

1991 In Review

SYRACUSE 37, VANDERBILT 10

The powerful Syracuse Orangemen broke open a tight game with 21 third quarter points and went on to defeat Vanderbilt, 37-10, before 35,541 fans in the Carrier Dome.

Syracuse led just 13-10 at halftime but the Orange defense sparked a surge. Tony Montemorra picked up a VU fumble and ran 37 yards for a touchdown. The Orange forced another fumble and scored on the next play when Qadry Ismail raced 31 yards on a reverse. A long punt return set up the Orange for another short TD drive.

Syracuse limited Vanderbilt to 258 yards of offense. Corey Harris rushed for 55 yards and one touchdown. Jeff Brothers, making his first collegiate start, completed nine of 14 passes for 147 yards.

Vanderbilt jumped out to a 7-0 lead on Harris' three-yard run in the first quarter. Jeff Owen increased the lead to 10-3 with a 34-yard field goal in the second quarter. Syracuse scored 10 quick points just before intermission and put the game away in the third quarter. Syracuse used a versatile attack to pile up 492 yards of offense.



VANDERBILT	7	3	0	0—10
SYRACUSE	0	13	21	3—37

VU—Harris 3 run (Owen kick). SU—Biskup 48 FG. VU—Owen 34 FG. SU—Gedney 34 pass from Graves (Biskup kick). SU—Biskup 40 FG. SU—Montemorra 37 fumble return (Biskup kick). SU—Ismail 31 run (Biskup kick). SU—Wooten 1 run (Biskup kick). SU—Biskup 37 FG.

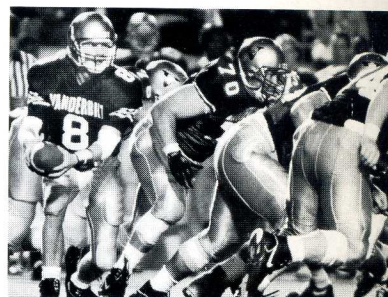
VANDERBILT 14, SOUTHERN METHODIST 11

Vanderbilt posted its first victory of the Gerry DiNardo era with a 14-11 triumph over Southern Methodist before 31,104 fans in Vanderbilt Stadium.

The story of the night was the Vanderbilt defense. The Commodore defenders scored a touchdown of their own and kept the Mustangs out of the end zone until late in the game.

Vanderbilt broke on top with a 32-yard Carlos Thomas run in the first quarter. The lead increased to 14-0 in the third quarter when Rico Francis intercepted a pass and ran it in from 31 yards. SMU narrowed the score to 14-11 with 1:16 left in the game, but Vanderbilt recovered the onside kick and ran out the clock.

Corey Harris had a career-high 91 yards rushing. Quarterback Marcus Wilson rushed for 65 yards and Thomas accumulated 42. SMU quarterback Mike Romo passed for 200 yards and running back Larry Wilson led all rushers with 154 yards, but the Commodores created four turnovers and roped the Mustangs when necessary.



SOUTHERN METHODIST	0	0	3	8—11
VANDERBILT	7	0	7	0—14

VU—Thomas 32 run (Owen kick). VU—Francis 31 interception return (Owen kick). SMU—Anderson 30 FG. SMU—Wolf 3 pass from Romo (Wolf pass from Romo).

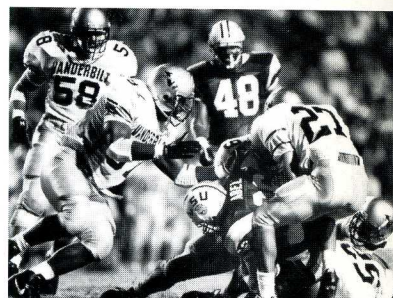
LOUISIANA STATE 16, VANDERBILT 14

Louisiana State forced a late fumble, preventing a potential game-winning Vanderbilt score, as the Tigers defeated the Commodores, 16-14, before 64,341 fans in Tiger Stadium.

Pedro Suarez' 31-yard field goal put the Tigers ahead, 16-14, with 7:22 remaining. Vanderbilt drove 70 yards to the Tiger two-yard line before Ricardo Washington knocked loose the decisive fumble with a minute to play. The Tigers recovered and held on to win.

For the second straight week, the Vanderbilt defense made a strong showing. VU limited LSU to 224 yards of offense and did not allow a touchdown. LSU got its points on three Suarez field goals and an interception return for a touchdown by Washington.

Tailback Corey Harris posted a career rushing high for the second consecutive week, running for 113 yards and a touchdown. Fullback Carlos Thomas added 60 yards.



