

ON THE RISE

WIN TOTALS INCREASED EACH YEAR
UNDER HEAD COACH DEREK MASON



4 BOWL
GAMES
SINCE
2011



18 RETURNING STARTERS



992 APR



BEST FOR THREE STRAIGHT YEARS

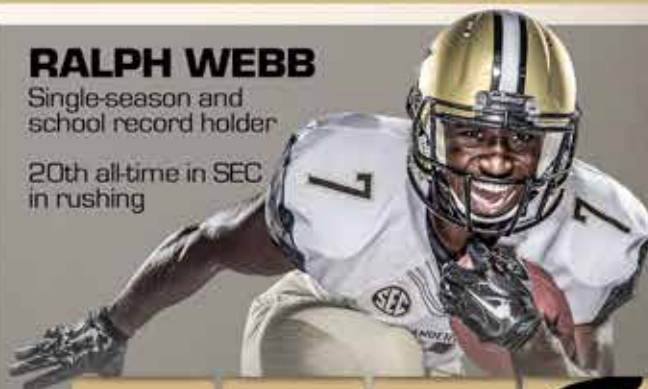
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**43 SEC HONOR ROLL
MEMBERS IN 2016-17**
MOST-EVER IN PROGRAM HISTORY

RALPH WEBB

Single-season and
school record holder

20th all-time in SEC
in rushing



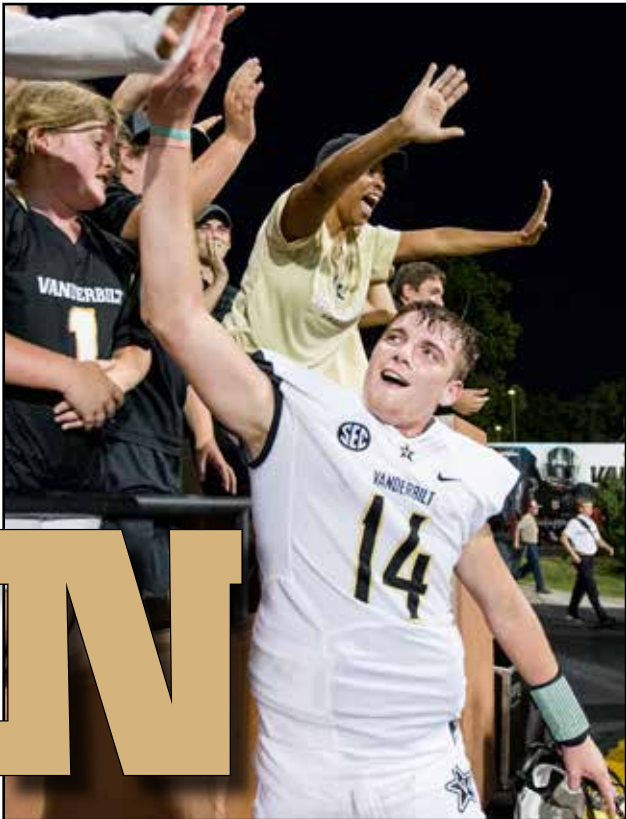
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CAREER RUSHING YARDS AND COUNTING



ANCHOR





DOWN

SCHEDULE/FACTS/CONTENTS

TEAM INFORMATION

COACHES/STAFF

Derek Mason.....Head Coach/Defensive Coordinator
 C.J. Ah YouDL
 Warren BelinOLBs
 Jeff GenykSpecial Teams Coordinator/RBs
 Gerry Gdowski.....QBs
 Cortez Hankton.....WRs
 Andy Ludwig.....Offensive Coordinator/TEs
 Chris MarveILBs
 Marc Mattioli.....DBs
 Cameron Norcross.....OL
 James Dobson.....Head Strength Coach
 Tyler ClarkeAsst. Director, Strength
 Ben Schumacher.....Asst. Coach, Strength
 Aaron Hill.....Asst. Coach, Strength
 Corey Guymon.....Graduate Asst. (Off.)
 Quinshon Odom.....Graduate Asst. (Off.)
 Tate Benton.....Graduate Asst. (Def.)
 Ryan Blakney.....Quality Control (Off.)
 Javon Marshall.....Quality Control (Def.)
 Cedric Calhoun.....Quality Control (Def.)

