

= Oliver Kuhn =

Oliver Wall Kuhn (August 14 , 1898 ? October 8 , 1968) , nicknamed " Doc Kuhn " , was an American football , baseball and basketball player for the Vanderbilt University Commodores and later a prominent businessman of Tampa , Florida . As a college football quarterback , Kuhn led Vanderbilt to three consecutive Southern titles in 1921 , 1922 , and 1923 ? the most @-@ recent conference titles for Vanderbilt football . In 1922 , Vanderbilt tied Michigan at the dedication of Dudley Field , and Kuhn was picked for Walter Camp 's list of names worthy of mention and Billy Evans ' All @-@ America " National Honor Roll . "

During his senior year , Kuhn was the captain of Vanderbilt 's football and basketball teams and received the Porter Cup , awarded to Vanderbilt 's best all @-@ around athlete . Kuhn played guard on the basketball team and was a shortstop on the baseball team which won a 1921 conference championship . He was known as a streaky hitter but a star defensive player and was selected All @-@ Southern in 1921 and 1922 .

Kuhn moved to Tampa after graduation , where he helped start the athletics program at the University of Tampa , and later notably led an effort to plant podocarpus trees in downtown Tampa .

= = Early years and background = =

Oliver Wall Kuhn was born on August 14 , 1898 , in Nashville , Tennessee , the seventh child of Katherine Wall of Springfield , Kentucky and Ferdinand E. Kuhn , a secretary for the local board of public works . " Doc " , who played old cat as a child , attended preparatory school at Cathedral High School and Montgomery Bell Academy (MBA) . At MBA , he won two state football titles , first in 1915 as a sub and then in 1917 as a starter . Kuhn lost just a single game as MBA 's starting quarterback . According to Kuhn 's draft registration , he worked for DuPont as a civil engineer in Jacksonville , Tennessee . He also spent time at Camp Taylor .

= = Vanderbilt University = =

= = = Football = = =

During World War I Kuhn played briefly with George Gipp under coach Knute Rockne at Notre Dame , and he quarterbacked Dan McGugin 's Vanderbilt football teams from 1920 to 1923 , after a year on the scrub team in 1919 . His Commodores compiled an overall win ? loss ? tie record of 24 ? 5 ? 4 (.788) during his four years on the team , and a 15 ? 2 ? 3 (.825) record while he was a starter , including three consecutive conference titles , the most recent to date for Vanderbilt . He was also a member of Phi Kappa Psi , and chaired the Vanderbilt University dances .

= = = = 1920 = = = =

During Kuhn 's first year playing varsity football for Vanderbilt , the Commodores scored 47 points in the first half of an opening @-@ game win against Birmingham @-@ Southern due to the backfield of " Berryhill , Kuhn , Latham and Company " . After two crushing defeats to Georgia Tech and Auburn , Vanderbilt played Kentucky State and won 20 ? 0 ; Kuhn subbed for Latham so the starter could rest up for the next week 's game against the Alabama Crimson Tide .

In a close game , and Alabama 's first victory over the Commodores , Kuhn substituted for now @-@ injured quarterback Latham and threw the one Vanderbilt touchdown pass to Jess Neely in the 14 ? 7 loss . He also had a 60 @-@ yard kick return , and accumulated 94 yards in all . According to The Atlanta Constitution , " Doc Kuhn , subbing for the injured Latham , was the brilliant star of the day . Kuhn was practically unstoppable by the Alabamians and , time after time , threatened to lead the team to victory . " In a 7 ? 7 tie game against Virginia the following week , starting quarterback Kuhn was cited as an offensive standout .

===== 1921 =====

The Commodores tied for the 1921 Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association (SIAA) football championship with an overall record of 7 ? 0 ? 1 ; Kuhn and Frank Godchaux took turns starting at quarterback . The season opened with a 34 ? 0 victory against the Middle Tennessee State Normal School of Murfreesboro . The Commodore , Vanderbilt 's yearbook , described the lopsided win : " Practically the only thing of note was the aerial efficiency ? Kuhn to Ryan and Kuhn to McCullough "

The team defeated the Longhorns 20 ? 0 at the Texas State Fair in Dallas , although Texas was undefeated in the Southwest Conference the previous year and Vanderbilt was expected to lose by two touchdowns . The 1921 Texas team was considered possibly the best in Longhorns history , and Vanderbilt football seemed to be declining when Georgia Tech defeated it 44 ? 0 the year before . Dan McGugin invoked the late former Vanderbilt quarterback Irby Curry , who was killed in the war , before the game . According to Edwin Pope 's book , Football 's Greatest Coaches , " The Texas game , sparked by McGugin 's unforgettable oratory , was the big one ; and Vandy got out of the year without a loss " . In the last scoring drive , Kuhn completed a pass to the end Tot McCullough at the 8 @-@ yard (7 @.@ 3 m) line to put the ball in scoring position for Godchaux after an offside penalty .

