

1987 In Review

Commodore Comeback Conquers Tigers

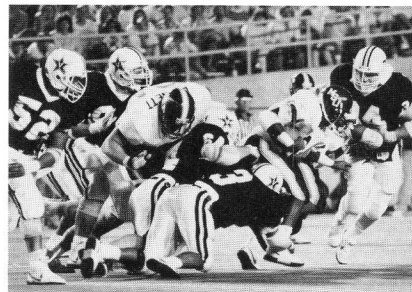
VANDERBILT 27, MEMPHIS STATE 17

In one of the greatest comebacks in school history, Vanderbilt rallied for 20 points in the fourth quarter to defeat Memphis State, 27-17, before 40,694 thrilled fans in Vanderbilt Stadium.

The thrills enjoyed by the Commodore faithful made up for the chills the fans endured early in the game. Memphis State dominated the first half on both sides of the ball. The Tigers roared into intermission with a solid 17-0 lead.

Vanderbilt crept back into the game in the third quarter on an Eric Jones quarterback sneak for a touchdown, but the Commodores still trailed 17-7 going into the final stanza.

The fourth quarter belonged to Vanderbilt. The Commodores scored on all four of their possessions. Rodney Barrett capped an 85-yard drive with a two-yard touchdown reception from Jones. Mark Johnson finished the next possession with a 14-yard scoring run. Johnny Clark put the game on ice with a pair of 20-yard field goals. Meanwhile, the Vanderbilt defense tamed the Tigers by allowing only 118 yards of offense and no points in the second half.



| | | | | |
|---------------|----|---|---|-------|
| MEMPHIS STATE | 10 | 7 | 0 | 0-17 |
| VANDERBILT | 0 | 0 | 7 | 20-27 |

MSU — Butler 46 FG. MSU — Pryor 1 run (Butler kick). MSU — Norman 1 run (Butler kick). VU — Jones 1 run (Clark kick). VU — Barrett 2 pass from Jones (Clark kick). VU — Johnson 14 run (Clark kick). VU — Clark 20 FG. VU — Clark 20 FG.

Duke Hangs on for Win

DUKE 35, VANDERBILT 31

Dewayne Terry intercepted a pass in the end zone in the final minute of the game to preserve Duke's 35-31 win over Vanderbilt as 23,100 fans looked on in Wallace Wade Stadium.

The game was one of the wildest offensive shootouts of the season as the teams combined for almost 1,000 yards of total offense. Eric Jones had his best passing night of the season, completing 21 of 32 for 342 yards and three touchdowns. Carl Parker was magnificent in his best game as a Commodore, catching 10 passes for 177 yards and three touchdowns.

Blue Devil quarterback Steve Slayden also had a hot hand. Slayden completed 19 of 29 passing attempts for 297 yards and four touchdowns. Behind 24-21 entering the final quarter, Slayden directed a pair of scoring drives for the go-ahead scores.

Vanderbilt almost pulled the game out of the fire. Jones marched his team 64 yards to the Duke 26, but Terry's interception with a minute to play killed the Commodore hopes.



| | | | | |
|------------|---|----|---|-------|
| VANDERBILT | 7 | 10 | 7 | 7-31 |
| DUKE | 7 | 7 | 7 | 14-35 |

VU — Parker 29 pass from Jones (Clark kick). DU — Green 37 pass from Slayden (Peterson kick). DU — Hines 28 pass from Slayden (Peterson kick). VU — McCarroll 2 run (Clark kick). VU — Clark 37 FG. DU — Hines 73 pass from Slayden (Peterson kick). VU — Parker 6 pass from Jones (Clark kick). DU — Cooper 6 pass from Slayden (Peterson kick). VU — Parker 14 pass from Jones (Clark kick). DU — Monk 2 run (Peterson kick).

Humphrey Carries Tide

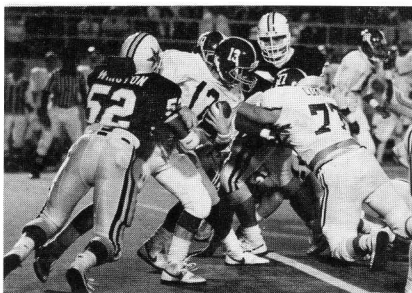
ALABAMA 30, VANDERBILT 23

Workhorse tailback Bobby Humphrey ran for 162 yards and three touchdowns and set up the winning score with a kickoff return as Alabama outlasted Vanderbilt, 30-23, before an overflow crowd of 41,824 at Vanderbilt Stadium.

