1990 In Review

SOUTHERN METHODIST 44, VANDERBILT 7

The passing of Mike Romo and the running of Rongea Hill and Kevin Love helped the Southern Methodist Mustangs gallop to a 44-7 victory over Vanderbilt as 18,700 fans watched in Ownby Stadium in Dallas.

Romo completed 31 of 41 passes for 342 yards and six touchdowns, including three scoring strikes to Michael Bowen. Hill rushed for 120 yards on 11 carries and Love picked up 117 yards on 19 rushing attempts.

Vanderbilt moved the ball well on offense, but sustained only one scoring drive, a 19-yard touchdown pass from Mike Healey to Clarence Sevillian. Healey and Marcus Wilson combined to pass for 203 yards. Sevillian caught five balls for 81 yards and Corey Harris had five receptions for 66 yards. Harris led Vanderbilt in rushing with 44 yards on seven carries.



VANDERBILT 0 0 0 7—7 SOU. METHODIST 7 14 9 14—44

SMU — Echols 15 pass from Romo (Anderson kick). SMU — Bowen 14 pass from Romo (Anderson kick). SMU — Beard 10 pass from Romo (Anderson kick). SMU — Anderson 32 FG. SMU — Bowen 8 pass from Romo (pass failed). SMU — Lovett 19 pass from Romo (Anderson kick). VU — Sevillian 19 pass from Healey (Chura kick). SMU — Bowen 16 pass from Romo (Anderson kick).

VANDERBILT 24, LOUISIANA STATE 21

Marcus Wilson scored the winning touchdown with 1:09 remaining as Vanderbilt defeated Louisiana State, 24-21, in front of 33,149 Vanderbilt Stadium fans and a WTBS national cable television audience.

LSU went ahead 21-17 with 3:34 left in the game, but quarterback Mike Healey drove the Commodores 75 yards to the Tiger four-yard line. Wilson, a more adept runner, replaced Healey and tallied the winning score with a four-yard run.

LSU made a last ditch drive of its own, but an apparent 42-yard TD pass from Chad Loup to Todd Kinchen was negated by offensive pass interference with three seconds on the clock.

The game was a tight, ball-control affair in which each team had only seven possessions. The Commodores did not punt during the game. Wilson earned SEC Offensive Player of the Week honors by rushing for 136 yards on 29 carries. LSU's Sammy Seamster rushed for 67 yards and Odell Beckham ran for 60 yards and two touchdowns.



LOUISIANA STATE 0 7 7 7—2 VANDERBILT 7 3 7 7—2

VU — Thomas 2 run (Chura kick). LSU — H. Williams 10 run (Suarez kick). VU — Chura 32 FG. VU — Thomas 2 run (Chura kick). LSU — Beckham 3 run (Suarez kick). LSU — Beckham 16 run (Suarez kick). VU — Wilson 4 run (Chura kick)

ALABAMA 59, VANDERBILT 28

The Alabama defense sparked numerous scoring opportunities and the Crimson Tide offense capitalized on them, leading to a 59-28 win over Vanderbilt in front of a capacity crowd of 70,123 in Tuscaloosa's Bryant-Denny Stadium.

Alabama's defense recovered five fumbles, forced four punts, and blocked another punt on Vanderbilt's first 10 possessions as the Tide rolled to a 52-0 lead.

As a team, Alabama rushed for 381 yards and six touchdowns. Tarrant Lynch led the charge with 99 yards, including a 77-yard scoring jaunt.

Mike Healey had his best passing day of the season. Healey completed 16 of 30 passes for 205 yards, including three touchdown passes to Derrick Gragg. Clarence Sevillian had six receptions for 131 yards. Anthony Carter paced Vanderbilt rushing with 53 yards, including a 17-yard TD run.



VANDERBILT 0 7 0 21—28 ALABAMA 31 21 7 0—59

UA — Turner 25 pass from Hollingsworth (Doyle kick). UA — Jones 1 run (Doyle kick). UA — Houston 12 run (Doyle kick). UA — Louston 12 run (Doyle kick). UA — Doyle 19 FG. UA — Langham recovers blocked punt in end zone (Doyle kick). UA — Sewell 7 run (Doyle kick). UA — Woodson 6 run (Doyle kick). UA — Jones 1 run (Doyle kick). VU — Gragg 8 pass from Healey (Chura kick). UA — Lynch 77 run (Doyle kick). VU — Carter 17 run (Chura kick). VU — Gragg 4 pass from Healey (Chura kick). VU — Gragg 28 pass from Healey (Chura kick).

