

= 1906 Vanderbilt Commodores football team =

The 1906 Vanderbilt Commodores football team represented Vanderbilt University during the 1906 college football season . The team 's head coach was Dan McGugin , who served his third season in that capacity . Members of the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association ( SIAA ) , the Commodores played seven home games in Nashville , Tennessee at Curry Field , and finished the season with a record of 8 ? 1 overall and 5 ? 0 in SIAA .

The 1906 Vanderbilt team had one of the best seasons in the school 's history , outscoring opponents 278 ? 16 . Innis Brown rated the 1906 team as the best the South ever had . Vanderbilt won all of its home games , finishing the season on a 22 @-@ game home win streak . Their only loss came on the road to western power Michigan , 10 ? 4 ; the game had been tied until the closing minutes .

Seven of the Commodores ' eight wins came by shutout ? only two teams scored on them all season . Several teams failed to gain a single first down against the Commodores . The team most notably defeated northern power Carlisle by a single Bob Blake field goal 4 ? 0 . Back Owsley Manier was selected third @-@ team All @-@ America by Walter Camp , the South 's first .

= = Before the season = =

Notable losses from the 1905 team included Bachelor of Ugliness Ed Hamilton , captain Innis Brown , and quarterback Frank Kyle .

= = = Rule changes = = =

At the end of 1905 football looked about to be abolished due to all of the reoccurring violence during games . Football was a sport that had degenerated into dangerous tactics such as : the flying wedge , punching , kicking , piling @-@ on , and elbows to the face . Almost any violent behavior was allowed . Fatalities and injuries mounted during the 1905 season .

As a result , the 1906 season was played under a new set of rules . The rules governing intercollegiate football were changed to promote a more open and less dangerous style of play . An intercollegiate conference , which would become the forerunner of the NCAA , approved radical changes including the legalization of the forward pass , allowing the punting team to recover an on @-@ side kick as a live ball , abolishing the dangerous flying wedge , creating a neutral zone between offense and defense , and doubling the first @-@ down distance to 10 yards , to be gained in three downs .

= = Schedule = =

= = Season summary = =

= = = Week 1 : Kentucky State = = =

In a 28 ? 0 win over Kentucky State College to open the season , Owsley Manier scored three touchdowns and the Commodores as a whole rushed for 630 yards . G. A. Hall had a 33 @-@ yard punt return for a touchdown . The Commodores were penalized several times . Kentucky never had a first down and had to punt after second down .

The starting lineup against Kentucky State was : Stone ( left end ) ; Pritchard ( left tackle ) ; King ( left guard ) ; Wynne ( center ) ; Sherrill ( right guard ) ; E. Noel ( right tackle ) ; B. Blake ( right end ) ; Costen ( quarterback ) ; Crawford ( left halfback ) ; Craig ( right halfback ) ; Manier ( fullback ) .

= = = Week 2 : Mississippi = = =

Vanderbilt easily beat Mississippi 29 ? 0 . Like McGugin , Mississippi 's coach Thomas S. Hammond was a Michigan alumnus . One account reads : " whatever hopes the spectators had of seeing a close and exciting football game today when Vanderbilt faced Mississippi were shattered in the very first five minutes of play . " The stars of the contest were Dan Blake and Honus Craig . Mississippi failed to gain a single first down . Umpire Henry D. Phillips kicked Joe Pritchard out of the contest for roughing .

The starting lineup against Mississippi was : V. Blake ( left end ) ; E. Noel ( left tackle ) ; McLain ( left guard ) ; Stone ( center ) ; Chorn ( right guard ) ; Pritchard ( right tackle ) ; B. Blake ( right end ) ; Costen ( quarterback ) ; D. Blake ( left halfback ) ; Craig ( right halfback ) ; Manier ( fullback ) .

= = = Week 3 : Alabama = = =

The only loss of the year for the Alabama Crimson Tide was its biggest ever loss to Vanderbilt , 78 ? 0 . Seven of Alabama 's regular players were out with injuries . Vanderbilt executed several onside kicks from scrimmage . Owsley Manier scored five touchdowns as : " the back field frequently went twenty @-@ five or thirty yards over the line " . Alabama was held to just a single first down . Due to injuries , Alabama had not wished to play , and : " the comparatively few who came to see them play were scarcely rewarded by seeing touchdowns made every two minutes . "

The starting lineup against Alabama was : V. Blake ( left end ) ; Pritchard ( left tackle ) ; McLain ( left guard ) ; Stone ( center ) , Chorn ( right guard ) ; E. Noel ( right tackle ) ; B. Blake ( right end ) ; Costen ( quarterback ) ; D. Blake ( left halfback ) ; Craig ( right halfback ) ; Manier ( fullback ) .

