

# 1984 In Review

## Commodores Claim Season Opener

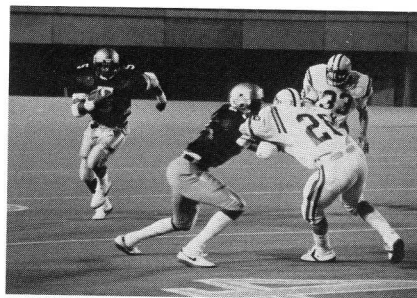
### VANDERBILT 26, KANSAS STATE 14

Vanderbilt broke open a second half deadlock with a pair of Ricky Anderson field goals and a time consuming touchdown march to claim the season opener over Kansas State before a near capacity (40,786) Vanderbilt Stadium crowd.

With the score tied at 14-14 midway through the third quarter, Anderson salvaged two scoring opportunities with field goals. The Commodores applied the clincher in the final stanza with an 82-yard drive, culminated by a two-yard Carl Woods run. The drive consumed seven and one half minutes from the clock.

Woods was the workhorse of the evening, rushing for 116 yards on 29 carries. The Gallatin, Tenn., native opened the scoring with a one-yard leap on the Commodores' first possession. Vanderbilt stretched the lead to 14-3 at halftime on a 55-yard pass from Kurt Page to Keith Edwards.

Kansas State stormed back in the third period with 11 quick points to tie the score, setting the stage for Anderson's accuracy and the back-breaking drive.



KANSAS STATE	3	0	11	0-14
VANDERBILT	7	7	3	9-26

VU—Woods 1 run (Anderson kick). KSU—Willis 43 FG. VU—Edwards 55 pass from Page (Anderson kick). KSU—Willis 36 FG. KSU—Lambert 25 interception return (Ricketts pass from Weber). VU—Anderson 43 FG. VU—Anderson 41 FG. VU—Woods 2 run (pass failed).

## VU Trips Bowl-Bound Terps

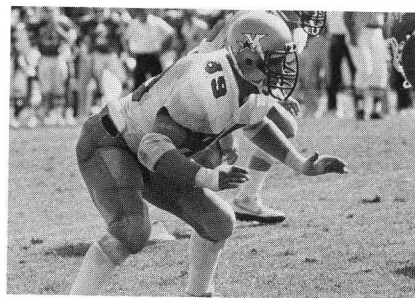
### VANDERBILT 23, MARYLAND 14

The Kurt Page-to-Chuck Scott connection caught fire and the Vanderbilt defense played perhaps its best second half of the season as the Commodores upset Sun Bowl bound-Maryland before a surprised Byrd Stadium crowd of 34,100.

Page completed 25 of 35 passes for 316 yards and two touchdowns in what probably ranks as the top performance of his career. Scott accounted for 162 yards on 10 receptions and took in each of the scoring aeriels. Both players would receive numerous Player of the Week awards for their performances.

Meanwhile, the Vanderbilt defense swarmed for six sacks, limited Maryland to 62 yards rushing and held the Terps scoreless in the second half. The Commodore defenders dodged more bullets in the second half than James Bond on a mission, surviving two missed field goals and holding on downs inside the 10-yard line.

Ricky Anderson ultimately provided the margin of victory with field goals of 46, 31, and 26 yards to break a 14-14 second quarter tie.



VANDERBILT	7	10	3	3-23
MARYLAND	3	11	0	0-14

UM—Atkinson 42 FG. VU—Scott 23 pass from Page (Anderson kick). UM—Atkinson 34 FG. VU—Scott 19 pass from Page. UM—Blount 19 pass from Reich (Badanjek run). VU—Anderson 46 FG. VU—Anderson 31 FG. VU—Anderson 26 FG.

## Johnson Interception Keys Victory

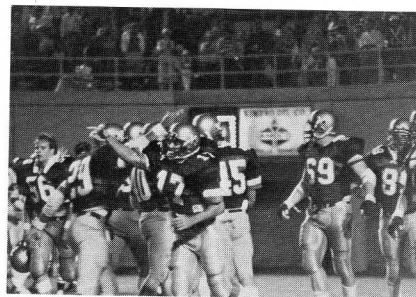
### VANDERBILT 41, KANSAS 6

A 48-yard interception return for a touchdown by Tim Johnson just before half-time broke open a tight game and spurred Vanderbilt to a 41-6 victory over Kansas in front of a frenzied Vanderbilt Stadium throng of 41,125 fans.

