

THE PLAYERS



2009 PROSPECTS Smith showed coaches and Commodore fans plenty when inserted late in the 2008 season, producing the late rally in poor weather at Wake Forest, then guiding the squad to a postseason bowl

More on Smith

As a prep senior, guided Prattville to state title with MVP performance over Hoover High of "Two-A-Days" fame. Like former Commodore QB Chris Nickson, Smith is a former Alabama Mr. Football recipient.

victory in his first ever starting assignment. In limited action, Smith has displayed three trends needed by big-time QBs – poise, leadership and a strong arm. When the Commodores open camp, Smith and Mackenzi Adams should compete as the starter at quarterback.

2008 Former Alabama Prep Player of the Year saw action in just two games – season finale at Wake Forest and Gaylord Hotels Music City Bowl – but made the most of his opportunities... First career start came in team's first postseason win in 53 years... Completed 10 of 17 passes for 121 yards against Boston College... Also had 10 rushing attempts for 25 yards against Eagles... Shared QB duties in bowl with senior Chris Nickson... Displayed talent and composure when inserted during the second half of Wake Forest game after injuries to Nickson and Mackenzi Adams, hitting on 9-17 for 46 yards... Directed the Commodores' only touchdown drive against the Deacs, connecting with Brandon Barden on 5-yard TD... Also rushed seven times for 23 yards.

2007 Did not see game action as a freshman... Impressed coaches as practice squad QB during fall... Named team's Offensive Scout of the Week after Miami (Ohio) win.

HIGH SCHOOL Senior captain for Alabama state champion... Three-year

starter as dual-threat QB... Directed first undefeated season in Prattville history, concluding 15-0 campaign with MVP performance in win over Hoover for 6A

Smith Career Highs:

COMPLETIONS: 10, vs. Boston Coll., 12/31/2008
PASSING YARDS: 121, vs. Boston Coll., 12/31/2008
LONGEST PASS: 51 yards, vs. Boston Coll., 12/31/2008

title... Named state's all-classification Mr. Football as senior... Picked as All-America QB by Prep Nation,

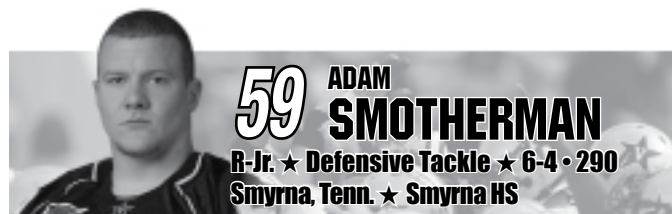
MaxPreps and EA Sports... Two-time All-State... Helped Prattville to 39-2 record from 2004-06, setting school marks with 6,011 passing yards and 54 TDs... Smith never lost regular season game as starter... In 2006, threw for 2,465 yards, 21 TDs and two INTs, earning 6A Back of the Year honors.

ACADEMICS Smith is enrolled in the Peabody College, working toward a degree in Human and Organizational Development.

PERSONAL Larry Darnell Smith, Jr... Son of Larry and Pamela Smith... Born Feb. 22, 1989 in Riverside, Calif... An only child... Hopes for a career in sports medicine... Dad is ROTC and aerospace science instructor; mom is computer technician... Spent the summer mentoring inner-city youth at the Martha O'Bryan Center in east Nashville.

LARRY SMITH'S OFFENSIVE STATISTICS

	ATT/COMP-INT	YDS.	PCT.	TD	LONG	RUSH-YDS	AVG	TD	LONG
2008	34-19-1	167	55.9	1	51	17-40	2.4	0	8



2009 PROSPECTS One of the hardest working Commodores, Smotherman enters preseason camp beaming with confidence. A productive first-time starter in 2008, Smotherman took a leap forward during spring drills and offseason conditioning, and prepares for the season in the best shape of his career. The energetic Smotherman joins T.J. Greenstone and Greg Billinger as solid and experienced interior tackles back for the defense.

2008 Became dependable performer in the interior defensive line during

More on Smotherman

Raised around older brothers who were weightlifting enthusiasts, Smotherman wants to become a strength coach after college. He is one of the strongest Commodores, and has twice earn Ironman status after off-season workouts.

first season of substantial action... Played every game, earning starting assignments at tackle in 11 of 13 games... Played well in team's 16-14 victory over Boston College in Gaylord Hotels Music City Bowl, matching career high with four total tackles and a quarterback hurry... Another top outing came in narrow loss at Mississippi State, contributing four total

tackles, including a pair of quarterback sacks.

2007 Became a contributor along defensive front despite struggling with lower leg injury much of the season... Saw action in five games at defensive tackle... Credited with one solo tackle in win over Miami (Ohio).

2006 Redshirted as a freshman... Earned team's postseason Defensive Scout Most Valuable Player Award... Received Defensive Scout of the Week

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honors after Arkansas game.

HIGH SCHOOL Senior captain... Three-year starter... Played offensive tackle, tight end and defensive end... Earned 5A Tennessee Mr. Football Lineman of Year Award, First Team 5A All-State by sportswriters and First Team All-Midstate by *Nashville Tennessean*... Achieved 68 tackles, five

Smotherman Career Highs:

TOTAL TACKLES: 4, (2X), most recently, vs.

Boston College, 12/31/2008

SOLO TACKLES: 4, at *Miss. State, 10/11/2008*

TACKLES FOR LOSS: 2, at *Miss. State, 10/11/2008*

sacks and two forced fumbles as senior... Helped team to playoffs three straight years... Also wrestled and threw discus in track & field... Senior class vice president... National Honor

Society member.

ACADEMICS Smotherman is enrolled in the Peabody College, working toward degrees in Secondary Education and History.

PERSONAL Adam Lyle Smotherman... Son of Fred Smotherman and Cinda Stiles... Born Dec. 11, 1987... Youngest of five children... Dad is maintenance technician, mom is nurse... Older brother, Allen, is a former U.S. Marine and Naval Academy grad... Another brother, Chris, is a sheriff's deputy in Rutherford Co., Tenn... Involved in FCA chapter on campus.

SMOTHERMAN'S CAREER DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

	TACKLES	TFL	SACKS	INT	FF/FR	QH
2008	11-5-16	2-7	2-0-7	0-0	0/0	2
2007	1-0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0
Career	12-5-17	2-7	2-7	0-0	0/0	2



RETURNEES



90 BRODERICK STEWART

R-Sr. ★ Defensive End ★ 6-5 • 230
Newnan, Ga. ★ Riverside Military

2009 PROSPECTS One of the team's big-play specialists on defense, Stewart enters the season looking to return to top form after missing the final two games of 2008 and Spring Practice recovering from a foot injury. If healthy, Stewart is a lightning-quick presence at defensive end, providing an excellent complement to multi-year starter Steven Stone at the other end slot.