VANDERBILT	7	0	7	0—14
LOUISIANA STATE	0	3	0	3—16

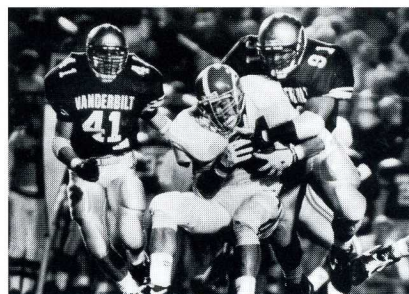
VU—Carter 29 pass from Wilson (Owen kick). LSU—Suarez 48 FG. LSU—Washington 28 interception return (Suarez kick). VU—Harris 15 run (Owen kick). LSU—Suarez 26 FG. LSU—Suarez 31 FG.

ALABAMA 48, VANDERBILT 17

The pinpoint passing of Danny Woodson, the rushing of Siran Stacy, and the elusiveness of David Palmer carried Alabama to a 48-17 win before 40,736 fans in Vanderbilt Stadium.

Woodson connected on 13 of 15 passes for 167 yards and a touchdown. Stacy rushed for 180 yards and a touchdown. The versatile Palmer accounted for 212 total yards on kick returns, pass receiving, and rushing. Palmer tallied the game's first score on a 27-yard pass reception and also had a 56-yard punt return for a TD to give Alabama a 21-3 halftime lead.

Mike Healey got the Commodore offense in gear in the fourth quarter. Healey led the Commodores to a pair of touchdowns on a 51-yard pass to Derrick Payne and Healey himself scored on a 15-yard run.



ALABAMA	14	7	14	13—48
VANDERBILT	0	3	0	14—17

UA—Palmer 27 pass from Woodson (Green kick). UA—Turner 7 run (Green kick). VU—Owen 19 FG. UA—Palmer 56 punt return (Green kick). UA—Stacy 8 run (Green kick). UA—Spikes 1 run (Green kick). UA—Lassic 18 run (Green kick). VU—Payne 51 pass from Healey (Owen kick). UA—Williams 5 run (kick missed). VU—Healey 15 run (Owen kick).

DUKE 17, VANDERBILT 13

Five Vanderbilt turnovers scuttled the Commodore cause as Duke nipped Vanderbilt, 17-13, before 20,600 fans at Wallace Wade Stadium. This was the first of four consecutive games decided by four or less points.

Vanderbilt led 7-3 at halftime. The Commodores fumbled on the first possession of the second half, however, and Duke went ahead for good on a 36-yard touchdown pass. Later in the quarter, Duke upped its lead 17-7 after a short touchdown drive. Vanderbilt did not tally again until an 86-yard bomb from Mike Healey to Clarence Sevillian with nine seconds remaining in the game.

The statistics were evenly matched with the exception of the turnovers. Healey completed 10 of 20 passes for 197 yards and a touchdown. Corey Harris rushed for 76 yards. Duke quarterback Dave Brown threw for 189 yards and a touchdown. Duke's Ray Wright led all rushers with 87 yards and a TD.



VANDERBILT	7	0	0	6—13
DUKE	3	0	14	0—17

VU—Healey 1 run (Owen kick). DU—Gardner 31 FG. DU—Breedlove 36 pass from Brown (Gardner kick). DU—Wright 11 run (Gardner kick). VU—Sevillian 86 pass from Healey (pass failed).

AUBURN 24, VANDERBILT 22

Jim Von Wyl's 27-yard field goal with 1:27 left in the game provided the winning points as Auburn defeated Vanderbilt, 24-22, in front of 32,772 Vanderbilt Stadium fans.

Von Wyl's field goal ruined a marvelous Commodore comeback. Trailing 21-10 at halftime, Marcus Wilson scored two touchdowns in the third quarter to put the Commodores ahead, 22-21. Vanderbilt got the ball back four times after that, but was unable to score the game-clinching touchdown. Thomas Bailey's 44-yard punt return put the Tigers in field goal range late in the game and Von Wyl converted the game-winner.

Wilson sparked the Commodore offense by passing for 161 yards and rushing for 94 yards and all three VU touchdowns. Auburn QB Stan White completed 10 of 18 for 125 yards. Tailback Alex Smith rushed for 115 yards on only eight carries, including a 73-yard TD jaunt on a 3rd-and-27 situation in the first half.