A QUICK LOOK

Head Coach.....Derek Mason (Northern Arizona)
 Career Record.....13-24 (4th year)
 2016 Team Record.....6-7
 2016 SEC Record.....3-5 (T-5th in SEC East)
 Home/Away/Neutral.....4-2/2-4/0-1
 Home Attendance.....187,451 (31,242)
 Number of Bowl Appearances.....8
 All-Time Bowl Record.....4-3-1
 Last Bowl.....2016 Independence
 Last Bowl W/L.....NC State (L, 41-17)

INFORMATION/STAFF

Location.....Nashville, Tenn.
 Founded.....1873
 Undergraduate Enrollment.....6,871
 Nickname.....Commodores
 Colors.....Black and Gold
 Conference.....Southeastern
 Stadium.....Vanderbilt Stadium (40,350)
 Surface.....Synthetic (Shaw Sportexe)
 All-Time Record.....594-607-50 (.495)
 Nicholas S. Zeppos.....Chancellor
 David Williams II.....Athletics Director
 Jason Grooms.....Assistant AD/Football
 Matt Britain.....Director of Football Operations
 Osia Lewis.....Senior Def. Asst./Consultant to HC
 Charlotte Siegel.....Assistant to Coach Mason
 Rayna Stewart.....Director of Player Development
 Austen Everson.....Director of Player Personnel
 Eric Lammers.....Director of Recruiting
 Andrea P. Cain.....Director of Recruiting Relations
 Corey Phillips.....Asst. Recruiting Coordinator
 Donielle White.....Asst. Recruiting Coordinator
 Jordan Hunt.....Football Equipment Manager
 Chas Petrone.....Director, Football Video Production

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 Head Coach Twitter.....@CoachDerekMason
 Athletics' Website.....vucommodores.com

2017 VANDERBILT SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Kickoff	Location	Venue
Sept. 2	@ Middle Tennessee	7 pm CT	Murfreesboro, Tenn.	Floyd Stadium
Sept. 9	Alabama A&M	TBA	Nashville	Vanderbilt Stadium
Sept. 16	Kansas State	6:30 pm CT	Nashville	Vanderbilt Stadium
Sept. 23	Alabama *	TBA	Nashville	Vanderbilt Stadium
Sept. 30	@ Florida *	TBA	Gainesville, Fla.	Ben Hill Griffin Stadium
Oct. 7	Georgia *	TBA	Nashville	Vanderbilt Stadium
Oct. 14	@ Ole Miss *	TBA	Oxford, Miss.	Vaught-Hemingway Stadium
Oct. 28	@ South Carolina *	TBA	Columbia, S.C.	Williams-Brice Stadium
Nov. 4	Western Kentucky	TBA	Nashville	Vanderbilt Stadium
Nov. 11	Kentucky *	TBA	Nashville	Vanderbilt Stadium
Nov. 18	Missouri *	TBA	Nashville	Vanderbilt Stadium
Nov. 25	@ Tennessee *	TBA	Knoxville, Tenn.	Neyland Stadium

* denotes Southeastern Conference opponent



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STAT LEADERS/CREDITS



RETURNING POSITION STARTERS: 16

OFFENSE: 9

NAME, POSITION

2016 NOTES

Kyle Shurmur, QB	Threw for 2,409 yards, highest total ever by Dore sophomore QB.
Ralph Webb, RB	Set single-season (1,283 yards) and career (3,342 yards) marks in '16.
C.J. Duncan, WR	Topped squad with 44 receptions and 494 receiving yards as junior.
Trent Sherfield, WR	Second among wide receivers with 34 catches, 472 receiving yards.
Kalija Lipscomb, WR	True freshman impressed early, finished with 27 catches, 319 yards.
Nathan Marcus, TE	Set single-season high with 11 receptions as first-year starter in '16.
Bruno Reagan, OG	Reagan showed excellent blocking skills while starting every game.
Ean Pfeifer, OG	First-year OL impressed after getting starting job after fourth game.
Justin Skule, OT	Skule started every game at right tackle as second-year contributor.

DEFENSE: 7

NAME, POSITION

2016 NOTES

Jonathan Wynn, DL	Wynn posted 28 tackles while earning nine starts at defensive end.
Nifae Lealao, DL	Lealao contributed 22 tackles, 2.5 QB sacks playing interior tackle.
Oren Burks, LB	Playing both LB positions, Burks was T-4th on team with 59 stops.
Tre Herndon, DB	As second-year starter, had team-high 2 INTs and 8 passes defended.
Taurean Ferguson, DB	Ferguson registered 52 total tackles, 2 fumble recoveries & an INT.
Ryan White, safety	White ranked third on team with 75 tackles and six passes defended.
Arnold Tarpley III, safety	Posted 40 total tackles, 2.0 tackles for loss and 2 forced fumbles.