More on Stewart

As a youngster, Stewart's mom refused to allow him to play football, instead agreeing to participation in soccer, basketball and baseball. Mom conceded when Stewart came home from school as a seventh grader, announcing he just signed up for the team.

Stewart has few peers in the SEC coming off the edge in pursuit of the passer, and just needs more strength to become one of the league's top ends.

2008 Excellent off the edge, the active Stewart played superb football as first-year starter until injury at Tennessee concluded season... Earned 11 starting assignments across from fellow junior Steven Stone... Missed the season finale at Wake Forest

after suffering a severe lower leg injury against Tennessee... Ended year with single-season highs in unassisted tackles (16) and tackles for loss (9.5)... Topped the squad in QB sacks (5)... Ranked second with three forced



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fumbles... Demonstrated big-play abilities with talent for sacks and forced fumbles... Opened season sack at Miami (Ohio) and aided win over Auburn with pair of tackles for loss... Contributed two quarterback sacks and pair of forced fumbles against Duke... Season high in tackles (5) came vs. Duke. **2007** Played key role at DE though did not start... Team's most productive rusher in passing situations... Earned postseason Commodore Hustle Award... Set career highs with 15 solo tackles, 29 total tackles and six QB sacks... Topped the team in sacks... Shared team lead with six QB hurries, and ranked second with 8.5 tackles for loss... Also contributed four pass breakups... Named team's Defensive Player of the Week after two-sack effort vs. Kentucky... Contributed key QB sack in upset win at South

Stewart Career Highs:

TOTAL TACKLES: 5, vs. Duke, 10/25/2008
SOLO TACKLES: 5, vs. Duke, 10/25/2008
TACKLES FOR LOSS: 2, (4X), most recently vs. Duke, 10/25/2008
SACKS: 2, (2), most recently vs. Duke, 10/25/2008

Carolina.
2006 Became a key defensive line contributor as a redshirt freshman, playing every game at end... Had 19 total tackles, including 13 primary stops... Tied for second on team with five QB sacks... Recorded sacks

vs. Michigan, Alabama, Temple, Kentucky and Tennessee.

2005 Redshirted as freshman, practicing as DE.

HIGH SCHOOL Senior captain... Helped team to semifinals of state playoffs... Four-year DE starter, posting 54 solo tackles and nine sacks as senior... Named First Team GISA All-State... Played in South Carolina-Georgia All-Star Game... Double-digit scorer in basketball... Captured GISA triple jump state title as junior with 44'9" effort.

ACADEMICS Stewart is working toward degree in School of Engineering.

PERSONAL Broderick William Stewart II... Son of Dinsemooore and Mariette Bryan... Born Aug. 31, 1987... Has older sister and younger brother... Dad works for Delta Airlines; mom is special education teacher... Plays piano.

STEWART'S CAREER DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

	TACKLES	TFL	SACKS	INT	FF/FR	QH
2008	16-13-29	9.5-51	5.0-34	0-0	3/0	4
2007	15-14-29	8.5-34	6.0-26	0-0	1/0	6
2006	13-6-19	5.0-44	5.0-44	0-0	0/0	1
Career	44-33-77	23-129	16.0-104	0-0	4/0	11



49 JOHN STOKES

**Jr. ★ Linebacker ★ 6-5 • 235
 Memphis, Tenn. ★ University School**

2009 PROSPECTS Valuable to the Commodores in multiple ways, Stokes needs to show he is back 100 percent from a pair of shoulder procedures during the offseason. He missed all of spring drills in rehabbing from the surgeries. On the field, the rangy Stokes plays outside linebacker in the mold of former 'Dore All-SEC performer Matt Stewart. He also serves as the team's primary long snapper.

2008 Played in all 13 games, and has participated in all 25 games of his Commodore career... Earned 10 starting assignments at strongside linebacker... Also served as team's primary snapper in punt formations... Concluded season with single-season highs in total tackles (31), unassisted stops (19), and tackles for loss (4)... Closed regular season with five-tackle efforts against Tennessee and Wake Forest... Contributed at



More on Stokes

A top academic achiever, Stokes was granted early acceptance into Vanderbilt Medical School after just his second year on campus. He is scheduled to begin medical school classes in the fall of 2011.

least two tackles in seven of last eight games... Ability to long snap and aid in coverage of Commodore punts earned Special Teams Player of the Week honors after Mississippi State and Tennessee outings. **2007** One of three true freshmen to see action during the season, Stokes played every game... Participated at second

team outside linebacker... Early in season, earned team's snapping responsibilities in punt situations, and eventually became primary snapper for all special teams... Ended season with seven total tackles, including five solo stops... Posted three solo tackles in win over Ole Miss... Also had a key tackle in win at South Carolina.

HIGH SCHOOL Senior captain and defensive MVP for powerful Memphis private school... Helped Owls to state Division II playoff appearances, and state titles in 2004 and 2005... As senior, named Division II-AAA Mr. Football Lineman of the Year, "Best of the Preps" by *Memphis Commercial Appeal* and "Tennessee Dream Team" by *Nashville Tennessean*... Three-year starter at LB... Played varsity as freshman... In 2006, achieved 85 tackles, five tackles of loss and an interception... Top rebounder for MUS state championship basketball team... Cum laude honors student and National Merit Semifinalist... Received school's Wellford Leadership Award.

ACADEMICS Stokes is majoring in Medicine, Health and Society. He earned *ESPN The Magazine*/CoSIDA District IV Academic All-America honors after the 2008 season, and was a 2008 SEC Academic Honor Roll recipient.

PERSONAL John Whittemore Stokes IV... Son of Jack and Carol Stokes...

Born Feb. 1, 1988 in Memphis... Middle of three siblings; sister, Cameron, 21; and brother, Will, 16; Dad works in sales for Morgan Keegan investment firm; mom is a

Stokes Career Highs:

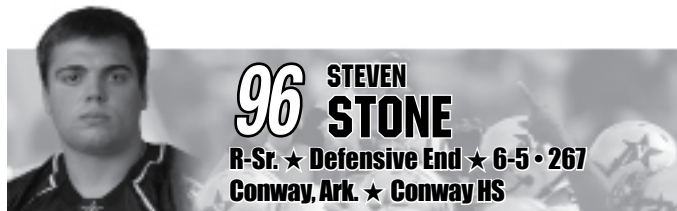
TOTAL TACKLES: 5, twice, most recently at Wake Forest, 11/29/2008
SOLO TACKLES: 4, at Wake Forest, 11/29/2008

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homemaker... Both parents graduated from Vanderbilt... Enjoys playing the guitar... Likes to hunt and fish... Involved in campus FCA activities.