Johnson picked off a Mike Norseth pass and zipped 48 yards down the east sideline with less than a minute remaining in an otherwise evenly played first half. The big play changed the game's momentum and the Commodores tallied 27 points in the second half to put the game away.

The Vanderbilt offensive machine was in high gear, rolling up 505 yards of total offense. Kurt Page completed 15 of 28 passes for 270 yards and two scores. Chuck Scott hauled in six passes for 90 yards and Carl Woods added 70 more on the ground.

Several reserves got a chance to shine as well. Everett Crawford picked up 63 yards on just eight carries in his first significant action. Senior Butch Bullen and sophomore Joe Johnston also hauled in the first touchdown receptions of their careers.



KANSAS	3	3	0	0-6
VANDERBILT	0	14	17	10-41

UK—Schwartzburg 19 FG. UK—Schwartzburg 21 FG. VU—Edwards 7 pass from Page (Anderson kick). VU—Johnson 48 interception return (Anderson kick). VU—Anderson 23 FG. VU—Bullen 25 pass from Page (Anderson kick). VU—McCoy fumble recovery in the end zone (Anderson kick). VU—Johnston 11 pass from Wracher (Herline kick). VU—Herline 22 FG.

# Vanderbilt Soars to 4-0 Start

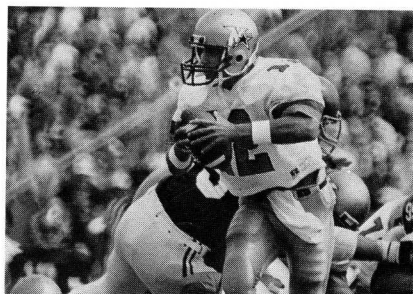
## VANDERBILT 30, ALABAMA 21

Vanderbilt completed a perfect 4-0 September, the school's best season start since 1950, by upsetting Alabama and 60,210 Homecoming fans packed into Tuscaloosa's Bryant-Denny Stadium.

The game was a see-saw affair for most of three quarters with the Commodores taking the lead for good late in the third stanza on an 18-yard pass from Kurt Page to Chuck Scott.

A Thanh Anderson interception, his second of the afternoon, set up a Page-to-Joe Kelly scoring toss early in the fourth quarter to make the score 23-13. Carl Woods, who totaled 115 yards rushing, put the icing on the cake with a 30-yard TD run later in the fourth quarter.

The emotion-charged win was Vanderbilt's first over Alabama since 1969 and marked an end to the Tide's 26-year Homecoming victory string. The victory also propelled Vanderbilt into the national rankings for the first time in a decade.



VANDERBILT	3	6	7	14—30
ALABAMA	7	3	3	8—21

VU—Anderson 21 FG. ALA—Carruth 1 run (Tiffin kick).  
VU—Anderson 47 FG. ALA—Tiffin 37 FG. VU—Anderson  
36 FG. ALA—Tiffin 37 FG. VU—Scott 18 pass from Page  
(Anderson kick). VU—Kelly 1 pass from Page (Anderson  
kick). VU—Woods 30 run (Anderson kick). ALA—Carruth  
18 pass from Sutton (Carruth run).

## Green Wave Stuns Vanderbilt

### TULANE 27, VANDERBILT 23

The Tulane Green Wave, winless in four previous tries, rolled into Vanderbilt Stadium and upset the undefeated Commodores before 41,216 disappointed fans.

The one-two offensive punch of quarterback Ken Karcher and running back Mike Jones proved to be too much for Vanderbilt. Karcher completed 24 of 39 for 316 yards while Jones rushed for 93 yards and two scores.

Vandy quarterback Kurt Page, who would be intercepted only nine times on the season, had four picked off by the Green Wave.

Despite the misfortune, Vanderbilt almost pulled the game out of the fire. Trailing 27-13 early in the final quarter, the Commodores marched into Tulane territory six times but could only muster 10 points from the scoring opportunities.



TULANE	0	17	7	3—27
VANDERBILT	3	0	10	10—23

VU—Anderson 37 FG. TUL—Jones 21 run (Wood kick).  
TUL—Jones 1 run (Wood kick). TUL—Wood 42 FG. VU—  
Woods 3 run (Anderson kick). VU—Anderson 29 FG. —  
TUL—Route 39 pass from Karcher (Wood kick).  
TUL—Wood 32 FG. VU—Kelly 10 pass from Page (Anderson  
kick). VU—Anderson 31 FG.