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SYRACUSE 49, VANDERBILT 14

This game was won in the trenches as the huge, powerful, and experienced Syracuse offensive and defensive lines carried the Orangemen to a 49-14 victory in front of 30,037 fans in Vanderbilt Stadium.

Syracuse pounded for 289 rushing yards as five players ran for touchdowns. In addition, the Orange passed for 219 yards and two TDs. The Syracuse defense occasionally gave ground, but stiffened when necessary and forced three turnovers.

Vanderbilt accounted for 339 yards of total offense. Mike Healey threw two touchdown passes, one each to Clarence Sevillian and Corey Harris.



 SYRACUSE
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SU — Wooten 3 run (Biskup kick). SU — Hill 43 pass from Walker (Biskup kick). SU — Kinnon 8 run (Biskup kick). SU — Walker 1 run (Biskup kick). SU — Deas 6 pass from Graves (Biskup kick). VU — Sevillian 23 pass from Healey (Owen kick). SU — Richardson 17 run (Biskup kick). SU — McDonald 60 run (Biskup kick). VU — Harris 13 pass from Healey (Owen kick).

AUBURN 56, VANDERBILT 6

Auburn's versatile offensive attack and athletic defense carried the Tigers to a 56-6 victory over Vanderbilt before 79,269 fans in Auburn's Jordan-Hare Stadium.

Auburn piled up 518 yards of offense, including 287 passing yards and 231 rushing yards. Quarterback Stan White completed 9 of 13 passes for 133 yards and two touchdowns and Stacy Danley led all rushers with 77 yards on 10 carries.

Commodore quarterback Marcus Wilson did not play because of injury and QB partner Mike Healey was injured early in the game. Third teamer Jeff Brothers saw his first collegiate action and battled gallantly in the face of the stern Auburn defense. The Commodore scores came on a pair of field goals by Jeff Owen.



VANDERBILT 3 3 0 0—6 AUBURN 21 21 14 0—56

AU — Richardson 3 run (Von Wyl kick). VU — Owen 42 FG. AU — Joseph 2 run (Von Wyl kick). AU — Taylor 18 pass from White (Von Wyl kick). VU — Owen 38 FG. AU — Wasden 72 punt return (Von Wyl kick). AU — Young 35 blocked punt return (Von Wyl kick). AU — Taylor 59 pass from White (Von Wyl kick). AU — Richardson 1 run (Von Wyl kick). AU — Smith 4 run (Von Wyl kick).

GEORGIA 39, VANDERBILT 28

Freshman tailback Garrison Hearst rambled for 127 yards and two touchdowns as the Georgia Bulldogs defeated Vanderbilt, 39-28, before a Sanford Stadium crowd of 81,640.

Hearst's partner at tailback, Larry Ware, also topped the century mark with 102 yards and a touchdown. Split end Andre Hastings caught five passes for 131 yards, including a 68-yard scoring bomb in the fourth quarter which clinched the game for the home team.

Vanderbilt had one of its best offensive showings of the campaign, totaling 487 yards of offense. Fullback Carlos Thomas thundered for 112 yards, the first 100-yard game of his career, and scored two touchdowns. Mike Healey completed 12 of 20 passes for 182 yards and a TD. Eric Weir had three catches for 91 yards. Weir's 36-yard scoring reception in the fourth quarter pulled the Commodores to within 33-28 before Hastings pulled in his long scoring pass.



VANDERBILT 7 7 7 7—28 GEORGIA 10 10 7 12—39

UG — Hearst 5 run (Kasay kick), VU — Thomas 30 run (Owen kick), UG — Kasay 38 FG, UG — Hearst 33 run (Kasay kick), VU — Healey 5 run (Owen kick), UG — Kasay 48 FG, UG — Ware 58 run (Kasay kick), VU — Thomas 2 run (Owen kick), UG — Dupree 6 run (pass failed), VU — Weir 36 pass from Healey (Owen kick), UG — Hastings 68 pass from Dupree (run failed).

MISSISSIPPI 14, VANDERBILT 13

Mississippi posted a seven-point halftime lead and survived five second half scoring threats to claim a 14-13 victory in front of a Vanderbilt Stadium Homecoming crowd of 38,704.

The Rebels got on the board first with a one-yard plunge by Ed Thigpen. The Commodores tied it in the second quarter with a 20-yard scoring connection between Mike Healey and Clarence Sevillian. Vincent Brownlee's 45-yard TD reception put Mississippi ahead 14-7 at halftime.