STOKES' CAREER DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

	TACKLES	TFL	SACKS	INT	FF/FR	QH
2008	19-12-31	4.0-9	0-0	0-0	0/0	0
2007	5-2-7	0.0-0	0-0	0-0	0/0	1
Career	24-14-38	4.0-9	0-0	0-0	0/0	1



96 STEVEN STONE

**R-Sr. ★ Defensive End ★ 6-5 • 267
Conway, Ark. ★ Conway HS**

2009 PROSPECTS Though underappreciated by some observers, Stone is most valued by coaches and teammates. For three years, he's been a consistently high achiever at defensive end, a player who has improved with each year. Blending smarts with athleticism, the All-SEC prospect

More on Stone

Stone didn't give much thought to a college football career until his final year at Conway HS. Until then, he expected to play college basketball, having earned All-State hoop honors as a junior.

should be ready to produce his best year on campus. Stronger than ever, Stone plays the run and pass with equal success. **2008** One of the most consistent defensive performers for second consecutive year... Played in every game, earning 13 starting assignments at defensive end, running consecutive start streak to 25 games... Shared team lead with five quarterback sacks... Also ended season with 42 total tackles, 7.5 tackles for loss, a forced fumble and two QB hurries... Provided at least three tackles in eight games... Two highest tackle totals came in big early-season wins: six vs. South Carolina and seven against Auburn... Also contributed QB sacks in early wins against South Carolina, Ole Miss and Auburn... Season high in unassisted tackles (5) came in regular season finale at Wake Forest... Added two tackles for loss, including a sack, against the Demon Deacons... Had at least three tackles in four-game stretch: at Georgia, Duke, Florida and at Kentucky... Had pair of stops in Commodore win over Boston College in Gaylord Hotels Music City Bowl.

2007 Started every game at defensive end, developing into one of the Commodores' most dependable and productive performers... Finished season as the 'Dores' seventh leading tackler with 45 total stops, including 21 primary tackles... Tied for second on team with four QB sacks and ranked third on squad with eight tackles for loss... Posted at least three tackles in eight of 12 games... Had tackles for loss in first four games, stretching consecutive games with a tackle for loss to six dating to previous season... Set career high in total tackles (8) against Alabama... Started the season with two tackles for loss in win over Richmond and ended the campaign with a pair of tackles for loss vs. Wake Forest... Notched career high in solo tackles (4) in season finale.

2006 Became a key defensive line contributor as a redshirt freshman end, playing every game as a second-team end... Ended campaign with 24 total tackles, including 22 solo stops... Ranked fourth on the team with 6.5 tackles for loss... Played superbly in Commodore road win at Georgia, contributing five total tackles... Recorded a tackle for loss in five of final



seven games.

2005 Redshirted as freshman... Added strength while impressing coaches as defensive end in fall practices.

HIGH SCHOOL Two-year starter at defensive end for Wampus Cats... As

Stone Career Highs:

TOTAL TACKLES: 8, at Alabama, 9/9/2007

SOLO TACKLES: 5, at Wake Forest, 11/29/2008

TACKLES FOR LOSS: 2, at Wake Forest, 11/29/2008

a senior, garnered 87 tackles, including six for losses and four sacks... Named to *Associated Press* Super Arkansas Team and all-conference... Selected to play in Arkansas East-West High School All-Star Game in June... Started as junior for team that went 11-2... All-

State forward in basketball who once blocked 12 shots in state tourney game... Played on two-time state champion AAU basketball squad.

ACADEMICS Stone earned a degree in Economics in May, and is currently working toward a master's in Organizational Leadership from Peabody College. He is a four-time All-SEC Academic Honor Roll recipient.

PERSONAL Steven Dennis Stone... Son of Phil and Jan Stone... Born Nov. 17, 1986... Has one brother and sister... Dad is a physician... An Eagle scout who enjoys fishing and hunting.

STONE'S CAREER DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

	TACKLES	TFL	SACKS	INT	FF/FR	QH
2008	19-23-42	7.5-27	5.0-23	0	1/0	2
2007	21-24-45	8.0-40	4.0-27	0	0/0	2
2006	22-2-24	6.5-19	0.5-7	0	0/0	0
Career	62-49-111	21.5-86	9.5-57	0	1/0	2

RETURNEES



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32 TRISTAN STRONG

R-Fr. ★ Linebacker ★ 6-1 • 228
Loganville, Ga. ★ Grayson HS

2009 PROSPECTS One of three talented young prospects at linebacker on the Commodore roster, Strong appears ready to contribute this year. He impressed defensive coaches during spring drills from the middle linebacking position, though he offers the athleticism and versatility to fill any of the three backer roles.

2008 A redshirt linebacker candidate this season as a true freshman, Strong showed plenty of potential during fall practices, then followed that effort with more promise through spring drills.

HIGH SCHOOL Senior captain, helping squad to 10-3 overall record and appearance in Georgia AAAAA state quarterfinals... Two-year starter at linebacker; three-year letterwinner... As senior, posted 46 total tackles, 31 solo stops, three QB sacks and a pair of interceptions... Recovered fumble for TD... Returned two punts for 14.5-yard average... In 2006, squad went 6-6, advancing to first round of playoffs... As junior, contributed 51 total tackles, seven sacks, 11 tackles for loss, a forced fumble and a blocked kick... Named first team 5A All-State and All-Gwinnett County... Played in recent Georgia North-South All-Star Game... Also lettered in basketball.

ACADEMICS Strong is working toward a degree in Human and Organizational Development from the Peabody College.

PERSONAL Tristan Julio Strong... Son of Julio and Jody Strong... Born on Nov. 10, 1989... Dad is an electrician; mom is a florist... Two uncles, Tami Tarbush and Ricky Payne, played football at University of South Carolina; another uncle, Rod Cole, played basketball at University of Georgia.



41 DAN SUTTON

R-So. ★ Linebacker ★ 6-1 • 218
Tucker, Ga. ★ Marist School

2009 PROSPECTS Sutton provided a valuable resource last year as a linebacker on scout units. He showed more progress during spring drills, and enters the season looking to assist on special teams.

2008 Did not see action, but served as scout linebacker during first year with squad... Named team's Scout Defensive Player of the Week after Duke game.

2007 Served as reserve linebacker in first year at Middlebury (Vermont) College.

HIGH SCHOOL Three-year letterwinner for Atlanta AAAA power... Started at DE as junior and senior... As senior, helped Marist to the state championship game... Topped team in quarterback sacks as a sophomore... Was a three-year starter on Marist's varsity lacrosse team.

