

# VANDERBILT GAME NOTES

## THE COMMODORES' FIRST ROAD GAME OF 2007

### VANDERBILT SCHEDULE

Sept. 1	<b>Richmond</b>	W	41-17
Sept. 8	<b>ALABAMA</b> (TV-LF Sports)	L	10-24
Sept. 15	<b>OLE MISS</b> (PPV)	W	31-17
Sept. 29	<b>Eastern Michigan</b>	W	30-7
Oct. 6	@ Auburn (LF Sports)		11:30 am
Oct. 13	<b>GEORGIA</b> (ESPN2)		5:00 pm
Oct. 20	@ South Carolina		TBA
Oct. 27	<b>Miami (Ohio)</b>		1:00 pm
Nov. 3	@ Florida		TBA
Nov. 10	<b>KENTUCKY</b>		TBA
Nov. 17	@ Tennessee		TBA
Nov. 24	<b>Wake Forest</b>		1:00 pm

All Kickoff Times - CST

### A STRANGE SERIES

Vanderbilt's football good fortune in the Auburn series is long overdue – though the all-time series is even at 19-19-1, the Commodores have lost the last 12 games played dating back to a victory in the 1955 Gator Bowl.

### 'DORES VS. THE SEC WEST

Vanderbilt is seeking its fourth victory against an SEC Western Division foe in the last three years. The Commodores have defeated Ole Miss twice (2005, 2007) and Arkansas in 2005.

### GEORGIA-VANDY ON ESPN2

After facing Auburn, the Commodores return to Nashville for another key SEC match against Georgia on Saturday, Oct. 13. The Georgia game serves as homecoming on the Vanderbilt campus and will feature an ESPN2 national television audience. Kickoff is 5:00 p.m.

Vanderbilt officials announced Monday that the Vanderbilt-Georgia game was sold out.

### VANDERBILT SID STAFF

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## GAME 5 VANDERBILT AT AUBURN (3-1, 1-1) (3-2, 1-1)

### COMMODORE STORYLINES

★ How Vanderbilt has fared in the Auburn series.  
- 'Dores vs. the Tigers...Page 2

★ Statistical comparison between the Commodores and Tigers.  
- How the teams compare...Page 3

★ Vanderbilt defense posts consecutive strong performance.  
- More on Commodore defense...Page 4

★ 'Dores register five INTs vs. Eastern Michigan; most in 14 years.  
Vanderbilt shares SEC lead in INTs...Page 5

★ Earl Bennett closes in on Southeastern Conference receiving mark.  
- More on Bennett's achievements...Page 7

★ How former Commodores fared in the NFL on Sunday.  
- 'Dores in the Pros...Page 8

★ Charting Bobby Johnson's coaching accomplishments, all-time record.  
- More on Vanderbilt Head Coach...Page 10



### KICKOFF INFORMATION

**DATE:** Saturday, Oct. 6, 2007

**KICKOFF:** 11:30 a.m., CST

**STADIUM:** Jordan-Hare Stadium

**LOCATION:** Auburn, Ala.

**RADIO:** Vanderbilt Radio Network;  
Flagship Station – 104.5 "The Zone"

**COMMODORE RADIO CREW:**

Joe Fisher, play-by-play;

John Gromos, color analyst;

Kevin Ingram, sidelines reporter

**SIRIUS RADIO CHANNEL:** 119

**TV:** Lincoln Financial Sports (Southeast U.S.)

**LINCOLN FINANCIAL SPORTS CREW:**

Dave Neal, play-by-play;

Dave Archer, color analyst;

Dave Baker, sidelines reporter

### QUICK FACTS ON THE UNIVERSITIES

<u>VANDERBILT</u>	<u>AUBURN</u>
Nashville, Tenn.	Auburn, Ala.
1873	1856
6,402	23,547
Southeastern	Southeastern
Commodores	Tigers
Black & Gold	Burnt Orange & Navy Blue
Vanderbilt Stadium	Jordan-Hare Stadium
39,773	87,451
natural grass	natural grass
Bobby Johnson (6th)	Tommy Tuberville (9th)
Clemson, 1973	So. Arkansas, 1976
78-80 (.494)	99-51 (.660)
<a href="http://vucommodes.com">vucommodes.com</a>	<a href="http://auburntigers.com">auburntigers.com</a>



# GAME NOTES

## COMMODORES GO ON THE ROAD

After hosting four games to open the season, Vanderbilt will become the last of 12 Southeastern Conference teams to hit the road when they journey south to Alabama to play Auburn.

This marks the latest Vanderbilt has waited for its first road game since 2001. That year Vanderbilt's first road foe, South Carolina, came in the sixth game of the year. It was also the year that SEC and university officials postponed all games on Sept. 15 due to the tragic events of Sept. 11. The Vanderbilt at Ole Miss game originally slated for that date eventually was played as the season finale on Dec. 1, 2001.

## THREE HOME WINS FOR COMMODORES

With home victories over Richmond, Ole Miss and Eastern Michigan this season, the Commodores have posted three wins in Vanderbilt Stadium for the first time in more than a decade.

It marks the first time since 1993 that Vanderbilt has won at least three home victories. In 1993, the Commodores topped Cincinnati (17-7), Kentucky (12-7) and Navy (41-7). After the 1993 season, Vanderbilt was awarded a fourth home win – a forfeit over Alabama.

Since the team's 1982 Hall of Fame Bowl season, which included six home wins, the Commodores have posted at least three home victories in four different years: 1984 (3 wins), 1987 (4 wins), 1991 (3 wins) and 1993 (4 wins).

## 'DORES HAVE RECENT ROAD SUCCESSES

Several of the biggest wins in Bobby Johnson's Vanderbilt tenure have come on the road.

Under Johnson, three signature Vanderbilt's victories have been in front of hostile crowds: 28-24 over Arkansas in Fayetteville (Sept. 10, 2005), 28-24 over Tennessee in Knoxville (Nov. 19, 2005), and 24-22 over No. 22 Georgia in Athens (Oct. 14, 2006). The Commodores have also defeated a pair of Atlantic Coast Conference foes – Wake Forest (28-24 on Sept. 1, 2005) and Duke (45-28 on Oct. 28, 2006) – while playing away from Nashville.

Since the 2005 opener, Vanderbilt is 5-6 overall on the road.

## VANDERBILT ON REGIONAL TELEVISION

Vanderbilt is 3-4 in its last seven appearances on Lincoln Financial Sports television. The Auburn game will be shown on LF Sports affiliates.

The Commodores are 0-1 on LF Sports this season, having lost a 24-10 decision to Alabama in Nashville.

Last year, Vanderbilt was 1-3 on LF Sports, winning at Georgia (24-22) and losing to Arkansas (19-21), Florida (19-25) and Tennessee (10-39) in Nashville.

In 2005, Vanderbilt won both regional appearances on LF Sports – 28-24 at Tennessee and 31-23 vs. Ole Miss.

## FIVE STRAIGHT WINS VS. NON-SEC TEAMS

The Commodores' 30-7 win over Eastern Michigan was its fifth straight against a non-Southeastern Conference member.

The Commodores have defeated Tennessee State (38-9, Sept. 23, 2006), Temple (43-14, Sept. 30, 2006), Duke (45-28, Oct. 28, 2006), Richmond (41-17, Sept. 1, 2007) and Eastern Michigan since opening the 2006 season with a 27-7 loss at Michigan in front of an ESPN national audience.

## VANDERBILT-AUBURN SERIES HISTORY

- ★ Meeting Between Schools: 40th
- ★ Series Record: Vanderbilt trails, 19-19-1
- ★ Last Meeting: Vanderbilt 7, Auburn 45 (2003)
- ★ First Meeting: Vanderbilt 10, Auburn 30 (1893)
- ★ Last Game in Nashville: Vanderbilt 7, Auburn 45 (2003)
- ★ Last Game in Auburn, Ala.: Vanderbilt 6, Auburn 31, (2002)
- ★ Vanderbilt Series Record in Nashville: 10-7
- ★ VU Series Record in Games Played in Auburn: 0-7
- ★ VU Series Record in Games Played in Montgomery: 4-1
- ★ VU Series Record in Games Played in Birmingham: 4-4-1
- ★ VU Series Record in Games Played in Alabama: 8-12-1
- ★ Bobby Johnson vs. Auburn: 0-1
- ★ Johnson vs. Auburn Coach Tommy Tuberville: 0-1

## VANDERBILT-AUBURN SERIES NOTES

The Vanderbilt-Auburn series can best be described as unique. Though the series looks truly even – the teams are 19-19-1 all-time – it's an affair the Commodores have struggled to win for five decades.

Auburn has captured the last 12 games played between the schools. The Vanderbilt losing streak dates back to the Commodores' only bowl victory – a 25-13 win over No. 8-ranked Auburn in the 1955 Gator Bowl. That Vanderbilt win in Jacksonville, Fla., featured five Auburn fumbles – all recovered by the Commodores.

Vanderbilt has yet to defeat the Tigers in seven tries in Auburn.

Since the Gator Bowl, Auburn has captured the 12 meetings with Vanderbilt by an average margin of 24.4 points. Only three of the last 12 games have featured a winning Tiger margin of less than 17 points – 24-22 in 1991, 14-10 in 1993 and 24-21 in 2001.

The 2001 game was full of excitement as Vanderbilt used a 173-yard rushing performance by tailback Lew Thomas to stay in contention only to fail on a fake field goal in the closing seconds from the Auburn 26-yard line.

