURKS
JR - LINEBACKER/SAFETY

- ★ Versatile defender moving to hybrid position in 2016 also named to Wuerffel Trophy, Allstate AFCA Good Works Team watch lists.
- ★ Topped 'Dores last year with three interceptions.
- ★ In 2015, was 3rd among Commodores with 59 tackles. Ranked 2nd on squad with six passes defended.

5 TORREN MCGASTER
SR - CORNERBACK

- ★ The two-year starting senior is one of the SEC's top shutdown cornerbacks.
- ★ In 2015, McGaster ranked 4th in the SEC with 13 passes defended.
- ★ Named preseason All-Southeastern Conference by Athlon Sports.



ALL-SEC PROSPECTS



74 WILL HOLDEN
SR - OFFENSIVE LINE

- ★ Holden has started 23 consecutive games on the Vanderbilt offensive front.
- ★ After playing right tackle in 2014, Holden earned 12 starts in 2015 at left tackle.
- ★ Played virtually every meaningful snap as a junior, posting 33 pancake blocks.



17 TOMMY OPENSHAW
JR - KICKER

- ★ Openshaw made 12 of 19 field goals as a sophomore, including converting 7 of 10 from 40-49 yards. He posted FG conversions from 47 and 49 yards.
- ★ After serving as punter-kicker last year, Openshaw looks to concentrate solely as a placekicker in 2016.

ALL-SEC PROSPECTS



50 ANDREW JELKS
SR - OFFENSIVE LINE

10 TRENT SHERFIELD
JR - WIDE RECEIVER

- ★ Jelks is back for his final year after missing the entire 2015 campaign due to preseason injury.
- ★ A Freshman All-America in 2013, Jelks has 22 career starts. In 2014, he started at left tackle.
- ★ Named preseason All-Southeastern Conference by Athlon Sports.

- ★ Sherfield's 51 receptions was the third highest total ever by a Vanderbilt sophomore.
- ★ Ranked T-10th in the SEC with catches and 17th in the conference in receiving yards.
- ★ Set new team single-season record with 240 receiving yards against Austin Peay.



MOLDING VANDERBILT MEN



EARNING THE DIPLOMA

Fifteen members of the Vanderbilt football team earned diplomas during commencement ceremonies in May. Head Coach Derek Mason poses with eight of the former Commodores prior.



CAMPUS LEADERSHIP

Two-year starter Oren Burks is a leader on campus. Incoming president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, Burks organized events for the new campus organization Revitalizing & Empowering Vanderbilt's African-American Male Population (REVAMP) last year.

MASON'S PROGRAM MESSAGE: DEVELOPING VANDERBILT MEN

Since arriving on West End, Derek Mason has talked about his desire to develop a program of "Vanderbilt Men" – student-athletes who have ample experiences to succeed on the field, in the classroom, and well after their football careers have concluded.

Mason's emphasis on developing the total student-athlete has shown early success in the classroom. The Commodores are among national and SEC leaders academically. A novel component of the campus academic philosophy also offers select members of the student-athlete population opportunities to study abroad.

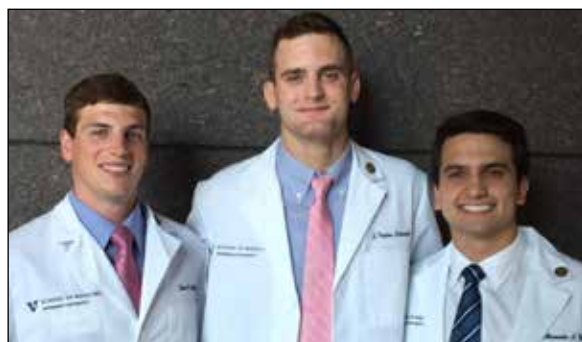
An innovative summer internship started by Mason and his staff two years ago continues to give student-athletes valuable work experience during summer months. This year, 41 active Commodores participated with businesses, governmental entities and non-profit organizations in the Nashville area.

