

# **GAME 1** **Vanderbilt ..... 0** **Miss. St. .... 42**

By Bill Trocchi

Special From Commodore Report

STARKVILLE, Miss.—At least no one tore an ACL.

Nine years after the Commodores suffered a 42-7 season-opening drubbing at Mississippi State in which three players suffered torn ACL injuries, Vanderbilt lost its 1998 season-opener, 42-0, at the same venue.

And while Vanderbilt escaped Scott Field with its health, it did not leave with much else, at least on the positive side.

"What happened out there is something you hope doesn't happen," said Vanderbilt coach Woody Widenhofer.

Something like the first pass of the game getting intercepted and returned for a touchdown? Or the next pass getting intercepted? Or a fumbled snap? And that was just the first quarter.

The Commodores finished with 126 yards offense and four turnovers. Vanderbilt did not convert a third down in the first three quarters and ended the game 1-11 in that category.

"This wasn't what I thought it would be," first-year offensive coordinator Steve Crosby said. "We have to make some changes. Mississippi State didn't really show us anything that we haven't been practicing against. We just did not perform."

Mississippi State, meanwhile, looked to be in midseason form. Star tailback James Johnson rushed for 111 yards on 23 carries to lead a Bulldog attack that rolled up 424 yards. Through the air or on the ground, MSU made plays when it had to against Vanderbilt's defense, which featured seven new starters from last year.

VU junior quarterback Hi Lewis saw his collegiate debut turn into a nightmare on the very first

series of the game. Pressured by State's Barrin Simpson, Lewis threw his first pass high into the flat, where it was graciously accepted by Anthony Derricks, who returned it for an easy touchdown. Before you could say ESPN2, Vanderbilt trailed 6-0.

"We knew if we were going to come out and beat this team, we were going to have to play perfect and not turn the ball over early," said H-Back Todd Yoder.

The turnovers had just begun, however. Lewis threw another interception on his next pass, and the Bulldogs turned it into six more points nine plays later. Two passes, two interceptions, two MSU touchdowns.

Vanderbilt's defense hung in against the huge MSU offensive line, holding the score at 15-0 until midway through the third quarter.

Late in the third, Vanderbilt gave MSU the ball at the Dore's seven-yard line when Greg Zolman fumbled while being sacked. The Bulldogs cashed in with a four-yard touchdown pass from Wayne Madkin to Lahitia Grant.

The Commodores trailed 25-0 after three quarters, and things got worse in the fourth. With Vanderbilt's defense on weary legs, MSU tacked on 17 more points.

"I still have faith," said defensive tackle Jason Smith. "But this was totally unexpected."

	1	2	3	4	--	F
<b>Vanderbilt</b>	0	0	0	0	--	0 (0-1)
<b>Mississippi St.</b>	12	3	10	17	--	42 (1-0)
MSU: Derricks 20 interception return (run failed), 13:31 1st						
MSU: Johnson 3 run (pass failed), 9:14 1st						
MSU: Hazelwood 52 field goal, 0:21 2nd						
MSU: Hazelwood 21 field goal, 4:23 3rd						
MSU: Grant 8 pass from Madkin (Hazelwood kick), 2:41 3rd						
MSU: Madkin 10 run (Hazelwood kick), 13:05 4th						
MSU: Griffith 1 run (Hazelwood kick), 8:46 4th						
MSU: Hazelwood 36 field goal, 4:52 4th						

	VU	MSU
First Downs	7	22
Rushes-Yds.	34-37	53-231
Passing Yds.	89	193

Passes (C-A-I)	12-23-2	15-24-2
Total Offense	126	424
Fumbles-Lost	3/2	1/1
Penalties-Yards	4-27	11-85
3rd Down Conversions	1-11	6-15
4th Down Conversions	0-4	2-2
Time of Possession	24:50	35:10

**Rushing** (Att-Yds-TD): (VU) McGrath 13-41-0, Thomas 4-41-0, R. Williams 6-18-0; (MSU) Johnson 23-111-1, Miller 7-70-0, McKinley 4-30-0.

**Passing** (Com-Att-Yds-Int-TD): (VU) Lewis 2-6-6-2-0, Zolman 7-12-64-0-0, Wallace 3-5-19-0-0; (MSU) Wyatt 12-19-154-2-0, Madkin 3-5-39-0-1.

**Receiving** (Rec-Yds-TD): (VU) Hogans 3-25-0, Carson 3-16-0, Ditto 2-33-0; (MSU) Prentiss 7-82-0, Butler 2-39-0.

**Attendance:** 32,150

# **GAME 2** **Vanderbilt ..... 7** **Alabama ..... 32**

By Mitchell Light

Special From Commodore Report

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—The future of Vanderbilt football was on display at Legion Field. And for one quarter that future seemed bright.

In the next three quarters, however, the present and past of Vanderbilt football showed up. The result, a convincing 32-7 Alabama win.

"I thought in the first half we went out there and battled pretty good," said Vanderbilt head coach Woody Widenhofer. "We gave up a few big plays which we normally don't do. We got burned in some areas. We have to keep working. Nobody ever said it was going to be easy."

It looked easy during one three-minute stretch of the first quarter. Redshirt freshman defensive end Doyle Crosby ended Alabama's first drive of the day after just three plays with an athletic interception at the Vanderbilt 29-yard line.