The next week Vanderbilt played the Tennessee Volunteers on a wet Old Dudley Field . Team captain Pink Wade did not play because of low back pain , and Kuhn substituted as captain . Kuhn rushed for two touchdowns in a 14 ? 0 victory . The Tennessee coaches " never saw , in all the spying trips , such interference as the Commodores made yesterday for Doc Kuhn , " remarked Blinkey Horn . In the first quarter , Kuhn 's end run of 19 yards (17 m) made the score 7 ? 0 ; in the second , he had a 30 yards (27 m) touchdown run with Lynn Bomar as lead blocker . As Horn recalled , Kuhn " made possible the touchdown by miraculous sidestepping , " evading two tacklers ? " miraculous because of the treacherous footing . "

In the 14 ? 0 victory over Alabama , Kuhn did not start due to injuries . Entering the game in the fourth quarter , with the Commodores leading 7 ? 0 , Kuhn completed a 25 @-@ yard (23 m) pass to McCullough after Jess Neely 's 21 @-@ yard (19 m) run .

===== 1922 =====

Kuhn was the starting quarterback for a second consecutive undefeated season in 1922 , when Vanderbilt had an 8 ? 0 ? 1 record . He started all but one game at quarterback , including a scoreless tie with Michigan in the inaugural game at Dudley Field . Vanderbilt held the tie with a goal @-@ line stand , and the result was called " a great surprise to the sporting world " ; Commodore fans celebrated by throwing seat cushions onto the field .

After the next game , a 20 ? 10 Commodore victory against Texas at the Texas State Fair , Kuhn 's running game and leadership were praised . In a 14 ? 6 win against Tennessee , Kuhn caught a 31 @-@ yard (28 m) pass from Jess Neely for a touchdown . He returned a kick for 44 yards (40 m) against Kentucky , tackled by the last man before the end zone , but the half ended before the Commodores could score . The Athens Banner described the team 's arrival for a game with Georgia : " The Commodores arrived here at one o 'clock Friday afternoon , and were whisked directly to the Georgian Hotel . Curious hundreds of Bulldog supporters shuddered at the procession of Vandy giants as they strolled down the sidewalks , led by Huge Tot McCullough , with spry Froggy Miers and clever Doc Kuhn bringing up the rear . " Kuhn dropped back , throwing Lynn Bomar a 40 @-@ plus @-@ yard pass for Vanderbilt 's second touchdown in its 12 ? 0 victory over Georgia at Sanford Field .

He finished the season against Sewanee on Thanksgiving Day . In the first quarter , a trick play caught Sewanee off guard . On the previous play , Kuhn ran six yards out of bounds . Then , on a fake run , he threw a pass to Bomar , who was alone behind the defense and ran the rest of the way for a touchdown . Kuhn featured in a second @-@ quarter scoring drive , completing a 10 @-@

yard pass to Scotty Neill inside the five @-@ yard line and faking his way through the line for a touchdown . The Commodores won , 26 ? 0 ; Kuhn was selected as an All @-@ American by Billy Evans and received an honorable mention on Walter Camp 's team . Kuhn and Centre 's Flash Covington were the two quarterbacks from Evans ' All @-@ Southern team to receive Camp 's mention . At the December 5 , 1922 Vanderbilt football banquet , he was elected Commodore captain for the following season .

= = = = 1923 = = = =

In late May 1923 , Kuhn received the Porter Cup as Vanderbilt 's best all @-@ around athlete . According to the Atlanta Constitution , " Doc Kuhn , in winning the Porter Cup , has taken the last leaf in the laurel . Offered each year by the Porter Clothing company , the trophy has risen in distinction from a mere silver emblem to a symbol more highly prized than which there is none to offer to a Vanderbilt athlete " . Kuhn was also captain of the basketball team , president of the student council , president of Phi Kappa Psi and Hellenic president . The Atlanta Journal said , " Doc Kuhn is captain and president of everything at Vanderbilt but the co @-@ eds " . The only two football games he lost at Vanderbilt were in 1923 , to undefeated teams : national champion Michigan and the Texas Longhorns . The Commodores were Southern Conference (SoCon) co @-@ champion in 1923 , with two All @-@ Southern ends ? Lynn Bomar and Hek Wakefield , and All @-@ Southern halfback Gil Reese .

Kuhn returned a kickoff 80 yards (73 m) in the season 's first game , against the Howard Bulldogs . A rematch with Michigan at Ferry Field was a 3 ? 0 loss , with consensus All @-@ American center Jack Blott kicking the winning field goal for the Wolverines . Although Kuhn and Reese were said to raise fans to their feet with their speed , they were hampered by Michigan 's defense . According to a diagram of the game 's plays , the only completed Vanderbilt pass was from Bomar to Kuhn .

After a lackluster 2 ? 2 ? 1 season start , Vanderbilt beat Tennessee and Georgia by a combined 86 ? 14 score with Kuhn scoring the first of the seven touchdowns against Tennessee . He completed a 45 @-@ yard (41 m) pass to Wakefield against Georgia , getting Vanderbilt to the four @-@ yard line . The longest of Gil Reese 's four touchdowns against Georgia was an 81 @-@ yard (74 m) run " behind great interference furnished by the entire Vandy team , and especially Bomar and Kuhn . " According to former Vanderbilt assistant and Alabama head coach Wallace Wade , who was scouting Georgia at the game , the Commodores that day were " the smartest I ever saw " . The season 's final game , against Sewanee in the rain , was a 7 ? 0 Vanderbilt win on a touchdown pass from Kuhn to Reese .

