

1986 In Review

Brown Era Opens at Vanderbilt

ALABAMA 42, VANDERBILT 10

Watson Brown, who had enjoyed previous success at Vanderbilt as both a player and assistant coach, began his head coaching tenure at VU with a 42-10 loss against powerful Alabama before 58,168 fans in Tuscaloosa's Bryant-Denny Stadium. The game was the first of four national cable television appearances for the Commodores on WTBS.

The fine field generalship of quarterback Mike Shula and the tailback tandem of Gene Jelks and Bobby Humphrey carried the day for the Tide. Shula connected on 8 of 14 passes for 102 yards. Jelks rushed for 116 yards, including a key 75-yard scoring run on the first play of the second half. Humphrey picked up 72 yards on nine carries and scored twice.

Despite a heavy rush which sacked him six times and hurried him on several other plays, quarterback Mark Wracher played gallantly for the Commodores. Wracher completed 29 of 43 passes for 290 yards and a touchdown. Tailback Everett Crawford, the SEC's leading receiver in 1985, led all pass catchers on this day with seven receptions for 86 yards and a touchdown. Fullback Carl Woods paced the Vanderbilt ground game with 92 yards on 14 carries.



VANDERBILT	0	0	3	7-10
ALABAMA	3	11	14	14-42

ALA — Tiffin 48 FG. ALA — Tiffin 24 FG. ALA — Humphrey 3 run (Humphrey pass from Shula). ALA — Jelks 75 run (Tiffin kick). ALA — Thomas 44 blocked punt return (Tiffin kick). VU — Herline 42 FG. ALA — Humphrey 30 run (Tiffin kick). VU — Crawford 7 pass from Wracher (Herline kick). ALA — Battle 7 run (Tiffin kick).

Big Second Quarter Sparks Terp Win

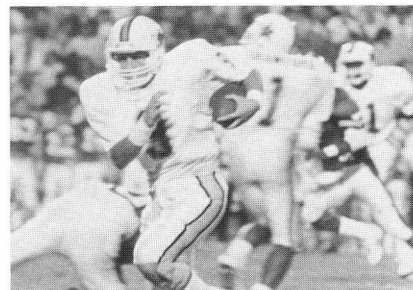
MARYLAND 35, VANDERBILT 21

Maryland scored three touchdowns in the second quarter, sparking the Terrapins to a 35-21 win in front of 45,275 fans at Byrd Stadium in College Park, Md.

Vanderbilt opened the scoring in the first quarter with a 31-yard field goal by Alan Herline. Maryland made a big comeback in the second period, however, on touchdown runs by Tommy Neal and Stephon Scriber and a touchdown pass from Dan Henning to tight end Ferrell Edmunds.

The Commodores cut the gap to 21-13 with a four-yard touchdown pass from Mark Wracher to Everett Crawford and another Herline field goal, but the Terrapins put the game out of reach with a pair of fourth quarter touchdowns.

Henning had a great evening, completing 23 of 31 passes for 315 yards and two touchdowns. Wracher accounted for 201 yards passing with 20 completions in 41 attempts. Tim Richardson scampered 31 yards for a touchdown in fourth quarter relief of Wracher.



VANDERBILT	3	0	10	8-21
MARYLAND	0	21	0	14-35

VU — Herline 31 FG. UM — Neal 21 run (Plocki kick). UM — Scriber 1 run (Plocki kick). UM — Edmunds 17 pass from Henning (Plocki kick). VU — Crawford 4 pass from Wracher (Herline kick). VU — Herline 39 FG. UM — Scriber 17 run (Plocki kick). UM — Abdur Ra'oof 21 pass from Henning (Plocki kick). VU — Richardson 31 run (Crawford pass from Gray).

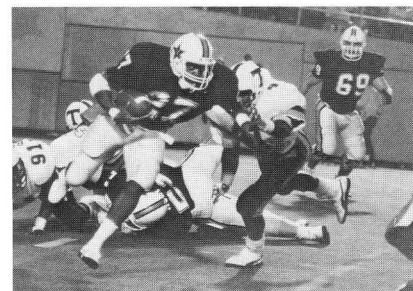
Mack Wins Battle of Brown Brothers

TULANE 35, VANDERBILT 17

In a game which attracted national attention because of the coaching matchup, Mack Brown of Tulane got the better of older brother Watson, 35-17, before 40,155 Vanderbilt Stadium fans.