AUBURN	6	15	0	3—24
VANDERBILT	7	3	12	0—22

VU—Wilson 1 run (Owen kick). AU—Brown 1 run (kick missed). AU—Smith 73 run (Mounds run). AU—McMillon 3 run (Von Wyl kick). VU—Owen 37 FG. VU—Wilson 7 run (run failed). VU—Wilson 9 run (run failed). AU—Von Wyl 27 FG.

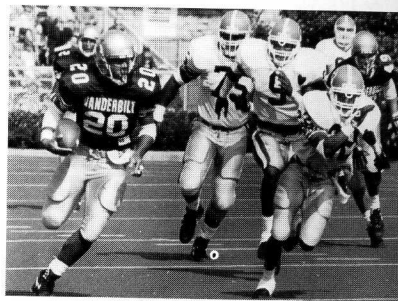
VANDERBILT 27, GEORGIA 25

The Vanderbilt started its four-game winning streak with a 27-25 cliffhanger over Georgia before a Homecoming crowd of 34,248 fans in Vanderbilt Stadium.

For the third consecutive week, the verdict was in doubt until the final minute. It was Vanderbilt's first victory over Georgia since 1973.

The Bulldogs bit early by scoring on their first two possessions, and after trading field goals, led 17-3. The Commodores rallied with 24 unanswered points to take a 27-17 advantage in the fourth quarter. Georgia fought back by scoring a TD and two-point conversion, holding Vanderbilt, then driving for the potential game-winning field goal. But the Bulldogs missed from 48 yards, received a VU offside penalty, and missed from 43.

Vanderbilt's I-Bone offense had its best rushing day of the season by gaining 376 yards on the ground. SEC Player of the Week Corey Harris had a career high 169 yards and fullback Sam Chalmers also eclipsed the century mark with 111 yards.



GEORGIA	14	3	0	8—25
VANDERBILT	3	7	10	7—27

UG—Zeier 1 run (Peterson kick). UG—Hearst 45 run (Peterson kick). VU—Owen 40 FG. UG—Parkman 20 FG. VU—Chalmers 14 run (Owen kick). VU—Owen 50 FG. VU—Harris 51 run (Owen kick). VU—Wilson 6 run (Owen kick). UG—Hastings 4 pass from Talley (Hearst pass from Talley).

VANDERBILT 30, MISSISSIPPI 27

Placekicker Jeff Owen split the uprights with from 42 yards away with 22 seconds left to give Vanderbilt a 30-27 win over Mississippi in front of 32,000 fans in Vaught-Hemingway Stadium.

It was Vanderbilt's first road win since 1988 and first SEC road triumph since 1984. Owen was the hero of the day, nailing each of his field goal attempts from 45, 37, and 42 yards. It was an ironic win for Owen, whose father and older brother each had played for the Rebels.

Mississippi return ace Vincent Brownlee was the Rebels' star of the day. Brownlee returned a punt 78 yards to set up a field goal in the third quarter, then in the fourth quarter he went 54 yards for a punt return touchdown.

The one-two punch of Marcus Wilson and Corey Harris was potent again. Wilson ran for two touchdowns and a two-point conversion and threw a 45-yard TD pass to Clarence Sevellian. Harris led all rushers with 78 yards.



VANDERBILT	3	10	6	11—30
MISSISSIPPI	7	7	6	7—27

VU—Owen 45 FG. UM—Ashley 8 run (Lee kick). VU—Wilson 3 run (Owen kick). UM—Armstrong 69 pass from Luke (Lee kick). VU—Owen 37 FG. VU—Sevellian 45 pass from Wilson (pass failed). UM—Lee 38 FG. UM—Lee 24 FG. UM—Brownlee 54 punt return (Lee kick). VU—Wilson 14 run (Wilson run). VU—Owen 42 FG.

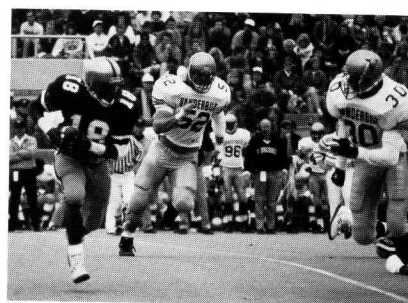
VANDERBILT 41, ARMY 10

Vanderbilt scored on each of its first seven possessions in defeating Army, 41-10, as 35,112 fans watched in West Point's Michie Stadium.