True freshman quarterback David Wallace then marched the Commodores to midfield over the next five plays. Wallace hooked up with Tavarus Hogans for the first first down of the drive and then scrambled seven yards on a third-

**Did You Know**

Freshman recruit Jonathan Shaub recorded a perfect 1600 score on his SAT exam.

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down to give VU another first down at the 50-yard line.

After an incomplete pass, Wallace hit Hogans in stride on a slant pass five yards down field. Hogans beat safety Warren Foust in the open field and galloped into the end zone for Vanderbilt's first touchdown of the season.

"I'm not a big-time player," Hogans said, "but I feel I am kind of explosive. And every time I get the ball, I feel I have a chance to score. It felt real good to go up 7-0, but you have to keep pouring it on and playing ball."

Following the Hogans score, however, Vanderbilt's offense stalled. The Commodores failed to pick up a first down on their next five possessions—three ended with a punt and two ended with Wallace interceptions.

"Early on in the first quarter we found out what the offense can do," said linebacker Jamie Winborn. "After the first quarter they kind of fell off. But we did complete more passes and looked better than we did in the first game."

The Tide—ahead 14-7 at the half—seized control of the game in the third quarter with a touchdown and two safeties. The Vanderbilt offense ran 17 plays for -10 yards in the quarter.

"We saw progress in the first half, but we regressed in the second half," said guard Brian Gruber. "We just made mental mistakes and stupid errors."

"(Alabama) played us very well defensively up front," Widenhofer said. "We just didn't run the ball as well as I thought we could. The reason we went to this offense was to knock them out of these eight and nine-man fronts and maybe open up the running game."

The offense was not entirely to blame for this loss. The young Vanderbilt defense was burned for 400 total yards and 32 points.

	1	2	3	4	--	F
<b>Vanderbilt</b>	7	0	0	0	--	7 (0-2)
<b>Alabama</b>	7	7	11	7	--	32 (2-0)
VU: Hogans 50 pass from Wallace (Markham kick), 9:06 1st						
UA: Alexander 36 run (Pflugner kick), 0:27 1st						
UA: Jackson 31 pass from Phillips, 3:01 2nd						
UA: Team safety (intentional grounding in end zone), 11:34 3rd						
UA: Alexander 8 run (Pflugner kick), 9:36 3rd						
UA: Safety (Wallace sacked in end zone by Moorehead), 5:27 3rd						
UA: Alexander 35 run (Pflugner kick), 8:50 4th						

	VU	UA
First Downs	13	16
Rushes-Yds.	27 (-26)	31-221
Passing Yds.	178	179
Passes (C-A-I)	19-42-3	19-31-1
Total Offense	145	400
Fumbles-Lost	0/0	0/0
Penalties-Yards	4-37	9-96
3rd Down Conversions	3-16	2-13
4th Down Conversions	1-2	0-0
Time of Possession	27:29	32:31

**Rushing** (Att-Yds-TD): (VU) McGrath 7-16-0, R. Williams 6-8-0; (UA) Alexander 20-206-3, Richard 4-10-0.

**Passing** (Com-Att-Yds-Int-TD): (VU) Wallace 18-40-167-2-1, Zolman 1-2-11-1-0; (UA) Phillips 19-30-179-1-1, Zow 0-1-0-0-0.

**Receiving** (Rec-Yds-TD): (VU) Yoder 6-63-0, Hogans 5-74-1, Hasanaglou 2-28-0; (UA) Vaughn 8-73-0, Hall 4-24-0, Jackson 3-38-1.

**Attendance:** 81,091

GAME	Mississippi ....	30
3	Vanderbilt .....	6

By Bill Trocchi

Special From Commodore Report

NASHVILLE—As soon as David Wallace threw the ball, he knew he wanted it back.

As it headed toward Rodney Williams, there was Ole Miss defensive end Shane Elam, reading the play perfectly and turning the game irreversibly toward Ole Miss.

Elam picked off Wallace's pass and raced 87 yards into the end zone midway through the third quarter, turning a close contest into what turned out to be Vanderbilt's third one-sided loss in three games.

"That absolutely broke our back," said Vanderbilt coach Woody Widenhofer. "It took a lot out of our football team."

Vanderbilt dropped a 30-6 decision to visiting Ole Miss,

lowering its mark to an unsightly 0-3 on the season.

The Commodore offense showed signs of life in the first half, gaining 175 yards, but only mustered 60 in the second half.

As one-sided as the final score was, it looked as if there was an excellent chance the game would be tied as late as the third quarter. With Vanderbilt trailing 14-6, Vanderbilt found itself with a first-and-goal at the Ole Miss eight-yard line. On second down, the game changed.

Ole Miss threw a zone blitz at Vanderbilt's freshman quarterback, and Wallace played right into the Rebels' hands.

"All week on film, the swing pass was wide open," Wallace said. "This time, they dropped the end to cover that guy. I still made a poor pass to Rodney."

A potential tie game quickly turned into a 21-6 Ole Miss advantage, and the upset hopes of the Commodores were ended.