ACADEMICS Sutton is working toward a degree in History from the College of Arts and Science.

PERSONAL Daniel Connor Sutton... Son of Eileen Sexton... Born March 24, 1989... Has an older sister, Bridget... Looking for a career in finance... Enjoys recreational boxing.



98 JOHNNELL THOMAS

R-Fr. ★ Defensive End ★ 6-0 • 250
Orlando, Fla. ★ Boone HS

2009 PROSPECTS Though undersized at the defensive end position, Thomas continually impressed the coaches with his tenacity and desire during spring drills, where he made as many plays as any defender. Thomas brings a different dimension to the team's defensive end corps.

2008 Thomas worked hard on defensive practice teams as a true freshman redshirt... Earned the unit's Defensive Scout of the Week honor after South Carolina and Florida games.

HIGH SCHOOL Senior captain... Became starter at DT as sophomore...

As a senior, helped Boone to its finest campaign in history, going undefeated before losing to nation's #1 team in 6A state title game... Contributed 115 total tackles, 87 solo stops, five QB sacks and three forced fumbles in 2007... Named as Florida's all-classification second team All-State DT, All-Central Florida and All-Region... As junior, posted 76 total tackles... Finished seventh in shot put at state... Also earned letters in weightlifting.

ACADEMICS Thomas is working toward a degree in Human and Organizational Development.

PERSONAL Johnell Thomas... Son of John Thomas and Shonda Glover... Legal guardians are Boone assistant coach, Peter Kearney, and his wife Lisa... Born on Dec. 12, 1989... Has three brothers and two sisters.



24 RICH TOMPKINS

R-So. ★ Defensive Back ★ 5-11 • 185
Nashville, Tenn. ★ Montgomery Bell

2009 PROSPECTS A walk-on with deep Vanderbilt ties, Tompkins developed into a special teams contributor last year before suffering injury. Tompkins gives the Commodores a player who plays smart and is eager to help in multiple ways.

2008 A second-year defensive back prospect, Tompkins earned playing time on coverage units during team's 4-0 start... Progress was slowed by knee injury at Ole Miss... Contributed two tackles on special teams.

2007 Local walk-on from Montgomery Bell Academy showed potential as defensive back during fall practices.

HIGH SCHOOL Three-year starter at CB for Nashville prep power... Earned three football letters and four track letters... Two-time All-Midstate hurdler... Captured state title in 100-meter hurdles; second in decathlon... P.M. Estes Award and Francis E. Carter Award recipient... President of Special Olympics, Interact Rotary and Service clubs on campus.

ACADEMICS Tompkins is working toward a double major, Human and Organizational Development and Psychology. He is a 2008 SEC Academic Honor Roll recipient.

PERSONAL Christopher Rich Tompkins... Son of Amy Rich and Tommy Tompkins... Born Nov. 15, 1988... Dad is an orthopedic surgeon, mom is a teacher at The Ensworth School... One of five siblings: a brother, sister, stepbrother and stepsister... Brother is a first lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps... Enjoys being outdoors, fishing and being with family.

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RETURNNEES



11 BRENT TRICE

Sr. ★ Linebacker ★ 6-3 • 214
Orange, Va. ★ Fork Union Military Academy

2009 PROSPECTS Athletically gifted, Trice stepped forward during Spring Practice and make a strong case for more playing time at linebacker. Blessed with enough versatility to rotate between outside linebacker and safety, Trice appears best suited to attacking the ball, either in run support or blitzing off the edge. Trice has as much natural ability as any player on the Commodore defensive roster.

2008 Played in every game, primarily seeing action as top reserve outside linebacker... Moved from full-time safety position before season... Proved productive in new role, finishing with 22 total tackles, 3.5 tackles for loss, 2.5 QB sacks, a forced fumble and one fumble recovery... Contributed four tackles and recovered a fumble after sacking QB in win

over Rice... Also had 10-yard sack at Mississippi State... Shared in two tackles in team's Music City Bowl victory over Boston College.

2007 Key reserve safety in Commodore secondary as a sophomore, spelling starter Ryan Hamilton... Played in 11 of 12 games, missing only

the Ole Miss encounter... Also valuable tackler on various coverage units... Set single season highs with 18 total tackles, including 10 solo stops... Contributed career high of four tackles in win over Miami (Ohio)... Had three tackles against Richmond, Auburn and Wake Forest.

2006 Played every game as true freshman, seeing action at safety and on special teams... Posted eight total tackles, five solo stops, two tackles for loss, and an interception... Playing time increased when safety Ben Koger was lost for eight games with a leg fracture... First career interception came in win over Temple.

HIGH SCHOOL Played safety, LB and flex TE for Fork Union Military Academy postgraduate squad in 2005... Named Defensive Player of the Year after posting three INTs and 10 sacks; caught 10 passes as tight end... Senior captain... Two-way starter at Orange County HS... Named All-State and Central Virginia Defensive Player of the Year in 2004,

Trice Career Highs:

TOTAL TACKLES: 4, three times, most recently at Wake Forest, 11/29/2008
SOLO TACKLES: 3, at Miss. State, 10/11/2008

posting 81 tackles and five forced fumbles... As receiver, hauled in 27 passes for 423 yards and five TDs... Double-digit scorer in basketball.

ACADEMICS Trice is majoring in Sociology

from the College of Arts and Science.

PERSONAL Brent Lionel Trice... Son of Leo and Perphine Trice... Born Jan. 6, 1987... An only child... Born and raised near Charlottesville, Va... Has mentored young elementary school kids at YMCA center near campus.

TRICE'S CAREER DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

	TACKLES	TFL	SACKS	INT	FF/FR	PBU
2008	11-11-22	3.5-17	2.5-15	0-0	1/0	3
2007	10-8-18	0-0	0-0	0-0	0/0	0
2006	5-3-8	2.0-2	0-0	1-2	0/0	0
Career	26-22-48	5.5-19	2.5-15	1-2	1/0	3



37 ELVIO TROPEANO

R-So. ★ Safety ★ 5-9 • 205
Boston, Mass. ★ Middlesex School

2009 PROSPECTS A walk-on who made several impressive plays during Spring Practice, Tropeano is competing for a reserve at safety and contributor on special teams.

2008 A safety prospect for the second season, Tropeano did not see playing time, but served as a key member of defensive scout teams.

2007 Did not play as a freshman walk-on prospect at safety... Named team's Defensive Scout of the Week after Georgia game.

HIGH SCHOOL Starting running back for Middlesex School... Rushed for 1,200 yards and 14 TDs helping Middlesex to New England Class C title as senior... Also started as quarterback and safety at Pomfret School in postgraduate year.