The Commodores dominated early in the series, holding a 19-7-1 advantage through the 1955 Gator Bowl. Vanderbilt captured eight straight over the Tigers from 1929-50.

## SMITH IS SEC COMMUNITY SERVICE RECIPIENT

Commodore wide receiver **George Smith**, an individual who has overcome significant health issues to have a productive playing career, will be featured as the Southeastern Conference Community Service Team Player of the Week on this weekend's Lincoln Financial Sports telecast of the Vanderbilt-Auburn game.

Smith, who nearly died three years ago from spinal cord inflammation resulting from acute transverse myelitis, frequently shares his experiences with young patients suffering from the illness at Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt. Smith has inspired several Nashville patients and their families, sharing how doctors discovered the viral illness, and how he made a full recovery after months of physical therapy, rehabilitation and exercise.

Smith, a redshirt junior from Pembroke Hills, Fla., also mentors to students at St. Bernard's School near Vanderbilt, and has worked as a volunteer summer camp counselor with the highly regarded Backfield in Motion effort that aids under-privileged kids in the Nashville metro area. He has also assisted with food basket drives in East Nashville.

# GAME NOTES

## TEAM STATISTICAL COMPARISONS

	VANDERBILT	AUBURN
	(AFTER WEEK 5)	
<b>TEAM RECORD</b>	3-1/1-1	3-2/1-1
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	112	135
<b>TOUCHDOWNS SCORED</b>	13	16
<b>POINTS ALLOWED</b>	65	95
<b>TOUCHDOWNS ALLOWED</b>	7	10
<b>FIRST DOWNS</b>	80	91
RUSHING	36	38
PASSING	39	43
PENALTY	5	10
<b>RUSHING YARDAGE</b>	575	731
YARDS GAINED RUSHING	679	916
YARDS LOST RUSHING	[104]	[185]
RUSHING ATTEMPTS	154	209
AVERAGE PER RUSH	3.7	3.5
AVERAGE PER GAME	143.8	146.2
TDs RUSHING	5	10
<b>PASSING YARDAGE</b>	827	921
<b>ATT-COMP-INT</b>	121-69-5	137-76-7
AVERAGE PER PASS	6.8	6.7
AVERAGE PER CATCH	12.0	12.1
AVERAGE PER GAME	206.8	184.2
TDs PASSING	7	4
<b>TOTAL OFFENSE</b>	1402	1652
TOTAL PLAYS	275	346
AVERAGE PER PLAY	5.1	4.8
AVERAGE PER GAME	350.5	330.4
<b>PUNT RETURNS: #-YARDS</b>	9-102	14-172
AVERAGE PUNT RETURN	11.3	12.3
<b>KICK RETURNS: #-YARDS</b>	14-340	22-471
AVERAGE KICK RETURN	24.3	21.4
<b>INTERCEPTION RETURNS: #-YARDS</b>	10-59	6-76
AVERAGE INT. RETURN	5.9	12.7
<b>FUMBLES/FUMBLES LOST</b>	11-2	10-7
<b>OPP. FUMBLES/FUMBLES RECOVERED</b>	4-1	10-6
<b>PENALTIES-YARDS</b>	23-215	31-263
AVERAGE PER GAME	53.8	52.6
<b>PUNTS-YARDS</b>	15-539	25-1110
AVERAGE PER PUNT	35.9	44.4
NET PUNT AVERAGE	29.3	38.9
<b>TIME OF POSSESSION/GAME</b>	30:10	30:16
<b>3RD-DOWN CONVERSIONS</b>	25/61	25/71
3RD DOWN PCT.	41%	35%
<b>4TH-DOWN CONVERSIONS</b>	6/9	4/7
4TH DOWN PCT.	67%	57%
<b>FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS</b>	7/10	8/10

## TWO ALABAMA PREP STARS AT VANDERBILT

Two of the last four Alabama all-classification Mr. Football Award recipients – **Nickson** in 2003 and **Larry Smith** in 2006 – will be in a Vanderbilt jersey on Saturday. The honor annually is given to Alabama's top prep player.

Nickson, the Commodores' starting QB, guided Pike County H.S. to the 2003 3A state title, piling up incredible stats along the way. Smith, a 2007 Vanderbilt signee, produced similar results for Prattville H.S. near Montgomery, guiding the squad to a 15-0 record and the 6A state title. Smith has been impressive at practices as a first-year quarterback prospect.

## PREP TEAMMATES PLENTIFUL ON SATURDAY

Several Commodore players will face former prep teammates when Vanderbilt and Auburn play this Saturday.

★ Two opposing freshman receivers – Vanderbilt's **Udom Umoh** and Auburn's **Chris Slaughter** – were standout performers for state champion Peach County (Ga.) H.S.

★ Commodore redshirt freshman TE **Justin Green** and Auburn DB **Zac Etheridge** were classmates at Charles Henderson H.S. in Troy, Ala.

★ Vanderbilt senior center **Hamilton Holliday** and Auburn freshman TE **Bailey Woods** both attended Walton H.S. in Marietta, Ga.

★ Commodore redshirt sophomore safety **Joel Caldwell** attended powerful Hoover (Ala.) H.S., as did Auburn freshman **OL Ryan Pugh**.

★ Vanderbilt LB **Chris Johnson** and Auburn punter **Ryan Shoemaker** were teammates at Oak Mountain H.S. near Birmingham.

★ Vanderbilt redshirt sophomore walk-on OL **Nick Forte** was a prep teammate of three Tigers – OT **King Dunlap**, OG **Mike Berry** and DE **A.J. Greene** – at Brentwood Academy just south of Nashville.

★ Vanderbilt redshirt freshman center **Joey Bailey** starred at Hewitt-Trussville H.S. near Birmingham, the same school that produced Auburn QB **Brandon Cox**.

★ Vanderbilt freshman OT **Kyle Fischer** and Auburn senior OG **Leon Hart** both starred at Spring Valley H.S. in Columbia, S.C.

## NICKSON NO. 7 ALL-TIME IN TOTAL OFFENSE

Junior QB **Chris Nickson**, in his second year as a starter, has moved into the Vanderbilt all-time Top 10 in passing yardage and total offense.

In the Eastern Michigan game, Nickson surpassed Marcus Wilson (1989-92) into seventh place with 3,692 yards of total offense. He also ranks No. 9 all-time with 2,817 passing yards.

### CAREER LEADERS – TOTAL OFFENSE

QUARTERBACK	RUSHES	YARDS	PASSES	YARDS	PLAYS	TOT. YDS
1. Jay Cutler, 2002-05	453	1,256	1,242	8,697	1,695	9,953
2. Greg Zolman, 1998-01	228	-274	1,156	7,981	1,384	7,607
3. Whit Taylor, 1979-82	331	420	1,016	6,307	1,347	6,727
4. Eric Jones, 1986-88	389	1,211	661	5,029	1,050	6,240
5. Kurt Page, 1981-84	116	-225	936	6,233	1,052	6,008
6. Damian Allen, 1994-97	241	29	699	3,704	940	3,888
7. <b>Chris Nickson, 2005-07</b>	199	875	391	2,817	590	3,692

# 2007 PARTICIPATION ★ NOTES

## SUPERLATIVES FROM WIN OVER E. MICHIGAN

**ANOTHER STRONG DEFENSIVE EFFORT** The Commodore defense put together another strong defensive effort in Vanderbilt's 30-7 victory over Eastern Michigan on Sept. 29.

The defense limited Eastern Michigan to just 10 first downs and 173 total yards – both season lows for the unit. EMU did not have a possession that crossed midfield during the first half, earning just four first downs and 43 total yards before intermission.

In its previous game, Vanderbilt limited Ole Miss to 262 total yards.

The EMU effort marked the strongest Vanderbilt defensive performance – in terms of total yardage by an opponent – since the Commodores limited Chattanooga to 93 total yards in a 51-6 victory on Sept. 6, 2003.

It marks the fewest points allowed by a Vanderbilt squad since Eastern Kentucky managed a touchdown in a 19-7 Commodore victory on Oct. 23, 2004. The last time Vanderbilt held a FBS Bowl Subdivision opponent to seven points or less came on Sept. 23, 2000 (27-6 victory over Duke).

The effort against Eastern Michigan moves Vanderbilt's defense up in various statistical categories as the Commodores enter the strength of their schedule. Among SEC teams, Vanderbilt ranks third in scoring defense (16.2 ppg), second in total defense (279 ypg), third in passing defense (157.3 ypg) and fifth in rushing defense (121.5 ypg).

The Commodores also rank third in defensive pass efficiency and share the SEC interception lead (10) with LSU.

The unit also has been effective in limiting first downs (2nd in SEC with 15.8 pg), and third-down conversions (6th in SEC, 34.5% success rate by opponents), and collecting quarterback sacks (4th in SEC with 10).

Nationally, the unit ranks 17th in both scoring defense and total defense.

**HAHNFELDT KICKING IMPROVES** After making just 47% of his field goals last year (8/17) while recovering from knee surgery, junior **Bryant Hahnfeldt** has hit on seven of 10 attempts this season.

Hahnfeldt matched his single-game career high with three field goals against EMU – from 22, 27 and a season-long 45 yards.