Vanderbilt had five possessions in the second half, each penetrating within the Ole Miss 40-yard line. But the Rebels surrendered only a pair of field goals and held on to the one-point triumph.

Ole Miss' Randy Baldwin led all rushers with 121 yards on 18 carries. Carlos Thomas paced the Vanderbilt ground game with 57 yards on 13 carries.



MISSISSIPPI	7	7	0	0-14
VANDERBILT	0	7	6	0—13

UM — Thigpen 1 run (Lee kick). VU — Sevillian 20 pass from Healey (Owen kick). UM — Brownlee 45 pass from Shows (Lee kick). VU — Owen 30 FG. VU — Owen 22 FG.

KENTUCKY 28, VANDERBILT 21

In a game which saw the teams tally alternating touchdowns, Kentucky got the last score to post a 28-21 win as 50,400 fans watched in Lexington's Commonwealth Stadium.

Kentucky opened the scoring with a four-yard touchdown run by Al Baker. Vanderbilt countered with a seven-yard TD scamper by Mark Johnson. The teams traded two more touchdowns until the fourth quarter, when Freddie Maggard tossed a five-yard pass to John Bolden for the winning score. Vanderbilt had two more drives into Kentucky territory, but the Wildcats survived a missed field goal attempt and held on downs on Vanderbilt's final possession.

Carlos Thomas had his finest game as a Commodore, bursting for 171 yards and a touchdown on 18 carries. Kentucky's Baker also enjoyed a fine afternoon, totaling 151 yards and two touchdowns on 25 carries.



VANDERBILT 7 7 7 0—21 KENTUCKY 7 14 0 7—28

UK — Baker 4 run (Pelfrey kick). VU — Johnson 7 run (Owen kick). UK — Thomas 2 run (Pelfrey kick). VU — Thomas 2 run (Owen kick). UK — Baker 9 run (Pelfrey kick). VU — Wilson 1 run (Owen kick). UK — Bolden 5 pass from Maggard (Pelfrey kick).

ARMY 42, VANDERBILT 38

In a game which saw the teams combine for 1,024 yards of total offense, the Army Cadets fired the last shot of a 42-38 victory as 30,941 fans watched in Vanderbilt Stadium.

Army marched 72 yards for the winning score, a nine-yard run by quarterback Willie McMillian with 1:03 to play. Vanderbilt had gone ahead, 38-35, on a 42-yard Jeff Owen field goal with 2:17 remaining.

Vanderbilt actually outgained the visitors, 532-492. Each team ran its wishbone offense to perfection. Vanderbilt piled up 290 rushing yards, led by Mark Johnson (71 yards), Carlos Thomas (70 yards, one TD), Marcus Wilson (60 yards, two TDs), and Corey Harris (53). Mike Healey completed 11 of 20 passes for 213 yards and two touchdowns. Unfortunately, he was intercepted by Army's John Robb, the only pickoff Healey suffered all season. Army quarterback McMillian was brilliant, rushing for 182 yards and four touchdowns.



ARMY 14 7 7 14—42 VANDERBILT 14 7 7 10—38

VU — Wilson 1 run (Owen kick). ARMY — McMillian 10 run (Malcom kick). ARMY — Thomas 1 run (Malcom kick). VU — Wilson 32 run (Owen kick). ARMY — McMillian 4 run (Malcom kick). VU — Sevillian 28 pass from Healey (Owen kick). ARMY — McMillian 3 run (Malcom kick). VU — Johnson 78 pass from Healey (Owen kick). ARMY — Mayweather 3 run (Malcom kick). VU — Thomas 1 run (Owen kick). VU — Owen 42 FG. ARMY — McMillian 9 run (Malcom kick).

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WAKE FOREST 56, VANDERBILT 28

Wake Forest's offense rolled into high gear as the Demon Deacons defeated Vanderbilt, 56-28, as 21,115 watched in Vanderbilt Stadium.

Quarterback Keith West completed 15 of 28 passes for 229 yards and three touchdowns. Wake Forest also ran for 294 yards, led by a 141-yard, three-touchdown effort by tailback Anthony Williams.

Vanderbilt had its share of offensive highlights. Corey. Harris rushed for 87 yards on just 13 carries. Mark Johnson ran for 66 yards and a touchdown. Carlos Thomas picked up 65 yards.