A potent option attack, cleverly run by quarterback Terrence Jones, swung this game in favor of the Green Wave. Tulane rushed for 337 yards and five touchdowns. Rodney Hunter ran for 111 yards and two touchdowns. Marvin Allen added 104 yards and one touchdown, and Jones kept the ball for 62 yards and a TD.

Vanderbilt rolled up 475 yards of offense, but scuttled several scoring opportunities with seven turnovers. Mark Wracher completed 21 of 37 passes for 265 yards. Everett Crawford caught eight passes for 120 yards and Carl Woods led the ground game with 81 yards on 12 carries.



TULANE	7	7	14	7-35
VANDERBILT	7	3	0	7-17

TUL — Hunter 1 run (Guirl kick). VU — Woods 6 run (Herline kick). TUL — McIntosh 4 run (Guirl kick). VU — Herline 33 FG. TUL — Jones 24 run (Guirl kick). TUL — Allen 41 run (Guirl kick). VU — Richardson 8 run (Herline kick). TUL — Hunter 14 run (Guirl kick).

Commodores Conquer Blue Devils

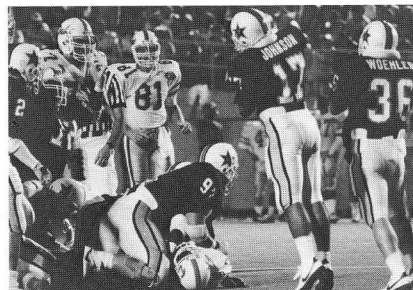
VANDERBILT 24, DUKE 18

Vanderbilt jumped out to an early lead and made two late defensive stands to turn back Duke, 24-18, and provide Watson Brown with his first win as the Vanderbilt head coach.

The Commodores got on the board on the game's first possession when Tim Richardson connected with Boo Mitchell on a six-yard touchdown pass. Vanderbilt stretched the lead to 10-0 minutes later on a 30-yard Alan Herline field goal. Richardson's 38-yard TD toss to Tom Fitz in the third quarter made the score 17-3, setting the stage for a spirited Duke comeback.

The Blue Devils narrowed the lead to 17-15 on a pair of field goals and a four-yard touchdown run. Carl Woods, who gained 112 yards on the night, then electrified the 38,874 fans in Vanderbilt Stadium with a 70-yard scoring gallop to give the Commodores some breathing room.

Late in the fourth quarter Vanderbilt made a dramatic goal line stand, forcing Duke to settle for its fourth Doug Peterson field goal. Freshman Chip Price made an interception in the end zone on the game's final play to preserve the Commodore victory.



DUKE	3	0	6	9—18
VANDERBILT	10	0	7	7—24

VU — Mitchell 6 pass from Richardson (Herline kick). VU — Herline 30 FG. DU — Peterson 22 FG. VU — T. Fitz 38 pass from Richardson (Herline Kick). DU — Grantham 4 run (kick missed). DU — Peterson 36 FG. DU — Peterson 45 FG. VU — Woods 70 run (Herline kick). DU — Peterson 19 FG.

Fullwood, Defense Lead Auburn

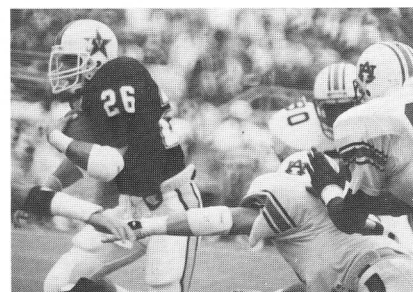
AUBURN 31, VANDERBILT 9

The running of Brent Fullwood and a rugged defense paced Auburn to a 31-9 win in front of 40,378 Vanderbilt Stadium fans and a national cable television audience on WTBS.

Fullwood raced for a 38-yard touchdown on Auburn's first possession and just seconds later Auburn forced a Vanderbilt fumble and recovered it in the end zone for a touchdown. Fullwood ended the day with 145 yards rushing on just seven carries. The tough Tiger defensive unit accounted for four turnovers, four quarterback sacks, and held Vanderbilt to 76 yards rushing.

The Commodore defense showed some toughness of its own in the second half, holding the potent Tiger attack scoreless over the game's final 30 minutes.

Vanderbilt was able to move the ball occasionally, but the Tigers clamped down when it counted. The Commodore scoring came on a trio of field goals by Alan Herline. Carl Woods led the ground game with 60 yards on seven attempts, but was injured early in the second half, an injury which eventually kept him from breaking the school's career rushing record.