**JACKSON-GARRISON CARRIES LOAD** Forced to carry a heavier load due to the two-game absence of **Jeff Jennings**, senior TB **Cassen Jackson-Garrison** has stepped forward with consecutive solid performances. After gaining 76 rushing yards against EMU to lead the Commodore attack, Jackson-Garrison is averaging 97.5 rushing yards in the victories over Ole Miss and Eastern Michigan. He has also matched a single-game career high with 23 rushing attempts in both games.

**IMPROVED SPECIAL TEAMS PERFORMANCE** The Commodores have shown steady improvement across the board in special teams after opening the season sluggishly.

The Commodores rank fourth in the SEC in kickoff returns (24.3 yards) and fifth in punt returns (11.3 yards). The team's primary returners, punt returner **Earl Bennett** and kickoff specialist **D.J. Moore**, rank 25th and 33rd in the nation, respectively.

In the kicking game, **Hahnfeldt** is converting field goals at a 70% clip (7/10) while punter **Brett Upson** started slowly but has rebounded. He has allowed just three returns through the first four games – and none in the last two outings.

## VANDERBILT ACTIVE PLAYER PARTICIPATION

PLAYER	POSITION	2007	2007	CAREER	CAREER	CONSECUTIVE
		GAMES PLAYED	STARTS	GAMES PLAYED	STARTS	CAREER STARTS
Mackenzi Adams	QB	4	-	17	-	-
Brad Allen	TE	4	3	26	9	5
Josh Allen	CB	3	-	26	9	-
Bryant Anderson	WR	4	-	25	1	-
Joey Bailey	C	3	-	3	-	-
Earl Bennett	WR	4	4	27	24	24
Patrick Benoist	LB	1	-	10	-	-
Greg Billinger	DT	4	-	16	-	-
Jake Bradford	TE	4	-	16	-	-
Brandon Bryant	LB	4	2	16	2	-
Matt Bubis	FB	4	-	6	-	-
Marcus Buggs	LB	4	4	37	20	17
Joel Caldwell	CB	4	-	14	11	-
Nate Campbell	LB	4	-	4	-	-
Ryan Custer	OG	4	-	16	2	-
Josh Eames	OL	4	4	30	24	6
Jared Fagan	CB	4	-	27	2	-
Michael Garcia	LB	4	-	4	-	-
Drew Gardner	OL	3	-	9	-	-
Curtis Gatewood	DE	4	4	38	16	16
Jonathan Goff	LB	4	4	37	32	32
Justin Green	TE	4	-	4	-	-
Gabe Hall	DT	4	4	35	4	4
Bryant Hahnfeldt	PK	4	4	27	27	27
Ryan Hamilton	S	4	4	16	13	11
Jared Hawkins	TB	4	-	16	-	-
Eric Hensley	OL	4	-	15	-	-
Hamilton Holliday	OL	4	4	34	18	16
Brandon Holmes	DT	2	-	8	-	-
Theo Horrocks	DT	4	4	35	26	18
Cassen Jackson-Garrison	TB	4	3	37	16	2
Jeff Jennings	TB	2	1	23	12	-
Chris Johnson	LB	4	-	15	-	-
Theron Kadri	DE	4	-	4	-	-
Merritt Kirchoffer	OG	4	4	31	14	5
Richard Kovalcheck	QB	-	-	3	-	-
Reshard Langford	SS	4	4	27	27	27
Reilly Lauer	DE	2	-	2	-	-
Myron Lewis	CB	4	4	14	4	4
Gaston Miller	TB	-	-	8	-	-
Nick Miller	SN	4	-	16	-	-
Austin Monahan	TE	1	-	1	-	-
D.J. Moore	CB	4	4	16	13	4
Austin Newton	LB	3	-	3	-	-
Chris Nickson	QB	4	4	22	16	16
Kennard Reeves	RB	4	-	4	-	-
Chris Reinert	WR	2	-	4	-	-
Larry Simmons	WR	-	-	2	-	-
George Smith	WR	4	4	27	18	8
Adam Smotherman	DT	1	-	1	-	-
Darlon Spead	CB	4	2	16	2	1
Brian Stamper	OT	4	4	42	40	4
Broderick Stewart	DE	4	-	16	-	-
John Stokes	LB/SN	4	-	4	-	-
Steven Stone	DE	4	4	16	4	4
Alan Strong	CB	4	-	4	-	-
Brent Trice	S	4	-	16	-	-
Brett Upson	P	4	4	16	16	16
Ryan Vance	OL	1	-	2	-	-
Brad Vierling	OG	4	-	15	-	-
Sean Walker	WR	4	4	22	10	4
Alex Washington	WR	4	-	16	-	-
Thomas Welch	OT	4	-	12	-	-
Justin Wheeler	WR	4	-	13	-	-
David Whittington	DT	4	-	17	-	-
Chris Williams	OT	4	4	27	25	25



# 'DORE RANKINGS ★ NOTES

## 2007 SEC, NCAA STAT RANKINGS

TEAM CATEGORY	AVG.	SEC	NCAA
Scoring Offense	27.8	8	T-55
Scoring Defense	16.2	3	17
Total Offense	350.5	10	82
Rushing Offense	143.8	9	68
Passing Offense	206.8	9	82
Total Defense	279.0	2	17
Rushing Defense	121.5	5	41
Passing Defense	157.5	3	T-11
Net Punting	29.3	12	113
Punt Returns	11.3	5	43
Kickoff Returns	24.3	4	27
Turnover Margin	+4	3	T-18
Pass Efficiency	125.3	8	60
Defensive Pass Efficiency	93.2	3	8
Penalties (Total)	5.75	3	T-29
Penalty Yardage	53.8	7	53
Third Down Conversion %	41%	5	52
Third-Down Conversion % (opponent)	34.5%	6	41
Quarterback Sacks	10	4	T-20
Quarterback Sacks Allowed	5	4	T-30
Time of Possession	30:09	8	56
Offense in Red Zone %	16/24 66.7%	11	
Defense in Red Zone %	9/11 81.8%	7	
First Downs	20.0	12	
First Downs Allowed	15.8	2	

  

INDIVIDUAL OFFENSIVE CATEGORY	AVG.	SEC	NCAA
Earl Bennett	Receptions	9.25	1 5
	Receiving Yards	117.0	1 7
	Receiving TDs	4	T-3 T-23
	Total TDs	4	T-8
	All-Purpose Yards	135.0	8 39
Chris Nickson	Passing Yards	179.8	6 89
	Total Offense	212.8	5 67
	Passing Efficiency	130.4	5 53
	TD Passes	6	T-6
	Points Responsible For	42	T-6 T-66

  

INDIVIDUAL DEFENSIVE CATEGORY	AVG.	SEC	NCAA
Curtis Gatewood	Tackles for Loss	1.25	T-7
Jonathan Goff	Total Tackles	34	5 T-84
	Solo Tackles	22	T-3 T-51
Ryan Hamilton	Solo Tackles	15	T-8
	Total Tackles	20	T-18
Myron Lewis	Fumble Recoveries	.25	T-4
	Passed Defensed	1.5	4 T-16
D.J. Moore	Solo Tackles	27	1 T-3
	Total Tackles	31	7
	Interceptions	3	2 T-10
	Passes Defensed	1.25	7 T-32
Steven Stone	Sacks	3	5 T-39
	Tackles for Loss	1.25	T-7

  

SPECIAL TEAM CATEGORIES	AVG.	SEC	NCAA
Bryant Hahnfeldt, Scoring (by kicker)	34 pts.	6	
	Field Goals Made	7	T-7 T-33
D.J. Moore	Kick Return Avg.	27.2	5 33
Earl Bennett	Punt Returns	14.4	4 25
Brett Upson	Punting	35.9	8

## INTERCEPTIONS PLENTIFUL FOR 'DORES

One week after posting seven quarterback sacks against Ole Miss, the Vanderbilt defense notched five pass interceptions in the victory over Eastern Michigan.

It was the team's most interceptions since Nov. 13, 1993 (vs. Navy). The team record of seven interceptions came in a win over Auburn on Nov. 1, 1947.

Vanderbilt and LSU are tied for the SEC lead with 10 interceptions. They are tied for fifth nationally, three behind NCAA leader Cincinnati.

Vanderbilt's interception total through four games ties or betters the Commodore yearly total in seven of the last 10 years. In 2006, Vanderbilt recorded 14 interceptions, its highest total since hauling in 19 picks in 1989.

**D.J. Moore** notched his team-high third interception of the year. **Darlon Spead** had his first pick of 2007 – and fourth of his career. DT **Greg Billinger**, CB **Josh Allen** and CB **Alan Strong** recorded their first career interceptions.

## REACHING INDIVIDUAL MILESTONES

- **Sean Walker** (R-Jr., WR) posted single-game career highs with four receptions and 60 receiving yards. He also caught his first TD pass of the year – a 17-yarder over the middle from Chris Nickson.

- Both **Steven Stone** (R-So., DE) and **Curtis Gatewood** (R-Sr., DE) have contributed tackles for loss in each game this season. Each is tied for seventh in the SEC with five tackles for loss on the season – Gatewood getting a pair versus Alabama and Stone posting two in the opener against Richmond.

Stone and Gatewood also are 1-2 among Commodores in quarterback sacks. Stone, a first-year starter, leads the team and ranks fifth in the conference with three sacks. Gatewood has 1.5 sacks this season - and a team-high 8.5 sacks for his career.