WAKE FOREST 7 21 14 14—56 VANDERBILT 7 7 7 7—28

VU — Harris 34 run (Owen kick). WF — Dixon 45 pass from West (Behrmann kick). WF — Williams 10 run (Behrmann kick). WF — Rogers 4 run (Behrmann kick). VU — Johnson 38 run (Owen kick). WF — Dixon 12 pass from West (Behrmann kick). WF — Williams 1 run (Behrmann kick). VU — Wilson 8 run (Owen kick). WF — Williams 6 run (Behrmann kick). WF — Rasby 37 pass from West (Behrmann kick). VU — Hayes 3 run (Owen kick). WF — Dickerson 1 run (Behrmann kick).

TENNESSEE 49, VANDERBILT 20

A strong second half surge broke open a tight game as Tennessee defeated Vanderbilt in the annual intrastate finale, 49-20, before 41,192 fans in Vanderbilt Stadium.

Vanderbilt led at halftime, 17-14, the fourth straight year that the Commodores led the Volunteers at intermission. But the potent Tennessee offense rallied the vistors to victory.

Southeastern Conference rushing champion Tony Thompson rambled for 236 yards and four touchdowns, including three scores in the decisive second half. Quarterback Andy Kelly threw for 115 yards and two touchdowns.

Vanderbilt amassed 235 yards on the ground as the Commodores clinched the SEC team rushing championship with 2,498 yards during the season. Against Tennessee, Carlos Thomas led the Commodores with 78 yards while Corey Harris and Marcus Wilson ran for touchdowns.



TENNESSEE 7 7 14 21—49 VANDERBILT 7 10 3 0—20

VU — Harris 5 run (Owen kick). UT — Thompson 9 run (Burke kick). VU — Wilson 1 run (Owen kick). UT — Harper 14 pass from Kelly (Burke kick). VU — Owen 28 FG. UT — Thompson 12 run (Burke kick). VU — Owen 36 FG. UT — Thompson 11 run (Burke kick). UT — Pickens 20 pass from Kelly (Burke kick). UT — Thompson 13 run (Burke kick). UT — Dotson 27 pass interception return (Burke kick).

Vanderbilt Outlook, continued from page 6

fense is a top priority. The Commodores surrendered a school record 457 points last year, an average of 41.5 per game. Opponents averaged 286.6 yards per game rushing and 459.6 yards per game total offense.

One move that should make a difference involves Rod Keith, a starting defensive end for the past three years. Keith was switched to middle linebacker in the spring and played extremely well. The 6-2, 232-pound senior ranked second on the team in tackles last year with 79 stops, including six for 22 yards of losses.

The other inside linebacker spot will be filled by Gerald Collins, a 6-3, 242-pounder who started eight games and made 55 tackles last year. Steve Medes, a two-year starter at safety, switched to linebacker in the spring and performed well.

Sophomore Alan Young (6-4, 238) will be stationed at left outside linebacker. Young was named to the SEC All-Freshman team after making 57 tackles and recovering a fumble in 1989. A gifted athlete, he sustained a knee injury in pre-season practice last fall and was redshirted. Highly-experienced senior Louis Wooldridge provides capable backup help to Young.

Junior Gary Rogers and sophomore Shelton Quarles, both quality players, competed for the starting right outside linebacker post last year. Rogers had an edge at the end of the spring over Quarles, who was named to the SEC All-Freshman team last year after making a team high 109 tackles. That competition will continue this fall.

Sophomore letterman Derick Bossier (6-1, 232) enters fall practice listed number one at the left defensive tackle position. He made 23 tackles last year while playing defensive end. Sophomore John DeWitt (6-4, 246) is slated to start at right defensive tackle. Like Bossier, he played defensive end last year, making 27 tackles.

Tom Vincent, who started several games at offensive tackle last year before moving to the defensive line, found a home at noseguard during spring practice. The 6-6, 275-pound junior has the size, quickness and aggressiveness to get the job done.

Returning starters Robbie Young, Robert Davis and Aaron Smith head a young but experienced secondary. Both Davis and Smith were named to the SEC All-Freshman team last year. Davis made 61 tackles and two interceptions from a cornerback spot. Smith, the incumbent at free safety, made 77 stops.

Young was a starter last year and a part-time regular as a true freshman two years ago. He is slated to start at left cornerback after making 49 tackles and breaking up a team-high six passes last season.

Rico Francis, who also saw extensive action last year as a true freshman, claimed the starting strong safety spot with a solid spring. Francis made 36 tackles, notched one interception and broke up three passes last year.

David Lawrence should rank as one of the best punters in the league again this year. He averaged 41.1 yards per punt last year and was selected to the Coaches' All-SEC team.