

1993 In Review

Game 1

Vanderbilt 27, Wake Forest 12

Vanderbilt avenged two consecutive defeats to the Demon Deacons with a convincing 27-12 road win.

The Commodores' rushing attack accounted for 431 yards and helped establish an offensive dominance that allowed VU to hold the ball for 38:46. The 431 yards marked the highest single game total for any SEC team in the 1993 season.

Tailbacks Cliff Deese and Tony Jackson each racked up over 100 yards rushing with 118 and 100 yards, respectively. Freshman quarterback Kenny Simon directed the I-Bone flawlessly, picking up 69 yards of his own on the ground. Senior wingback Derek Wilham picked up 66 of his 71 yards on a long run late in the first half.

Deese, Jackson and wingback Eric Lewis scored the three Commodore touchdowns. Junior kicking specialist Steve Yenner nailed first half field goals of 27 and 38 yards.

Vanderbilt stayed in command for most of the game, taking an early 13-0 lead and leading 13-3 at the half. Wake Forest cut the margin to 13-6 with three minutes into the second half, and then to 20-12 with 6:22 left in the game.

Jackson, however, returned the subsequent kickoff 55 yards to set up Lewis' 33-yard dash that sealed the win.

VANDERBILT 3 10 0 14 - 27
WAKE FOREST 0 3 0 9 - 12

VU—Yenner 27 FG
VU—Yenner 38 FG
VU—Jackson 4 run (Yenner kick)
WF—Green 28 FG
WF—Green 47 FG
VU—Deese 6 run (Yenner kick)
WF—Dixon 95 kickoff return (pass failed)
VU—Lewis 33 run (Yenner kick)

Game 2

Alabama 17, Vanderbilt 6

Alabama's All-American wide receiver David Palmer caught eight passes—including two for touchdowns—to lead the second-ranked Crimson Tide past Vanderbilt.

The Commodores, however, put up a solid fight for the sellout crowd at Vanderbilt Stadium, pulling to within 14-6 at halftime of the game, which was broadcast regionally by Jefferson-Pilot Sports.

Palmer accounted for 217 of Alabama's 484-yard total. Alabama quarterback Jay Barker connected on 16 of 20 passes for 279 yards.

Vanderbilt quarterback Kenny Simon again directed the I-Bone offense, accounting for 93 yards and Vanderbilt's second-quarter touchdown. Tailback Tony Jackson rushed for 58 yards on 15 carries, including a 32-yard gain in the second-quarter scoring drive.

The Commodore defense held Alabama to just one field goal in the second half. Shelton Quarles led the way with 19 tackles, including a sack, and Gerald Collins was credited with 12 tackles, including one for a loss.

Vanderbilt's extra point kick in the second quarter was blocked, breaking a string of 79 consecutive conversions. It was the fifth-longest streak in SEC history.

ALABAMA 7 7 3 0 - 17
VANDERBILT 0 6 0 0 - 6

UA—Palmer 14 pass from Barker (Proctor kick)
UA—Palmer 63 pass from Williams (Proctor kick)
VU—Simon 9 run (Yenner kick blocked)
UA—Proctor 29 FG

Game 3

Mississippi 49, Vanderbilt 7

Mississippi's defense limited Vanderbilt to just 51 total yards as the Rebels gained revenge on the Commodores, who had beaten Mississippi in 1991 and '92.

The Rebels ran out to an early 14-0 lead in front of an estimated 32,500 in attendance at Vaught-Hemingway Stadium before Vanderbilt's Robert Davis blocked a Mississippi punt which Gabe Banks recovered in the end zone to bring the Commodores within a touchdown.

The Commodores, however, could not capitalize on the momentum, as the Rebels used three touchdowns in the next five possessions to blow the game open. The Mississippi defense, which finished 1993 ranked No. 1 in the nation, forced four Vanderbilt turnovers in the half, three of which led to Rebel touchdowns.

VANDERBILT 0 7 0 0 - 7
MISSISSIPPI 14 21 7 7 - 49

UM—Preston 39 pass from Adams (Grant kick)
UM—Courtney 19 run (Grant kick)
VU—Banks recovers blocked punt in end zone (Yenner kick)
UM—Courtney 2 run (Grant kick)
UM—Brice 45 interception return (Grant kick)
UM—Small 36 pass from Adams (Grant kick)
UM—Smith 8 run (Grant kick)
UM—Small 51 pass from Adams (Grant kick)

1993 In Review

Game 4

Auburn 14, Vanderbilt 10

Vanderbilt learned the hard way that football can indeed be a game of inches.