Vanderbilt student-athletes also are encouraged to contribute to a number of service efforts intent on improving the Nashville community.



UPLIFTING OTHERS

Players such as Shawn Stankavage (left) and Caleb Scott frequently visit ailing youngsters at Vanderbilt's Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital.



FROM GRIDIRON TO MED SCHOOL

Former Commodores (l-r) Steve Monk, Patton Robinette and Alex Hysong enrolled at Vanderbilt's School of Medicine last fall. Another former player, John Stokes, just finished med school coursework.

AIMING FOR SUCCESS



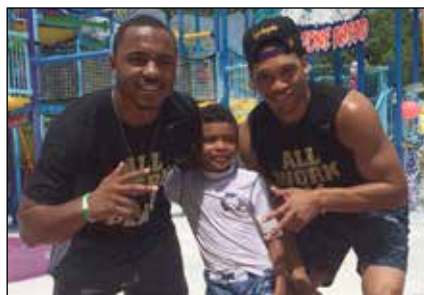
GLOBAL STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Commodore student-athletes can pursue their academic interests globally. In the last five years, Vanderbilt Athletics has initiated the program that allows select student-athletes to study abroad during the spring Maymester. This May, defensive lineman Jonathan Wynn (top) and safety Emmanuel Smith (left) participated - Wynn studying the origins of modernism art in Vienna, Switzerland and Smith studying ecology and conservation biology in rural Brazil. Another current Commodore, placekicker Hayden Lekacz, spent the winter semester doing coursework in New Zealand.

Other players have participated in the program. In 2015, running back Ralph Webb and a teammate studied rainforest and ocean ecosystems along Australia's Gold Coast and Great Barrier Reef. In 2014, quarterback Patton Robinette traveled to England and France to study medical systems in both countries.

MEANINGFUL INTERNSHIPS

Forty-one players completed internships this summer, including defensive lineman Torey Agee (right). For the second straight summer, Agee assisted children at The Next Door's Freedom Recovery Community. The Nashville facility provides permanent housing and services for women and their children.



ENJOYING KIDS

Players make several appearances around the city. Taurean Ferguson and Ladarius Wiley greet a young fan at Nashville Shores.



INTERESTS AWAY OF FOOTBALL

Tight end Sam Dobbs (standing) and linebacker Zach Cunningham (seated) are among a group of Commodore players that get together informally to play music.



COMMODORES IN THE NFL



CUTLER ENTERS EIGHTH YEAR AS BEARS' STARTING QB

Entering his 11th NFL season, the former first-round draft pick is a captain in Chicago where he looks to get the Bears back to the NFC playoffs. Cutler threw for 21 touchdowns and 3,659 yards in 2015. Cutler surpassed two significant career milestones in the last year - 200 touchdown passes and 30,000 passing yards.

FIFTEEN COMMODORES ON NFL PRESEASON ROSTERS

Fifteen former Vanderbilt standouts are currently signed with National Football League teams looking to continue or start professional careers.

The list includes nine offensive players, five defensive standouts and a specialist.

Three NFL franchises – the New York Giants, Philadelphia Eagles and San Diego Chargers – have multiple former Commodores on their rosters.

In the offseason, former Green Bay defensive back **Casey Hayward** was one of the NFL's top free agents, eventually signing a long-term deal with the San Diego.

Outside linebacker **Stephen Weatherly** was selected by Minnesota in the 2016 Draft. Five more 2015 seniors are in NFL camps: OL **Jake Bernstein**, Arizona; LB **Darreon Herring**, Los Angeles; OL **Spencer Pulley**, San Diego; TE **Steven Scheu**, New England; and safety **Andrew Williamson**, Indianapolis.