	1	2	3	4	--	F
<b>Mississippi</b>	7	0	14	9	--	30 (2-1)
<b>Vanderbilt</b>	3	3	0	0	--	6 (0-3)
VU: Markham 29 field goal, 9:26 1st						
UM: McAllister 1 run (Juneau kick), 2:25 1st						
VU: Markham 43 field goal, 5:34 2nd						
UM: McAllister 3 run (Juneau kick), 12:34 3rd						
UM: Elam 87 interception return (Juneau kick), 7:14 3rd						
UM: Cannon 8 run (Juneau kick failed), 12:06 4th						
UM: Juneau 44 field goal, 5:54 4th						

	UM	VU
First Downs	24	14
Rushes-Yds.	50-230	39-151
Passing Yds.	153	84
Passes (C-A-I)	12-23-1	11-23-4
Total Offense	383	235
Fumbles-Lost	0/0	2/0
Penalties-Yards	8-69	5-44
3rd Down Conversions	5-12	6-15
4th Down Conversions	1-2	0-0
Time of Possession	31:58	28:02

**Rushing** (Att-Yds-TD): (UM) Gunn 21-146-0, McAllister 16-73-2, Cannon 6-27-1; (VU) R. Williams 18-112-0, Thomas 7-38-0.

**Passing** (Com-Att-Yds-Int-TD): (UM) Miller 9-19-139-1-0, Morris 3-4-14-0-0; (VU) Wallace 11-23-84-4-0.

**Receiving** (Rec-Yds-TD): (UM) French 4-53-0, Morris 3-44-0; (VU) Carson 5-18-0, J. Williams 2-28-0, Hasanoglu 2-21-0.

**Attendance:** 31,482



**Did You Know**

Three football Commodores played baseball last spring, David Wallace, Dan Stricker and Adam Ditto.

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**GAME 4 Vanderbilt .... 16**  
**TCU ..... 19**

By Mitchell Light

Special From Commodore Report

FORT WORTH, Texas—Woody Widenhofer emerged from the Vanderbilt locker room at Amon Carter Stadium just minutes after TCU's thrilling 19-16 double overtime win.

"It is hard to win," said Widenhofer, the Commodores' second-year head coach. "It is hard to win a football game."

And if you are wearing black & gold these days, it can seem impossible to win a football game. Vanderbilt appeared to have the game wrapped up twice Saturday night—once in regulation and once in the first overtime—but the young Commodores simply could not find a way to win.

"You really have to pay a heck of a price to win a game," Widenhofer said.

Had the Commodores been able to muster one defensive stop or convert a 42-yard field goal, they would have picked up their first win of the 1998 season.

Instead, they found themselves searching for answers with an 0-4 record and a nine-game losing streak.

The much-maligned Vanderbilt offense played its best half of the season Saturday night, putting together three long scoring drives on its final three possessions. The final drive—which covered 77 yards on 11 plays—gave the Commodores their first second-half lead of the season.

Rodney Williams capped the drive with a brilliant 18-yard scoring run to put Vanderbilt ahead 13-10 with just 1:31 remaining.

Following Williams' touchdown, the run-oriented Horned Frogs took over at their own 23-yard line with two timeouts and just 87 seconds remaining.

But Patrick Batteaux, TCU's

rookie quarterback, ran the Horned Frog two-minute offense with poise. He completed 5-of-8 passes and converted three times on third down.

TCU's 10-play drive culminated with a 50-yard game-tying field goal from redshirt freshman Chris Kaylakie with four seconds remaining in the game.

Kaylakie's field goal sent the game to overtime, where the 'Dores won the coin flip and elected to go on defense first. TCU's first possession ended without a point as Kaylakie's go-ahead 33-yard field goal attempt was blocked by Alphonso Harvey.

Widenhofer then made the decision to send place kicker John Markham out on first down to attempt a 42-yard game-winning field goal.

"I have seen too many games go by the wayside trying to get the ball in a little bit closer," Widenhofer said.

Markham's kick, however, was blocked at the line by TCU defensive end Aaron Schobel. The first overtime painfully ended with the score still tied 13-13.

Markham rebounded with a 47-yard kick to begin the second overtime period, putting Vanderbilt on top, 16-13.

On the ensuing TCU possession, tailback Basil Mitchell scampered 16 yards on the second play to give the Frogs a first-and-goal at the eight. Two plays later, LaDainian Tomlinson busted through from four yards for the game-winning score.

The TCU players mobbed the field in celebration, while the shell-shocked Commodores slowly made their way to the locker room.

	1	2	3	4	OT	OT	F
<b>Vanderbilt</b>	0	0	3	10	0	3	16 (0-4)
<b>TCU</b>	7	3	0	3	0	6	19 (3-1)
TCU: Tomlinson 9 run (Kaylakie kick), 9:03, 1st							
TCU: Kaylakie 42 field goal, 11:44, 2nd							
VU: Markham 49 field goal, 5:06, 3rd							
VU: Markham 26 field goal, 11:15, 4th							
VU: R. Williams 18 run (Markham kick), 1:31, 4th							

TCU: Kaylakie 50 field goal, 0:04, 4th  
 VU: Markham 47 field goal, 2nd OT  
 TCU: Tomlinson 4 run, 2nd OT

	VU	TCU
First Downs	17	27
Rushes-Yds.	39-170	68-289
Passing Yds.	128	131
Passes (C-A-I)	7-22-2	12-18-1
Total Offense	298	420
Fumbles-Lost	1/0	3/1
Penalties-Yards	5-30	7-45
3rd Down Conversions	3-12	9-16
4th Down Conversions	2-2	1-1
Time of Possession	24:56	35:04

**Rushing** (Att-Yds-TD): (VU) R. Williams 28-115-1, McGrath 4-63; (TCU) Mitchell 24-125-0, Tomlinson 13-86-2, Williams 9-47-0.