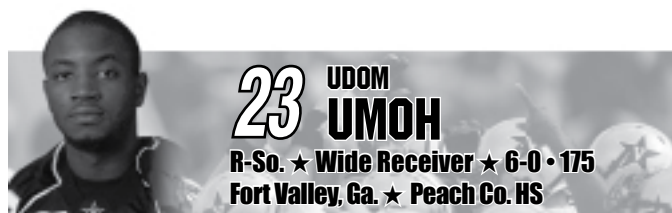
ACADEMICS Tropeano is working toward a degree in Human and Organizational Development.

PERSONAL Elvio Rinfret Tropeano... Son of Elvio Tropeano and Denise Rinfret... Born Dec. 11, 1989... Dad is a barber; mom is a realtor... Has a younger brother and three sisters, including older twins.

More on Trice

Thirty-eight members of Trice's postgraduate squad at Fork Union Military Academy signed college football scholarships. Trice was Fort Union's Defensive MVP in 2005.

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23 UDOM UMOH

R-So. ★ Wide Receiver ★ 6-0 • 175
Fort Valley, Ga. ★ Peach Co. HS

2009 PROSPECTS After concluding 2008 on a high note, Umoh showed more progress in spring drills and enters the season contending for a starting job at wide receiver. Umoh demonstrated excellent speed, good hands and improvement as a route runner, during Spring Practice. Coaches have big expectations for Umoh as he enters his third year.

2008 Umoh saw action in every game in his first season, playing as receiver and special teams contributor... Broke through at WR in win over Boston College in the Music City Bowl, contributing team-high three receptions for 29 yards... The catches were first of Umoh's collegiate career... A standout on coverage units posting 10 total tackles, including four stops in the Music City Bowl.

More on Umoh

Last summer, Umoh visited his father, Benedict, in Uyo, Nigeria. His dad is a professor of agriculture at the Uyo University and helped fund construction of several facilities on its campus.

2007 Impressed coaches as redshirt receiver in first year on campus... Earned team's postseason Offensive Scout MVP Award, and earned weekly offensive scout honors after Eastern Michigan and Florida games.

HIGH SCHOOL Talented receiver who helped Peach County to pair of AAA state titles... Named to AAA First Team All-State as senior; two-time all-area... In 2006, caught 64 passes for 1,058 yards and 14 TDs, including two scores in title win... Standout sprinter, with PR of 48.6 (400).

ACADEMICS Umoh is working toward a degree in English from the College of Arts and Science.

PERSONAL Udom Iyamba Umoh... Son of Jerry and Angela Murtagh of Fort

Umoh Career Highs:

RECEPTIONS: 3, vs. Boston College, 12/31/2008
RECEIVING YARDS: 29, vs. Boston College, 12/31/2008

Valley, and Benedict Umoh of Nigeria... Born Dec. 6, 1988 in Maiduguri, Nigeria... Has an older sister, Jann Umoh, and

younger brother, Michael Murtagh... Dad teaches at Fort Valley State; mom is academic advisor for Upward Bound program.

UMOH'S CAREER RECEIVING STATISTICS

	RECEPTIONS	YARDS	AVG	TD	LONG
2008	3	29	9.7	0	16



39 BRETT UPSON

Sr. ★ Punter ★ 5-11 • 188
Griffin, Ga. ★ Spalding HS

2009 PROSPECTS Coming off a season capped by earning MVP honors in the Gaylord Hotels Music City Bowl, Upson gives the Commodores a three-year starter and all-conference performer at punter. Though not the SEC's strongest punter, Upson is adept at bottling opponents deep in their own territory and limiting punt return yards.

2008 Put together his best year in a Commodore uniform as a junior...

More on Upson

Upson is a stellar golfer. A multiple winner of junior golf tournaments growing up in Atlanta area and +2 handicap, Upson finished second at the 2005 Georgia AAA state tourney and was runnerup at the Griffin City Championships.

Averaged career-high 40.1 yards on 68 punts... Nearly a third of punts inside the opponent 20-yard line... Had 13 punts of 50 yards or more, including a season-long of 60 yards at Wake Forest... Named Most Valuable Player of the the Gaylord Hotels Music City Bowl for his punting throughout the game: one of his rugby-style efforts from the BC 42-yard line hit an Eagle

defender and was recovered by Commodore player for Vanderbilt's lone touchdown; two other efforts pinned the Boston College offense deep in its own territory... Also was splendid during the Commodores' early start, earning SEC Specialist of the Week honors after performance against Auburn and at Georgia... Kept Auburn bottled up deep in its own territory with four punts inside the 20-yard line, including a final effort of 55 yards that was downed at the Tiger 3-yard line... Two weeks later, he kept team in excellent field possession at Georgia, averaging 44.6 yards on seven punts, with three downed inside the UGA 20-yard line... Earned or shared team's top specialist honors after Miami (Ohio), Ole Miss, Auburn and Georgia games.

2007 Served second straight year, averaging 39.2 yards on 61 punts... Ranked among the SEC leaders in 22 punts (37.2%) downed inside the 20-yard line... Averaged more than 44 yards per punt against Ole Miss, Georgia and Tennessee... Shared team's Specialist of the Week honors after booting a 59-yard punt and averaging 46 yards versus Tennessee.

2006 Earned starting role as true freshman, replacing Bryant Hahnfeldt, who concentrated as placekicker... Of Upson's 52 punts, 27 were either fair caught or downed inside the opponents' 20-yard line... Opposing returners averaged less than six yards per return... Earned team's Specialist of the Week honors at Alabama by averaging 43.7 yards... In first home appearance, had 69-yard effort vs. Arkansas... Two punts of more than 50 yards aided Commodore road win at Georgia.

THE PLAYERS



HIGH SCHOOL Captain and three-year starting punter/kicker... As senior, averaged 44.2 yards, including seven of more than 55 yards... Career long punt of 72 yards... Earned AAA All-State honors... Converted seven of 13 FGs as senior, including 54-yarder... Named Special Teams Player of the Year by Atlanta Touchdown Club... Holds the soccer scoring record of 87 goals.

ACADEMICS Upson will graduate in May with a degree in Human

and Organizational Development.

PERSONAL Brett Kole Upson... Son of Brian and Tracee Upson... Born Nov. 2, 1987... Has one sister... Dad is civil engineer; mom

works for Airtran Airways... An Eagle scout... Enjoys hunting... Interned at CSI crime lab, and remains interested in career in law enforcement.