'DORES IN THE NFL

- **Jake Bernstein**, OL, Arizona
- **Jay Cutler**, QB, Chicago
- **Andrew East**, SN, Oakland
- **Andre Hal**, DB, Texas
- **Casey Hayward**, DB, San Diego
- **Darreon Herring**, LB, Los Angeles
- **Wesley Johnson**, OL, N.Y. Jets
- **Jonathan Krause**, WR, Philadelphia
- **Jordan Matthews**, WR, Philadelphia
- **Spencer Pulley**, OL, San Diego
- **Steven Scheu**, TE, New England
- **Ryan Seymour**, OL, N.Y. Giants
- **Zac Stacy**, RB, N.Y. Jets
- **Stephen Weatherly**, LB/DE, Minnesota
- **Andrew Williamson**, DB, Indianapolis



STACY IN NEW YORK

After missing much of the 2015 season with a leg injury, Vanderbilt's all-time leading rusher looks to compete for a substantial role in the Jets' backfield this year.

COMMODORES IN THE NFL



HAL STARTING AS SAFETY IN HOUSTON

In 2015, Andre Hal moved to safety and quickly became a starter in the Houston secondary. He set career highs with 44 tackles and four interceptions, including one returned for the score.



HAYWARD INKS FREE AGENT DEAL

After registering 65 solo tackles in 2015, Casey Hayward became one of the NFL's most coveted defensive backs in free agency. He eventually signed a three-year deal with San Diego.



JORDAN MATTHEWS ENTERS THIRD YEAR WITH EAGLES

Matthews is well on his way to becoming the most prolific former Commodore receiver in the NFL. In two years, Matthews has 152 catches for 1,869 yards and 16 touchdowns. In 2015, he narrowly missed surpassing 1,000 receiving yards for the first time as a pro.



COMMODORES IN THE NFL



JOHNSON WITH THE JETS

Wesley Johnson earned his first career NFL starts last year, and returns as a versatile center-guard in New York.



KRAUSE IN PHILLY

Third-year receiver Jonathan Krause joined former 'Dore Jordan Matthews in the Eagles' wide receiver corps last year after being with the Patriots in 2014.



40-YARD DASH

Andrew Williamson's 4.5 clocking in the 40-yard dash caught the eye of Indianapolis personnel.

PRO DAY ACTIVITY, POSTSEASON GAMES HELP PLAYERS ATTRACT ROOKIE DEALS

Six Commodore seniors from a year ago used impressive workouts at the annual Pro Day activity on campus and post-season All-Star games to secure rookie free agent tryouts with NFL teams.

Five of the six – linebacker **Darreon Herring**, offensive linemen **Jake Bernstein** and **Spencer Pulley**, tight end **Steven Scheu** and safety **Andrew Williamson** – remain in camps this summer competing for roster spots.

In early March, they were among eight Commodore seniors who impressed during an array of agility, speed and strength tests at Pro Day. Scouts representing 28 NFL teams attended the event.

Scheu and Williamson also were invited to the East-West Shrine Game while Pulley participated at the inaugural Tropic Bowl.



AGILITY TESTS

Steven Scheu's ability in the three-cone drill impressed scouts from the New England Patriots.



POSITION DRILLS

Spencer Pulley, left, and Jake Bernstein perform offensive line position drills during Pro Day activities.



VERTICAL JUMP

Caleb Azubike strains to record maximum vertical leap.

FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS



STATE-OF-THE-ART ATHLETIC TRAINING CENTER NOW OPEN

Vanderbilt players have one of the nation's top athletic training facilities for injury evaluation, rehabilitation and treatment. The center opened this February, and features three hydrotherapy pools, examination and treatment rooms, doctor and trainer offices, large taping lobby, and a variety of modern equipment to heal injuries.

TRAINING CENTER ENHANCES ATHLETES' CARE



INDOOR FACILITY

Weather has not hindered the Commodores from practicing since the \$31 million indoor facility and multipurpose center opened in 2013.

Vanderbilt Athletics staff and student-athletes moved into the modern athletic training center in February.

The \$6.5 million venue, located in McGugin Athletics Center, provides state-of-the-art facilities and equipment to aid rehabilitation and treatment of Vanderbilt student-athletes.