**Passing** (Com-Att-Yds-Int-TD): (VU) Wallace 7-22-128-2-0; (TCU) Batteaux 12-18-131-1-0.

**Receiving** (Rec-Yds-TD): (VU) Hasanoglu 2-49-0, Fleming 2-37-0, Hogans 2-31-0; (TCU) Scarborough 5-61-0, Crawford 3-34-0, Mitchell 2-13-0.

**Attendance:** 26,210

**GAME 5 W. Michigan.. 27**  
**Vanderbilt ..... 24**

By Bill Trocchi

Special From Commodore Report

NASHVILLE—"I'm at a loss for words," said Vanderbilt coach Woody Widenhofer, shortly after his team dropped a heartbreaker to Western Michigan, 27-24. "It is hard, tough, very emotional and our team is hurting."

For the second week in a row, Vanderbilt watched the opposing team score the game-winning points on the final play, then rush the field in celebration.

Western Michigan kicker Brad Selent split the uprights from 37 yards as time expired and the Broncos handed Vanderbilt a demoralizing loss.

The Commodores and Broncos appeared headed for overtime when VU's John Markham booted a 46-yard field goal with 37 seconds remaining to complete a 10-point Commodore comeback and tie the score, 24-24.

But Vanderbilt's defense, for the second straight week, could not come up with a stop in the final minute. Starting at its own 20, Western gained five yards on first



down, then came up with the play of the game. Quarterback Tim Lester threw a long pass to redshirt freshman Micah Zuhl, who out-battled Jimmy Williams and came up with an acrobatic catch at the Vanderbilt 32-yard line. Two plays later, Selent ended the game with his 37-yarder, touching off a wild Western Michigan celebration.

Vanderbilt jumped out to a 14-0 lead in the game, with Rodney Williams leading the way. Williams 156 yards rushing was his third straight 100-yard effort. His running set up Vanderbilt's first touchdown, a 21-yard scamper by freshman Lew Thomas.

After holding Western Michigan three-and-out, the Commodores extended the lead to 14-0 on a 27-yard TD pass from David Wallace to Tavarus Hogans.

But the Broncos regrouped and scored 21 straight points in the remainder of the half.

Western drove 75 yards for one touchdown, then converted two Vanderbilt turnovers for their other 14 points, including a fumbled kickoff by VU linebacker Antuan Bradford.

A 38-yard field goal by Selent gave Western Michigan a 24-14 lead in the third quarter, and it appeared the Broncos were going to run Vanderbilt out of its own stadium.

But Jimmy Williams returned an interception to the Vanderbilt 44, and the Commodores drove 56 yards in seven plays to cut the lead to 24-21.

Vanderbilt held Western Michigan, then began at its own 19 with 7:57 to play. The Commodores needed 15 plays and 7:20 to cover just 52 yards to set up Markham's game-tying 46-yard field goal attempt.

"Right now, we are trying to find out what it takes to win a football game," Widenhofer said. "We don't know, because we haven't gotten there yet this year."

	1	2	3	4	--	F
<b>W. Michigan</b>	7	14	3	3	--	27 (3-3)
<b>Vanderbilt</b>	14	0	0	10	--	24 (0-5)
VU: Thomas 21 run (Markham kick), 11:22 1st						
VU: Hogans 27 pass from Wallace (Markham kick), 5:30 1st						
WMU: Fields 16 run (Selent kick), 1:10 1st						
WMU: Sanford 3 run (Selent kick), 9:38 2nd						
WMU: Bosworth 15 pass from Lester (Selent kick), 7:05 2nd						
WMU: Selent 38 field goal, 9:47 3rd						
VU: Yoder 3 pass from wallace (Markham kick), 10:30 4th						
VU: Markham 46 field goal, 0:37 4th						
WMU: Selent 37 field goal, 0:00 4th						

	WMU	VU
First Downs	21	21
Rushes-Yds.	35-142	46-232
Passing Yds.	218	115
Passes (C-A-I)	17-29-1	12-19-2
Total Offense	330	332
Fumbles-Lost	1/0	2/1
Penalties-Yards	10-70	12-89
3rd Down Conversions	2-10	5-13
4th Down Conversions	1-1	3-3
Time of Possession	28:23	31:37

**Rushing** (Att-Yds-TD): (WMU) Sanford 23-96-1, Fields 10-23-1; (VU) R. Williams 29-156-0, Thomas 8-39-1, Carter 2-16-0.

**Passing** (Com-Att-Yds-Int-TD): (WMU) Lester 17-29-218-1-1; (VU) Wallace 12-19-115-2-2.

**Receiving** (Rec-Yds-TD): (WMU) Neal 5-80-0, Moreland 3-18-0, Hutchings 3-26-0; (VU) Yoder 4-19-1, Hasanoglu 3-43-0.

**Attendance:** 26,432

GAME	Vanderbilt ....	6
	Georgia .....	31

By Bill Trocchi

Special From Commodore Report

ATHENS, Ga.—Turnovers and punting problems dropped Vanderbilt into a big hole early against the Bulldogs, and the Commodores never recovered.

While there were not many bright spots for the Commodores, one was the emergence of redshirt freshman quarterback Greg Zolman, who saw his first meaningful action of the season when he was inserted in the second quarter with Vanderbilt trailing 24-0.