AUBURN	17	14	0	0—31
VANDERBILT	3	0	6	0—9

AUB — Fullwood 38 run (Knapp kick). AUB — Crain fumble recovery in end zone (Knapp kick). VU — Herline 29 FG. AUB — Knapp 37 FG. AUB — Campbell 6 run (Knapp kick). AUB — Bolton 21 run (Knapp kick). VU — Herline 25 FG. VU — Herline 46 FG.

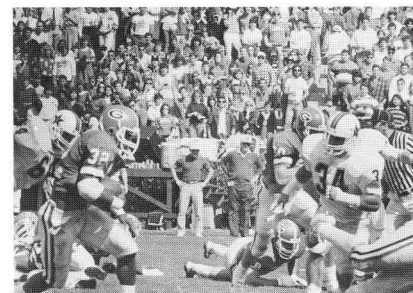
Jackson, Tate Lead Bulldogs

GEORGIA 38, VANDERBILT 16

Tailback Lars Tate rushed for three touchdowns and quarterback James Jackson scampered for one score and passed for another as the Georgia Bulldogs put the bite on Vanderbilt, 38-16, before a Sanford Stadium crowd of 78,642 fans.

Tate, who finished the day with 112 yards on 19 carries, broke open a tight game with a pair of second quarter touchdown runs. Jackson gave the Bulldogs a 24-0 halftime lead with a 32-yard pass to John Thomas. Jackson finished the day having completed 7 of 13 passes for 133 yards. The cat-quick quarterback ran for 75 more yards.

Vanderbilt got its offense cranked up in the fourth quarter. Tim Richardson capped a 78-yard drive with a one-yard TD run and Eric Jones scored from three yards out on a quarterback keeper. Everett Crawford followed both touchdowns with two-point conversions. Crawford led the Commodore attack with 59 yards on only seven carries and two passes for 23 yards.



VANDERBILT	0	0	0	16—16
GEORGIA	3	21	7	7—38

GA — Crumley 31 FG. GA — Tate 12 run (Crumley kick). GA — Tate 6 run (Crumley kick). GA — Thomas 32 pass from Jackson (Crumley kick). GA — Jackson 17 run (Crumley kick). VU — Richardson 1 run (Crawford run). GA — Tate 6 run (Crumley kick). VU — Jones 2 run (Jones pass to Crawford).

Ambrose, Young, Price Pace Rebels

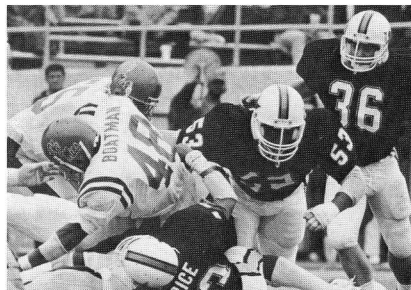
MISSISSIPPI 28, VANDERBILT 12

J. R. Ambrose and Mark Young provided the offense and Don Price the defense as the Ole Miss Rebels defeated Vanderbilt, 28-12, as 34,427 Homecoming fans watched in Vanderbilt Stadium.

Ambrose got the Rebels off to a roaring start as he took the opening kickoff and raced 94 yards for a touchdown. He added another big play in the third quarter with a 57-yard TD reception from quarterback Young. Young accounted for the other two scores on a 10-yard run and a 27-yard pass to Ricky Myers.

Meanwhile, safety Don Price kept the Commodore offense at bay most of the afternoon. The highly impressive freshman made three pass interceptions and recovered a fumble, personally creating four of the five turnovers Ole Miss forced during the game.

The Vanderbilt scores came on a pair of Alan Herline field goals and a 35-yard touchdown pass from Eric Jones to Carl Parker. Everett Crawford had another impressive day running the football, picking up 86 yards on nine carries.



MISSISSIPPI	7	7	7	7—28
VANDERBILT	0	3	6	3—12

UM — Ambrose 94 kickoff return (Owen kick). UM — Myers 27 pass from Young (Owen kick). VU — Herline 27 FG. VU — Parker 35 pass from Jones (pass failed). UM — Ambrose 57 pass from Young (Owen kick). VU — Herline 28 FG. UM — Young 10 run (Owen kick).