The Florida Gators defeated the Alabama Crimson Tide 16 ? 6 that day , ensuring a share of the Southern title for Vanderbilt . A postseason charity game against former and contemporary Princeton Tigers all @-@ stars ended in a 7 ? 7 tie , with the Vanderbilt touchdown scored on an 18 @-@ yard (16 m) pass from Kuhn to Bomar . Vanderbilt and Washington and Lee finished the season as SoCon co @-@ champion . A sportswriters ' poll gave the Commodores the Champ Pickens Trophy as the best team in the South , and it was presented to Kuhn at the annual football banquet on December 4 .

= = = Basketball = = =

Kuhn lettered at guard for Vanderbilt 's basketball team in 1922 and 1923 . The 1921 ? 22 team had an 8 ? 8 record . In the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association (SIAA) tournament , the Commodores defeated the Citadel Bulldogs 37 ? 22 before losing to the Georgia Bulldogs 27 ? 26 . Kuhn scored 10 points against the Citadel and four against Georgia .

The 1922 ? 23 team , captained by Kuhn , went 16 ? 8 , defeating the LSU Tigers before losing to the Virginia Tech Hokies in the SIAA tournament . According to Ed Danforth , " Either Vanderbilt was in rare form or L.S.U. has a good fighting team with no shooting ability . Fans were treated to the most one @-@ sided contest of opening day when these two clubs met , the Commodores scoring 13 points before the Louisianans had counted once , winning 36 to 10 . " Kuhn scored two points .

Sportswriter Morgan Blake called Kuhn " the best basketball player on the Vandy team . "

= = = Baseball = = =

Kuhn was a shortstop for the Vanderbilt Commodores baseball team , including a claim to the 1921 SIAA championship . The 1921 team had a 20 ? 5 record (14 ? 4 SIAA) . According to Vanderbilt 's yearbook , The Commodore , in a 1921 game against Southwestern Presbyterian University the team scored a world @-@ record 13 runs in one inning with two outs . The Tennessean said :

[Jess] Neely singled , as did Kuhn ; Neil fanned , but Thomas got his third straight hit and both tallied . Big Tot was hit by a pitched ball and Smith was safe on a fielder 's choice with one out . Woodruff flied out to right . Tyner slammed one to center which Jetty juggled and everybody advanced a pair of sacks . Ryan was safe on another error and two runs came over . Neely beat out his second hit of the inning and Kuhn walked . Neil walked . Thomas was safe on an error and Big Tot McCullough picked one over the right field fence , clearing the sacks ? but oh , what 's the use ? Why continue ?

Kuhn and Dot Fulghum of Auburn University were considered the South 's best shortstops . According to a 1922 newspaper report :

Doc Kuhn is possibly the greatest ball player on the squad , due to his miraculous fielding around short this season . Starting with the opening college games he went for six straight games without an error , finally putting Tot McCullough off the bag with a wide heave that broke the run . The Michigan and Ohio coaches were loud in their praises for Kuhn as one of the greatest fielding shortstops they had seen in some time . His hitting this season has been hard and timely , including a homer , four triples , and three doubles . He hits in streaks , however , and this alone will keep the phenomenal Vandy star out of a major berth in the near future . Kuhn , Embury and McCullough stand out head and shoulders above anybody in their respective lines that has visited here in recent years .

Kuhn was the only Vanderbilt baseball player named All @-@ Southern by either Cliff Wheatley or Morgan Blake in 1922 . Wheatley 's choice read , " Vanderbilt 's sole representative is " Doc " Kuhn , who came in several lengths ahead of the other shortstops . Kuhn is a wonderful batter and fields well enough in comparison with other Dixie infielders " . For Blake , " the best shortstop in the S. I. A. A. was Doc Kuhn of Vanderbilt , a great all @-@ around athlete ... He looks like a big leaguer in action . "

= = Later life = =

After graduating from Vanderbilt in 1923 with a Bachelor of Science degree in commerce , Kuhn worked for the Cheek @-@ Neal Coffee Company in Chicago . He married Nancy Lee Pierce at Lylehurst in Nashville , the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Lyles , on October 27 , 1924 . By 1926 he and his wife moved to Tampa , Florida , where Kuhn was an investment broker and spent the rest of his life as one . He was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church , Ye Mystic Krewe of Gasparilla and the University Club . Kuhn was a charter member of the Merrymaker 's Club , the Sword and Shield Club and the Tampa Quarterback Club , and was once president of the State and Tampa Exchange Club and the Tampa Junior Chamber of Commerce . He also aided the start of the athletics program at the University of Tampa .

Kuhn led an initiative to plant podocarpus trees in downtown Tampa , for which he was named Man of the Year a year before his death . A tree was planted on Bayshore Boulevard in his honor . He died at his home in Tampa on October 8 , 1968 .