Zolman went on to complete 13 of 21 passes for 162 yards and one touchdown, moving the offense better than his predecessor, freshman David Wallace, who completed 8 of 15 passes.

The performance led Zolman to the starting assignment for the next two games before an injury sidelined him for the Florida game. He resumed his starting role in the final two games of the season.

Zolman hooked up with Adam Ditto for a 36-yard touchdown midway through the third quarter, the first touchdown in both of their careers. The toss came with Vanderbilt trailing 31-0 and closed out the scoring on the day.

Vanderbilt running backs Jared McGrath, Rodney Williams and Lew Thomas combined for 166 yards on 34 carries for a 4.9 average.

Georgia's two-way star Champ Bailey scored two touchdowns for the Bulldogs, including a 44-yard pass from Jon England in the third quarter that essentially put the game away.

Georgia built a 24-point first-half lead courtesy of a muffed punt by Webb, a fumbled kickoff by Lew Thomas and a blocked punt that was returned for a touchdown by Glenn Ford.

	1	2	3	4	--	F
<b>Vanderbilt</b>	0	0	6	0	--	6 (0-6)
<b>Georgia</b>	17	7	7	0	--	31 (5-1)

GA: Hines 44 field goal

GA: Small 4 pass from Carter (Hines kick)

GA: Bailey 29 pass from Carter (Hines kick)

GA: Ford 46 blocked punt return (Hines kick)

GA: Bailey 44 pass from England (Hines kick)

VU: Ditto 36 pass from Zolman (rush failed)

	VU	GA
First Downs	20	16
Rushes-Yds.	42-139	41-222
Passing Yds.	229	158
Passes (C-A-I)	21-36-1	9-21-1
Total Offense	368	380
Fumbles-Lost	6/2	2/0
Penalties-Yards	3-31	3-29
3rd Down Conversions	3-15	7-16
4th Down Conversions	1-3	0-0
Time of Possession	32:13	27:47

**Rushing** (Att-Yds-TD): (VU) McGrath 9-69-0, R. Williams 17-56-0, Thomas 8-41-0; (GA) Sanks 9-57-0, Gary 9-48-0.

**Passing** (Com-Att-Yds-Int-TD): (VU) Zolman 13-21-162-0-1, Wallace 8-15-67-1-0; (GA) England 6-12-96-0-1, Carter 3-6-62-0-2.

**Receiving** (Rec-Yds-TD): (VU) Duke 3-33-0, R. Williams 3-6-0, Ditto 2-41-1; (GA) Bailey 5-130-2; Small 2-12-1.

**Attendance:** 83,911



**GAME 7** **S. Carolina ... 14**  
**Vanderbilt ... 17**

By Mitchell Light

Special From Commodore Report

NASHVILLE—It is offensive coordinator Steve Crosby's favorite play. He's been waiting to call it all season. It's called 'Victory.' The quarterback simply takes a knee and watches the clock wind down.

Vanderbilt quarterback Greg Zolman ran the play to perfection as 'Victory' ended the game. And it started a celebration.

"Oh, man. It's outstanding," said senior defensive tackle Alphonso Harvey. "I feel three and a half years of bad memories have been erased."

Bad memories weren't the only thing erased. Vanderbilt's 17-14 win over South Carolina was the Commodores' first win in 11 games and it ended a 22-game SEC losing streak.

Zolman, making the first start of his career, enjoyed the most productive day for a Vanderbilt quarterback this decade. He completed 15 of 29 for 279 yards, the most by a Commodore since John Gromos threw for 299 yards against Georgia in 1989.

"He was splendid at times and forced at times," said head coach Woody Widenhofer. "But he took them down on the winning drive. I thought it was a pretty gutsy performance."

Zolman engineered a nifty six-play, 80-yard drive to put the Commodores ahead midway through the fourth quarter. He was 3-for-3 for 71 yards on the drive, hooking up with Tavarus Hogans for 15 yards, Nezih Hasanoglu for 15 yards and Elliott Carson for 41 yards on a beautifully executed tight end screen.

Two plays later Jared McGrath dove in untouched from the one to give the Commodores their first fourth-quarter SEC lead since November of 1995.

"That was a great drive," Zolman said. "The coaches made great calls and we executed when we needed to execute."

South Carolina, also searching for its first league win, had two more chances to regain the lead.

The Gamecocks managed three first downs on their next possession, but their drive was stopped at their own 31 yard line. Senior Damien Charley came up with the key defensive play, dropping quarterback Anthony Wright for a nine-yard loss on first down at the 45.

Vanderbilt had an opportunity to work precious time of the clock on its next drive, but two penalties—both illegal blocks in the back—negated positive plays. The Commodores were forced to punt, after running just 91 seconds off the clock.

South Carolina had one final chance, taking over at its own 23 with 4:21 remaining. The Gamecocks worked the ball to midfield, but the Vanderbilt defense stiffened.

Wright hooked up with running back Boo Williams on first down at the VU 43, but safety Ainsley Battles dropped Williams for a two-yard loss. Wright then missed on three straight passes, the final attempt batted away by free safety Jamail Carter with 16 seconds remaining.

"I was thinking about the TCU game on every play (of the final drive)," said linebacker Jamie Winborn. "I made sure everybody on defense gave their whole effort on every play. We were not going to let them get into field goal range. We were not going to let the game go into overtime."