- **Earl Bennett** (Jr., WR) narrowly missed his 10th career game with double-digit catches and 100+ receiving yards against Eastern Michigan (9 receptions/93 yards/1 TD), but he continues to lead the SEC in both categories. Bennett, just 11 receptions away from the all-time SEC record, ranks third in the NCAA in active career receptions (198), fourth in receiving yards (2,490) and 12th in touchdowns (19).

## EXCELLENT CROWDS WATCHING 'DORES

The Commodores are playing before an average of 35,847 fans through four home games. The average represents 90.1% capacity in Vanderbilt Stadium, which seats 39,773. A crowd of 37,220 watched Vanderbilt's 30-7 win over EMU.

Vanderbilt athletics has sold more than 15,000 season tickets this year, the most since 1996.

Officials announced a sellout of Vanderbilt's next home game – versus Georgia on Oct. 13.

Recent averages for Vanderbilt home games follows:

YEAR	AVG. ATTENDANCE
2007 (thru 4 games)	35,847
2006 (7 games)	34,861
2005 (6 games)	36,031
2004 (6 games)	28,472
2003 (7 games)	28,282
2002 (7 games)	32,192
2001 (6 games)	33,990

# TEAM NOTES

## GOFF WEARS DOSTER PATCH AGAIN

The "KD1" jersey patch, one of the most significant recognitions awarded by the Commodore players, is being worn for the second consecutive season by standout linebacker and co-captain Jonathan Goff.

The patch honors the memory of Kwane Doster, the only Commodore ever to receive the SEC Freshman of the Year Award. Doster was shot and killed in his hometown of Tampa, Fla., on Dec. 26, 2004.

Goff, a redshirt senior and two-time team captain, is the only Commodore to have the patch. It was initiated last season by Head Coach Bobby Johnson.

"It is a great honor to be elected by my teammates to honor Kwane. I will wear it again with great pride," Goff said.

The Doster legacy continues this season at Vanderbilt football program. Jermaine Doster, younger brother of former Commodore standout, is a freshman running back prospect.

## STAMPER, JENNINGS BACK FROM INJURY

The Commodores have welcomed back a pair of former standouts, **Brian Stamper** (R-Sr., OT) and **Jeff Jennings** (R-Jr., TB), who missed most or all of the 2006 season. Stamper has started the first four games at right tackle. Jennings started in against Alabama, though he missed the Ole Miss and Eastern Michigan games with an ankle injury.

Stamper, a 40-game career starter, underwent career-threatening back surgery last year after the pain became too much early in the season. He was granted a medical redshirt and fifth year of eligibility last winter after he and the team petitioned the NCAA. Jennings, who has compiled 14 career rushing TDs, sat out the entire 2006 season to rehabilitate the injured leg.

## JOHNSON'S STAFF MARKED BY FEW CHANGES

When Bobby Johnson arrived at Vanderbilt, he held the belief that consistency on the coaching staff would lead to more stability in the program and greater chances for team success. He has put the principle into action as head coach of the Commodore program.

Since arriving prior to the 2001 season, Johnson has made just two changes to his assistant coaching staff – Kenny Carter replaced J.D. Hall in 2004 and Rick Logo replaced David Turner in 2006. Under Johnson, Vanderbilt has experienced the fewest coaching changes in the SEC.

The coaching staff has multiple links dating back three decades to 1976 – Johnson's initial year in collegiate coaching when he served as a defensive ends assistant at Furman.

## VANDY ROSTER INCLUDES PREP TEAMMATES

The Commodore roster features several players who competed on the same high school team, then followed each other to Nashville.

- Redshirt senior **Merritt Kirchoffer** and junior **Josh Allen** attended Roswell H.S. near Atlanta. Allen and Kirchoffer are likely to start at cornerback and offensive guard, respectively.
- Redshirt sophomore DT **Derrius Dowell** and redshirt freshman CB **Alan Strong** were standouts at Douglass H.S. in Atlanta.
- Sophomore CB **D.J. Moore** and redshirt freshman DE **Terrial Brannon** were classmates at Broome H.S. in Spartanburg, S.C.
- Junior PK **Bryant Hahnfeldt** and redshirt sophomore FB **Matt Bubis** were classmates at Montgomery Bell Academy in Nashville.

## FIVE NEW DEFENSIVE STARTERS THIS SEASON

Five Commodores – all on the defensive line of scrimmage – have enjoyed their first career starts in a Vanderbilt uniform this season.

The five new starters are linebacker **Brandon Bryant**, tackle **Gabe Hall**, end **Steven Stone**, cornerback **Myron Lewis** and nickelback **Darlon Spead**.

Every offensive starter had started previous to this year.

## COMMODORES SEEING INITIAL ACTION

Twelve Commodores, including three true freshmen, have enjoyed their initial collegiate action in the opening four games this season.

Redshirt freshmen seeing their initial action includes RB **Kennard Reeves**, TE **Justin Green**, LB **Nathan Campbell**, LB **Michael Garcia**, DE **Reilly Lauer**, LB **Austin Newton**, center **Joey Bailey**, CB **Alan Strong** and DT **Adam Smotherman**.

The only true freshmen to play this season are LB/SN **John Stokes**, DE **Theron Kadri** and TE **Austin Monahan**.

## PRELIMINARY PLANS UNDERWAY TO ENHANCE VANDERBILT STADIUM

Initial steps have been taken toward an eventual extensive enhancement to Dudley Field Vanderbilt Stadium.

Preliminary planning is taking place to evaluate the extent of improvements upcoming to the stadium and Dudley Field, which has served as home to Commodore football since Oct. 14, 1922 when Vanderbilt and Michigan played to a scoreless tie. The last serious renovation to the site came in 1981 – a \$10.1 million project that included a rebuilt of the south end-zone, suites and press box, and refurbished grandstands.

In April, a Vanderbilt group including Coach Johnson, former chancellor Gordon Gee, current interim Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos and Vice Chancellor of University Affairs David Williams II visited several recently completed stadium renovations across the South.

## OLE MISS PROMO: \$50,894 TO HOSPITAL

More than \$50,000 will go to the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt from a special Vandy-Ole Miss ticket promotion spearheaded by country music entertainer Kix Brooks.

Brooks, several Commodore football players, key community leaders, and friends of the hospital teamed with Vanderbilt Athletics for the promotion – which contributed \$50,894 to the Children's Hospital.

## O-LINE ONE OF NCAA'S MOST EXPERIENCED

The Vandy offensive line features five seniors – all returning starters from a year ago.

The veteran unit includes All-SEC performers **Chris Williams** and **Brian Stamper** at tackle, **Josh Eames** and **Merritt Kirchoffer** at guard and **Hamilton Holliday** at center.

Collectively, the five linemen have started 121 collegiate games.

Lineman	Total Games	Total Starts
Chris Williams, LT	25	25
Josh Eames, LG	30	24
Hamilton Holliday, C	34	18
Merritt Kirchoffer, RG	30	14
Brian Stamper, RT	42	40
<b>Totals</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>121</b>



# TRACKING EARL BENNETT

## RECEIVER MOVING UP ALL-TIME LISTS

### LATEST ON BENNETT'S ACHIEVEMENTS...

**MyNamelsEarlBennett.com**

Junior **Earl Bennett**, on pace to smash several Southeastern Conference all-time receiving records, is off to another superb start, ranking among national and league leaders in receiving categories.

Bennett helped the Commodores defeat Eastern Michigan 30-7 on Saturday by catching nine passes for 93 yards, including a sensational 47-yard scoring strike from Chris Nickson late in the first quarter.

Through four games, Bennett leads the SEC with 37 receptions and 468 receiving yards. He is also tied for third with four touchdown catches.

During the effort versus EMU, Bennett continued to assault career receiving lists:

- Moved from seventh into a tie for fourth all-time among SEC receivers with 198 receptions.
- Jumped from 18th to 15th in career receiving yardage (2,490) by a SEC player.
- Took sole possession of third all-time among Commodores with his 19th touchdown catch.

Bennett is close to a pair of important Vanderbilt receiving records:

- He needs three receptions to become the all-time Commodore leader. **Keith Edwards** (1980, 82-83) holds the team record with 200 receptions.
- He needs three touchdown catches to overtake **Dan Stricker** (1999-2002) as the all-time leader. Stricker caught 21 TDs.

Bennett needs just 11 receptions to become the SEC's career leader. Craig Yeast, a Kentucky standout from 1995-98, holds the record with

208 catches.

Bennett also could threaten the league's all-time receiving yardage record of 3,093 held by former Georgia standout Terrance Edwards.

Bennett needs 604 yards to own the yardage mark.

In 27 career games, Bennett has been remarkably consistent and productive. He has set a team record with nine games of 10 or more receptions. Among his top performances was a school-record 223-yard effort in the 2007 opener against Richmond. That performance allowed Bennett to become the first player in SEC history with three games of at least 200 receiving yards. His 13 receptions against Richmond also established a new SEC standard for opening-game performances by a receiver.

Bennett, a Rivals.com third team All-America selection in 2006, has been named to virtually every All-SEC preseason squad, and numer-

ous preseason All-America polls. He is on the watchlist for several honors, including the Walter Camp Player of the Year and Biletnikoff Awards.

With four touchdown catches on the season, Bennett pushed his career total to 19, moving him behind only Stricker (21) and Chuck Scott (20) on the team charts.

Bennett has produced an abundance of remarkable single game performances in a career that spans only 24 starting assignments. He has achieved 150 receiving yards or more in seven games. He now has achieved three of the six highest single-game receiving yardage totals in school history.