This March, the athletic department also approved the installation of new Shaw Sportex synthetic turf on the team's main practice venue at the John Rich Facility.

PROGRAM UPGRADES

RICH PRACTICE FACILITY SYNTHETIC TURF (2016)

In March, Shaw Turf crews replaced the Sportex synthetic surface on team's primary outdoor practice field, located directly behind McGugin Athletics Center.

ATHLETIC TRAINING FACILITY (open Feb. 2016)

The 9,200-square foot renovation/expansion project includes hydrotherapy pools, examination & treatment rooms, a student-athlete welcome lobby, doctor's offices and spacious taping stations.

INDOOR PRACTICE FACILITY (2013)

The facility features an artificial turf football field, 300-meter track, and in-house video system.



NEW SHAW SPORTEXE SURFACE ON PRIMARY PRACTICE FIELD

In March, Shaw Turf crews installed a Sportex synthetic surface on the team's outdoor practice fields at the John Rich Facility.



COMPETITIVE SUCCESS

VANDERBILT ATHLETICS:



INDIVIDUAL RECOGNITION

- 8** First-Team All-America recipients
- 3.11** GPA of VU student-athlete population (2015-16 academic year)
- 117** Student-athletes earning Dean's List
- 204** SEC Academic Honor Roll recipients



COMPETING AT THE HIGH LEVELS

Vanderbilt student-athletes enjoy an abundance of success, on and off fields of competition.

While the Commodore football team improved vastly in 2015 and looks for a postseason appearance this year, members of the squad helped Vanderbilt capture the prestigious AFCA Academic Achievement Trophy for the fourth time. Thirty-eight members of the team also earned SEC Academic Honor Roll recognition.

Vanderbilt teams and student-athletes experienced plenty of competitive successes. For the first time, the women's cross country squad captured back-to-back NCAA regional titles. Vanderbilt's defending national champion women's tennis team reached the NCAA Final Four, while the men's golf team advanced to the eight-team NCAA Match Play finals for the second time in school history.

Individually, eight Commodore student-athletes earned first-team All-America honors, topped by NCAA outdoor triple jump runnerup Simone Charley, cross country runner Caroline Pietryzk and golfer Matthias Schwab. Three former 'Dores were first-round draftees in their respective sports.



NBA 1ST ROUND DRAFT PICKS

Vanderbilt guard Wade Baldwin IV, left, and center Damian Jones were selected in the first round of the 2016 NBA Draft. It was only the second time in Vanderbilt basketball history to have multiple first-round picks.

'15-16 COMMODORE TEAM SUCCESS

Women's Tennis

- NCAA Final Four

Men's Golf

- Reached Final Eight at NCAAs

Women's Cross Country

- Made 4th appearance at NCAA Championship
- Captured NCAA South Regional

Baseball

- Reached NCAA Regionals

Women's Bowling

- Finished 7th at NCAAs

Men's Tennis

- Advanced to NCAA tourney

Women's Golf

- Advanced to NCAA Regionals

Men's Basketball

- Advanced to NCAA Tournament

Women's Track & Field

- Finished Top 30 at NCAA indoor and outdoor championships.



VANDERBILT BLENDS ACADEMICS, SETTING, CITY

VANDERBILT: BY THE NUMBERS

8-1	Undergrad ratio for student-to-faculty
11.6%	Acceptance rate for undergrad admissions
30	Number of residence halls and apartments
50.1%	Percentage of female undergraduates
86%	Vanderbilt students that live on campus
97%	Retention rate for freshmen students
34%	Students that study abroad
88%	Students graduating in four years

Located in the popular Midtown district of Nashville, Vanderbilt is regarded among the nation's top universities. The private research university enrolled 6,883 undergraduate and 5,722 postgraduate students last year. Those students came from virtually every state and around the globe.

The university was founded 143 years ago when magnate Cornelius "Commodore" Vanderbilt provided an initial endowment.

Vanderbilt is considered among the finest universities in America. It also holds charter membership in the Southeastern Conference. It is the only private institution in the league.