= = = Week 4 : Texas = = =

Vanderbilt romped over the Texas Longhorns 45 ? 0 . Sam Costen had a run of 61 yards , Dan Blake one of 52 , and Vaughn Blake 42 . Two other touchdowns were had by Vanderbilt but referee Bradley Walker called the team back for holding . The Texas men seemed equal to Vanderbilt 's in physique , yet they too failed to net a first down .

The starting lineup against Texas was : V. Blake ( left end ) ; Pritchard ( left tackle ) ; Chorn ( left guard ) ; Stone ( center ) ; McLain ( right guard ) ; E. Noel ( right tackle ) ; B. Blake ( right end ) ; Costen ( quarterback ) ; Craig ( left halfback ) ; D. Blake ( right halfback ) ; Manier ( fullback ) .

= = = Week 5 : at Michigan = = =

On November 3 , Vanderbilt lost to the Michigan Wolverines by a 10 ? 4 score . The game remained tied at 4 ? 4 until the closing minutes . The Masonic Theater in Nashville was crowded with those who had come to see the game detailed .

Before the game , Michigan coach Fielding Yost said : " I have said right along that the Vanderbilt team would come nearer beating us than any team ever did ... In Craig , Blake , and Manier I think Vanderbilt has the three greatest backs of any one team in the country . " On the night just before the game , 4 @, @ 200 students attended a mass meeting at University Hall . McGugin and Yost both spoke to the crowd and agreed that the game would be one of the closest played in Ann Arbor in many years . D. G. Fite , father @-@ in @-@ law of both McGugin and Yost , traveled from his home in Tennessee to watch the game .

John Garrels put Michigan ahead with a field goal from the 25 @-@ yard line . On the preceding drive , Garrels had completed a 15 @-@ yard forward pass to Bishop , the first legal forward pass completed by Michigan under the new rules . Michigan led , 4 ? 0 , at halftime . Early in the second half , Vanderbilt tied the score with a field goal by Dan Blake from the 30 @-@ yard line . With two minutes left in the game , Garrels ran 68 yards for a touchdown . The Chicago Daily Tribune wrote : " Garrels , on a fake kick , with splendid interference by Hammond , Curtis , and Workman , ran Vanderbilt 's left end at lightning speed for sixty @-@ eight yards and a touchdown . " Curtis kicked the extra point , and Michigan led , 10 ? 4 .

Vanderbilt 's lineup against Michigan was : V. Blake ( left end ) ; Pritchard ( left tackle ) ; Chorn ( left guard ) ; Stone ( center ) ; McLain ( right guard ) ; E. Noel ( right tackle ) ; B. Blake ( right end ) ; Costen ( quarterback ) ; Craig ( left halfback ) ; D. Blake ( right halfback ) ; Manier ( fullback ) .

= = = Week 6 : Rose Polytechnic = = =

The 33 to 0 win over Rose Polytechnic proved the surprise of the season . Owsley Manier again scored five touchdowns , but he also : " probably prevented the visitors from scoring by his clever defensive work . " Bob Blake kicked four extra points and a 20 @-@ yard field goal from placement .

The starting lineup against Rose Tech was : V. Blake ( left end ) ; Pritchard ( left tackle ) ; McLain ( left guard ) ; Stone ( center ) ; Chorn ( right guard ) ; E. Noel ( right tackle ) ; B. Blake ( right end ) ; Costen ( quarterback ) ; D. Blake ( left halfback ) ; Craig ( right halfback ) ; Manier ( fullback ) .

= = = Week 7 : at Georgia Tech = = =

Vanderbilt defeated coach John Heisman , who had helped legalize the forward pass , and his Georgia Tech team in the rain and mud of Atlanta 37 ? 6 . Lobster Brown scored Tech 's points . Atlanta Constitution sportswriter Alex Lynn wrote after the game that Owsley Manier was : " the greatest fullback and all round man ever seen in Atlanta . " He again scored five touchdowns .

The starting lineup against Georgia Tech was : V. Blake ( left end ) ; Pritchard ( left tackle ) ; McLain ( left guard ) ; Stone ( center ) ; Chorn ( right guard ) ; E. Noel ( right tackle ) ; B. Blake ( right end ) ; Costen ( quarterback ) ; D. Blake ( left halfback ) ; Craig ( right halfback ) ; Manier ( fullback ) .

= = = Week 8 : Carlisle = = =

On Thanksgiving , the Commodores reached the season 's high point and beat the Carlisle Indians 4 ? 0 . Just a week before the contest , Vanderbilt negotiated a game with Carlisle to fill an open date . The Nashville Banner predicted it would be : " the greatest game the south ever saw . " The game started forty @-@ five minutes late to accommodate the large crowd .