Everything clicked offensively for the Commodores. Quarterback Marcus Wilson engineered all seven scoring drives, running for three touchdowns and passing for another. For the fourth time this season, tailback Corey Harris set a new career high rushing mark. Harris rambled for 180 yards and a touchdown and left the game before the end of the third quarter. Jeff Owen made both field goal tries, giving him a streak of six consecutive field goals made.

The Commodore defense also made its mark, forcing four turnovers and limiting Army to 254 yards total offense.

The wins over Mississippi and Army gave the Commodores their first consecutive road victories since 1984.



VANDERBILT	21	13	7	0—41
ARMY	3	0	0	7—10

VU—Wilson 3 run (Owen kick). VU—Harris 9 run (Owen kick). ARMY—Malcom 38 FG. VU—Wilson 1 run (Owen kick). VU—Sevellian 6 pass from Wilson (Owen kick). VU—Owen 41 FG. VU—Owen 35 FG. VU—Wilson 2 run (Owen kick). ARMY—Williams 10 run (Malcom kick).

VANDERBILT 17, KENTUCKY 7

Vanderbilt ground out a season high 386 rushing yards and controlled the clock for 41 minutes en route to a 17-7 win over Kentucky before 40,168 fans in Vanderbilt Stadium. The fourth consecutive win marked Vanderbilt's longest winning streak since 1984.

Vanderbilt moved the ball well all day, but a missed field goal and a goal line fumble kept the Commodores off the scoreboard until the last play of the first half, when Jeff Owen connected on a 20-yard field goal.

An 18-play, 94-yard drive in the third quarter was capped by Marcus Wilson's three-yard run. Wilson gave the Commodores more breathing room by scoring from two yards out on the next possession. Wilson had a season-high 107 yards while Corey Harris led all rushers with 157 yards.

Meanwhile, the Commodore defense had its finest game of the season. Kentucky amassed only 216 yards total offense, including just 55 yards in the first three quarters. The Wildcats didn't score until the final minute of play.



KENTUCKY	0	0	0	7-7
VANDERBILT	0	3	7	7-17

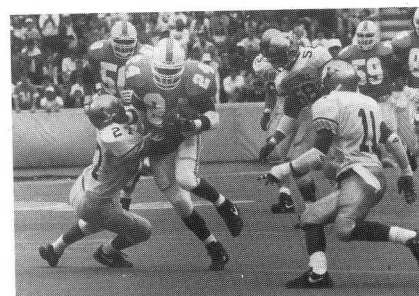
VU—Owen 20 FG. VU—Wilson 2 run (Owen kick). VU—Wilson 5 run (Owen kick). UK—Johnson 28 pass from Hockman (Pelfrey kick).

TENNESSEE 45, VANDERBILT 0

Vanderbilt's bid for its first winning season since 1982 fell short as the Fiesta Bowl-bound Tennessee Volunteers defeated Vanderbilt, 45-0, in front of 94,976 fans in Neyland Stadium.

Tennessee piled up 606 yards total offense, including 415 on the ground. Three Volunteers ran for more than 100 yards, James Stewart (145 yards, two touchdowns), Aaron Hayden (119), and Mose Phillips (107). Andy Kelly hit 11 of 18 passes for 137 yards and two touchdowns.

Tennessee limited Vanderbilt to 231 yards total offense. Corey Harris rushed for 88 yards and he broke the Vanderbilt single season rushing record with 1,103 yards.



VANDERBILT	0	0	0	0-0
TENNESSEE	14	10	14	7-45

UT—Stewart 1 run (Becksvort kick). UT—Fleming 12 pass from Kelly (Becksvort kick). UT—Becksvort 41 FG. UT—Bradley 27 pass from Kelly (Becksvort kick). UT—Stewart 8 run (Becksvort kick). UT—Davis 32 run (Becksvort kick). UT—Faulkner 14 pass from Shuler (Becksvort kick).

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linebacker. Sam Chalmers was switched to an inside linebackers spot last spring and made vast strides. The 6-2, 231-pound Chalmers ranks as the strongest player on the team.

Sophomore letterman Ricky Melton won the other inside linebacker spot during spring practice. Fellow sophomore Steve Breazeale could also see action at linebacker if he can avoid the injury bug.

The secondary is highly experienced with three returning starters. All-SEC candidate Robert Davis and senior Robbie Young are solid at the cornerback spots. Davis led Vanderbilt with four interceptions for 103 yards last year. Young had two thefts, including one that set up the winning field goal against Ole Miss.

Aaron Smith led the secondary in tackles last year with 67 stops from the free safety position. He was moved to strong safety in the spring and converted quarterback Jeff Brothers earned the starting free safety job.