Trailing 14-10, the Commodores failed to put the ball in the end zone after moving the ball 68 yards to the Auburn three-yard line early in the fourth quarter. Vanderbilt's Jermaine Johnson was stopped going over the top on second and inches from the goal line; fullback Royce Love then was stopped off-tackle on third down before Johnson's fourth-down leap came up short.

Auburn entered the game undefeated and finished the regular season unbeaten and ranked fourth in the nation. The 40,527 fans at Vanderbilt Stadium witnessed the second closest game for Auburn in 1994; it was the second time in Gerry DiNardo's three years at Vanderbilt that the Commodores played Auburn within four points.

Auburn opened scoring in the first quarter when Brian Robinson intercepted a Kenny Simon pass and returned it 45 yards for a touchdown. The Commodores countered with an 11-play, 72-yard drive to tie the game. Steve Yenner's 53-yard field goal with seven seconds left in the half gave VU the halftime lead.

Vanderbilt's defense limited the Tigers to just one offensive touchdown and 230 total yards. Auburn's All-Southeastern Conference running back, James Bostic, gained just 55 yards. His two-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter, however, proved to be the game winner.

AUBURN	7	0	0	7 - 14
VANDERBILT	0	10	0	0 - 10

AU—Robinson 45 interception return (Etheridge kick)

VU—Love 1 run (Yenner kick)

VU—Yenner 53 FG

AU—Bostic 2 run (Etheridge kick)

Game 5

Vanderbilt 17, Cincinnati 7

Two fourth-quarter touchdowns broke Vanderbilt's three-game losing slide, and handed the Bearcats one of only three losses on the season.

Down 7-3 in the fourth quarter, Vanderbilt coach Gerry DiNardo opted to take three points off the board after Cincinnati was penalized for roughing kicker Steve Yenner on his 35-yard attempt. The Commodores took over at the nine, and quarterback Ronnie Gordon, in after Cedric Douglas was injured on an eight-yard run to the one, scored on a one-yard dive.

Vanderbilt's defense was again superb, holding Cincinnati to just 141 total yards, and only 58 through the air. The Commodores recorded four sacks, and eight tackles for losses.

The Commodore ground game came alive to post 264 yards on the ground, led by senior Tony Jackson's 92-yard total. Jackson's fourth-quarter 43-yard touchdown dash put the game out of reach.

Freshman tailback Jermaine Johnson saw significant playing time, gaining 35 yards on seven carries, with four gainers coming in the go-ahead drive.

CINCINNATI	0	7	0	0 - 7
VANDERBILT	3	0	0	14 - 17

VU—Yenner 44 FG

UC—Small 2 run (Dallen kick)

VU—Gordon 1 run (Yenner kick)

VU—Jackson 43 run (Yenner kick)

Game 6

Georgia 41, Vanderbilt 3

Georgia's second-team All-SEC quarterback Eric Zeier passed for 379 yards and four touchdowns to lead Georgia to a 41-3 win over Vanderbilt.

Zeier, whose two previous efforts against the Commodores had yielded less than 200 yards passing, completed 18 first-half passes for 230 yards to break the game open before a rain-soaked Vanderbilt Stadium crowd.

Vanderbilt took the early lead on Steve Yenner's 32-yard field goal, but the final 17:30 of the half belonged to Georgia. Zeier's nine-yard touchdown toss to Jeff Thomas with 16 seconds left in the half put the Bulldogs up 34-3. Georgia would add a touchdown 1:29 into the second half to complete the scoring.

For Vanderbilt, freshman quarterback Cedric Douglas got his second consecutive start, gaining 38 yards on 16 carries. Freshman Ronnie Gordon relieved Douglas in the second half and gained 27 yards on six carries.