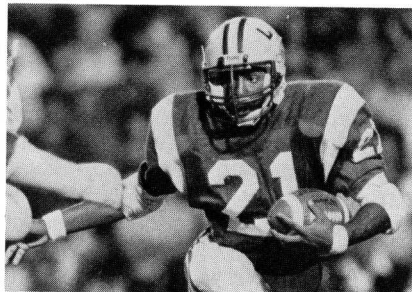
## Talented Tigers Hold on For Win

### LOUISIANA STATE 34, VANDEBILT 27

After rolling up a big early lead, the vastly talented LSU Tigers had to hang on for dear life to survive with a 34-27 victory over Vanderbilt in front of a soggy Tiger Stadium crowd of 78,003 and a national cable (ESPN) audience.

The home team lived up to its high billing for the first three quarters, compiling a 34-6 lead before the Commodores came to life. Armando Fitz got the ball rolling with a 32-yard interception return for a touchdown. Reserve quarterback Mark Wracher then directed a pair of scoring drives which cut the margin to seven with 1:09 to play. A last gasp onside kick proved unsuccessful, however, and the relieved Tigers ran out the clock.

The high-powered LSU offense carried the game early. Running backs Dalton Hilliard and Garry James combined for 201 yards rushing. Multi-purpose flanker Herman Fontenot caught six passes for 104 yards, rushed for a touchdown and passed for additional yardage.



VANDERBILT	0	3	3	21—27
LSU	17	10	7	0—34

LSU—Betanzos 31 FG. LSU—James 1 run (Betanzos  
kick). LSU—Magee 36 pass from Wickersham (Betanzos  
kick). LSU—Fontenot 5 run (Betanzos kick). VU—  
Anderson 35 FG. LSU—Betanzos 32 FG. VU—Anderson  
32 FG. LSU—Hilliard 6 run (Betanzos kick). VU—Fitz 32  
interception return (pass failed). VU—Kelly 20 pass from  
Wracher (Anderson kick). VU—Crawford 5 run (Anderson  
kick).

# Bulldogs Grab High Scoring Affair

## GEORGIA 62, VANDERBILT 35

It was a day for offense in Athens, Georgia, as the Bulldogs outscored Vanderbilt, 62-35, before a capacity Sanford Stadium crowd of 82,122 and a national cable television (WTBS) audience.

Almost 100 points and nearly 1000 yards of offense were packed into the game. The verdict was decided late in the first half. Following a spirited Vanderbilt rally which tied the score at 21-21, the Bulldogs tallied three touchdowns in the last four minutes to take a 42-21 halftime bulge.

Georgia picked up two more touchdowns in the third stanza before Vanderbilt rallied in the fourth quarter with two scores of its own.

Andre "Pulpwood" Smith led a deep contingent of Bulldog rushers with 123 yards and quarterback David Dukes passed for 175 more. Kurt Page and Mark Wracher combined for 320 yards passing and four scores, two each to Chuck Scott and Joe Kelly.



VANDERBILT	7	— 14	0	14—35
GEORGIA	21	21	14	6—62

GA—T. Jackson 27 run (Butler kick). VU—Scott 48 pass from Page (Anderson kick). GA—Dukes 2 run (Butler kick). GA—A. Smith 47 run (Butler kick). VU—Kelly 27 pass from Wracher (Anderson kick). VU—Kelly 17 pass from Wracher (Anderson kick). GA—Mangram 1 run (Butler kick). GA—Archie 21 pass from Dukes (Butler kick). GA—Blalock 49 pass from Dukes (Butler kick). GA—T. Jackson 5 run (Butler kick). GA—Tate 21 run (Butler kick). GA—Butler 36 FG. VU—Scott 14 pass from Page (kick failed). VU—Weatherspoon 1 run (Page pass to Scott). GA—Butler 51 FG.

## Vanderbilt Celebrates Homecoming Win

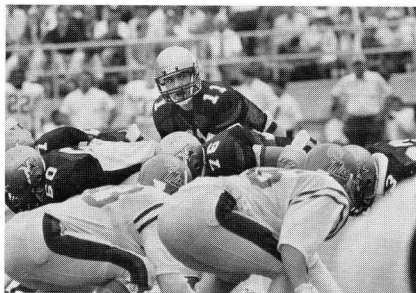
### VANDERBILT 37, MISSISSIPPI 20

Freshman Everett Crawford broke loose for 121 yards and two touchdowns as Vanderbilt defeated Ole Miss, 37-20, in front of 41,263 happy Homecoming fans in Nashville.