Bennett has five of the top 11 highest single-game receiving totals in school history.

Bennett leads the SEC and ranks among the Top 10 nationally in receptions (37) and receiving yards (117.0 ypg). He topped the SEC in receptions as a freshman and sophomore, becoming the only receiver in SEC history to achieve at least 75 catches in different seasons.

Bennett's reception total and receiving yardage total (1,146) from 2006 are the second highest totals in Vanderbilt history.

Bennett has been incredibly consistent, registering a catch in every career game – and at least four receptions in his last 20 consecutive games.

Bennett's individual game achievements are remarkable: 223 yards/3 TDs vs. Richmond (Sept. 1, 2007); 220 yards at Kentucky (Nov. 11, 2006); SEC-record tying five TD catches vs Kentucky (No. 10, 2005); 204 yards at South Carolina (Oct. 25, 2005); 184 yards at Duke (Oct. 28, 2006); and 179 yards at Ole Miss (Oct. 7, 2006).

### BENNETT'S RECORDS

Receiving Yards (game)	223 (Richmond, 2007)
TD receptions (game) ^	5, (vs. Kentucky, 2005)
Most games with 10 or more receptions	(9)
Most games with 200+ receiving yards #	(3)
Receptions by So.	82 (2006)
Receiving Yards by So.	1,146 (2006)
Catches in game (So.)	13 (vs. Florida, 2006)
Rec. Yards in game (So.)	220 (@ Kentucky, 2006)
Receptions by Fr. %	79 (2005)
Receiving yards by Fr.	876 (2005)
TD receptions by Fr.	9 (2005)
Catches in game (Fr.)	16 (@ USC, 2005)
Rec. Yards in game (Fr.)	204 (@ USC, 2005)
# SEC record ^ Ties SEC record	
% SEC freshman record	

### CAREER LEADERS – TOTAL RECEPTIONS

RECEIVER	YEARS	CATCHES
1. Keith Edwards	1980, 82-83	200
2. <b>Earl Bennett</b>	<b>2005-06</b>	<b>198</b>

### CAREER LEADERS – RECEIVING YARDAGE

RECEIVER	YEARS	YARDS
1. Boo Mitchell	1985-88	2,964
2. Dan Stricker	1999-2002	2,880
3. <b>Earl Bennett</b>	<b>2005-07</b>	<b>2,490</b>

### ALL-TIME SINGLE GAME RECEIVING TOTALS

RECEIVER	YARDS	GAME
<b>Earl Bennett</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>Richmond, 2007</b>
Clarence Sevillian	222	Tennessee, 1992
<b>Earl Bennett</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>Kentucky, 2006</b>
M.J. Garnett	219	MTSU, 2001
<b>Earl Bennett</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>So. Carolina, 2005</b>
Dan Stricker	204	Duke, 2001

### CAREER TOUCHDOWN CATCHES

RECEIVER	YEARS	CAREER TDs
1. Dan Stricker	1999-2002	21
2. Chuck Scott	1981-84	20
3. <b>Earl Bennett</b>	<b>2005-07</b>	<b>19</b>

### BENNETT'S ASSAULT OF SEC ALL-TIME RECORDS

Rec.	Name, School	Years
1.	208 Craig Yeast, Kentucky	1995-98
2.	204 Terrence Edwards, Georgia	1999-2002
3.	200 Keith Edwards, Vanderbilt	1980, 82-84
T-4.	<b>198 EARL BENNETT, Vanderbilt</b>	<b>2005-07</b>
	198 Chris Collins, Ole Miss	2000-03

*Bennett passed two former SEC standouts – Anthony White and Derek Abney of Kentucky – during the Eastern Michigan game.*

# INDIVIDUAL RECOGNITION

## PRESEASON ACCOLADES

### ALL-AMERICA TEAMS

#### EARL BENNETT

*Athlon's, Blue Ribbon, Street & Smith, Lindy's,  
The Sporting News, Rivals.com, Scout*

#### JONATHAN GOFF

*Athlon's, Phil Steele*

#### CHRIS WILLIAMS

*Athlon's*

### AWARD WATCHLISTS

#### EARL BENNETT

*Walter Camp Player of the Year,  
Biletnikoff Trophy, Maxwell Trophy*

#### JONATHAN GOFF

*Bronko Nagurski Award, Butkus Award, Bednarik Award*

#### CHRIS WILLIAMS

*Outland Trophy, Lombardi Rotary Award*

### ALL-SEC

#### EARL BENNETT

*(virtually unanimous first-team selection)*

#### JONATHAN GOFF

*Coaches (1st) and Media (1st)*

#### CHRIS WILLIAMS

*(Coaches (1st) and Media (2nd))*

#### BRIAN STAMPER

*Coaches (2nd) and Media (2nd)*

#### CHRIS NICKSON

*Coaches (3rd)*

**CURTIS GATEWOOD, RESHARD LANGFORD, THEO HORROCKS**  
*named by preseason publications*

## JONATHAN GOFF

**R-Senior • 6-4, 235 • Linebacker • Lynn, Mass.**

One of the SEC's leading active tacklers, Goff put together another solid performance against Eastern Michigan, contributing six tackles in a team effort that limited the Eagles to 10 first downs and 173 total yards.

## CHRIS WILLIAMS

**R-Senior • Offensive Tackle • 6-6, 315 • Glynn, La.**

After earning SEC Offensive Lineman of the Week honors for his performance in the Commodores' win over Ole Miss, Williams followed up with another solid effort from his left tackle slot against Eastern Michigan. Frequently following Williams' blocks on the left side, the Commodores rushed for 173 yards on 44 attempts in the win over EMU.

## CURTIS GATEWOOD

**R-Senior • Defensive End • 6-3, 245 • Memphis, Tenn.**

Gatewood contributed three tackles, including a tackle for loss, in the Commodore win over Eastern Michigan. Gatewood also registered a half sack in the game. He shares the Commodore lead with five tackles for loss.

## THEO HORROCKS

**Senior • Defensive Tackle • 6-4, 290 • Fayetteville, Tenn.**

A steady performer and defensive co-captain, Horrocks played well in the defensive interior, helping the Commodores control the line of scrimmage while matching his season high with four total tackles. Horrocks put together one of the most productive seasons in recent memory by a Vanderbilt DT last year, leading the SEC in forced fumbles.

## RESHARD LANGFORD

**R-Junior • Safety • 6-2, 207 • Tanner, Ala.**

Langford was stellar in the secondary, contributing three solo tackles for a defense that limited Eastern Michigan to 111 passing yards and 173 total yards.

## CHRIS NICKSON

**R-Junior • Quarterback • 6-1, 210 • Brundidge, Ala.**

Nickson threw a pair of touchdown passes and accounted for 235 total yards, but struggled with accuracy, throwing a career-high four interceptions against Eastern Michigan.

## FORMER COMMODORES IN THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Former Player	NFL Team	Most Recent Performance
Corey Chavous, Safety	St. Louis Rams	Contributed seven tackles, including a sack, though Rams lost to Dallas Cowboys.
Jay Cutler, QB	Denver Broncos	Completed 13 of 21 passes for 131 yards and a TD in Broncos' 38-20 loss to Colts.
Justin Geisinger, OG	Washington Redskins	Former Titan was re-signed to Washington practice squad on Sept. 26.
Jovan Haye, DT	Tampa Bay	Contributed four tackles and a sack in Bucs' 20-7 victory over the Panthers.
Hunter Hillenmeyer, LB	Chicago Bears	Had three tackles for banged up Chicago defense in 37-27 loss to the Detroit Lions.
Matt Stewart, LB	Cleveland Browns	Six-year veteran; On injured reserve list with the Browns.
Jamie Winborn, LB	Denver Broncos	Posted one solo tackle, two assists in Broncos' 38-20 loss to Indianapolis Colts.
Todd Yoder, TE	Washington Redskins	Washington was off this weekend.



# MORE ABOUT THE 'DORES

## DOSTER LEGACY CONTINUES; KWANE'S BROTHER JERMAINE IS FRESHMAN ON '07 SQUAD

The Doster Legacy continues this season with the Vanderbilt football program.

**Jermaine Doster**, younger brother of former Commodore standout and 2002 Southeastern Conference Freshman of the Year Kwane Doster, is a member of Vanderbilt's freshman class.

Like his brother, Jermaine comes to Vanderbilt following an excellent prep career as a running back at Robinson H.S. in Tampa, Fla.

Jermaine's brother will always be part of the Vanderbilt family. A two-year starter, Kwane died in his hometown Dec. 26, 2004 from injuries suffered in a shooting. Doster was a Vanderbilt junior and on target to graduate when the tragedy happened.

Unlike his brother, Jermaine might have a chance to get accustomed to life on the campus before he hits the field. At least three proven players (Cassen Jackson-Garrison, Jeff Jennings and Jared Hawkins) are ahead of Doster on the depth chart.

Coach Bobby Johnson and the Commodore players continue to honor the memory of Kwane Doster. No Commodore has worn Kwane's No.1 since his death. A gameday locker is perpetually on display in the Vanderbilt players' locker room.

## NINE NAMED TO COMMODORE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Nine Commodores participate in the Leadership Council, serving as an entity that addresses team and student-athlete issues while acting as their teammates' voice in communicating with coaches.