The game was a see-saw affair as the lead changed hands four times and was tied on two other occasions. In the end, it was the talented Humphrey who tipped the scales in favor of the Tide.

After Johnny Clark's third field goal of the game tied the score at 23-23, Humphrey raced 54 yards with the ensuing kickoff to the Commodore 46-yard line. Humphrey accounted for most of the remaining yardage, finally diving over the top from a yard out for the winning score.

Eric Jones led the Vanderbilt attack by completing 19 of 29 passes for 219 yards. Boo Mitchell was on the receiving end of eight passes, good for 143 yards.



| | | | | |
|------------|---|----|---|------|
| ALABAMA | 3 | 14 | 6 | 7-30 |
| VANDERBILT | 7 | 7 | 3 | 6-23 |

ALA — Doyle 29 FG. VU — Kosanovich 2 pass from Jones (Clark kick). ALA — Humphrey 8 run (Doyle kick). VU — McCarroll 5 run (Clark kick). ALA — Humphrey 9 run (Doyle kick). VU — Clark 46 FG. ALA — Battle 22 pass from Smith (kick missed). VU — Clark 39 FG. VU — Clark 27 FG. ALA — Humphrey 1 run (Ward kick).

Mack Wins Battle of Brown Brothers

TULANE 27, VANDERBILT 17

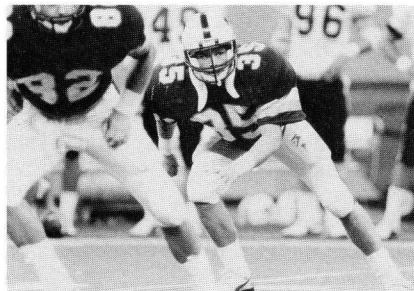
In a game which continued to attract national attention because of the coaching matchup, Mack Brown of Tulane got the better of older brother Watson, 27-17, as 34,878 looked on in the Louisiana Superdome.

Tulane quarterback Terrence Jones was the star of the show. Jones completed 14 of 23 passes for 158 yards and also carried the ball for 62 yards and three touchdowns. Tailback Rodney Hunter added 108 rushing yards.

Much like Vanderbilt's previous two games, the lead swung back and forth throughout the contest. The Commodores went ahead 17-13 on a one-yard Eric Jones run early in the fourth quarter. Tulane bounced back with touchdown drives on its next two possessions, both of which were capped by scoring runs by Terrence Jones.

The outcome of the game may have swung on a controversial officiating call early in the fourth quarter with Vanderbilt leading 17-13. Commodore noseguard Cedric Moore intercepted a pass but was ruled to have fumbled the ball before being downed. After a long discussion, Tulane was awarded the ball and the Greenies marched in for the go-ahead touchdown.

Two highlights for Vanderbilt included Mark Johnson's 92-yard kickoff return for a touchdown and the school record 37 tackles recorded by linebacker Chris Gaines.



| | | | | |
|------------|---|---|---|-------|
| VANDERBILT | 7 | 3 | 0 | 7-17 |
| TULANE | 6 | 0 | 7 | 14-27 |

TUL — T. Jones 3 run (kick missed). VU — Johnson 92 kickoff return (Clark kick). VU — Clark 40 FG. TUL — Allen 14 run (Wiggins kick). VU — E. Jones 1 run (Clark kick). TUL — T. Jones 6 run (Wiggins kick). TUL — T. Jones 1 run (Wiggins kick).

Air Auburn Flies High

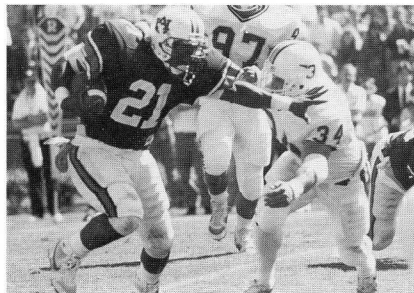
AUBURN 48, VANDERBILT 15

In an abrupt change from his traditional strategy, Auburn head coach Pat Dye used a strong air attack to defeat Vanderbilt, 48-15, before 79,500 fans in Jordan-Hare Stadium. The game was also carried to a national cable television audience by WTBS.

Tiger quarterbacks Jeff Burger and Reggie Slack completed 16 of 20 passes for 329 yards and two touchdowns. Ten Auburn receivers caught passes.

The Vanderbilt offense also had its moments. Commodore fullbacks Andy McCarroll and Andy Iacenda combined to run for over 100 yards and each scored a touchdown. Eric Jones threw the ball well in the face of a stiff Auburn rush. Jones completed 13 of 25 passes for 135 yards.