Vanderbilt students are pleased with their college choice. In fact, the Commodore student body is the nation's happiest, according to *Princeton Review's* "2015 Best 379 Colleges" survey.

The campus is just southwest of downtown Nashville on 330 pristine acres that are designated as a national arboretum. Two areas of campus closed to vehicles – the Peabody campus and the collection of academic buildings surrounding Kirkland Hall that form the original campus – are frequently named among the South's most beautiful college environments.

Most students live on the campus. More than 30 residential halls dot the campus, including two of the nation's most unique residential communities: The Martha Rivers Ingram Commons at Peabody and the Warren and Moore college halls of Kissam on the main campus.

WHERE WE RANK

- #15** Among national universities
- #2** Among universities in the Southeast
- #12** Best schools, Best value

Source: U.S. News & World Report
Best Colleges Edition





NHL/PREDATORS

Franchised in 1998, the Predators now are serious Stanley Cup contenders. In 2015, they advanced to the second round of the NHL playoffs.



JEWEL OF THE SOUTH

MUSIC CITY OFFERS PLENTY OF SPORTS

Nashville has become one of the South's top cities for fans of major sports. From Vanderbilt to pro franchises, Nashville offers plenty for all sports fans.

For lovers of college sports, Vanderbilt is enjoying more athletic success than ever before while exposing Nashville residents to other SEC programs.

Enthusiasts of pro sports have two successful teams in the market: the NFL's Titans and the NHL's Predators.

Bridgestone Arena, located downtown next to the Music City Center, will host future NCAA men's basketball tourney action in 2018 and seven SEC men's tournaments through 2025.



NFL/TITANS

Second-year QB and 2014 Heisman Trophy winner Marcus Mariota has brought renewed excitement to the Tennessee Titans' NFL franchise in Nashville.

Vanderbilt's dynamic hometown of Nashville ranks among America's fastest-growing cities and visitor destinations. And virtually everybody's jumping on the Music City bandwagon.

Vanderbilt students, faculty, staff and visitors cite Music City as one of the leading perks of the university, which is located in the vibrant Midtown district about two miles from an exciting and welcoming downtown.

Nashville has become one of the nation's top urban attractions, exuding all of the charm and hospitality one expects from a grand Southern capital city with the amenities expected in the largest destinations.

The secret is out on Nashville and its surrounding population of nearly 1.8 million. Popular magazines rave about the city's diversity in attractions, accommodations and niche districts. With the new Music City Center, conventions are the newest to discover the city. Nashville is now a must-stop destination.

Nashville enjoys a diverse and youthful population, unique neighborhoods and parks, and an abundance of entertainment districts.

NASHVILLE TIDBITS

Destination of the Year

Travel + Leisure, 2015

Top 10 Best Places to Live Now

Men's Journal, 2015

#1 U.S. City to Spend a Weekend

Thrillist (travel website), 2016

America's Next It City

The New York Times, 2013

#6 - Most Attractive People

Travel + Leisure, 2015

Among Friendliest Cities in U.S.

Condé Nast Traveler, 2015



MUSIC: PART OF NASHVILLE'S SOUL

Music is a fabric of Nashville's core and it's a chief reason many stars call the city home. The CMA Music Festival attracts main country headliners such as Dierks Bentley and Carrie Underwood. On campus, Vanderbilt students flock to Rites of Spring to see a wide range of acts, including rapper Future (right). Top entertainers, from Beyonce and the Stones to Mumford & Sons and Kanye West, are drawn to Bridgestone Arena, Ryman Auditorium and two new outdoor venues, Ascend Amphitheater and the Woods at Fontanel.