TOP STATISTICAL RETURNEES

RUSHING

	G	Att.	Net.	Avg.	TD	Long	Avg./G
Ralph Webb, RB	13	250	1283	5.1	13	49	98.7
Khari Blasingame, RB	13	97	449	4.6	10	22	34.5

PASSING

	G	Effic.	Comp.-Att.-INT	Pct.	Yards	TD	LG	Avg./G
Kyle Shurmur	13	111.0	204-375-10	54.4	2409	9	76	185.3

RECEIVING

	G	Rec.	Yards	Avg.	TD	Long	Avg./G
C.J. Duncan, WR	13	44	494	11.2	0	31	38.0
Trent Sherfield, WR	13	34	472	13.9	1	76	36.3
Kalija Lipscomb, WR	12	27	319	11.8	2	45	26.6
Caleb Scott, WR	13	24	466	19.4	0	66	35.8

DEFENSE

	G	UA-A-TT	TFL/Yds.	Sacks	INT	PBU	FF/FR	QH
LaDarius Wiley, safety	13	50-26-76	2.5-16	1.0-11	0-0	4	2/2	1
Ryan White, safety	12	49-26-75	3.5-6	0.0-0	0-0	6	2/0	0
Oren Burks, LB	13	40-19-59	6.5-22	3.5-17	1-59	6	1/0	5

FACT BOOK CREDITS

The 2017 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 – From left: Nifae Lealao, Trent Sherfield, Ralph Webb, Kyle Shurmur and Tre Herndon.

INSIDE FRONT COVER – From left: Ryan White, C.J. Duncan, Jonathan Wynn, Tommy Openshaw and Oren Burks.

BACK COVER – From left: Caleb Scott, Jay Woods, Khari Blasingame, Bruno Reagan, Arnold Tarpley III and Justin Skule.

PHOTOS: Many images in this publication are the work of Vanderbilt shooters John Russell, Joe Howell, Daniel Dubois, Steve Green and Anne Rayner. We are grateful for other images provided by the Associated Press, Getty Images, Lee Adams, Doug DeVoe, Chad Driver, Phillip Faulkner, Donn Jones, Stan Jones, Chris Justice, Don Kelly, Ron Modra, Warren Moore, Warne Riker, Ed Rode, Mike Strasinger, John Amis, Shane Epping, Donny Crowe, Jonathan Adams and Kayla Schoen.

PRINTING: Vanderbilt Printing, Nashville

GRATITUDE: The staff wants to offer a special thank you to author H. Jackson Brown, Jr., who gave permission for the team to use the "The Commodore Creed" adaptation from his "The Champion's Creed."

SPECIAL THANKS: The SEC, NCAA, CBS Sports, ESPN, SEC Network, College Football Hall of Fame, Associated Press, *Tennessean*, Country Music Association, Getty Images, Nashville Convention & Visitors Bureau, Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, Houston Texans, L.A. Chargers, Minnesota Vikings, Philadelphia Eagles and Tennessee Titans.

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





ALL-SEC PROSPECTS



RALPH WEBB

Sr. • 5-10, 202 • Running Back

Vanderbilt's all-time leading rusher with 3,342 yards, ranking No. 20 in SEC history.

Walter Camp, Maxwell and Doak Walker Award preseason candidate set team single-season record with 1,283 rushing yards in 2016.

Has eclipsed team's freshman, sophomore and junior rushing marks.

739 career rush attempts tops SEC active backs, ranks No. 10 all-time in league.



NIFAE LEALAO

Sr. • 6-5, 315 • Defensive Tackle

Named third team All-SEC defensive lineman in Athlon Sports' preseason college football magazine.

Listed among the nation's leading nose tackles by several NFL Draft observers.

Vanderbilt's primary interior clog to opposing rushing attacks is coming off best year of career - 22 tackles, 2.5 sacks, 4.0 tackles for loss.

ALL-SEC PROSPECTS



KYLE SHURMUR

Jr. • 6-4, 227 • Quarterback

Shurmur set a team sophomore record with 2,409 passing yards in '16.