Tigers Take Comeback Win

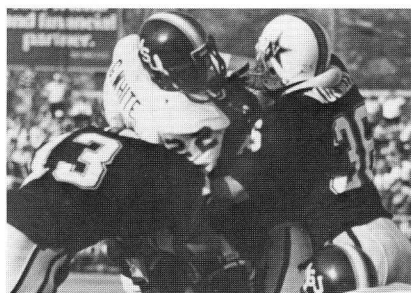
MEMPHIS STATE 22, VANDERBILT 21

A three-yard touchdown plunge by Jeff Womack and a two-point conversion run by quarterback Tim Jones capped a fourth quarter rally which carried Memphis State past Vanderbilt, 22-21, as 35,672 fans looked on in Vanderbilt Stadium.

Trailing 21-7 entering the fourth quarter, the Tigers began their comeback with a 56-yard interception return by Mike Nettles. The return set up a three-yard touchdown run by fullback Bill Moody. After forcing a Vanderbilt punt, Jones engineered an 18-play, 90-yard drive which was finished by the winning TD and conversion.

The Tigers got on the board first with a 16-yard run by Jones, but the Commodores stormed back with a four-yard touchdown run by Kenny Weatherspoon and a pair of scoring scampers by Everett Crawford.

The Commodores had driven deep in Tiger territory and appeared headed for another score when Nettles' interception turned the game around. Much of the credit for the win must be given the Tiger defense, which held Vanderbilt to 233 yards on the day and forced five turnovers.



MEMPHIS STATE	7	0	0	15—22
VANDERBILT	7	7	7	0—21

MSU — Jones 16 run (Butler kick). VU — Weatherspoon 4 run (Herline kick). VU — Crawford 2 run (Herline kick). VU — Crawford 1 run (Herline kick). MSU — Moody 3 run (Butler kick). MSU — Womack 3 run (Jones run).

Hunter Leads Wildcat Win

KENTUCKY 34, VANDERBILT 22

Running back Ivy Joe Hunter rushed for 238 yards and four touchdowns as Kentucky beat Vanderbilt, 34-22, before 48,230 Commonwealth Stadium fans and a national cable television audience on WTBS.

Vanderbilt grabbed an early 7-0 lead following a Kentucky turnover deep in Wildcat territory. Tim Richardson hit Boo Mitchell with a 15-yard touchdown pass on the Commodores' first offensive play of the game. Kentucky, however, came back in the second quarter with a pair of TD runs by Hunter and the Wildcats never trailed again.

Vanderbilt cut the lead to 20-16 early in the fourth quarter before two more Hunter scoring runs put the game out of reach. Mitchell completed the rainy afternoon with a 15-yard TD reception from Richardson. Billy Rolfe led Vanderbilt in rushing with 54 yards on 13 carries, most of them up the middle, and scored a touchdown. Richardson completed 8 of 15 passes for 105 yards.



VANDERBILT	6	0	7	9—22
KENTUCKY	0	13	7	14—34

VU — Mitchell 15 pass from Richardson (kick missed). UK — Hunter 13 run (Worley kick). UK — Hunter 2 run (pass failed). UK — Logan 9 run (Worley kick). VU — Rolfe 1 run (Herline kick). VU — Herline 41 FG. UK — Hunter 1 run (Worley kick). UK — Hunter 6 run (Worley kick). VU — Mitchell 17 pass from Richardson

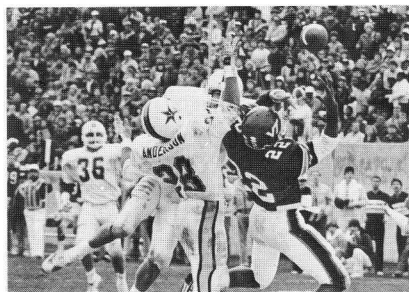
Tech Holds on for Victory

VIRGINIA TECH 29, VANDERBILT 21

Five field goals by Chris Kinzer helped offset three Eric Jones touchdown passes and Virginia Tech held off a late Commodore charge to claim a 29-21 win in Lane Stadium.

The magnificent Kinzer enjoyed nailing field goals of 35, 41, 25, 43, and 40 yards in addition to two extra points. Eddie Hunter scored a touchdown on a seven-yard run and Donald Wayne Snell caught a 22-yard touchdown pass for the other Tech TD as the Hokies built a 29-7 lead in the fourth quarter.

Jones brought the Commodores back, however, with a two-yard touchdown pass to Steve Kosanovich and a 31-yarder to Carl Parker, his second of the game. Parker's last TD came with 1:38 remaining in the game. Snell recovered the ensuing onside kick and the relieved Hokies were able to run out the clock and accept a Peach Bowl invitation.