Upson Career Highs:

LONGEST PUNT: 69 yards, vs. Ark., 9/16/2006
HIGHEST SEASON PUNTING AVERAGE: 40.1, 2008

UPSON'S CAREER PUNTING STATISTICS

	PUNTS	AVG.	LONG	TB	I-20
2008	68	40.1	60	6	21
2007	61	39.2	59	4	22
2006	52	37.4	69	2	12
Career	113	38.4	69	6	34



34 RYAN VAN RENSBURG
R-So. ★ H-back/Fullback ★ 6-1 • 228
Jacksonville, Fla. ★ The Bolles School

2009 PROSPECTS The Commodores' lone true fullback, van Rensburg is a powerful blocker who made strides as a rusher in Spring Practice. One of the team's top athletes, van Rensburg enters preseason camp looking to secure a gameday responsibility on offense. He also plays an important role on special teams.

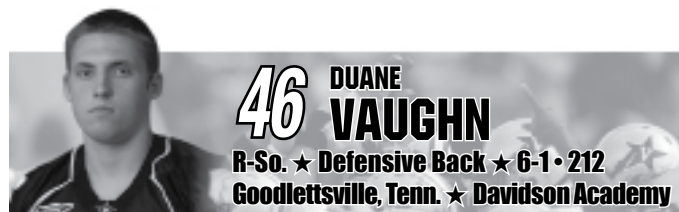
2008 Van Rensburg served as special teams contributor, seeing action on conversion and return units in final eight games.

2007 Did not see game action as a freshman, though impressed as a practice squad running back in fall drills... Earned team's Offensive Scout of the Week honor after Georgia game.

HIGH SCHOOL Three-year letterwinner for top Florida 2A program... Starting tailback as junior and senior... Helped squad to 2006 state title... Earned All-State honors as senior averaging 14 yards per rush, totalling 1,049 yards and 15 TDs... Named to *Times-Union's* "Florida Super 25" team... As junior, rushed for 20 TDs... Outstanding weightlifter, winning state individual title as senior... Qualified for state as shot putter.

ACADEMICS Van Rensburg is working toward a major in Human and Organizational Development.

PERSONAL Ryan J. van Rensburg... Son of Andre and Linda van Rensburg... Born March 22, 1988 in Cape Town, South Africa... Dad is in commercial real estate development; mom is an artist and horseback riding instructor... Older brother, Shaun, is a defensive end at Furman... Family immigrated to U.S. in 2000; became U.S. citizen in 2005... Grew up playing rugby in South Africa... Speaks native Afrikaans language from South African heritage... Enjoys sculpting.



46 DUANE VAUGHN
R-So. ★ Defensive Back ★ 6-1 • 212
Goodlettsville, Tenn. ★ Davidson Academy

2009 PROSPECTS A second-year walk-on, Vaughn showed improvement during spring drills. He could help Commodore special teams this season with an effective preseason performance.

2008 A walk-on candidate in the Commodore secondary, Vaughn played a valuable role on practice units but did not see game action.

2007 Did not see game action as a walk-on freshman defensive back.

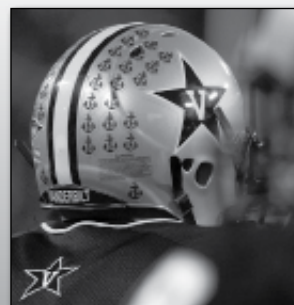
HIGH SCHOOL Two-way starter, helping team to 2006-07 Division II state titles.... Started at RB and safety, twice earning All-State recognition... As senior, posted eight INTs... Rushed for nearly 1,900 yards in career... Recipient of National Football Foundation Scholar Athlete Award.

ACADEMICS Vaughn is working toward a degree in Secondary Education from the Peabody College.

PERSONAL Dorman Duane Vaughn... Son of Duane and Gina Vaughn... Born on Jan. 28, 1989... Dad is a newspaper circulation manager in Nashville; mom is a computer consultant... Younger brother, Derek, plays tackle at Davidson Academy.

Awarding Helmet Decals

Bobby Johnson's staff awards black anchor decals to recognize individual achievements by Commodore players. The decals are added to helmets by equipment staffers following each game. Each position coach uses his own criteria for distributing the decals.



RETURNNEES



THE PLAYERS



60 BRADLEY VIERLING

**R-Sr. ★ Center ★ 6-3 • 290
Warminster, Pa. ★ Central Bucks East HS**

2009 PROSPECTS Vierling possesses everything the coaches want in their center: strong work ethic, tough mindset, superb understanding of scheme and team-oriented leadership abilities. A two-year offensive captain, Vierling benefited greatly from playing virtually every important snap as a junior. Blessed with speed and agility, Vierling has the talent to become one of the Southeastern Conference's top interior players as he continues to build strength from the team's offseason conditioning

effort.

2008 Junior offensive co-captain with wide receiver George Smith, despite coming into the season without a single career start... Started all 13 games at center... Leader on and off the field: helped motivate and lead young offensive line that entered the season collectively with three total career

starting assignments... Played nearly 95 percent of offensive snaps, more than any other offensive lineman... Opened season with strong performances, earning "winning" blocking grade after Miami (Ohio), South Carolina and Rice victories... Named team's offensive player of the week after Wake Forest performance... Earned team's top offensive line grade – 94% – after superb effort in victory over Auburn... Coaches also gave "winning" performance following Kentucky victory... Also served on team's leadership council.

2007 One of team's most versatile linemen, Vierling saw substantial action at both right guard and center as a redshirt sophomore... Saw

action in every game though did not enjoy starting assignment...

Averaged nearly 30 plays per game rotating with guard Merritt Kirchoffer and center Hamilton Holliday... Consistently earned "winning" blocking performance from offensive coaches.

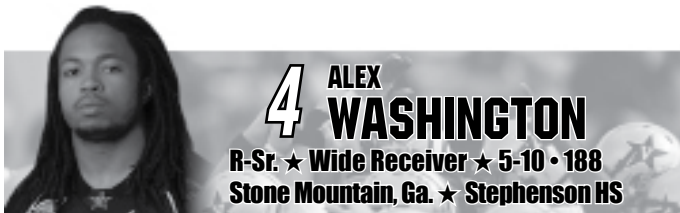
2006 Saw action in nine games backing up starting center and guards... First career action came against Arkansas... Playing time increased substantially as injuries became a factor in season.

2005 Redshirted, practiced as center and guard... Impressed coaches, earning team's postseason Offensive Scout MVP Award honors... Team's top offensive scout after Ole Miss, Georgia and Tennessee games.

HIGH SCHOOL Senior captain... Three-year starter at OT; also started at DT and DE as junior and senior... Team MVP in 2004... Three-time recipient of team's top lineman award... Named Second Team All-State *Philadelphia Inquirer*... Played in Pa. North-South All-Star Game and Ohio-Pennsylvania Big 33 All-Star Game... Played center in basketball... Ranked among nation's top discus throwers in track & field... Broke 18-year-old school record with 182'0 toss.