Improved vastly during course of 2016 season — averaged 298 passing yards in team's final three SEC games.

Threw for 416 yards in win over Tennessee, fifth highest individual passing total in team history.

Son of a current NFL offensive coordinator, Shurmur has 18 career starts, including five as a true freshman in 2015.

RYAN WHITE

Grad. • 5-10, 190 • Safety

Named fourth team All-SEC safety in Athlon Sports' preseason college football magazine.

Known for his punishing tackles and system knowledge, White ranked third on team with 49 solo tackles and 75 total tackles.

Shared team lead with two forced fumbles and contributed six defended passes.

Served as Commodore co-captain as sophomore and junior.



ALL-SEC PROSPECTS



TRE HERNDON

Sr. • 6-1, 188 • Cornerback

A 25-game starter in the secondary, Herndon is the Commodores' top cover cornerback.

Registered 30 solo tackles, two interceptions and eight passes defended as a junior in 2016.

Herndon enters his final season with 72 solo stops, 97 total tackles and 12 passes defended.



TRENT SHERFIELD

Sr. • 6-1, 205 • Wide Receiver

Blessed with a tremendous work ethic, Sherfield is the team's active career leader with 86 receptions and 1,140 receiving yards.

As a junior, registered 34 catches for 472 yards. Also averaged 13.9 yards on seven carries.

Concluded 2016 regular season averaging 22.9 yards on 13 receptions over last three games; a stretch included 184 receiving yards in November victory over Tennessee.

ALL-SEC PROSPECTS



OREN BURKS

Sr. • 6-3, 230 • Linebacker

Named third team All-SEC linebacker in Athlon Sports' preseason College Football Magazine.

As first-year starter at linebacker in 2016, Burks ranked among team leaders with 59 tackles, 3.5 QB sacks and 6.5 tackles for loss.

Burks is team's active leader in solo tackles (91), total tackles (155), sacks (3.5), interceptions (4) and passes defended (19).



TOMMY OPENSHAW

Grad. • 6-2, 200 • Placekicker

In 2016, Openshaw was 15-of-19 (79.0%) on field goals, including 11-of-12 inside 40 yards.

Enters final season having served previous three seasons as team's starting placekicker.

Displayed excellent range in 2016, converting twice from 52 yards.

Needs 81 points to break team's career mark for points by a kicker.



COMMODORES IN THE NFL



CASEY HAYWARD

In signing a three-year free agent deal with the Chargers, Hayward established himself as one of the NFL's premier cornerbacks in 2016-17. The Charger standout shared the league high with seven interceptions, and became the first Commodore earning All-Pro recognition since quarterback Jay Cutler was a recipient in 2008. This May, Hayward was recognized among the league's elite when the NFL Network listed him No. 64 among the "NFL Top 100 Players of 2017."



STEPHEN WEATHERLY

As a rookie in 2016, Weatherly made the Vikings active roster, seeing action late in the year at defensive end.

THIRTEEN COMMODORES ON NFL PRESEASON ROSTERS

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

The list includes seven offensive players and six defensive standouts.

Former Commodores **Andre Hal** (Texans), **Casey Hayward** (Chargers), **Wesley Johnson** (Jets) and **Jordan Matthews** (Eagles) won starting roles during the 2016 campaign.

Three NFL franchises – the Houston Texans, Los Angeles Chargers and defending Super Bowl champion New England Patriots have multiple Commodores on their preseason rosters.

Linebacker **Zach Cunningham** and offensive lineman **Will Holden** were selected in the 2017 NFL Draft by Houston and Arizona, respectively.

Two more 2016 seniors, defensive lineman **Adam Butler** and offensive lineman **Andrew Jelks**, are currently with the Patriots as rookie free agents.

COMMODORES IN THE NFL

- **Adam Butler**, DL, New England
- **Zach Cunningham**, LB, Houston
- **Andre Hal**, DB, Houston
- **Casey Hayward**, DB, LA Chargers
- **Andrew Jelks**, OL, New England
- **Will Holden**, OL, Arizona
- **Wesley Johnson**, OL, NY Jets
- **Jonathan Krause**, WR, Tennessee
- **Jordan Matthews**, WR, Philadelphia
- **Spencer Pulley**, OL, LA Chargers
- **Steven Scheu**, TE, Denver
- **Stephen Weatherly**, DL, Minnesota
- **Andrew Williamson**, DB, Indianapolis

COMMODORES IN THE NFL



JORDAN MATTHEWS

Matthews has become the most prolific former Commodore receiver in the modern era of the NFL. Matthews has 225 receptions, 2,673 receiving yards and 19 touch-down catches as he enters his fourth year in Philadelphia.