VANDERBILT	0	7	0	14-21
VIRGINIA TECH	3	13	6	7-29

VT — Kinzer 35 FG. VU — Parker 33 pass from Jones (Herline kick). VT — Kinzer 41 FG. VT — Hunter 7 run (Kinzer kick). VT — Kinzer 25 FG. VT — Kinzer 43 FG. VT — Kinzer 40 FG. VT — Snell 22 pass from Chapman (Kinzer kick). VU — Kosanovich 2 pass from Jones (pass failed). VU — Parker 31 pass from Jones (Jones run).

Francis, Howard Pace Volunteers

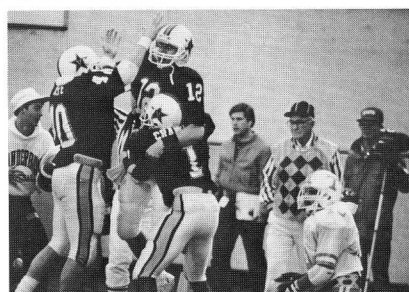
TENNESSEE 35, VANDERBILT 20

Quarterback Jeff Francis threw three touchdown passes and William Howard thundered for two more TDs as Tennessee defeated Vanderbilt, 35-20, in front of a capacity-plus crowd of 41,572 Vanderbilt Stadium fans.

Francis chalked up Tennessee's first three scores through the airways with a 51-yard pass to Anthony Miller, a 38-yarder to Terence Cleveland, and a 50-yarder to Miller. Howard was a workhorse, rushing 30 times for 158 yards and two touchdowns.

After falling behind 28-0, the Commodores stormed back with three touchdowns of their own. Eric Jones scored for halftime and began the third quarter with a 20-yard TD pass to Steve Kosanovich. Carl Parker then zipped 10 yards for a touchdown to close the gap to 28-20. Howard clinched the Tennessee win with a four-yard run following a long, time-consuming march.

The game marked the last appearance for 13 Vanderbilt seniors, including running back Carl Woods. Woods ran for 83 yards on 21 carries and finished his career as the second leading ground gainer in Vanderbilt history.



TENNESSEE	7	21	0	7-35
VANDERBILT	0	7	7	6-20

UT — Miller 51 pass from Francis (Reveiz kick). UT — Cleveland 38 pass from Francis (Reveiz kick). UT — Miller 50 pass from Francis (Reveiz kick). UT — Howard 2 run (Reveiz kick). VU — Jones 17 run (Herline kick). VU — Kosanovich 20 pass from Jones (Herline kick). VU — Parker 10 run (kick missed). UT — Howard 4 run (Reveiz kick).

Jones Leads Gold Rush

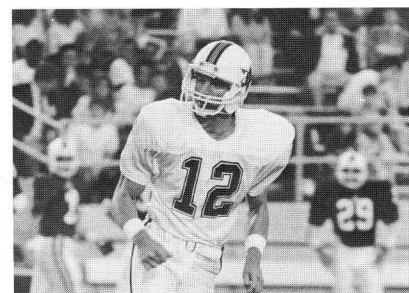
GOLD 41, BLACK 20

Quarterback Eric Jones capped a magnificent spring practice by leading the Gold team to a 41-20 win before 8,000 fans in the annual Black and Gold Spring Game held last April.

Jones scampered for 126 yards and three touchdowns while completing 7 of 10 passes for 123 yards and another TD. Jones was outstanding all spring and this game cemented his hold on the number one quarterback job.

Jones opened the spring game scoring with an electrifying 73-yard run, added a pair of three-yard TD runs, and also tossed a 21-yard scoring pass to Carl Parker. Parker added the game's final touchdown on a 38-yard pass from Tom Gray.

Rushing leaders included Gold fullback Mark Johnson (68 yards on 10 carries), Black quarterback John Gromos (58 yards), and Black fullback Andy McCarroll (54 yards). Gromos connected on 6 of 13 passes for 48 yards. Parker led all receivers with seven catches for 148 yards and two touchdowns. Boo Mitchell accounted for 95 yards on four receptions.



BLACK	0	7	7	6-20
GOLD	12	6	7	16-41

GOLD — Jones 73 run (kick missed). GOLD — Jones 3 run (two-point failed). BLACK — Gromos 5 run (Clark kick). GOLD — Jones 3 run (two-point failed). GOLD — Parker 21 pass from Jones (Clark kick). BLACK — McCarroll 1 run (Clark kick). GOLD — Clark 48 FG. GOLD — Voigt 2 run (Clark kick). BLACK — Mitchell 58 pass from Nomberg (two-point failed). GOLD — Parker 38 pass from Gray (kick missed).