GEORGIA	10	24	7	0 - 41
VANDERBILT	3	0	0	0 - 3

VU—Yenner 32 FG

UG—Parkman 44 FG

UG—Hunter 53 pass from Zeier (Parkman kick)

UG—Graham 80 pass from Zeier (Parkman kick)

UG—Parkman 35 FG

UG—Montgomery 2 run

UG—Thomas 9 pass from Zeier (Parkman kick)

UG—Jerman 41 pass from Zeier

1993 In Review

Game 7

South Carolina 22, Vanderbilt 0

South Carolina's defense put in its strongest performance of the year in a 22-0 shutout of Vanderbilt before 58,128 at Williams-Brice Stadium.

The Commodores could never get the I-Bone started. South Carolina's Stacy Evans sacked Vanderbilt starting quarterback Cedric Douglas in the end zone early in the first quarter to give the Gamecocks a 5-0 lead.

The Commodore defense limited the Gamecocks to just 43 rushing yards in the first half. The big blow came with 12:47 left in the half, when Chris Alford blocked Bill Marinangel's punt from the Vanderbilt 30; USC's Terry Cousin picked up the ball at the three and took it in for a touchdown which put the Gamecocks up 19-0.

Vanderbilt's defense allowed only three points over the final 43 minutes, but South Carolina's defense never allowed the Commodore offensive attack to get rolling.

Vanderbilt's longest drive came after the blocked punt, when freshman quarterback Ronnie Gordon directed a 13-play, 46-yard drive that stalled at the USC 38-yard line. For the day, Gordon completed six of 20 passes for 44 yards.

VANDERBILT 0 0 0 0 - 0
S. CAROLINA 12 7 3 0 - 22

SC—Morton 28 FG

SC—Safety, Evans sacks Douglas in end zone

SC—Taneyhill 1 run (Morton kick)

SC—Cousin 3 return of blocked punt (Morton kick)

SC—Morton 24 FG

Game 8

Vanderbilt 12, Kentucky 7

Vanderbilt's defense led the way in a 12-7 win over the Kentucky Wildcats.

The Commodore defense scored nine of Vanderbilt's 12 points, and limited Kentucky to 230 total offensive yards. Cornerback Robert Davis returned a Pookie Jones pass 45 yards for a second-quarter touchdown and a 7-0 halftime lead.

The Wildcats' only score came on Moe Williams' one-yard dive with 10:15 left in the game to tie the score at 7-7.

On the frigid November afternoon, it was sophomore tailback Cliff Deese who provided the fans with the most exciting play of the game.

With less than 4:30 to play, Deese took a pitch from quarterback Ronnie Gordon, smashed into a pile of Kentucky defenders, and then emerged from the crowd, sprinting 48 yards down the home sideline to the Kentucky 11.

Three plays later, Steve Yenner connected on a 21-yard field goal to give Vanderbilt the lead.

Fittingly, Vanderbilt's defense provided the exclamation point on the victory, sacking Jones three times on Kentucky's final series. The final sack, by Vanderbilt's all-time sack leader, Alan Young, came deep in Kentucky's end zone for a safety.

KENTUCKY 0 0 0 7 - 7
VANDERBILT 7 0 0 5 - 12

VU—Davis 45 interception return (Yenner kick)

UK—Williams 1 run (Leonoff kick)

VU—Yenner 21 FG

VU—Safety, Young sacks Jones in end zone

Game 9

Vanderbilt 41, Navy 7

Vanderbilt's defense forced 10 Navy turnovers in the 41-7 home finale.

Freshman Ronnie Gordon gained the starting nod at quarterback, and promptly directed Vanderbilt to a touchdown on its first possession, an 11-play, 61-yard drive punctuated by Gordon's four-yard keeper into the end zone.

Navy answered with a 12-play, 59-yard drive of its own to tie the game, but from there Vanderbilt's defense made the day long and miserable for the Middies.

Vanderbilt forced five lost fumbles, and intercepted five Navy passes in the final three quarters. Gordon scored on a two-yard keeper in the second quarter, and Steve Yenner tacked on a 38-yard field goal for a 17-7 halftime lead.

Tailback Tony Jackson scampered for a 58-yard touchdown on Vanderbilt's opening second-half drive. Navy ended its next four possessions with turnovers, and Vanderbilt capitalized with 10 more points to blow the game open.

For the game, Vanderbilt amassed 422 total yards, while holding Navy, which two weeks before had scored 24 first-half points on Notre Dame, to 165 total yards and the lone first-quarter score. Jackson finished with 120 yards rushing, and freshman Jermaine Johnson picked up 70 yards and two touchdowns.