ANDRE HAL

In his second year as a free safety, Hal became one of the Texans' most productive players in 2016, registering 48 tackles and two interceptions. He has 22 career starts entering his fourth season with Houston.



WESLEY JOHNSON

A four-year veteran, Johnson enters the 2017 season as the Jets' likely starting center. He earned a career-high eight starts last year for the Jets.



SPENCER PULLEY

Pulley made the Chargers active roster as a rookie free agent, appearing in every game. This season, he is expected to compete for the team's starting center role.



CUNNINGHAM AT PRO DAY

After putting together a consensus First Team All-American season, linebacker Zach Cunningham impressed scouts at the NFL Combine and Vanderbilt's Pro Day. Cunningham was selected in the second round, No. 57 overall, by the Texans. He was Vanderbilt's highest defensive pick since Jamie Winborn was taken 47th overall in 2001.



BUTLER IMPRESSES PATRIOTS AT PRO DAY

Adam Butler used an impressive performance in front of NFL scouts at Vanderbilt's Pro Day to attract New England's attention. The Patriots later signed him to a rookie free agent deal.

PRO DAY ACTIVITY ON CAMPUS HELPS PLAYERS ATTRACT NFL EYES

Numerous Commodore seniors from a year ago earned rookie contracts or tryouts after posting impressive workouts in front of NFL scouts at the annual Pro Day activity on campus.

Defensive lineman **Adam Butler** and offensive lineman **Andrew Jelks** used Pro Day to earn rookie free agent deals and remain hopeful of making a NFL roster. They join linebacker **Zach Cunningham** and offensive lineman **Will Holden**, both of whom were selected in the 2017 Draft.

Five others – defensive lineman **Torey Agee**, offensive lineman **Barrett Gouger**, defensive back **Torren McGaster**, receiver/returner **Darius Sims** and linebacker **Ja'Karri Thomas** – were invited to rookie minicamps.



HOLDEN AT NFL COMBINE

Will Holden finished the 2016 regular season off strongly, then impressed at the East-West Shrine Game, Reese's Senior Bowl and NFL Combine. He was selected in the fifth round by Arizona.



AGEE LEAP

Torey Agee strains to increase his vertical jump at Pro Day.



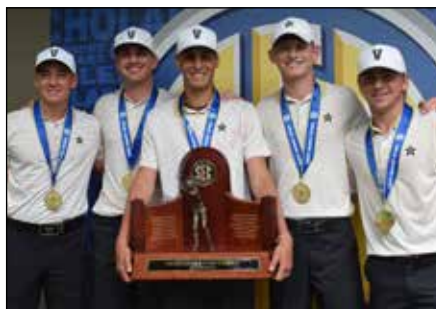
JELKS TAKES ADVANTAGE

Andrew Jelks, right, performs line drills at Pro Day. Though injured for the last two years, Jelks was signed as a rookie free agent with the Patriots.

COMPETITIVE SUCCESSES



VANDERBILT STUDENT-ATHLETES:



INDIVIDUAL RECOGNITION

10 First Team All-America recipients

3.17 GPA of VU student-athlete population (2016-17 academic year)

129 Student-athletes earning Dean's List

214 SEC Academic Honor Roll recipients

COMPETING AT HIGH LEVELS

Vanderbilt student-athletes enjoyed an abundance of success, on and off fields of competition, in 2016-17.

Derek Mason's team went 6-6 in the regular season, earning a berth in the Camping World Independence Bowl. Off the field, they continued to be SEC academic pacesetters, leading the league in graduation success and having 43 members of the team earn SEC Academic Honor Roll recognition.

Vanderbilt teams and student-athletes experienced plenty of competitive successes. The women's tennis team, men's golf squad and bowling team captured conference crowns and battled for NCAA titles. The baseball squad claimed a NCAA regional title on the road. A superb closing month of the regular season propelled the men's basketball team to an improbable NCAA appearance.