Co-captains **Jonathan Goff**, **Theo Horrocks** and **Chris Williams** are members of the Leadership Council.

Others voted by teammates to represent other various position groups. They include **Marcus Buggs**, linebackers; **Reshard Langford**, defensive secondary; **Gabe Hall**, defensive line; **Brad Allen**, offensive backfield; **George Smith**, wide receivers; and **Brian Stamper**, offensive line.

## GEORGE SMITH CONTRIBUTING BIG AGAINST THE ODDS

**George Smith** is beating the odds.

In the last two years, the redshirt junior from Pembroke Hills, Fla., has survived a serious ailment and gunshot attack to become a valuable starting receiver for the Black & Gold.

The fact that Smith was in uniform last year was quite remarkable. In April 2004, Smith was diagnosed with acute transverse myelitis, an illness that causing swelling of the spinal cord. For the next six weeks, Smith fought the illness in intensive care and eventually extensive rehabilitation. Smith returned to Vanderbilt the following semester, sat out the 2004 season, and finally received medical clearance as the August 2004 preseason camp neared.

In the last two-plus seasons, Smith moved into a starting role and has 51 career catches for 689 yards and six touchdowns.

## COMMODORES CONTINUE ANCHOR "UNITY" TRADITION

For the third straight year, Vanderbilt will travel with an authentic anchor as a symbol of team unity. Prior to each game, two players are selected to carry the anchor to and from the Vanderbilt locker room on gameday, either at Vanderbilt Stadium or to the opponent's home stadium.

Originally, the anchor was developed by the team's Leadership Council as a way of demonstrating team unity among the squad.

## QB KOVALCHECK LONE 'DORE GRADUATE STUDENT

Richard Kovalcheck, who transferred to Vanderbilt last year after starting at quarterback for the University of Arizona, is the Commodores' lone graduate student.

Kovalcheck, of San Diego, Calif., is entering his second year of studies in Vanderbilt's Owen School of Management. He is working toward advanced degrees in finance and strategy with emphasis on entrepreneurship and real estate.

## COMMODORE MEDIA INFO

### PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Patrick Benoist (Ben-WAH)  
Teriall (Ter-RELL) Brannon  
Matt Bubis (BEW-bus)  
Nick Forte (FORT)  
Tim Fugger (FEW-ger)  
Theo Horrocks (HOR-ricks)  
Cassen (KAY-sin) Jackson-Garrison  
Theron (THER-in) Kadri (COD-ree)  
Merritt Kirchoffer (KIRCH-offer)  
Richard Kovalcheck (Ko-VOL-chek)  
Reshard (Rah-SHARD) Langford  
Chris Marve (MARV)  
Dom Morias (MORE-ree-as)  
Chris Reinert (RINE-ert)  
Darlron (Dah-RON) Spead (SPEED)  
Udom (OOD-um) Umoh (OO-mah)  
Bradley Vierling (VEER-ling)

### COACH JOHNSON, STUDENT-ATHLETE POSTGAME INTERVIEWS

Following the Auburn game, Coach Johnson will meet with the media in the visiting team's postgame press conference facilities at Jordan-Hare Stadium.

The Vanderbilt Player Locker Room is closed to the media. Selected players will be made available to the media by the Vanderbilt SID staff. Player interviews will be conducted as soon as the head coach concludes his remarks.

### PRACTICE WEEK INTERVIEW POLICIES

Media wishing to interview players during the week should contact the Vanderbilt Media Relations staff in advance.

Selected players will be available Monday immediately after Coach Bobby Johnson concludes his weekly press conference.

Selected Vanderbilt players will be available for interviews with out-of-town beat reporters on Wednesday.

Commodore players will be available upon request either Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday at the conclusion of practice.

Coach Johnson is available briefly to reporters at the conclusion of practice.

Media photographers are permitted to shoot the first 30 minutes of practice.

# HEAD COACH BOBBY JOHNSON

## PERSONAL DATA

**AGE:** 55

**ALMA MATER:** Clemson

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Eau Claire (S.C.) 1969

**DEGREES:** Bachelor's in Management, 1973, Clemson;

Master's in Education, 1979, Furman

**FAMILY:** Wife, Catherine

## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 78-80 overall record as head coach; 4-4 record in NCAA postseason play
- In five years at Vanderbilt, has coached the first Commodore named unanimous SEC Offensive Player of the Year (Jay Cutler, 2005), the team's first and only SEC Freshman of the Year (Kwane Doster, 2002), the nation's top tackler (Hunter Hillenmeyer, 2002) and the first Vanderbilt All-America (Earl Bennett, 2006), in seven years.
- I-AA National Coach of the Year in 2001.
- Three Southern Conference titles
- 217-136-8 Combined Record (31 years of collegiate coaching)

## SIXTH YEAR RECORD OF 'DORE HEAD COACHES

COACH	YEARS	W	L	T
Bobby Johnson	2007	3	1	-
George MacIntyre	1984	5	6	-
Bill Pace	1972	3	8	-
Art Guepe	1958	5	2	3
Red Sanders	1948	8	2	1
Dan McGugin	1909	7	3	-

## SUMMARY OF BOBBY JOHNSON'S COACHING CAREER

YEAR	SCHOOL	POSITION	RECORD	HIGHLIGHTS
2007	Vanderbilt	Head Coach	3-1 (1-1)	
2006	Vanderbilt	Head Coach	4-8 (1-7)	
2005	Vanderbilt	Head Coach	5-6 (3-5)	VU's Most SEC wins since '91
2004	Vanderbilt	Head Coach	2-9 (1-7)	
2003	Vanderbilt	Head Coach	2-10 (1-7)	
2002	Vanderbilt	Head Coach	2-10 (0-8)	
2001	Furman	Head Coach	12-3	I-AA Finals; Conference Co-Champion; I-AA Coach of the Year; I-AA Region II Coach of Year
000	Furman	Head Coach	9-3	I-AA Playoffs; Conference Co-Champion
999	Furman	Head Coach	9-3	I-AA Playoffs; Conference Champions; I-AA Region II Coach of Year
998	Furman	Head Coach	5-6	
997	Furman	Head Coach	7-4	
996	Furman	Head Coach	9-4	I-AA Playoffs; I-AA Region II Coach of Year
995	Furman	Head Coach	6-5	
994	Furman	Head Coach	3-8	
993	Clemson	Defensive Coordinator	8-3	
992	Furman	Asst. Head Coach, Def. Coordinator	6-5	
991	Furman	Asst. Head Coach, Def. Coordinator	7-4	
990	Furman	Asst. Head Coach, Def. Coordinator	9-4	I-AA Playoffs; Conference Champions
989	Furman	Asst. Head Coach, Def. Coordinator	12-2	I-AA Playoffs; Conference Champions
988	Furman	Asst. Head Coach, Def. Coordinator	13-2	I-AA National Champions; Conference Champions
1987	Furman	Asst. Head Coach, Def. Coordinator	7-4	
1986	Furman	Asst. Head Coach, Def. Coordinator	7-3-2	
1985	Furman	Defensive Coordinator	12-2	I-AA Finals; Conference Champion
1984	Furman	Defensive Coordinator	8-3	
1983	Furman	Defensive Coordinator	10-2-1	Conference Champion
1982	Furman	Defensive Backs Coach	9-3	Conference Champion
1981	Furman	Defensive Backs Coach	8-3	Conference Champion
1980	Clemson	Athletic Academic Counselor		
1979	Furman	Defensive Backs Coach	5-6	
1978	Furman	Defensive Backs Coach	8-3	Conference Champion
1977	Furman	Defensive Backs Coach	4-5-2	
1976	Furman	Defensive Ends Coach	6-4-1	

## JOHNSON'S WEEKLY MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES

Coach Johnson conducts a weekly press conference for local media each Monday at 12:00 noon CT. It is held in the McCall Room, at the McGugin Athletic Center. It is not available via satellite. A live video feed of the conference is planned at [www.vucommodores.com](http://www.vucommodores.com). A transcript is provided no more than three hours later.

Johnson participates in the weekly SEC Head Coaches' Teleconference at 10:21 a.m. (CT) on Wednesdays. Johnson is also available after regular Commodore practices Tuesday-Thursday.

## TV HIGHLIGHTS SHOW

The Commodore Connection – a weekly Vanderbilt highlights show with Coach Johnson that airs across Middle Tennessee cable systems, will be broadcast each Tuesday of the season.

In Nashville cable homes, the replay show will air Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., on Comcast Channel 49.

Regionally, the show airs twice weekly on Comcast Sports (Channel 27): Tuesday, 6:30 a.m., and Wednesday, 3:30 p.m.

## JOHNSON'S RADIO SHOW

The Commodore Call-In Show with Bobby Johnson can be heard each Monday at 7:00 p.m. on WGFX FM-104.5.

The weekly show is hosted by Commodore play-by-play announcer Joe Fisher. It is staged at the Commodore Bar & Grille, located in the Holiday Inn Select on West End Avenue, one block from Vanderbilt Stadium.

The show features Johnson's summary of the previous game, an indepth look at the Commodores' next opponent and questions from callers across Middle Tennessee.

