

1973 IN REVIEW

VANDERBILT 14 TENNESSEE-CHATTANOOGA 12

September 15 Dudley Field Nashville, Tenn. 16,759 Night

The Commodores produced a hard-fought 14-12 victory in Coach Steve Sloan's debut as a head football coach. Vandy jumped on the scoreboard first when quarterback Fred Fisher raced over from six yards out late in the first period. A Fisher to Dan Mahaffey pushed the score to 14-3 after three periods, but the Mocs were far from dead. In a furious fourth period rally the Mocs hit first on a field goal and then with just 57 seconds left to play hit on a TD pass to cut the margin to two. A heavy rush by defensive end Joe Reynolds forced the attempted two-point pass to go astray and the Commodores had their win.

UT-Chattanooga 00 3 0 9-----12

Vanderbilt 7 0 7 0-----14

VU Fisher 6 run (Golden kick) 1st Q 3:48
UTC Villalobos 25 field goal 2nd Q :28
VU Mahaffey 4 pass from Fisher (Golden kick) 3rd Q 7:42
UTC Villalobos 32 field goal 4th Q 14:56
UTC Powell 7 pass from Brokas (pass failed) 4th Q :57

MISSISSIPPI STATE 52 VANDERBILT 21

September 22 Scott Field Starkville, Miss 21,684

Vanderbilt overcame a 7-0 first period deficit with a sudden splurge early in the second period to take a 14-7 lead, but from then on it was anything but smooth sailing for the Commodores. The Bulldogs stormed back for 17 more points before intermission and never were headed again. The Commodores challenged as the second half opened and Fred Fisher connected with Doug Martin on a 69-yard scoring bomb, but it only served to arouse the Bulldogs and they immediately took command for the rest of the afternoon.

Mississippi State 7 17 14 14-----52

Vanderbilt 0 14 7 0-----21

MS Jones 15 run (Nickels kick) 1st Q 5:34
VU Brogdon 7 run (Golden kick) 2nd Q 12:13
VU Dietrich 30 pass from Fisher (Golden kick) 2nd Q 7:12
MS Jones 3 run (Nickels kick) 2nd Q 5:04
MS Buckley 23 pass from Felker (Nickels kick) 2nd Q 4:12
MS Nickels 43 field goal 2nd Q :05
VU Martin 69 pass from Fisher (Golden kick) 3rd Q 13:40
MS Strahan 5 pass from Felker (Nickels kick) 3rd Q 10:40
MS Jones 21 run (Nickels kick) 3rd Q 2:04
MS Felker 16 run (Nickels kick) 4th Q 10:04
MS Costict 1-run (Nickels kick) 4th Q 3:29

ALABAMA 44 VANDERBILT 0

September 29 Dudley Field Nashville, Tenn. 32,392 Night

This was the first meeting between teacher and student, Coach "Bear" Bryant and Coach Steve Sloan, and the old master gave all in attendance a solid reason why the Tide was ranked as one of the best teams in the nation. The Tide rolled to a convincing 17-0 first period advantage and never looked back. A sellout crowd got a good view of the Tide's Wishbone attack as Bryant employed a bevy of runners in piling up 416 yards rushing. The youthful Commodores showed signs of what was to come as the season progressed and in future years late in the fourth period when they held the Tide on a fourth and inches situation deep in Vandy territory.

Alabama 17 10 10 7-----44

Vanderbilt 0 0 0 0-----0

A Wheeler 14 pass from Rutledge (Davis kick) 1st Q 11:41
A David 35 field goal 1st Q 7:04
A Billingsley 13 run (Davis run) 1st Q :52
A Stock 13 run (David kick) 2nd Q 9:05
A Davis 22 field goal 2nd Q :00
A Beck 4 run (Davis kick) 3rd Q 6:05
A Davis 37 field goal 3rd Q 2:06
A Stock 1 run (Davis kick) 4th Q 10:03

VANDERBILT 39 VIRGINIA 22

October 6 Scott Stadium Charlottesville, Va. 18,506

The Commodores got back on the winning track with a wild victory over the Cavaliers and the yeoman-like work of tailback Jamie O'Rourke. The Cavaliers grabbed an 8-0 first period lead, and then led late in the second period before the Commodores stormed back to take the lead for good. O'Rourke, who had been injury red-shirted the season before and injured much of the early part of the 1973 season, finally found his sophomore form and ripped the Cavaliers 30 times for 173 yards. Quarterback Fred Fisher also found the Cavalier defense to his liking as he had a 212 total offense afternoon.