Kicker Johnny Clark enjoyed a shining moment. On the final play of the first half, Clark hammered home a 54-yard field goal. The big boot was the longest of his career and second longest in school history.



| | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|-------|
| VANDERBILT | 6 | 3 | 0 | 6-15 |
| AUBURN | 10 | 14 | 10 | 14-48 |

AUB — Lyle 26 FG. AUB — Tillman 33 pass from Burger (Lyle kick). VU — McCarroll 1 run (kick blocked). AUB — Stewart 2 run (Lyle kick). AUB — Bolton 22 pass from Burger (Lyle kick). VU — Clark 54 FG. AUB — Lyle 25 FG. AUB — Ware 1 run (Lyle kick). AUB — Stewart 1 run (Lyle kick). AUB — Mose 1 run (Lyle kick). VU — Iacenda 3 run (run failed).

Bulldogs Rush by Commodores

GEORGIA 52, VANDERBILT 24

In a game which was played much more closely than the final score indicates, Georgia used a potent ground game to rush by Vanderbilt, 52-24, as 40,878 watched in Vanderbilt Stadium.

The Bulldogs had 618 yards of total offense, including 454 rushing yards. The tailback tandem of Rodney Hampton (153 yards) and Lars Tate (102) had a fine evening. Quarterback Wayne Johnson, subbing for James Jackson, ran for three touchdowns.

Vanderbilt's Eric Jones played well as he kept the Bulldog defense off-balance all evening. Jones hit 10 of 15 pass attempts for 220 yards and two touchdowns and he also rushed for 100 yards.

Vanderbilt jumped out to a 21-7 lead and held the advantage into the third quarter before Georgia took the lead. The Commodores trailed only 30-24 midway through the fourth quarter, but the Bulldogs scored three touchdowns in the final six minutes to account for the final margin.



| | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|-------|
| GEORGIA | 7 | 12 | 11 | 22-52 |
| VANDERBILT | 14 | 7 | 3 | 0-24 |

VU — McCarroll 2 run (Clark kick). VU — Parker 13 pass from Jones (Clark kick). GA — J. Jackson 15 run (Crumley kick). VU — Barrett 47 pass from Jones (Clark kick). GA — Tate 1 run (kick missed). GA — Joiner 39 pass from J. Jackson (pass failed). GA — Crumley 28 FG. VU — Clark 30 FG. GA — W. Johnson 11 run (W. Johnson run). GA — W. Johnson 3 run (Warner pass from W. Johnson). GA — W. Johnson 6 run (Kasay kick). GA — K. Brown 11 run (Kasay kick).

Rebels Race to Homecoming Win

MISSISSIPPI 42, VANDERBILT 14

The Mississippi Rebels, picked in the pre-season as a contender for the Southeastern Conference championship, played perhaps their best game of the season in defeating Vanderbilt, 42-14, in front of a Homecoming crowd of 31,000 in Vaught-Hemingway Stadium.

The Rebels controlled the game from the start and played very well on both sides of the football. Mississippi rolled up 456 yards while holding Vanderbilt to 248 yards. Quarterback John Darnell led the Rebel charge by completing 11 of 15 passes for 170 yards and rushing for 54 yards and two touchdowns.

One bright spot for the Commodores was the play of quarterback John Gromos. Gromos came in the game in the third quarter and eventually drove the team to a pair of touchdowns in the fourth quarter. Gromos completed 10 of 22 passes for 138 yards and one touchdown and was not intercepted.



| | | | | |
|-------------|---|----|----|-------|
| VANDERBILT | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14—14 |
| MISSISSIPPI | 6 | 15 | 14 | 7—42 |

UM — Owen 39 FG. UM — Owen 48 FG. UM — Goodloe 4 run (Owen kick). UM — Darnell 18 run (Green pass from Darnell). UM — Darnell 1 run (Owen kick). UM — Young 5 run (Owen kick). UM — Ambrose 16 pass from Young (Owen kick). VU — Parker 5 pass from Gromos (pass failed). VU — Crawford 3 run (Mitchell pass from Gromos).

Commodores Outduel Knights

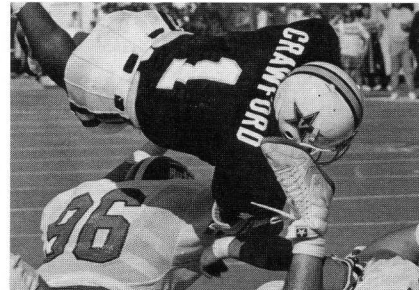
VANDERBILT 27, RUTGERS 13

Quarterback Eric Jones began his brilliant stretch run by leading Vanderbilt past Rutgers, 27-13, putting the brakes on the team's six-game losing streak. The game was watched by a Vanderbilt Stadium Homecoming crowd of 35,347 and a nationwide cable television audience on WTBS.

