

1989 in Review

Bulldogs Rush to Victory

MISSISSIPPI STATE 42, VANDERBILT 7

Kenny Roberts and Orlando Wade each ran for more than 100 yards and scored two touchdowns apiece as Mississippi State won Vanderbilt's season opener, 42-7, before 31,678 fans in Starkville's Scott Field.

Roberts and Wade took over in the second half, blowing open a game which had been played evenly in the first half. Wade, who totaled 111 yards in the game, scored on runs of eight yards and one yard in the third quarter. Roberts followed with fourth quarter scoring jaunts of 37 and 87 yards en route to a game-high total of 167 yards.

Vanderbilt trailed only 14-7 at halftime, with a four-yard touchdown pass from John Gromos to Nabil El Sheshai accounting for the Commodores' score.

In addition to losing the game, the Commodores suffered several key injuries as well. Tailback Derrick Payne, the team's best running back, was lost for the season with a knee injury. Special teams performers Tom Bonhaus and David Le-gay were also out for the season with injuries.



VANDERBILT	0	7	0	0-7
MISS. STATE	7	7	21	7-42

MSU — Underwood 8 run (Logan kick). MSU — Morris 14 run (Logan kick). VU — El Sheshai 4 pass from Gromos (Clark kick). MSU — Wade 8 run (Logan kick). MSU — Wade 1 run (Logan kick). MSU — Roberts 37 run (Logan kick). MSU — Roberts 87 run (Logan kick).

Commodores Dominate Bobcats

VANDERBILT 54, OHIO 10

Vanderbilt scored on the team's first possession and never looked back in defeating Ohio, 54-10, in front of 38,672 fans in Vanderbilt Stadium.

Corey Harris began the scoring with a 14-yard touchdown pass from John Gromos. The senior quarterback had a fine evening, completing 18 of 29 passes for 218 yards and three TDs. Gromos also scampered 12 yards for another touchdown.

Carlos Thomas paced the ground game with 95 yards on 20 carries, including two scoring runs. Anthony Carter added 67 rushing yards and one touchdown.

Meanwhile, the Commodore defenders intercepted five passes, recovered three fumbles, and held the visitors to a mere 236 yards total offense.



OHIO	3	0	0	7-10
VANDERBILT	14	6	20	14-54

VU — Harris 12 pass from Gromos (Clark kick). OU — DelVerne 36 FG. VU — Hayes 4 pass from Gromos (Clark kick). VU — Gromos 12 run (kick blocked). VU — Gaines 14 pass from Gromos (Clark kick). VU — Thomas 5 run (Chura kick). VU — Carter 11 run (kick missed). OU — Swanson 29 pass from Baker (DelVerne kick). VU — Thomas 3 run (Clark kick). VU — Healey 1 run (Clark kick).

Tide Withstands Late Rush

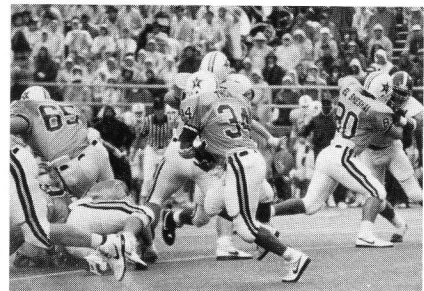
ALABAMA 20, VANDERBILT 14

The Alabama Crimson Tide built a 20-0 lead, then watched it almost wash away before finally claiming a 20-14 win in front of a rain-soaked Vanderbilt Stadium crowd of 41,106 and a national cable television audience on WTBS.

The Tide steadily rolled to a 20-0 lead on a pair of Philip Doyle field goals and two second quarter touchdowns. Alabama quarterback Gary Hollingsworth enjoyed a good afternoon, completing 16 of 30 passes for 227 yards and one TD.