# COMMODORE DEPTH CHART

AS OF SEPT. 29TH

## OFFENSE

<b>Z WR</b>	88	George Smith (6-3, 200, R-Jr.)
	81	Bryant Anderson (6-3, 200, R-Jr.)
<b>X WR</b>	7	Sean Walker (6-0, 180, R-Jr.)
	80	Justin Wheeler (6-0, 175, R-So.)
<b>S WR</b>	10	Earl Bennett (6-1, 202, Jr.)
	4	Alex Washington (5-9, 185, R-So.)
<b>QB</b>	3	Chris Nickson (6-1, 210, R-Jr.)
	9	Mackenzi Adams (6-3, 210, R-So.)
<b>TB</b>	22	Cassen Jackson-Garrison (6-1, 215, Sr.)
	31	Jared Hawkins (5-10, 190, R-So.)
<b>LT</b>	74	Chris Williams (6-6, 320, R-Sr.)
	66	Eric Hensley (6-6, 315, R-So.)
<b>LG</b>	78	Josh Eames (6-5, 305, R-Sr.)
	73	Ryan Custer (6-4, 295, R-So.)
<b>C</b>	53	Hamilton Holliday (6-3, 290, Sr.)
	71	Joey Bailey (6-3, 275, R-Fr.)
<b>RG</b>	64	Merritt Kirchoffer (6-5, 320, R-Sr.)
	60	Bradley Vierling (6-3, 290, R-So.)
<b>RT</b>	72	Brian Stamper (6-5, 300, R-Sr.)
	76	Thomas Welch (6-7, 295, R-So.)
<b>TE</b>	83	Brad Allen (6-3, 240, R-Jr.)
	85	Jake Bradford (6-6, 265, R-So.)

## DEFENSE

<b>DE</b>	96	Steven Stone (6-6, 255, R-So.)
	90	Broderick Stewart (6-5, 225, R-So.)
<b>DT</b>	56	Gabe Hall (6-1, 290, Sr.)
	98	Greg Billinger (6-3, 280, So.)
<b>RT</b>	54	Theo Horrocks (6-4, 290, Sr.)
	44	David Whittington (6-2, 270, R-Jr.)
<b>DE</b>	48	Curtis Gatewood (6-3, 245, R-Sr.)
	93	Theron Kadri (6-3, 240, Fr.)
<b>WLB</b>	35	Brandon Bryant (6-1, 228, R-So.)
	30	Patrick Benoist (6-0, 218, So.)
<b>MLB</b>	47	Jonathan Goff (6-4, 235, R-Sr.)
	52	Nathan Campbell (6-3, 228, R-Fr.)
	45	Chris Johnson (6-1, 225, R-So.)
<b>SLB</b>	24	Marcus Buggs (5-11, 225, R-Sr.)
	49	John Stokes (6-5, 230, Fr.)
<b>CB</b>	17	D.J. Moore (5-10, 180, So.)
	14	Josh Allen (5-9, 182, R-Jr.)
<b>SS</b>	33	Reshard Langford (6-2, 207, R-Jr.)
	11	Brent Trice (6-3, 210, So.)
<b>FS</b>	2	Ryan Hamilton (6-2, 208, R-So.)
	29	Joel Caldwell (6-0, 195, R-So.)
<b>CB</b>	5	Myron Lewis (6-3, 195, So.)
	20	Jared Fagan (5-10, 180, R-Jr.)
<b>NB</b>	6	Darlron Spead (5-10, 185, R-So.)

## SPECIAL TEAMS

<b>P</b>	39	Brett Upson (5-11, 180, So.)
	8	Bryant Hahnfeldt (5-11, 190, Jr.)
<b>KO</b>	8	Bryant Hahnfeldt (5-11, 190, Jr.)
	97	John Laughrey (5-11, 180, R-Fr.)
<b>PK</b>	8	Bryant Hahnfeldt (5-11, 190, Jr.)
	97	John Laughrey (5-11, 180, R-Fr.)
<b>H</b>	9	Mackenzi Adams (6-3, 210, R-So.)
	36	Chris Reinart (5-9, 170, R-So.)
<b>PR</b>	4	Alex Washington (5-9, 185, R-So.)
	10	Earl Bennett (6-1, 202, Jr.)
<b>KR</b>	17	D.J. Moore (5-10, 180, So.)
	7	Sean Walker (6-0, 180, R-Jr.)
<b>LS</b>	49	John Stokes (6-5, 230, Fr.)
	75	Nick Miller (6-3, 270, R-So.)
<b>SN</b>	75	Nick Miller (6-3, 270, R-So.)
	49	John Stokes (6-5, 230, Fr.)