Individually, 10 Commodore student-athletes earned first team All-America honors, including linebacker Zach Cunningham, who became the first Vanderbilt football player to sweep unanimous first team honors in more than three decades. Two baseball standouts, pitcher Kyle Wright and outfielder Jeren Kendall, were selected in the first round of the 2017 MLB Draft.



CUNNINGHAM HIGHLIGHTS

Linebacker Zach Cunningham dazzled college football fans with remarkable individual plays, none more impressive than his leap-of-the-line at Auburn to block a Tiger field goal attempt in the closing minutes.

'16-17 VANDERBILT TEAM SUCCESS

Football

- Participated in program's eighth bowl game.

Baseball

- Reached NCAA Super Regionals

Men's Basketball

- Advanced to NCAA Tournament

Men's Golf

- NCAA Final Four, reached match play for third straight year

Women's Tennis

- NCAA Final Four for the third consecutive year.

Women's Bowling

- Finished 3rd at NCAA tourney

Women's Track & Field

- Both indoor and outdoor women's squads placed at the NCAA Championships.



IDEAL BLEND OF ACADEMICS, SETTING, CITY

VANDERBILT: BY THE NUMBERS

8-1	Undergrad ratio for student-to-faculty
10.7%	Acceptance rate for undergrad admissions
38	Number of residence halls and apartments
54%	Percentage of female undergraduates
92%	Vanderbilt students that live on campus
97%	Retention rate for freshmen students
39%	Students that study abroad
87%	Students graduating in four years

Located in the popular Midtown district of Nashville, Vanderbilt is regarded among the nation's leading universities. The private research university enrolled 6,871 undergraduate and 5,716 postgraduate students last year. Those students came from virtually every state and around the globe.

The university was founded 144 years ago when magnate Cornelius "Commodore" Vanderbilt provided an initial endowment.

Vanderbilt holds charter membership in the Southeastern Conference and is its lone private institution.

Vanderbilt students are pleased with their college choice. In fact, the university ranks No. 2 nationally for happiest students, according to *Princeton Review's* "2017 Best 379 Colleges" survey.

The campus is just west 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. Thirty-eight 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 VU RANKS

- #15** Among national universities
- #2** Among universities in Southeast

Source: U.S. News & World Report '17

- #2** Happiest college students

Source: Princeton Review '17



OUR CITY: NASHVILLE



MUSIC CITY'S APPEAL AT ALL-TIME HIGH

PRAISING NASHVILLE

One of the Best Places to Go in '17
Frommer's Travel Guide

#1 Best U.S. City for Music Fans
Live Nation, 2016

#1 College City Students Love
Princeton Review, 2017

#5 Best City in the U.S.
Condé Nast Traveler, 2016

#17 Friendliest City in World
Travel + Leisure, 2017

Music City, Smashville, Athens of the South. The list of nicknames for Vanderbilt's dynamic hometown of Nashville is growing nearly as fast as the city itself.

Nashville, sparked by a steady stream of arriving millennials, is quickly becoming one of America's most appealing cities and an essential destination.

It seems everybody's jumping on the Nashville 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 a bustling downtown.

Nashville has become one of the nation's top urban attractions, offering 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. The city's downtown is exploding with retail and residential growth, the convention-gathering Music City Center, and an array of entertainment alternatives for all ages.

The city enjoys a top job market for young professionals, unique neighborhoods and parks for its residents and an abundance of unique commercial districts virtually encircling downtown.



NFL/TITANS

Third-year QB and former Heisman Trophy winner Marcus Mariota continues to progress, driving excitement in the hometown Tennessee Titans.

NASHVILLE BECOMING SUPERB SPORTS TOWN

Historically a city focused on making great music, Nashville is starting to develop a national reputation as a superb locale for college and professional sports.

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

This spring, an international TV audience discovered Smashville, the nickname fondly created by the Predators, Nashville's NHL franchise. Observers watched in amazement as Smashville support surged as the Preds made their first appearance in the Stanley Cup finals.

Nashville is also home to the Tennessee Titans, a squad many expect to contend for the NFL playoffs.

The city also hosts SEC and NCAA basketball tournaments in Bridgestone Arena, stages the Franklin American Mortgage Music City Bowl at Nissan Stadium and could become home to a future MLS soccer franchise.



NHL/PREDATORS

Franchised in 1998, the Predators are legitimate Stanley Cup contenders. This year, the NHL squad captivated the city by reaching the Cup finals.