The Commodores began their fourth quarter rally with a seven-yard touchdown pass from John Gromos to Corey Harris. The duo clicked again, this time from 25 yards out, with 10:38 remaining. Vanderbilt got two more possessions, each time moving into Tide territory, but could get no closer than the 22-yard line.

Gromos set a school record with 62 pass attempts. He completed 30 for 324 yards. Corey Harris had a brilliant game, catching 10 passes for 147 yards and two touchdowns.



ALABAMA	3	14	3	0-20
VANDERBILT	0	0	0	14-14

UA — Doyle 24 FG. UA — Stacy 9 run (Doyle kick). UA — Russell 17 pass from Hollingsworth (Doyle kick). UA — Doyle 39 FG. VU — Harris 7 pass from Gromos (Clark kick). VU — Harris 25 pass from Gromos (Clark kick).

Memphis State Takes Close One

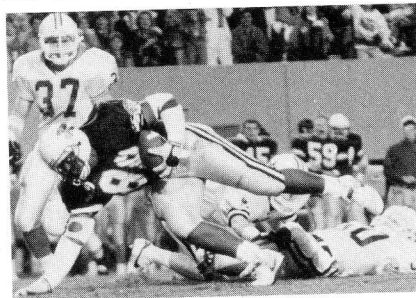
MEMPHIS STATE 13, VANDERBILT 10

For the second straight week, Vanderbilt had an opponent jump out to a lead and hold on for a narrow victory as Memphis State defeated the Commodores, 13-10, in front of a Liberty Bowl crowd of 26,345.

Steady quarterback Tim Jones patiently constructed a 13-3 lead by the end of the third quarter. Jones fired a 12-yard scoring pass to Wayne Pryor in the second quarter. The touchdown was sandwiched around first and third quarter field goals by John Butler.

Once again, John Gromos engineered a fourth quarter rally. Gromos hooked up with Brad Gaines for a 30-yard touchdown pass with 13:17 remaining in the game. The Commodores got the ball back three times, but were unable to penetrate the Tiger defense for the needed score.

The loss nullified great efforts by junior running back Brad Gaines and freshman safety Chris Donnelly. Gaines caught 13 passes for 120 yards. Donnelly tied a Southeastern Conference record with three interceptions.



VANDERBILT	0	0	3	7—10
MEMPHIS STATE	3	7	3	0—13

MSU — Butler 26 FG. MSU — Pryor 12 pass from Jones (Butler kick). VU — Clark 19 FG. MSU — Butler 22 FG. VU — Gaines 30 pass from Gromos (Clark kick).

Smith Provides Gator Bite

FLORIDA 34, VANDERBILT 11

All-America running back Emmitt Smith lived up to his reputation by rushing for 202 yards on 25 carries as the Florida Gators defeated Vanderbilt, 34-11, as 69,121 fans watched at Florida Field.

Florida put the game away in the first half, surging to a 27-3 lead at intermission. Smith rolled up 119 yards by halftime, including a two-yard touchdown run. The Commodores played the Gators evenly in the second half.

The Vanderbilt touchdown came on an 11-yard touchdown run by Tony Jackson. John Gromos was the team's top offensive weapon, completing 15 of 36 passes for 174 yards. Punter David Lawrence helped keep the Gators at bay, booting eight times for a 43-yard average.



VANDERBILT	0	3	0	8—11
FLORIDA	10	17	7	0—34

UF — Czyzewski 23 FG. UF — Smith 2 run (Czyzewski kick). UF — Czyzewski 39 FG. UF — McClendon 4 run (Czyzewski kick). VU — Clark 44 FG. UF — Mills 71 pass from Morris (Czyzewski kick). UF — Morris 5 run (Czyzewski kick). VU — Jackson 11 run (Kubow pass from Gromos).

Hampton Carries Bulldogs

GEORGIA 35, VANDERBILT 16

Stalwart Georgia tailback Rodney Hampton ran for 167 yards and three touchdowns as the Bulldogs defeated the Commodores, 35-16, in front of a Vanderbilt Homecoming crowd of 40,691.