# ALPHABETICAL TEAM ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Year	Cl.	Hometown/High School	No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Year	Cl.	Hometown/High School
63	Chris Aaron	OL	6-3	290	So.	TR	Palos Verdes, Calif./PVHS/Lehigh	21	Jeff Jennings	TB	6-1	215	R-Jr.	2L	Dandridge, Tenn./Jefferson Co.
9	Mackenzi Adams	QB	6-3	210	R-So.	1L	Tulsa, Okla./Union	45	Chris Johnson	LB	6-1	225	R-So.	1L	Birmingham, Ala./Oak Mountain
83	Brad Allen	TE	6-3	240	R-Jr.	2L	Venice, Fla./Venice	93	Theron Kadri	DE	6-3	240	Fr.	HS	Brighton, Tenn./Brighton
14	Josh Allen	CB	5-9	182	R-Jr.	2L	Roswell, Ga./Roswell	64	Merritt Kirchoffer	OG	6-5	320	R-Sr.	3L	Roswell, Ga./Roswell
81	Bryant Anderson	WR	6-3	210	R-Jr.	2L	Roswell, Ga./Centennial	15	Richard Kovalcheck	QB	6-2	220	R-Sr.	1L	San Diego, Calif./Ariz./St. Augustine
62	Rob Ashabranner	DL	6-2	270	Fr.	HS	Beaumont, Texas/Cathedral Christian	33	Reshard Langford	S	6-2	207	R-Jr.	2L	Tanner, Ala./Tanner
40	Bo Baggerley	LB	6-1	210	R-So.	SQ	Forsyth, Ga./Stratford Academy	68	Reilly Lauer	DE	6-6	250	R-Fr.	RS	Gates Mill, Ohio/St. Ignatius
71	Joey Bailey	C	6-3	275	R-Fr.	RS	Trussville, Ala./Hewitt-Trussville	97	John Laughrey	PK	5-11	180	R-Fr.	RS	McKenzie, Tenn./McKenzie
87	Brandon Barden	TE	6-5	225	Fr.	HS	Lincolnton, Ga./Lincoln Co.	93*	David Leinweber	DE	6-5	250	R-So.	SQ	Bloomfield Hills, Mich./Cranbrook
10	Earl Bennett	WR	6-1	202	Jr.	2L	Birmingham, Ala./West End	5	Myron Lewis	CB	6-2	195	So.	1L	Pompano Beach, Fla./Pompano Beach
30	Patrick Benoist	LB	6-0	215	So.	1L	Southlake, Texas/Carroll Senior	94	Kikko Logan	DE	6-2	235	R-Fr.	RS	Elba, Ala./Elba
98	Greg Billinger	DT	6-3	280	So.	1L	Lilburn, Ga./Parkview	43	Chris Marve	LB	6-0	230	Fr.	HS	Memphis, Tenn./White Station
85	Jake Bradford	TE	6-6	265	R-So.	1L	St. Simons Isl., Ga./Glynn Academy	27	Gaston Miller	TB	5-7	165	So.	1L	Murfreesboro, Tenn./Riverdale
89	Terriall Brannon	DE	6-3	235	R-Fr.	RS	Spartanburg, S.C./Broome	75	Nick Miller	SN	6-3	270	R-So.	1L	Matthews, N.C./East Mecklenburg
35	Brandon Bryant	LB	6-0	228	R-So.	1L	Cincinnati, Ohio/St. Xavier	86	Austin Monahan	TE	6-6	235	Fr.	HS	Charlotte, N.C./Phillips Acad. (Mass.)
32	Matt Bubis	FB	5-10	228	R-So.	1L	Nashville, Tenn./Montgomery Bell	17	D.J. Moore	CB	5-10	175	So.	1L	Spartanburg, S.C./Broome
24	Marcus Buggs	LB	5-11	225	R-Sr.	3L	Madison, Tenn./Goodpasture	37	Dom Morais	LB	6-0	215	R-Sr.	SQ	Dayton, Texas/Dayton
29	Joel Caldwell	S	6-1	195	R-So.	1L	Hoover, Ala./Hoover	91	Austin Newton	LB	6-2	215	R-Fr.	RS	McDonough, Ga./Union Grove
52	Nate Campbell	LB	6-3	228	R-Fr.	RS	Hazen, Ark./Hazen	3	Chris Nickson	QB	6-1	210	R-Jr.	2L	Brundidge, Ala./Pike Co.
50	Thomas Carroll	PK	5-9	160	R-So.	SQ	Columbus, Ga./Brookstone	95	Sam Panke	DE	6-2	230	R-So.	SQ	St. Louis, Mo./Ladue
50*	Bo Cramer	DL	6-4	255	Fr.	HS	Charlotte, N.C./Country Day	28	Kenard Reeves	TB	6-0	195	R-Fr.	RS	Duluth, Ga./Duluth
12*	Chris Crooks	WR	6-2	190	Fr.	HS	Cummings, Ga./Chattahoochee	36	Chris Reinert	WR	5-9	175	R-So.	SQ	Santa Ana, Calif./Servite
73	Ryan Custer	OG	6-3	295	R-So.	1L	Troy, Ohio/Troy	28*	Alex Schultz	DB	5-11	175	So.	SQ	Wayland, Mass./Wayland
26	Andrew Diomande	WR	6-1	185	Jr.	TR	Miami, Fla./Columbus/Clemson	18	Larry Simmons	WR	5-9	162	R-So.	1L	Austin, Texas/Anderson
41	Jermaine Doster	TB	5-10	205	Fr.	HS	Tampa, Fla./Robinson	88	George Smith	WR	6-3	200	R-Jr.	2L	Hollywood, Fla./Hollywood Hills
99	Derrius Dowell	DT	6-3	275	R-So.	SQ	Atlanta, Ga./Douglass	19	Larry Smith	QB	6-2	200	Fr.	HS	Prattville, Ala./Prattville
78	Josh Eames	OG	6-5	305	R-Sr.	3L	North Cape May, N.J./Lower Cape	59	Adam Smotherman	DT	6-4	275	R-Fr.	RS	Smyrna, Tenn./Smyrna
67	James Elledge	DL	6-4	275	Fr.	HS	Birmingham, Ala./Mountain Brook	69	Garrett Snoeyenbos	OL	6-3	260	Fr.	HS	Brentwood, Tenn./Brentwood
20	Jared Fagan	CB	5-10	180	R-Jr.	2L	Waldorf, Md./Westlake	6	Darlon Spead	CB	5-10	185	R-So.	1L	Kingsland, Ga./Camden Co.
65	Kyle Fischer	OL	6-6	300	Fr.	HS	Columbia, S.C./Spring Valley	72	Brian Stamper	OT	6-5	300	R-Sr.	3L	Windermere, Fla./Lake Highland
38	Davis Flowers	LB	6-0	215	Fr.	HS	Dothan, Ala./Houston Academy	90	Broderick Stewart	DE	6-5	230	R-So.	1L	Newnan, Ga./Riverside Military
61	Nick Forte	OG	6-2	295	R-So.	SQ	Brentwood, Tenn./Brentwood Academy	49	John Stokes	LB	6-5	230	Fr.	HS	Memphis, Tenn./University School
42	Tim Fugger	DE	6-4	225	Fr.	HS	Oak Brook, Ill./Montini Catholic	96	Steven Stone	DE	6-5	255	R-So.	1L	Conway, Ark./Conway
12	Jared Funk	QB	6-2	195	R-Fr.	RS	Long Grove, Ill./Saint Viator	16	Alan Strong	CB	5-10	175	R-Fr.	RS	Atlanta, Ga./Douglass
46	Michael Garcia	LB	6-0	240	R-Fr.	HS	Jacksonville, Fla./The Bolles School	11	Brent Trice	S	6-3	210	So.	1L	Orange, Va./Fork Union Military (Va.)
70	Drew Gardner	OG	6-6	300	R-So.	SQ	Hoxie, Ark./Hoxie	23	Udom Umoh	WR	6-0	175	Fr.	HS	Fort Valley, Ga./Peach Co.
48	Curtis Gatewood	DE	6-3	245	R-Jr.	3L	Memphis, Tenn./White Station	39	Brett Upton	P	5-11	180	So.	1L	Griffin, Ga./Spalding
47	Jonathan Goff	LB	6-4	235	R-Sr.	3L	Lynn, Mass./St. John's Prep	34	Ryan van Rensburg	TB	6-1	215	Fr.	HS	Jacksonville, Fla./The Bolles School
25	Jamie Graham	CB	5-11	180	Fr.	HS	Nashville, Tenn./Whites Creek	79	Ryan Vance	OG	6-3	285	R-So.	SQ	Bellaire, Texas/Episcopal
82	Justin Green	TE	6-6	230	Fr.	RS	Troy, Ala./Henderson	46*	Duane Vaughn	S	6-1	195	Fr.	HS	Goodlettsville, Tenn./Davidson Acad.
58	T.J. Greenstone	DT	6-3	270	Fr.	HS	Lawrenceville, Ga./Collins Hill	60	Bradley Vierling	C/OG	6-3	290	R-So.	1L	Warminster, Pa./Central Bucks East
49*	Chris Griffin	WR	6-1	185	R-Fr.	RS	Memphis, Tenn./Central	7	Sean Walker	WR	6-0	180	R-Jr.	2L	Wrens, Ga./Jefferson Co.
8	Bryant Hahnfeldt	P/PK	5-11	190	Jr.	2L	Nashville, Tenn./Montgomery Bell	4	Alex Washington	WR	5-9	185	R-So.	1L	Stone Mountain, Ga./Stephenson
56	Gabe Hall	DT	6-1	290	Sr.	3L	Virginia Beach, Va./Fork Union	76	Thomas Welch	OT	6-7	295	R-So.	1L	Brentwood, Tenn./Brentwood
2	Ryan Hamilton	S	6-2	208	R-So.	1L	Wycombe, Pa./Council Rock North	80	Justin Wheeler	WR	6-1	180	R-So.	SQ	North Augusta, Ga./North Augusta
31	Jared Hawkins	TB	5-10	190	R-So.	1L	Spring, Texas/Klein	44	David Whittington	DT	6-2	275	R-Jr.	1L	Lafayette, La./St. Thomas More
66	Eric Hensley	OT	6-6	315	R-So.	1L	Clinton, Tenn./Clinton	74	Chris Williams	OT	6-6	320	R-Sr.	2L	Glynn, La./Catholic
53	Hamilton Holiday	C	6-4	290	Sr.	3L	Marietta, Ga./Walton	77	James Williams	OL	6-6	300	Fr.	HS	Smyrna, Tenn./Smyrna
92	Brandon Holmes	DT	6-3	295	R-Jr.	1L	Garland, Texas/Garland	13	Turner Wimberly	WR	6-0	195	R-Fr.	RS	Austin, Texas/Westlake
54	Theo Horrocks	DT	6-3	290	Sr.	3L	Fayetteville, Tenn./Lincoln Co.								
22	Cassen Jackson-Garrison	TB	6-1	215	Sr.	3L	Knoxville, Tenn./Central								

\* Duplicate Jersey Number

## COMMODORE NUMERICAL ROSTER

2	Ryan Hamilton	S	22	Cassen Jackson-Garrison	TB	42	Tim Fugger	TE	63	Chris Aaron	OL	85	Jake Bradford	TE
3	Chris Nickson	QB	23	Udom Umoh	WR	43	Chris Marve	LB	64	Merritt Kirchoffer	OG	86	Austin Monahan	TE
4	Alex Washington	WR	24	Marcus Buggs	LB	44	David Whittington	DT	65	Kyle Fischer	OL	87	Brandon Barden	TE
5	Myron Lewis	CB	25	Jamie Graham	WR/CB	45	Chris Johnson	LB	66	Eric Hensley	OL	88	George Smith	WR
6	Darlon Spead	CB	26	Andrew Diomande	WR	46	Michael Garcia	LB	67	James Elledge	DT	89	Terriall Brannon	DE
7	Sean Walker	WR	27	Gaston Miller	TB	46*	Duane Vaughn	S	68	Reilly Lauer	DE	90	Broderick Stewart	DE
8	Bryant Hahnfeldt	PK/P	28	Kenard Reeves	TB	47	Jonathan Goff	LB	69	Garrett Snoeyenbos	OL	91	Austin Newton	LB
9	Mackenzi Adams	QB	28*	Alex Schultz	DB	48	Curtis Gatewood	DE	70	Drew Gardner	OG	92	Brandon Holmes	DT
10	Earl Bennett	WR	29	Joel Caldwell	S/DB	49*	Chris Griffin	WR	71	Joey Bailey	C	93	Theron Kadri	DE
11	Brent Trice	S	30	Patrick Benoist	LB	49	John Stokes	LB	72	Brian Stamper	OT	93*	David Leinweber	DE
12	Jared Funk	QB	31	Jared Hawkins	TB	50	Thomas Carroll	PK	73	Ryan Custer	OG	94	Kikko Logan	DE
12*	Chris Crooks	WR	32	Matt Bubis	TE	50*	Bo Cramer	DL	74	Chris Williams	OT	95	Sam Panke	DE
13	Turner Wimberly	WR	33	Reshard Langford	S	52	Nate Campbell	LB	75	Nick Miller	SN	96	Steven Stone	DE
14	Josh Allen	CB	34	Ryan van Rensburg	TB	53	Hamilton Holiday	C	76	Thomas Welch	OT	97	John Laughrey	PK
15	Richard Kovalcheck	QB	35	Brandon Bryant	LB	54	Theo Horrocks	DT	77	James Williams	OL	98	Greg Billinger	DT
16	Alan Strong	CB	36	Chris Reinert	WR	56	Gabe Hall	DT	78	Josh Eames	OG	99	Derrius Dowell	DT
17	D.J. Moore	CB	37	Dom Morais	LB	58	T.J. Greenstone	DT	79	Ryan Vance	OG			
18	Larry Simmons	WR	38	Davis Flowers	LB	59	Adam Smotherman	DT	80	Justin Wheeler	WR			
19	Larry Smith	QB	39	Brett Upton	P	60	Bradley Vierling	C/OG	81	Bryant Anderson	WR			
20	Jared Fagan	CB	40	Bo Baggerley	LB	61	Nick Forte	OG	82	Justin Green	TE			
21	Jeff Jennings	TB	41	Jermaine Doster	TB	62	Rob Ashabranner	DL	83	Brad Allen	TE			