	1	2	3	4	--	F
S. Carolina	7	0	7	0	--	14 (1-7)
Vanderbilt	7	0	3	7	--	17 (1-6)
USC: Hambrick 3 run (Leavitt kick), 10:27 1st						
VU: Zolman 1 run (Markham kick), 5:04 1st						
USC: Davis 27 pass from Wright (Leavitt kick), 10:34 3rd						
VU: Markham 18 field goal, 5:43 3rd						
VU: McGrath 1 run (Markham kick), 8:20 4th						

	USC	VU
First Downs	25	18
Rushes-Yds.	43-117	35-86
Passing Yds.	295	279
Passes (C-A-I)	24-38-1	15-30-1
Total Offense	412	365
Fumbles-Lost	2/2	6/3
Penalties-Yards	11-88	6-53
3rd Down Conversions	8-17	2-9
4th Down Conversions	0-2	2-3
Time of Possession	33:54	26:06

**Rushing** (Att-Yds-TD): (USC) Hambrick 21-92-1, Nesmith 11-48-0; (VU) R. Williams 16-37-0, Ditto 1-20-0, McGrath 5-15-1.

**Passing** (Com-Att-Yds-Int-TD): (USC) Wright 23-36-279-0-1, Petty 1-2-16-1-0; (VU) Zolman 15-29-279-1-0.

**Receiving** (Rec-Yds-TD): (USC) Davis 14-206-1, Kelly 4-48-0; (VU) Hasanoglu 4-65-0, Hogans 4-41-0, Carson 2-58-0.

**Attendance:** 29,721

**GAME 8** **Duke ..... 33**  
**Vanderbilt ... 36**

By Bill Trocchi

Special From Commodore Report

NASHVILLE—One week after Vanderbilt Stadium resembled a carnival, it turned into a rollercoaster. And at the end of the ride, the Commodores may have felt a little queasy, but exhilarated nonetheless at the first two-game winning streak in three years.

Big plays were tossed around like little pieces of Halloween candy all afternoon in the Commodores' 36-33 double-overtime win. But there were two in the second overtime that determined the game.

The first came on the first play of Duke's possession. Freshman linebacker Jamie Winborn broke through on a blitz and sacked Duke quarterback Bobby Campbell, forcing a fumble which Winborn quickly pounced on. Just like that, the Duke possession was done, and Vanderbilt needed just three points to win its second dramatic game in as many weeks.

Just as he did at TCU earlier in the season, Widenhofer sent out the field goal unit on first down. Unlike at TCU, however, Widenhofer called a fake. Holder Billy Miller sprinted around the

**Did You Know**

The penalty for intentional grounding by a quarterback no longer includes a loss of five yards, just the loss of down.

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right end for nine yards on first down, setting Vanderbilt up at the Duke 16. The offense then trotted on to the field for one play—a 14-yard run by Jared McGrath.

The field goal unit returned with the ball at the two, and kicker John Markham banged through the winning field goal, touching off the second wild celebration at Vanderbilt Stadium in as many weeks.

"Overtime games are killer on both teams because there is so much pressure," said Vanderbilt tackle Clay Condrey. "There is so much emotion."

The game did not appear headed for overtime early in the third quarter. Duke had possession of the ball, trailing 30-13 when Winborn drilled Campbell from behind on a sack, knocking the ball loose. Vanderbilt's Matt Stewart scooped up the ball at the Duke 26-yard line and sprinted into the end zone for an apparent touchdown and an even larger Vanderbilt lead.

But referee Ron Cherry saw the play differently and determined Stewart illegally batted the ball toward the goal line in his attempt to scoop up the fumble. What looked like a 36-13 lead with an extra point pending turned into a 15-yard penalty against Vanderbilt and a first-and-10 for Duke at midfield.

The Vanderbilt crowd violently booed after every play for the rest of Duke's possession, which ended in a 52-yard field goal by Sims Lenhardt, his second 50-plus field goal of the day.

Duke eventually closed the gap to 30-23 and then mounted a dramatic game-tying drive. The Blue Devils converted a third-and-six, a fourth-and-16 (on a questionable pass interference call) and a fourth-and-10 on its way to the end zone and a 30-30 tie with 3:12 remaining.

The fun was just beginning.

	1	2	3	4	OT	F
<b>Duke</b>	7	6	3	14	3	33 (4-5)
<b>Vanderbilt</b>	7	17	6	0	6	36 (2-6)
VU: R. Williams 65 run (Markham kick), 11:18 1st						
DU: Montgomery 88 pass from Campbell (Lenhardt kick), 4:21 1st						
VU: Markham 33 field goal, 14:17 2nd						
VU: R. Williams 35 run (Markham kick), 12:29 2nd						
DU: Lenhardt 25 field goal, 4:42 2nd						
VU: A. Jones 54 pass from Zolman (Markham kick), 1:25 2nd						
DU: Lenhardt 54 field goal, 0:00 2nd						
VU: Ditto 1 pass from Zolman (Markham kick failed), 10:15 3rd						
DU: Lenhardt 53 field goal, 5:14 3rd						
DU: Montgomery 36 pass from Campbell (Lenhardt kick), 11:46 4th						
DU: Wilks 7 run (Lenhardt kick), 3:12 4th						
VU: Markham 44 field goal, 1st OT						
DU: Lenhardt 45 field goal, 1st OT						
VU: Markham 19 field goal, 2nd OT						