After a scoreless first quarter, Hampton broke loose with scoring runs of three and five yards. The Commodores kept it close at halftime with an 18-yard scoring pass from John Gromos to Corey Harris.

Georgia clinched the verdict with three touchdowns in the third quarter, including a two-yard run by Hampton and two long touchdown passes by Bulldog quarterback Greg Talley.

Gromos led the Commodore offense with 299 yards passing. Brad Gaines had 13 receptions for 168 yards. Harris added a 60-yard touchdown punt return to his 18-yard scoring reception.



GEORGIA	0	14	21	0—35
VANDERBILT	0	7	9	0—16

UG — Hampton 3 run (Kasay kick). UG — Hampton 5 run (Kasay kick). VU — Harris 18 pass from Gromos (Clark kick). VU — Clark 37 FG. UG — Hampton 2 run (Kasay kick). UG — Maxwell 93 pass from Talley (Kasay kick). VU — Harris 60 punt return (pass failed). UG — Warner 43 pass from Talley (Kasay kick).

Rebels Rally in Second Half

MISSISSIPPI 24, VANDERBILT 16

The Mississippi Rebels rallied from a 10-0 halftime deficit to post a 24-16 win as 34,500 fans watched in Vaught-Hemingway Stadium in Oxford, Miss.

The Commodores played a solid first half in posting the 10-0 count at intermission. Johnny Clark made the first of his three field goals and Corey Harris caught a six-yard touchdown pass from John Gromos. Meanwhile, the Commodore defense created three turnovers to keep the Rebel attack quiet.

Mississippi tied the game in the third quarter, however, and won the game in the final stanza. The Rebels went ahead 17-13 on a three-yard run by Russ Shows and a 17-yard scoring jaunt by Tyrone Ashley clinched the verdict.

Freshman tailback Tony Jackson was a bright spot for the Commodores. He totaled 101 yards, including 43 rushing yards and 58 yards on seven pass receptions.



VANDERBILT	3	7	0	6—16
MISSISSIPPI	0	0	10	14—24

VU — Clark 37 FG. VU — Harris 6 pass from Gromos (Clark kick). UM — Lee 37 FG. UM — Darnell 15 run (Hogue kick). VU — Clark 22 FG. UM — Shows 3 run (Hogue kick). VU — Clark 47 FG. UM — Ashley 17 run (Hogue kick).

Virginia Tech Gets Kick From Thomas

VIRGINIA TECH 18, VANDERBILT 0

Mickey Thomas booted a school-record six field goals as Virginia Tech prevailed, 18-0, in a tight defensive struggle before 23,752 fans in Lane Stadium in Blacksburg, Va.

Thomas was perfect on all six attempts, covering distances of 39, 39, 41, 34, 32, and 39 yards. Neither team reached the end zone as both defenses played very well.

Vanderbilt accounted for only 146 yards total offense and Tech mustered just 239 yards. Vanderbilt did cross midfield three times, but the Commodores were unable to sustain the scoring efforts. This game marked the first time the Commodores had been held scoreless since the last game of the 1985 season.



VANDERBILT	0	0	0	0—0
VIRGINIA TECH	0	9	6	3—18

VT — Thomas 39 FG. VT — Thomas 39 FG. VT — Thomas 41 FG. VT — Thomas 34 FG. VT — Thomas 32 FG. VT — Thomas 39 FG.

'Cats Nip Commodores

KENTUCKY 15, VANDERBILT 11

The opportunistic Kentucky Wildcats took advantage of six Vanderbilt ball control mistakes in defeating the Commodores, 15-11, as 39,876 fans looked on in Vanderbilt Stadium.

The Commodores outgained their guests, 317 yards to 262, but the edge was negated by six ball control errors. Kentucky claimed two interceptions, recovered two Commodore fumbles, blocked a punt, and took advantage of a bad Vanderbilt punt snap to claim excellent field position for most of the game.