Virginia 8 6 0 8-----22

Vanderbilt 0 15 10 14-----39

UV Safety 1st Q 6:09
UV Gardner 1 run (run failed) 1st Q :41
VU O'Rourke 3 run (Mathers pass from Fisher) 2nd Q 12:09
UV Maxwell 32 field goal 2nd Q 6:37
VU Burton 30 pass from Fisher (Golden kick) 2nd Q :40
UV Maxwell 35 field goal 2nd Q :03
VU Burton 5 pass from Fisher (Golden kick) 3rd Q 11:10
VU Golden 38 field goal 3rd Q 8:00
VU Mathers 43 Run (Golden kick) 4th Q 14:37
UV Collerman 7 pass from Gardner (Collerman pass from Gardner) 4th Q 11:42
VU O'Rourke 2 run (Golden kick) 4th Q 1:25

VANDERBILT 20 WILLIAM AND MARY 7

October 13 Dudley Field Nashville, Tenn. 11,825 Night

Playing in a steady downpour, the Commodores pushed their record to 3-2 with soggy victory over the visiting Indians. The Commodores' tailback duo of Jamie O'Rourke and Lonnie Sadler led a solid ground attack as they gained 99 and 88 yards, respectively and Fred Fisher had an excellent night throwing the ball in the rain as he hit 9 of 14 for 89 yards and finished with 138 total offense. The Commodore defense proved stingy, particularly against the pass. The Indians completed just one of 11 attempts for a minus two yards and had two passes intercepted.

William and Mary 0 0 7 0-----7

Vanderbilt 0 17 0 3-----20

VU Golden 39 field goal 2nd Q 14:50
VU O'Rourke 2 run (Golden kick) 2nd Q 5:46
VU Fisher 11 run (Golden kick) 2nd Q :45
WM Deery 22 run (Regan kick) 3rd Q 14:00
VU Golden 36 field goal 4th Q 13:41

VANDERBILT 18 GEORGIA 14

Homecoming

October 20 Dudley Field Nashville, Tenn. 16,769

Heroes were plentiful as the Commodores scored their biggest win in several years by upsetting the Georgia Bulldogs before a screaming Homecoming crowd. Hawkins Golden, Lonnie Sadler, Jamie O'Rourke and Fred Fisher provided the offensive power and the entire defensive unit played magnificently, particularly in the second half. Golden, the slight soccer-style kicker, hit on field goals of 36, 47, 24 and 38 yards to provide the margin of victory. The go-ahead FG came with five minutes left to play and clincher was booted with just 1:33 remaining. Sadler and O'Rourke slashed through the Georgia line for 109 and 66 yards, respectively, while Fisher connected on 11 of 18 passes for 109 yards and one touchdown. As outstanding as the offense performed, the defensive unit stole the show. With the Commodores trailing 14-3 at intermission, the Vandy defense rose to the occasion and completely stifled the tough Bulldog attack. The Georgia offensive unit was limited to a mere 28 yards in the second half, 15 rushing and 13 passing, and only two first downs, both coming on the same play as a penalty was tagged to Vandy at the end of Georgia's only pass completion of the half. Barry Burton's booming punts, a 48.5 average and one for 79 yards kept the Bulldogs bottled up the second half.

Georgia 7 7 0 0-----14

Vanderbilt 0 3 9 6-----18

UG Johnson 1 run (Leavitt kick) 1st Q :38
VU Golden 36 Field goal 2nd Q 2:31
UG King 45 pass from Johnson (Leavitt kick) 2nd Q :40
VU Golden 47 field goal 3rd Q 8:39

VU Burton 13 pass from Fisher (run failed) 3rd Q :33
 VU Golden 24 field goal 4th Q 5:00
 VU Golden 38 field goal 4th Q 1:33

OLE MISS 24 VANDERBILT 14

October 27 Hemingway Oxford, Miss. 33,427
 Stadium

The Commodores showed their never-say-die attitude against the Rebels, but it was a case of not starting soon enough. The Rebels moved to a commanding 24-0 lead early in the fourth period before the Vandy offense got in gear and started to roll. Fred Fisher took to the air in a furious last period rush that had the Commodores closing in at the finish. The Vandy quarterback, who hit on 14 of 34 for 180 yards, hit Jesse Mathers and Barry Burton for TDs in the final eight minutes of play.

Ole Miss	0	10	7	7-----24
Vanderbilt	0	0	0	14-----14

OM Weese 1 run (Lavinghouse kick) 2nd Q 3:46
 OM Lavinghouse 24 field goal 2nd Q :29
 OM Weese 10 run (Lavinghouse kick) 3rd Q 5:38
 OM Kramer 6 run (Lavinghouse kick) 4th Q 13:16
 VU Mathers 38 pass from Fisher (Mathers pass from Fisher) 4th Q 8:37
 VU Burton 13 pass from Fisher (pass failed) 4th Q 1:05

KENTUCKY 27 VANDERBILT 17

November 10 Dudley Field Nashville, Tenn. 24,913

After Kentucky broke a close game open in the third period with a 20-point outburst the Commodores for the second straight week made a furious fourth period charge, but again it came too late. The Wildcats capitalized on a Vandy fumble and short punt in the first four minutes of the third period to get two scores and all but sew up the game. Fred Fisher led the belated Commodore charge and finished the day with 76 yards rushing and 17 of 30 for 176 yards passing for a 252 total offensive showing.