Defensive end Alan Young led the way defensively, registering three sacks. Freshman safety Eric Vance picked off a pass and recovered two fumbles.

NAVY 7 0 0 0 - 7
VANDERBILT 7 10 17 7 - 41

VU—Gordon 4 run (Yenner kick)

N—Van Matre 5 run (Bucchianeri kick)

VU—Gordon 2 run (Yenner kick)

VU—Yenner 38 FG

VU—Jackson 58 run (Yenner kick)

VU—Yenner 23 FG

VU—Johnson 2 run (Yenner kick)

VU—Johnson 2 run (Yenner kick)

1993 In Review

Game 10 Florida 52, Vanderbilt 0

It was a day when everything the high-powered Gators did went right, and everything Vanderbilt did went wrong.

Florida capitalized on eight Vanderbilt turnovers to clinch the Southeastern Conference Eastern Division title with a 52-0 win before 83,818 at Florida Field. The Gators, who finished 1993 ranked fourth in the nation, jumped out to a 21-0 first quarter lead and never looked back.

Florida began the scoring with a gadget pass from wide receiver Chris Doering back to quarterback Terry Dean, who went 35 yards for the score. Florida's passing attack, the fourth-best in NCAA Division I, collected 345 yards on Vanderbilt, and was responsible for six touchdown strikes.

Fumbles derailed Vanderbilt's rushing attack for much of the day. Florida held the Commodores to 137 rushing yards, and recovered six Commodore fumbles. Kenny Simon, who converted from quarterback to wide receiver in midseason, had his best day as a receiver, catching five passes for 63 yards from quarterback Ronnie Gordon. Freshman linebacker Kirk Williams had his best day as a Commodore, picking up seven tackles, including one for a loss.

VANDERBILT 0 0 0 0-0
FLORIDA 21 10 14 7-52

UF—T. Dean 35 pass from Doering (Davis kick)
UF—Hill 18 pass from T. Dean (Davis kick)
UF—Hill 4 pass from T. Dean (Davis kick)
UF—Davis 45 FG
UF—Jackson 19 pass from Wuerffel (Davis kick)
UF—Robinson 48 fumble return (Davis kick)
UF—C. Dean 11 pass from T. Dean (Davis kick)
UF—Frazier 67 pass from Kresser (Davis kick)

Game 11 Tennessee 62, Vanderbilt 14

For the second straight week, miscues and turnovers allowed an explosive offense to put the game out of Vanderbilt's reach.

Sixth-ranked Tennessee entered the final regular season game having scored 45 or more points in three consecutive outings. Vanderbilt hung tough for one quarter in front of a regional television audience and 94,225 in Neyland Stadium, but a 27-point outburst by the Vols in the second quarter ended all Commodore hopes of an upset.

Two key mistakes summed up the day for Vanderbilt. The first came on a fake punt when punter Bill Marinangel and safety Jeff Brothers bumped into one another with the first down marker in sight. The other was a clipping penalty on tailback Jermaine Johnson's spectacular 92-yard scamper past the Vols' defense.

Ronnie Gordon put Vanderbilt on the board early in the fourth with a slashing five-yard keeper into the end zone. Four plays later, DeReal Finklin picked off a Jerry Colquitt pass and returned it to the Vol 33-yard line. Kenny Simon's 20-yard reverse one play later set up Cliff Deese's 13-yard gallop for Vanderbilt's final score. Gordon had his finest day throwing, completing 11 passes for 120 yards.

VANDERBILT 0 0 0 14-14
TENNESSEE 7 27 14 14-62

UT—Summers 51 punt return (Becksvoot kick)
UT—Becksvoot 22 FG
UT—Stewart 7 run (Becksvoot kick)
UT—Kent 47 pass from Shuler (Becksvoot kick)
UT—Garner 13 run (Becksvoot kick)
UT—Becksvoot 29 FG
UT—Phillips 1 run (Becksvoot kick)
UT—Stewart 11 run (Becksvoot kick)
VU—Gordon 5 run (Yenner kick)
VU—Deese 13 run (Yenner kick)
UT—Stewart 17 run (Becksvoot kick)
UT—Silvan 63 run (Becksvoot kick)