Despite the field position disadvantage, the Vanderbilt defense played admirably in repulsing the Wildcat advances. Ironically, it was Kentucky's only touchdown — an eight-yard run by Mike Thomas with 8:04 left in the game — which eventually decided the game in the Wildcats' favor. Thomas led all rushers with 96 yards on 20 carries.

Vanderbilt redshirt freshman quarterback Mike Healey accounted for 221 yards in his first collegiate start. He completed 12 of 25 passes for 210 yards and ran for one touchdown.



KENTUCKY	3	3	3	6—15
VANDERBILT	3	2	6	0—11

UK — Willis 29 FG. VU — Clark 23 FG. VU — Safety, Maggard called for intentional grounding in end zone. UK — Willis 24 FG. VU — Healey 2 run (pass failed). UK — Willis 38 FG. UK — Thomas 8 run (pass failed).

Tulane Creates Fourth Quarter Waves

TULANE 37, VANDERBILT 13

The Tulane Green Wave gathered momentum in the second half and rolled to a 37-13 victory before 30,174 fans in Vanderbilt Stadium.

Tulane moved the ball well all game, accounting for 521 yards of total offense. Quarterback Deron Smith threw the ball extremely well, completing 22 of 38 passes for 370 yards and two touchdowns. Wide receiver Jerome McIntosh was all over the field, catching 11 passes for 271 yards, including a 77-yard touchdown. Tulane also capitalized on stalled drives with three field goals by Todd Wiggins.

Despite the offensive fireworks, Vanderbilt stayed in the game until late in the fourth quarter. A 26-yard touchdown pass from Mike Healey to Corey Harris closed the count to 20-13, but the Green Wave exploded for 17 points in the final 6:25 to clinch the victory.



TULANE	7	3	10	17—37
VANDERBILT	3	3	0	7—13

VU — Clark 45 FG. TU — McIntosh 77 pass from Smith (Wiggins kick). TU — Wiggins 40 FG. VU — Clark 25 FG. TU — Toney 10 pass from Smith (Wiggins kick). TU — Wiggins 21 FG. VU — Harris 26 pass from Healey (Clark kick). TU — Price 93 kickoff return (Wiggins kick). TU — Strickland 16 run (Wiggins kick). TU — Wiggins 36 FG.

Volunteers Take Intrastate Finale

TENNESSEE 17, VANDERBILT 10

The annual intrastate regular season finale went in favor of Tennessee as the Volunteers defeated Vanderbilt, 17-10, before a Neyland Stadium crowd of 92,975 and a national cable television audience on WTBS.

Vanderbilt struck first with a 35-yard Johnny Clark field goal. Tennessee knotted the count with a second quarter field goal before Brad Gaines crashed in from the one-yard line to give the Commodores a 10-3 lead at halftime.

The second half belonged to the Volunteers, but not without a fight. Tennessee tailback Tony Thompson picked up 94 of his 128 rushing yards in the second half and the Vols mounted two drives for touchdowns. Thompson scored the game-winner from one yard out with 7:11 left in the game.

Sophomore Anthony Carter had his best game as a collegian, totaling 69 rushing yards on 11 carries. Brad Gaines and Corey Harris each caught six passes.



VANDERBILT	3	7	0	0—10
TENNESSEE	3	0	7	7—17

VU — Clark 35 FG. UT — Burke 36 FG. VU — Gaines 1 run (Clark kick). UT — Pickens 4 pass from Kelly (Burke kick). UT — Thompson 1 run (Burke kick).

VANDERBILT MEDIA OUTLETS

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Joe Fisher, Assistant (Channel 4, NBC)	749-2231
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Mark Howard, Assistant (Channel 5, CBC)	248-5285

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Duncan Stewart, George Plaster, WSIX, 21 Music Square West, Nashville, 37203	664-2400
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