Crawford, the swift tailback from Huntsville, Ala., broke the game open in the second half with some nifty footwork. Among his attempts was a 40-yard run, the team's longest of the season and perhaps the most artistic as well.

Kurt Page was on target, completing 21 of 28 passes for 226 yards and touchdowns to Chuck Scott and Joe Kelly. Tight end Jim Popp also enjoyed his finest day as a Commodore, grabbing seven passes for 76 yards.

Among the unsung heroes of the day were the members of the Vanderbilt offensive line, most notably left tackle Rob Monaco and left guard Will Wolford. Wolford, in particular, was outstanding. He threw the key block on two touchdown plays — Carl Woods' 16-yard gallop after catching a screen pass and Page's quarterback sneak for a score.



MISSISSIPPI	7	3	3	7—20
VANDERBILT	7	15	8	7—37

VU—Woods 16 pass from Page (Anderson kick). UM—Wonsley 1 run (Howard kick). VU—Page 1 run (Anderson kick). VU—Safety, punt snap goes through end zone. VU—Scott 15 pass from Page (pass failed). UM—Howard 50 FG. UM—Howard 30 FG. VU—Crawford 10 run (Scott pass from Page). UM—Wonsley 1 run (Howard kick). VU—Crawford 5 run (Anderson kick).

## Wildcats Slosh to Victory

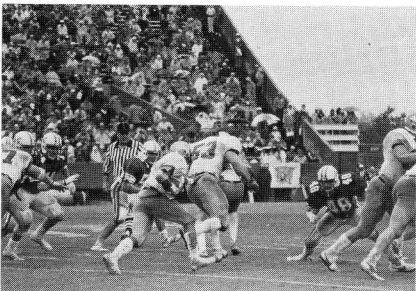
### KENTUCKY 27, VANDERBILT 18

The tenacious Kentucky Wildcats, destined for the Hall of Fame Bowl, splashed their way through the mud, rain and wind of a stormy November afternoon to defeat Vanderbilt, 27-18, before 53,112 fans in Lexington's Commonwealth Stadium.

A typically conservative, defense-oriented Kentucky team played steady football en route to the victory. For the second consecutive season, Vanderbilt outgained Kentucky but was unable to cash in enough scoring chances to win the game.

Particularly frustrating was the first half, in which the Commodores outgained the Wildcats, 242-136, but found themselves trailing 14-13 at intermission. Kentucky grabbed the momentum for good on the first play of the second half when freshman running back Mark Higgs scooted 84 yards for a touchdown.

Kentucky quarterback Bill Ransdell played skillfully all afternoon, completing 20 of 31 passes for 195 yards and two scores. Vandy's Kurt Page piled up 347 yards passing, including 15 completions to Keith Edwards for 147 yards.



VANDERBILT	7	6	3	2—18
KENTUCKY	7	7	10	3—27

UK—Phillips 12 pass from Ransdell (Worley kick). VU—Kelly 43 pass from Page (Anderson kick). VU—Scott 75 pass from Page (kick blocked). UK—Derry 18 pass from Ransdell (Worley kick). UK—Higgs 84 run (Worley kick). VU—Anderson 53 FG. UK—Worley 49 FG. UK—Worley 50 FG. VU—Safety, Kentucky punter runs out of end zone.



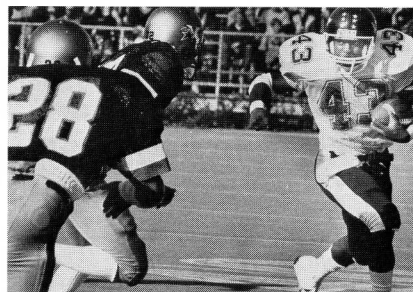
# Hokie Defense Swarms Commodores

## VIRGINIA TECH 23, VANDERBILT 3

The nationally ranked Virginia Tech defense proved its worth on this afternoon by stifling Vanderbilt's high powered offense, 23-3, before a Vanderbilt Stadium crowd of 38,238 fans.