ACADEMICS Vierling is expected to graduate in December in Human and Organizational Development. He is a 2008 SEC Academic Honor Roll recipient.

PERSONAL Bradley Lewis Vierling... Son of Ronald and Collette Vierling... Born May 18, 1986... Has a brother and two sisters... Dad is corporate VP... Huge supporter of Philadelphia pro teams... His Vanderbilt teammate, roommate and fellow Commodore captain, safety Ryan Hamilton, competed for rival school in Philadelphia suburbs.



4 ALEX WASHINGTON

**R-Sr. ★ Wide Receiver ★ 5-10 • 188
Stone Mountain, Ga. ★ Stephenson HS**

2009 PROSPECTS

Washington was one of the Commodores' top offensive performers during spring drills, exhibiting superb receiving skills that were lacking in 2008 due to a knee injury. Washington enters preseason camp as a likely starter, providing the offense an explosive playmaker and toughness from the wideout position. He also enters the season as the team's most experienced punt returner.

2008 Played in seven games as redshirt junior, dem-



More on Vierling

Vierling is musically talented. A drummer in high school, he also won All-County honors as a tenor in choir. Vierling also dabbles on the guitar and piano.

THE PLAYERS

onstrating tremendous personal drive by returning to action less than six months after serious knee injury... First action came in win over Auburn... Only catch of the season came in bowl win over Boston College... Also returned two punts in latter stages of the season.

More on Washington

Washington contributed to the recently published SAT prep book, 'Direct Hits Vocabulary.' He assisted in developing pragmatic ways for students to identify with commonly used words in the test.

Forest... Played well in narrow loss at Tennessee, catching three passes for 45 yards... Team's Specialist of the Week after Auburn performance... Punt return of 37 yards led to key score in win at South Carolina.

2006 Played in every game as either WR or returner... Ranked eighth among SEC KOR with 19.2 average... Season-long kickoff return of 43 yards came in Georgia win... Handled team's punt returns for much of season, averaging 5.6 yards... As a WR, hauled in three catches for 12 yards.

2005 Impressed as WR during redshirt freshman campaign... Named team's top offensive scout after MTSU and South Carolina games.

Washington Career Highs:

RECEPTIONS: 5, at Tennessee, 11/24/2007
RECEIVING YARDS: 63, at Tennessee, 11/24/2007
LONGEST CATCH: 31, at Tennessee, 11/24/2007

scoring two TDs as senior... Squad went 7-5 as senior, advancing to AAAA playoffs... Named DeKalb Super 11... Helped team to state playoffs in each varsity season.

ACADEMICS Washington is enrolled in the Peabody College, working toward a degree in Human and Organizational Development. He is a 2008 SEC Academic Honor Roll recipient.

PERSONAL Alexander Phillip Washington... Son of Andre and Annette Washington... Born Jun 23, 1987... Dad works as computer programmer; mom is an accountant... Has younger sister... Dad ran collegiate track... Served as camp counselor.

WASHINGTON'S CAREER STATISTICS (RECEIVING/RETURNS)

	REC.	YARDS	AVG	LONG	PR	AVG.	KOR	AVG.
2008	1-(-2)	-2.0	-	-	2-0	0.0	-	-
2007	9-120	13.3	31	25-165	6.6	12-247	20.6	
2006	3-12	4.0	12	10-56	5.6	19-364	19.2	
Career	13-130	10.0	31	37-221	6.0	31-611	19.7	



76 THOMAS WELCH

R-Sr. ★ Offensive Tackle ★ 6-7 • 310
Brentwood, Tenn. ★ Brentwood HS

2009 PROSPECTS Blessed with NFL potential, Welch earned the team's offensive line MVP honors as a junior. Versatile enough to play either tackle slot, Welch needs to develop more of a dominating mindset toward his blocking responsibilities. As fifth-year senior, Welch also steps into



greater leadership role this season.

2008 Put together a solid season in first year as starter on the offensive line... Started all 13 games at right tackle, playing more than 90 percent of the Commodores' offensive plays during the season... Regarded as one of line's most physical players while consistently earning "winning" blocking grades by offensive coaches... Earned team's Offensive Player of the Week award after performance against Florida, and shared the recognition with TB Jared Hawkins after the Dores' victory over South Carolina.

More on Welch

Welch's 26-year-old brother, Ryan, is a pro poker player, with a number of top finishes on his resume in 2009. Ryan also played college baseball, pitching for Southern Illinois.

2007 Played effectively as reserve OT in first full year at position... Participated in every contest as the team's top backup at tackle... Also earned Specialist of the Week honors after Kentucky game.

2006 Moved to OT from TE during season after injuries sidelined two line-men... Saw action as TE in season opener, then played as an undersized tackle in seven games... OT role increased in late-season stretch.

2005 Redshirted as freshman, working as tight end during fall drills.

HIGH SCHOOL Senior captain... Two-year starter... Moved to DE as senior after playing QB previous two years... As DE, contributing 53 tackles and four sacks as senior... At TE, caught 16 passes, including four TDs.

ACADEMICS Welch will graduate with a degree in Economics in December.

PERSONAL Dwayne Thomas Welch Jr... Son of Jennifer Wallens and Dwayne Welch... Born Jun 19, 1987... Mom works in real estate; dad works in finance services... Mom played basketball at Rollins (Fla.) College... Brother and sister also participated in collegiate athletics.

RETURNNEES

THE PLAYERS



78 CALEB WELCHANS

R-Fr. ★ Offensive Line ★ 6-5 • 290
Wildwood, Mo. ★ Lafayette HS

2009 PROSPECTS Despite the presence of five returning starters, Welchans has the potential to contribute in a substantial way at offensive tackle or guard. Welchans impressed during spring drills, showing excellent techniques after working to build strength during an effective fall conditioning effort.

2008 Welchans redshirted this season, his first on the Vanderbilt campus... Showed excellent talent, and earned the team's Offensive Scout of the Week honor after Mississippi game.

HIGH SCHOOL Senior captain... Two-year starter at OT and DT... Helped squad to district championship and 6A state quarterfinals as senior... Finished 2007 with 49 knockdown blocks... Named first team 6A All-State by writers and coaches... As senior DT, contributed 41 tackles and three quarterback sacks... Thrower in track, with 52-foot PR in shot put.

ACADEMICS Welchans is enrolled in the College of Arts and Science. He has not decided on a major.

PERSONAL Caleb Welchans... Son of Greg and Laura Welchans... Born on Aug. 8, 1989... Dad is president of Supplies Network firm; mom is homemaker... Oldest of three siblings: brother, Jake, and sister, Mary... Dad played football at Texas-Arlington... Served as class president.