	DU	VU
First Downs	20	17
Rushes-Yds.	35-108	38-165
Passing Yds.	316	212
Passes (C-A-I)	21-42-0	15-29-1
Total Offense	424	377
Fumbles-Lost	6/3	3/0
Penalties-Yards	7-56	11-143
3rd Down Conversions	5-17	4-16
4th Down Conversions	2-3	2-2
Time of Possession	29:57	30:03

**Rushing** (Att-Yds-TD): (DU) Hill 20-80-0, Campbell 9-31-0; (VU) R. Williams 6-106-2, McGrath 20-82-0.

**Passing** (Com-Att-Yds-Int-TD): (DU) Campbell 21-42-316-0-2; (VU) Zolman 14-28-205-1-2.

**Receiving** (Rec-Yds-TD): (DU) Montgomery 12-243-2, Hart 4-43-0; (VU) A. Jones 4-108-1, Hogans 3-17-0, Carson 2-47-0.

**Attendance:** 27,214

<b>GAME 9</b>	<b>Florida ..... 45</b>
	<b>Vanderbilt .... 13</b>

*By Mitchell Light*

*Special From Commodore Report*

NASHVILLE—Florida QB Doug Johnson feasted on the Commodores' young secondary, throwing for four touchdowns and a career-high 460 yards en route to a 45-13 win. He finished two yards shy of Danny Wuerffel's single-game school record, set against Arkansas in 1996.

Johnson set the tone early. On the game's sixth play, he found a wide open Alex Willis for a 52-yard touchdown. Florida quickly increased its lead to 14-0 when

Jevon Kearse blocked a Joe Webb punt and linebacker Mike Peterson picked the ball out of the air at the VU 27 and cruised for an easy TD.

The Vanderbilt defense, playing with two redshirt freshmen in the secondary, was burned frequently by Johnson when it tried to blitz.

"We have to get more pressure and more relief to those guys who have to cover those great receivers," said linebacker Matt Stewart.

On offense, the Commodores played without injured starting quarterback Greg Zolman and starting running back Rodney Williams. But Jared McGrath picked up the slack with 19 carries for 101 yards. He became the first back to top the 100-yard mark against Florida this season.

	1	2	3	4	--	F
<b>Florida</b>	21	7	14	3	--	45 (8-1)
<b>Vanderbilt</b>	3	0	3	7	--	13 (2-7)
UF: Willis 52 pass from Johnson (Chandler kick), 12:46 1st						
UF: Peterson 27 blocked punt return (Chandler kick), 11:12 1st						
VU: Markham 45 field goal, 9:37 1st						
UF: Karim 59 pass from Johnson (Chandler kick), 1:55 1st						
UF: D. Jackson 11 pass from Johnson (Chandler kick), 13:47 2nd						
VU: Markham 37 field goal, 11:44 3rd						
UF: McCaslin 41 run (Chandler kick), 9:18 3rd						
UF: McGriff 9 pass from Johnson (Chandler kick), 4:10 3rd						
UF: Chandler 31 field goal, 12:06 4th						
VU: Miller 8 pass from Wallace (Markham kick), 2:35 4th						

	UF	VU
First Downs	22	12
Rushes-Yds.	27-115	40-154
Passing Yds.	456	78
Passes (C-A-I)	25-44-2	13-35-0
Total Offense	571	232
Fumbles-Lost	3/1	2/1
Penalties-Yards	10-95	5-51
3rd Down Conversions	4-13	4-21
4th Down Conversions	2-2	3-3
Time of Possession	28:12	31:48

**Rushing** (Att-Yds-TD): (UF) McCaslin 14-102-1, Gillespie 6-17-0; (VU) McGrath 19-101-0, Thomas 12-58-0.

**Passing** (Com-Att-Yds-Int-TD): (UF) Johnson 24-39-460-1-4, Richard 1-5-(-4)-1-0; (VU) Wallace 13-35-78-0-1.

**Receiving** (Rec-Yds-TD): (UF) McGriff 8-157-1, Karim 5-132-1; (VU) Carson 3-11-0, Jones 2-24-0, Miller 2-19-1.

**Attendance:** 33,576

**Did You Know**

Beginning this season, offensive holding will be marked from the line of scrimmage, not the spot of the foul.

**VANDERBILT**  
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**GAME 10** **Vanderbilt .... 17**  
**Kentucky .... 55**

By Bill Trocchi

*Special From Commodore Report*

LEXINGTON, Ky.—The chants came rolling down from the Kentucky faithful in the waning moments last Saturday.

"One more year," they pleaded. "One more year."

After the passing clinic Tim Couch put on against the Commodores, one could understand the sentiment.

Couch, the junior superstar who would leave early for the NFL, lit the Commodores up like a pinball machine, completing a remarkable 44 of 53 passes for 492 yards and five touchdowns.

Whatever you want to call it—Basketball on Grass, Air Raid 2 or Mummeball—the Kentucky attack was something to behold on Saturday. The Wildcats ended the day with 679 yards and six touchdowns against a beleaguered Vanderbilt defense that afterwards had no choice but to give testimony to Kentucky's offensive prowess.

"We gave up some big plays," said noseguard Ryan Aulds. "You can't do that against Kentucky because they have so much offensive firepower. They can put you down real quick if you slip up. It is really hard to defend a team with that kind of an offense."