Jones ran the offense to perfection, leading the Commodores to 560 total yards. Jones personally accounted for 368 yards (267 passing, 101 rushing) and earned Southeastern Conference Offensive Player of the Week honors. His skillful use of the option play helped tailback Everett Crawford run for 88 yards and fullback Andy McCarroll gain 60 yards. Crawford also picked up 83 yards on six pass receptions.

Meanwhile, the Commodore defense turned in its best game of the season. The Scarlet Knights were limited to 222 yards total offense. Chris Gaines and Scott Brown each snatched an interception.

The Homecoming game was dedicated to the memory of former defensive tackle Paul Lomanto, who died in Feb., 1987, of Hodgkin's disease. The Lomanto family was at the game and head coach Watson Brown awarded the game ball to the Lomantos.



| | | | | |
|------------|---|----|---|-------|
| RUTGERS | 0 | 10 | 3 | 0—13 |
| VANDERBILT | 3 | 7 | 7 | 10—27 |

VU — Clark 19 FG. RU — Sclafani 50 FG. VU — Parker 8 pass from Jones (Clark kick). RU — Stephens 1 run (Sclafani kick). VU — Crawford 1 run (Clark kick). RU — Sclafani 44 FG. VU — McCarroll 3 run (Clark kick). VU — Clark 32 FG.

Jones Throws Four Touchdowns

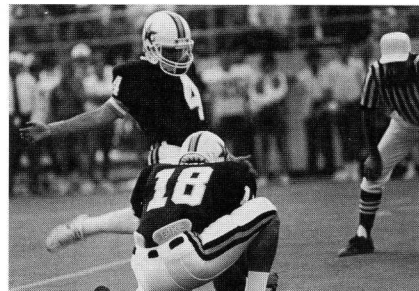
VANDERBILT 38, KENTUCKY 29

Quarterback Eric Jones threw a career-high four touchdown passes and rolled up 345 yards of total offense as Vanderbilt topped Kentucky, 38-29, before 40,892 fans in Vanderbilt Stadium.

Jones completed 19 of 30 passes for 244 yards and the four TDs and also rushed for 101 yards. He was named Co-Southeastern Conference Offensive Player of the Week, the second straight week he earned league honors. Wide receiver Carl Parker had a great day, catching eight passes for 169 yards and two touchdowns. Mark Johnson and Rodney Barrett also had TD receptions.

In spite of Jones' offensive fireworks, however, the outcome of the game remained in doubt until the end. With Mark Higgs' 133 rushing yards sparking the offense, Kentucky took a 29-28 advantage into the final quarter.

Vanderbilt regained the lead with a 72-yard drive which was capped with a one-yard touchdown run by Everett Crawford. The Commodore defense held on downs on the next Kentucky possession, which included a Wildcat touchdown called back by penalty. Johnny Clark hit a 28-yard field goal in the final minute to put the game in the win column for the Commodores.



| | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|-------|
| KENTUCKY | 10 | 6 | 13 | 0—29 |
| VANDERBILT | 7 | 14 | 7 | 10—38 |

UK — Worley 28 FG. VU — Parker 4 pass from Jones (Clark kick). UK — D. Smith 4 run (Worley kick). VU — Barrett 4 pass from Jones (Clark kick). VU — Johnson 2 pass from Jones (Clark kick). UK — Fohr 13 run (pass failed). VU — Parker 74 pass from Jones (Clark kick). UK — Pennington 46 pass from Fohr (Worley kick). UK — Hunter 12 run (pass failed). VU — Crawford 1 run (Clark kick). VU — Clark 28 FG.

Crawford, Jones, Parker Spark Victory

VANDERBILT 34, MARYLAND 24

Offensive stars Everett Crawford, Eric Jones, and Carl Parker enjoyed fine afternoons as Vanderbilt defeated Maryland, 34-24, closing out the home schedule in front of a happy crowd of 34,816 in Vanderbilt Stadium.

Crawford ran for a career high 125 yards. Jones had 276 yards total offense, ran for one touchdown, and threw to Parker for two scores. Parker had six receptions on the day, good for 115 yards.

Maryland quarterback Dan Henning also had an accurate afternoon. He hit 25 of 42 passes for 376 yards and two touchdowns. The Commodore defense, however, had some big plays of its own. Vanderbilt forced and recovered three fumbles, intercepted two passes, and held for downs with a goal-line stand.