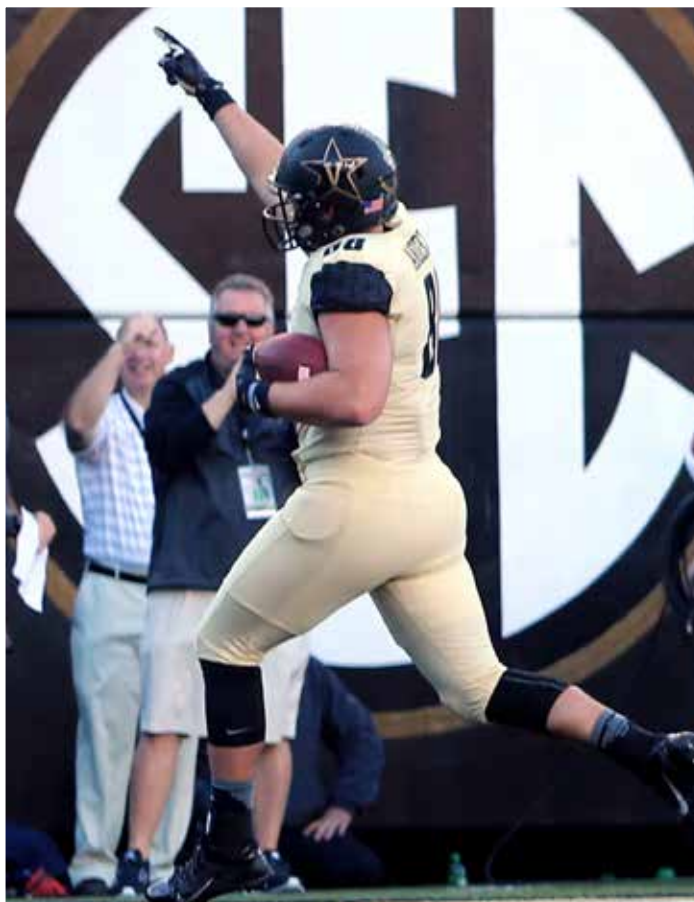




A CONFERENCE SECOND TO NONE

Vanderbilt holds charter membership in the Southeastern Conference. In the last decade, Vanderbilt has shared in the league's unparalleled level of success. The league promises to capture even more of the nation's college football attention in 2016.

- In the last decade, the SEC has accrued 64 bowl wins, more bowl wins than any other conference. The league also is 64-30 (.681) in bowls since 2006. During the span, Vanderbilt is 3-1 in postseason appearances.
- In 2015, SEC teams captured eight bowl victories, the highest single-season total ever by a conference. Three times previously, league teams captured seven bowls.
- Incredibly, SEC football teams won eight of the last 10 national championships, the last coming when Alabama took the College Football Playoff title last year. Five different league teams have won the national championship in the last decade.
- SEC teams were 54-12 (.818) in non-league play last year. It marked the best non-league record of all conferences.
- In the 2016 NFL Draft, 51 former SEC players were selected, the most by any conference for the 10th consecutive year.
- Eight former SEC standouts were taken in the first round of the 2016 NFL Draft, also the most of any conference.



ESPN, CBS, SEC Network bring Commodores to national audiences

Vanderbilt is part of the Southeastern Conference's unmatched television package that features the heralded SEC Network, a wide array of ESPN-affiliated outlets, and CBS Sports.

On Thursday, Sept. 1, the Commodores and South Carolina will kick off national coverage of the 2016 season on ESPN. It marks the fourth consecutive year that Vanderbilt will be featured on the opening night of college football.

The Commodores' second game against MTSU – and several more during the year – will air on SEC Network, which focuses its programming on all things SEC. The network has greatly enhanced the league's footprint across America when it was unveiled in 2014. The network features



multiple SEC games each Saturday, along with a live "SEC Nation" game-day morning show.

The featured 'SEC on CBS' game each Saturday is one of the nation's most viewed

college football games. In 2015, the network featured the Vanderbilt-Georgia game early in September from campus.

Every Vanderbilt game is available on television due to national contracts between the SEC, ESPN and the SEC Network, and CBS Sports.



Legendary announcer Verne Lundquist enters his final year on the 'SEC on CBS' game of the week.