The turning point came late in the first half with Kentucky leading 10-3. Vanderbilt attempted a fake punt at its own 24-yard line. For the first time in five tries this season, the fake failed, and Kentucky quickly scored on a Couch to Yeast pass two plays later.

The game quickly got out of control in the third quarter, which featured more points in 15 minutes than any Vanderbilt-Kentucky game has seen since 1990 as the Wildcats tacked on 31 points.

	1	2	3	4	--	F
<b>Vanderbilt</b>	3	0	14	0	--	17 (2-8)
<b>Kentucky</b>	3	14	31	7	--	55 (7-3)

UK: Hanson 40 FG

VU: Markham 20 FG

UK: Robinson 25 pass from Couch (Hanson kick)

UK: Yeast 20 pass from Couch (Hanson kick)

UK: Hanson 25 FG

VU: Hogans 73 pass from Zolman (Markham kick)

UK: Robinson 9 pass from Couch (Hanson kick)

VU: J. Williams 96 kickoff return (Markham kick)

UK: Yeast 74 pass from Couch (Hanson kick)

UK: Davis 32 pass from Couch (Hanson kick)

UK: McCree 22 fumble recovery (Hanson kick)

UK: Harrison 78 pass from Mumme (Hanson kick)

	VU	UK
First Downs	11	31
Rushes-Yds.	31-100	21-94
Passing Yds.	185	585
Passes (C-A-I)	14-37-0	47-58-3
Total Offense	285	679
Fumbles-Lost	5-3	2-2
Penalties-Yards	13-118	11-73
3rd Down Conversions	3-17	5-12
4th Down Conversions	0-3	1-2
Time of Possession	27:10	32:50

**Rushing** (Att-Yds-TD): (VU) McGrath 12-53-0, Thomas 12-51-0, Ditto 1-10-0, Wallace 1-6-0, Carter 1-4-0; (UK) Homer 10-62-0, White 6-23-0, Yeast 1-9.

**Passing** (Com-Att-Yds-Int-TD): (VU) Zolman 7-22-165-0-1, Wallace 7-15-185-0-1; (UK) Couch 44-53-492-3-5, Mumme 3-5-93-0-1.

**Receiving** (Rec-Yds-TD): (VU) Hogans 3-95-1, Jones 3-44-0, Hasanoglu 3-21-0, Fleming 2-5-0; (UK) Yeast 16-269-2, White 8-57-0, Robinson 5-72-2, Homer 4-21-0, Davis 3-45-1, Mickelsen 3-23-0.

**Attendance:** 29,721

**GAME 11** **Tennessee .. 42**  
**Vanderbilt ..... 0**

By Mitchell Light

*Special From Commodore Report*

NASHVILLE—For the first time in four years, there was no drama to the Vanderbilt-Tennessee season finale.

There was no Peyton Manning audibling every down at the line of scrimmage. There was no Jamie Duncan terrorizing the Volunteer offense. And there was no Corey Chavous blanketing the talented UT receivers downfield.

And, unfortunately for Vanderbilt fans, there was no fourth-quarter suspense. After

escaping the Commodores by an average of 6.3 points the past three seasons, the top-ranked Volunteers crushed Vanderbilt 41-0 much to the delight of the majority of the 41,600 orange-tinted fans packed into Vanderbilt Stadium.

"They are a well-deserving No. 1," said Woody Widenhofer. "In the four years I have been here, that is the toughest football team they have had. When they made the switch from Peyton Manning to Tee Martin (at quarterback), that made them get more physical and run the football."

Tennessee used a steady diet of running back Travis Henry, mixed in with an efficient passing attack, to wear down the Vanderbilt defense. Henry, filling in very well for the injured Jamal Lewis, rushed for 136 yards.

The Volunteer defense, ranked just fifth in the SEC, limited the Commodores to just 174 yards, VU's lowest total since the second week of the season.

	1	2	3	4	--	F
<b>Tennessee</b>	3	17	7	14	--	41 (11-0)
<b>Vanderbilt</b>	0	0	0	0	--	0 (2-9)

UT: Hall 22 FG

UT: Price 67 pass from Martin (Hall kick)

UT: Henry 12 run (Hall kick)

UT: Hall 42 FG

UT: Ramseur 12 fumble recovery (Hall kick)

UT: Martin 1 run (Hall kick)

UT: Stephens 1 run (Hall kick)

	UT	VU
First Downs	17	11
Rushes-Yds.	49-189	31-91
Passing Yds.	241	83
Passes (C-A-I)	13-20-0	12-31-4
Total Offense	430	174
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	4-2
Penalties-Yards	5-48	4-20
3rd Down Conversions	7-17	5-15
4th Down Conversions	0-1	0-0
Time of Possession	32:18	27:42

**Rushing** (Att-Yds): (UT) Henry 22-136, Stephens 14-38, Martin 9-12, Crosby 2-7; (VU) McGrath 18-65, Thomas 6-23, Zolman 6-2, Hogans 1-1

**Passing** (Com-Att-Yds-Int-TD): (UT) Martin 13-20-0-1 (VU) Zolman 12-31-4-0.

**Receiving** (Rec-Yds): (UT) Price 7-181, Wilson 4-50, Martin 1-5, Bryson 1-5; (VU) Carson 3-2, Ditto 2-25, Hogans 2-10, Jones 1-25, Fleming 1-12, McGrath 1-9, Thomas 1-5, Robinson 1-(-5).

**Attendance:** 41,600