Vanderbilt built a 31-14 lead early in the fourth quarter, but saw Maryland rally to 31-24. A crucial drive engineered by Jones was culminated by a 39-yard Johnny Clark field goal which gave the Commodores the breathing room they needed.



| | | | | |
|------------|---|---|----|-------|
| MARYLAND | 0 | 7 | 7 | 10—24 |
| VANDERBILT | 3 | 7 | 14 | 10—34 |

VU — Clark 20 FG. UM — Lowery 11 run (Plocki kick). VU — Parker 14 pass from Jones (Clark kick). VU — Jones 6 run (Clark kick). VU — Johnson 3 run (Clark kick). UM — Joines 30 pass from Henning (Plocki kick). VU — Parker 15 pass from Jones (Clark kick). UM — Joines 12 pass from Henning (Plocki kick). UM — Plocki 28 FG. VU — Clark 39 FG.

Volunteers Survive Offensive Showdown

TENNESSEE 38, VANDERBILT 36

In a game which featured 74 points and over 800 yards of offense, Tennessee outlasted Vanderbilt, 38-36, as 93,306 watched in Neyland Stadium.

Vanderbilt raced to a 28-3 lead in the second quarter but was unable to hold on to the advantage. Tennessee tallied 35 unanswered points, taking a 38-28 lead in the fourth quarter. An Eric Jones-to-Carl Parker TD pass and two-point conversion cut the gap to 38-36. Tennessee recovered the subsequent on-sides kick and ran out the clock to preserve the victory.

Both teams had some fine offensive performances. Tennessee rushed for 323 yards, including 140 by standout freshman Reggie Cobb and 91 by Keith Davis. Phil Reich nailed three of four field goal attempts.

Vanderbilt got another sterling performance by Eric Jones. Jones completed 12 of 18 passes for 187 yards and two touchdowns. He also rushed for 54 yards and scored three times himself. Senior linebacker Chris Gaines closed his career in fine fashion. He ended the season with an SEC record 214 tackles and was named to the Kodak Coaches' All-American team.



| | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|------|
| VANDERBILT | 20 | 8 | 0 | 8—36 |
| TENNESSEE | 0 | 18 | 17 | 3—38 |

VU — Jones 1 run (Clark kick). VU — Parker 28 pass from Jones (Clark kick). VU — Jones 1 run (kick blocked). UT — Reich 26 FG. VU — Jones 10 run (Kosanovich pass from Jones). UT — Cleveland 9 pass from Francis (Harper pass from Francis). UT — Cobb 1 run (Reich kick). UT — K. Davis 20 run (Reich kick). UT — Howard 6 run (Reich kick). UT — Reich 33 FG. UT — Reich 47 FG. VU — Parker 33 pass from Jones (Mitchell pass from Jones).

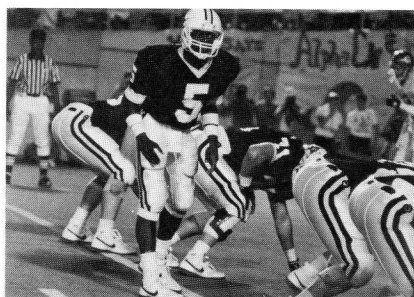
Jones Leads Gold Rush

GOLD 28, BLACK 10

For the second straight year, Eric Jones capped a fine spring practice by leading his Gold team to victory before 7,000 fans in the annual Black and Gold Spring Game held last April. The final score was 28-10.

Jones completed 8 of 12 passes for 189 yards and three touchdowns. He also led all rushers with 77 yards on only five carries. Boo Mitchell caught two of the touchdown passes while Tom Fitz snagged a 56-yarder for another score. Jones led the Gold to 389 yards total offense, an impressive total for a game which featured 12-minute quarters.

Black team quarterbacks Bernard Nomberg and John Gromos also threw the ball well. Nomberg hit six of seven passes for 55 yards. Gromos completed 14 of 20 for 184 yards and one touchdown. Sean Guerin cemented his hold on the number two fullback job with a fine showing. Guerin picked up 55 yards on 10 attempts.



| | | | | |
|-------|---|----|---|------|
| BLACK | 3 | 0 | 7 | 0—10 |
| GOLD | 7 | 14 | 0 | 7—28 |

BLACK — Clark 35 FG. GOLD — Mitchell 2 pass from Jones (Bolton kick). GOLD — Mitchell 76 pass from Jones (Bolton kick). GOLD — Fitz 56 pass from Jones (Bolton kick). BLACK — Barrett 6 pass from Gromos (Clark kick). GOLD — Gaines 5 run (Bolton kick).