The fierce Hokies limited Vanderbilt to just 243 yards of offense, intercepting five passes and recovering a fumble. Only a 43-yard Ricky Anderson field goal midway through the final quarter averted a shutout, which would have been the first since 1980. As it was, the Commodores' three points was the lowest since the pass-oriented offense was installed at Vanderbilt in 1981.

The Tech offense patiently took advantage of the opportunities it received. Quarterback Mark Cox completed 14 of 23 passes for 149 yards and two touchdowns. Tech compiled only 289 yards but it was more than enough thanks to its stingy defense led by All-American Bruce Smith



VIRGINIA TECH	0	7	6	10—23
VANDERBILT	0	0	0	3—3

VT—Jones 30 pass from Cox (Wade kick). VT—Ellsworth 13 pass from Cox (bad snap, conversion fails). VT—Wade 41 FG. VU—Anderson 43 FG. VT—Williams 31 run (Tari-cani kick).

## Volunteers Take Season Finale

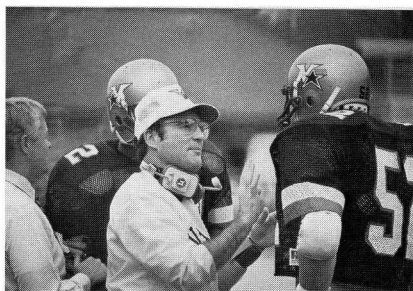
### TENNESSEE 29, VANDERBILT 13

The talented trio of quarterback Tony Robinson, receiver Tim McGee, and running back Johnnie Jones led a fine offensive effort as Tennessee downed Vanderbilt, 29-13, in front of a capacity Vanderbilt Stadium crowd and a national cable (WTBS) audience.

Robinson completed 20 of 31 passes for 273 yards and two touchdowns. McGee accounted for 10 receptions, 190 yards, and two TD's. Jones rushed for 119 yards, including the game's first touchdown, a 57-yard gallop.

Kurt Page, who did not start because of an ailing right shoulder, did not enter the game until very late in the third quarter. He promptly directed the team to a pair of touchdown drives but ran out of time in the fourth quarter.

Ricky Anderson, soon to be a consensus All-America, nailed down the national punting title with a 51-yard average on six punts. Chuck Scott also enjoyed a fine afternoon in his final Commodore appearance, catching seven passes for 121 yards and a touchdown, the 20th of his stellar career.



TENNESSEE	0	12	14	3—29
VANDERBILT	0	0	0	13—13

UT—Reveiz 37 FG. UT—Safety, Wracher tackled in end zone. UT—Jones 57 run (Reveiz kick). UT—McGee 19 pass from Robinson (Reveiz kick). UT—McGee 55 pass from Robinson (Reveiz kick). VU—Scott 6 pass from Page (Anderson kick). VU—Kelly 7 pass from Page (pass failed). UT—Reveiz 29 FG.

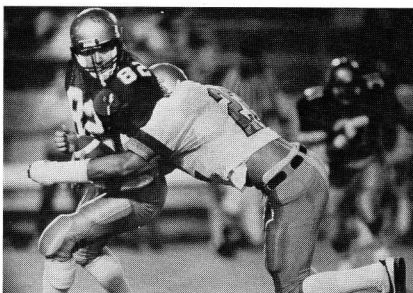
## Woods, Milton Lead Gold Rush to Victory

### GOLD 13, BLACK 6

Quarterback Al Milton and tailback Carl Woods spearheaded two scoring drives as the Gold team downed the Black squad in the annual Black and Gold Game last April.

Milton directed drives of 40 and 59 yards in the second and third quarters, respectively. The first scoring movement was capped by the nimble quarterback himself on a two-yard run following a nifty fake up the middle. The game-winning score came on a 48-yard halfback pass from Rodney Barrett to Al Rogers. Woods was the workhorse of the game, running for 129 yards on 19 carries, an average of almost seven yards per attempt.

Mark Wracher paced the Black effort, completing 19 of 37 passes for 193 yards. All-SEC tight end Jim Popp caught 10 passes for 87 yards. Wracher hit Carl Parker with a 13-yard scoring toss in the second quarter, tying the game at 6-6.



BLACK	0	6	0	0—6
GOLD	0	6	7	0—13

GOLD—Milton 2 run (run failed). BLACK—Parker 13 pass from Wracher (kick failed). GOLD—Rogers 48 pass from Barrett (Filipkowski kick).