Kentucky	0	7	20	0-----27
Vanderbilt	0	3	0	14-----17

UK Collins 1 run (Steele kick) 2nd Q 12:26
 VU Golden 43 field goal 2nd Q 1:53
 UK Collins 1 run (Steele kick) 3rd Q 13:25
 UK Barga 41 pass from Fanuzzi (Steele kick) 3rd Q 11:18
 UK Stephens 4 pass from Fanuzzi (kick failed) 3rd Q 3:02
 VU O'Rourke 1 run (pass failed) 4th Q 12:12
 VU Martin 9 pass from Fisher (Gossage pass from Fisher) 4th Q 4:50

TULANE 24 VANDERBILT 2

November 17 Tulane Stadium New Orleans, La. 31,199 Night

Several hours before the opening kickoff Tulane accepted a bid to play in the Astro-Bluebonnet Bowl, and then went on the field and celebrated with a convincing victory over the Commodores. The Green Wave jumped on the scoreboard early as they scored on their first possession when the quarterback raced 45 yards after being trapped attempting to pass. Hawkins Golden cut the deficit to four points when he booted a 40-yard field goal to climax Vandy's only solid offensive showing of the night.

Tulane	14	0	3	7-----24
Vanderbilt	3	0	0	0-----3

TU Foley 45 run (Falgoust kick) 1st Q 10:27
 VU Golden 40 field goal 1st Q 4:00
 TU Foley 1 run (Falgoust kick) 1st Q :32
 TU Falgoust 37 field goal 3rd Q 12:39
 TU Garza 10 pass from Looney (Falgoust kick) 4th Q 13:11

VANDERBILT 18 TAMPA 16

November 24 Dudley Field Nashville, Tenn. 10,762

Once again it was the Golden Toe of the Hawk to rescue as the Commodores snapped a three-game losing streak and evened their overall record at 5-5. The Spartans built a 10-0 lead early in the second period, but the Commodores had cut the deficit to just one before halftime. The lead changed hands in the third period and Tampa still led late into the final

stanza. Up stepped Hawkins Golden, who earlier had booted a school record 55-yarder, and his attempt from 27 yards out was good and the Commodores had their win.

Tampa	3	7	6	0-----16
Vanderbilt	0	9	6	3-----18

UT Jordan 48 field goal 1st Q 7:07
 UT LaGrand 1 run (Jordan kick) 2nd Q 10:38
 VU Golden 55 field goal 2nd Q 7:16
 VU Burton 32 pass from Fisher (kick failed) 2nd Q 2:26
 VU Martin 20 pass from Fisher (pass failed) 3rd Q 9:39
 UT LaGrand 3 run (pass failed) 3rd Q 2:36
 VU Golden 27 field goal 4th Q 5:54

TENNESSEE 20 VANDERBILT 17

December 1 Neyland Stadium Knoxville, Tenn. 66,702

The Commodores staged another of their furious fourth quarter rallies and almost pulled off the upset of the year in the Southeastern Conference. Gator Bowl-bound Tennessee quickly rolled to a 14-0 advantage in the first period and appeared to have matters well in hand. The Vandy defense once rose to the occasion, however, and until just four minutes remained in the game Tennessee's offense was shut down almost completely. The Commodores entered the final quarter still trailing by fourteen, but the first seven and a half minutes of the period will never be forgotten by fans of either team. On the second play of the quarter Martin Garcia climaxed a 74-yard drive with a one-yard plunge and Hawkins Golden kick cut the deficit to seven. Four plays later Bubba Byrd returned a Tennessee punt 38 yards to the Vols' one, and Garcia scored his second TD on the next play. The Hawk's kick tied the score. On Tennessee's next series the Vols fumbled the second play and the Commodores were back in action again. Six plays later found the Commodores with a fourth and a long one on the Tennessee goal line. Calling on the automatic Hawk, who led the nation in field goal percentage with 12 of 14, Vanderbilt took the lead with 8:38 to be played. Quarterback Conredge Holloway, injured earlier in the game, returned to rally the Vols and a pair of Ricky Townsend field goals, the last with just 1:08 remaining, spoiled Vanderbilt's tremendous rally.

Tennessee	14	0	0	6-----20
Vanderbilt	0	0	0	17-----17

UT Stanback 7 run (Townsend kick) 1st Q 10:12
 UT Brown 78 punt return (Townsend kick) 1st Q :15
 VU Garcia 1 run (Golden kick) 4th Q 14:35
 VU Garcia 1 run (Golden kick) 4th Q 12:36
 VU Golden 18 field goal 4th Q 8:38
 UT Townsend 34 field goal 4th Q 4:16
 UT Townsend 37 field goal 4th Q 1:08