Vanderbilt won by a single , 17 @-@ yard Bob Blake field goal 4 ? 0 . In the first two minutes of play , the Indians drove the ball to Vanderbilt 's 3 @-@ yard line , but the Commodores line held and they got no further . Frank Mount Pleasant , one of the first regular spiral pass quarterbacks , attempted four field goals , but missed them all .

Atlanta Constitution sporting editor A. W. Lynn wrote : " The general surprises are numerous enough , but the largest particular one was the Commodore ? Indian contest , when Vanderbilt took off the greatest honors ever falling to the lot of a southern football team in the hardest battle ever fought on a southern gridiron . John Heisman wrote : " Manier bucked the Indians ' line . Costen handled the ball surely and well downed Mt . Pleasant in his tracks on most of Blake 's punts ... I am still convinced that outside Yale and Princeton , the Commodores would have an even break with any other team in the country . " Vanderbilt running back Honus Craig called this his hardest game , giving special praise to Albert Exendine as : " the fastest end I ever saw . "

One source claims the Carlisle Indians failed to receive supplies on the trip to Nashville , including their receiving carboys emptied of water . " The Indians had the poorest kind of accommodations at Nashville , and on account of the change of water every one of them became ill . "

The starting lineup for Vanderbilt was : V. Blake ( left end ) ; Pritchard ( left tackle ) ; McLain ( left guard ) ; Stone ( center ) ; Chorn ( right guard ) ; E. Noel ( right tackle ) ; B. Blake ( right end ) ; Costen ( quarterback ) ; D. Blake ( left halfback ) ; Craig ( right halfback ) ; Manier ( fullback ) .

= = = Week 9 : Sewanee = = =

Despite Vanderbilt 's strong record , the Sewanee Tigers were undefeated and felt cause for optimism in the effective Southern championship . One account recalls : " A high authority on foot

@-@ ball said the other day : Vanderbilt is not invincible , by a good deal . The Sewanee " Tigers " are going to Nashville on Thursday to prove that fact . " Vanderbilt struggled , but still won 20 ? 0 . " With Vandy making only 20 points ? Vandy was stale , was the explanation . " After the big win over Carlisle , " a matter @-@ of @-@ course feeling pervaded the entire game . " The first score of the game came on a 25 @-@ yard field goal . The first touchdown came from Owsley Manier . In the second half , Bob Blake made a 22 @-@ yard field goal , and Manier got another touchdown .

The starting lineup against Sewanee was : V. Blake ( left end ) ; Pritchard ( left tackle ) ; McLain ( left guard ) ; Stone ( center ) ; Chorn ( right guard ) ; E. Noel ( right tackle ) ; B. Blake ( right end ) ; Costen ( quarter ) ; D. Blake ( left halfback ) ; Craig ( right halfback ) ; Manier ( fullback ) .

= = Post @-@ season = =

Vanderbilt won an SIAA championship . Coach McGugin called the Carlisle victory " the crowning feat of the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association season . "

Dan Blake , Owsley Manier , and Joe Pritchard all graduated . Manier went on to receive an M. D. from the University of Pennsylvania , and played one season on the football team . " But his effectiveness at Pennsylvania was lessened by the attempt of the coaches to change his style of bucking a line from the low , plunging dive to running into it erect , knees drawn high and great dependence upon his companion backs to " hike " him . " At Penn he was shifted to halfback , and mostly used for swift plunges into the line . Penn defeated Michigan , exacting revenge for the multiple losses suffered by Manier to Michigan at Vanderbilt .

Dan Blake went on to coach at Hopkinsville High School in Hopkinsville , Kentucky . While there he was manager of the electric light and gas plants of the Kentucky Public Service Company . Pritchard coached at LSU for part of one season and was later a Presbyterian dental missionary at Luebo in the Congo until he was forced to return to the United States due to poor health sometime before 1915 .

= = = Awards and honors = = =

For some , Vanderbilt 's eleven was the entire All @-@ Southern team . Fullback Owsley Manier was selected third @-@ team All @-@ America by Walter Camp . This makes Manier the first Southern player to make any of Camp 's teams .

= = = Legacy = = =

In 1911 , Innis Brown rated the 1906 team as the best the South ever had . Sportswriter Joe Williams recalled " I suppose the first great Southern team was Vanderbilt of 1906 . "

= = Personnel = =

= = = Depth chart = = =

The following chart provides a visual depiction of Vanderbilt 's lineup during the 1906 season with games started at the position reflected in parenthesis . The chart mimics a short punt formation while on offense , with the quarterback under center .

= = = Varsity letter winners = = =

= = = = Line = = = =

===== Backfield =====

===== Subs =====

===== Scoring leaders =====

In 1906 , touchdowns were worth 5 points and field goals 4 .