80 JUSTIN WHEELER

R-Sr. ★ Wide Receiver ★ 6-1 • 180
North Augusta, S.C. ★ North Augusta HS

2009 PROSPECTS Just when Wheeler seemed to insure his starting role at receiver, a spring injury has raised doubts of his playing status this season. Wheeler is rehabilitating from knee surgery, but even a quick recovery similar to that experienced by teammate Alex Washington one year ago puts Wheeler in question at the start of fall camp. Wheeler's

midseason availability appears a more reasonable expectation.

2008 Put together the finest season of his career after seeing expansion of receiving role... Played in every game, earning 10 starting assignments... Established single-season career highs in receptions (16) and receiving yards (145)... Ranked third on team in receptions... Posted career outing in win over Auburn with five receptions,

good for 52 yards... 15-yard TD catch from Mackenzi Adams started Commodore rally against Tigers... Contributed pair of catches against four other opponents: South Carolina, Mississippi State, Tennessee and Wake Forest... Also displayed superb blocking skills in open field.

2007 One of team's most improved performers, Wheeler became key weapon as second-year WR... Played 11 of 12 games, missing Richmond

More on Wheeler

A prep standout in basketball, Wheeler expected his chances for a college scholarship to come in hoops. Wheeler went out for the football team only two weeks before the kickoff for his senior season. It would be his only year of high school football.



opener... In first collegiate action, posted three catches vs. Alabama... Season highlight was a 20-yard TD catch that provided cushion in eventual win at South Carolina... Added three catches at Tennessee and two receptions vs. Wake Forest.

2006 Saw limited role at wide receiver as redshirt freshman... Appeared

in six games, including wins over Temple, Tennessee State and Duke... Did not register a catch... Also played on special teams.

HIGH SCHOOL Senior captain... Played just

senior year in football as WR and returner... Caught 25 passes and three TDs... Named All-Region... Also was a standout point guard on basketball team, earning Area Player of the Year as senior, averaging nearly 20 points.

ACADEMICS Wheeler is expected to finish his undergraduate studies this year. He is majoring in Sociology from the College of Arts and Science.

PERSONAL Justin Durell Wheeler... "Wheels"... Son of Curtis and Jessie Wheeler... Born Oct. 6, 1986 in Germany while dad served in military... Older brother is a history teacher... Mom is teachers' assistant.

Wheeler Career Highs:

RECEPTIONS: 5, vs. Auburn, 10/4/2008
RECEIVING YARDS: 52, vs. Auburn, 10/4/2008
LONGEST CATCH: 21, at Miss. State, 10/11/2008

WHEELER'S CAREER RECEIVING STATISTICS

	RECEPTIONS	YARDS	AVG	TD	LONG
2008	16	145	9.1	1	18
2007	10	87	8.7	1	20
Career	26	232	8.9	1	20

THE PLAYERS



77 JAMES WILLIAMS

**R-So. ★ Offensive Tackle ★ 6-6 • 315
Smyrna, Tenn. ★ Smyrna HS**

2009 PROSPECTS Seldom used in 2008, Williams appeared to take advantage of spring drills more than any other offensive lineman, exiting the Black & Gold Scrimmage as a likely starter at right tackle. Offensive coaches were impressed by Williams' agility, blocking technique and improved strength.

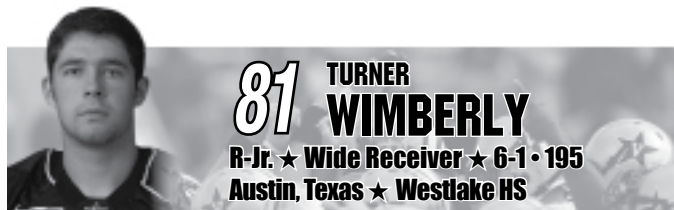
2008 Williams saw limited action in his redshirt freshman season... Participated in three games as reserve offensive tackle... Also worked up front of special team conversion units.

2007 Did not see action as a first-year offensive lineman... Served as practice squad OT.

HIGH SCHOOL Senior captain... Started at OT as junior and senior... Played big role in team's 13-2 campaign in 2006 that ended in 5A state title, first in school history... Earned all-region and team's offensive line MVP... Earned letters as thrower in track & field.

ACADEMICS Williams is working toward a degree in Latin American Studies.

PERSONAL James Michael Williams... Son of James J. and Hollis Williams... Born July 31, 1989... Dad works as supervisor; mom is registered nurse... Dad played collegiate baseball... Has younger sister... Maintained perfect prep attendance... Teammate of Vanderbilt DT Adam Smotherman and Commodore baseball standout Sonny Gray... Enjoys fishing and boating.



81 TURNER WIMBERLY

**R-Jr. ★ Wide Receiver ★ 6-1 • 195
Austin, Texas ★ Westlake HS**

2009 PROSPECTS After transitioning to wide receiver two years ago, Wimberly performed well in spring drills, showing good hands and blocking



abilities. Wimberly has improved as a route runner. He could also help the Commodores on special teams this fall.

2008 Wimberly earned playing time in 10 games, primarily on special teams... Did not register a reception, but contributed one tackle on coverage units.

2007 Moved to WR prior to season, but did not see game action... Named team's Offensive Scout of the Week

after Tennessee game.

2006 Did not see action as freshman... Moved to QB after starting camp as DB.

HIGH SCHOOL Played QB and safety at New Jersey prep school, earning Prep Player of the Year honors from *Trenton Times*... Earned three letters at Westlake, helping team to 2003 state semifinals, compiling more than 2,100 yards of total offense... Standout baseball player.

ACADEMICS Wimberly is majoring in Human and Organizational Development. He is a two-time SEC Academic Honor Roll recipient, earning honors in 2007 and 2008.

PERSONAL Steven Turner Wimberly... Son of Steve and Nancy Wimberly... Born Oct. 3, 1986... Oldest of three siblings... Dad is self-employed; mom is accountant... Raised near Austin... Enjoys hunting and fishing.

RETURNNEES

Walking the Anchor Through Supporters at Star Walk

An hour before every game played in Vanderbilt Stadium, two Commodore players lead the squad by carrying a ship anchor from team lockers in McGugin Athletic Center to Dudley Field. Players selected by the team's Leadership Council to carry the anchor are told of their added gameday responsibility at the conclusion of Thursday's practice.

The anchor tradition, created by Coach Johnson four years ago as a sign of team unity, is taken to all Commodore games. At right, defensive tackle T.J. Greenstone and tailback Jared Hawkins do the honors during a home game last year.

