

Sports

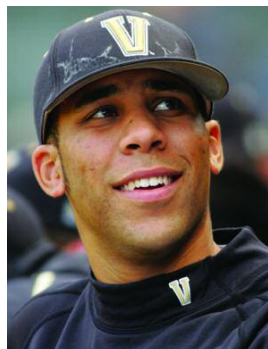
A look at Vanderbilt athletics

IN THE EARLY DAYS OF WHAT, TO DATE, has been a stellar baseball career, David Price could be found in the backyard. Wait, front yard. Nope, backyard ... front yard. "My mom always tells the story about when I was 3 years old," Price recalls. "We lived in a one-story house, and I had a Wiffle ball I would hit over the house, run around to the other side and hit it back. All day long."

And so it began for David Price, Vanderbilt's 6-foot-6, flame-throwing left-handed pitcher. During the ensuing years he progressed through coach pitch (age 6) and kid pitch (age 9). "I either pitched or played first," he says. "We always pitched off an artificial mound—a green plastic thing with a mound on it. It was weird."

Price's father and coaches made sure the young southpaw took care of his pitching arm and didn't get too fancy too soon. "I basically just threw fastballs. I guess I started throwing curve balls around seventh grade. All kids mess around when they're 10 or 11 trying to flip a curve ball while they're playing catch, but never in a game."

Price's family has always been a source of strength and direction in his life. His parents and two older brothers and their families all live within a short distance of each other in Murfreesboro, Tenn. "I spend a lot of time with all of them," says Price. "We hang out a lot, do a lot of family get-together stuff." He



is particularly fond of the family-friendly rounds of golf they play. "Actually, golf is probably my favorite sport, then baseball. I've never had any lessons or anything. I just like to go out there and hit it. I hit it a lot with my dad and my brothers and my uncle. It's a big family thing. My mom plays, so it's fun."

At Blackman High School in Murfreesboro, Price had a 0.43 ERA with 151 strikeouts and was a two-time Rutherford County MVP pitcher, Co-District 7 AAA Pitcher of the Year, and three-time Rutherford County Male Athlete of the Year.

With college looming, he was uncertain where his next start would be. A conversation with one of his older brothers may have been pivotal in his decision to attend Vanderbilt.

"My brother said, 'What do you think about going to Vanderbilt?' I said, 'I'll never go to Vanderbilt. They're not any good. It's just not something

I see myself doing.'" To the contrary, Coach Tim Corbin led the Commodores to the NCAA super regionals that year. "They had a promising year coming up," Price continues. "I got to thinking, If I stay around here, my family could continue to watch me play and all my friends—everybody who's been a part of my baseball life growing up. I guess I didn't want to go far away. I wasn't going to go to MTSU, and I hate UT. It didn't take me long to realize I wanted to come here. My first visit on campus, they offered me a schol-

arship. My parents were really happy."

In his first year as a Commodore, Price was named a Freshman All-American by both *Baseball America* and *Collegiate Baseball* magazines. He logged 92 strikeouts in 69.1 innings, holding opponents to a .207 average against him.

"He had a very good freshman year followed by a great summer with Team USA," said Coach Tim Corbin in the off-season. "Although just a sophomore, David is a very good leader and an excellent competitor."

In the summer of 2005, Price was invited to join Team USA for a taste of baseball with an international flavor. "It was a lot different," he says. "We did a lot of traveling. I had never been out of the country."

Price continued to garner regional and national honors during his 2006 sophomore stint. He was named the Southeastern Conference Pitcher of the Week and the National Pitcher of the Week on a number of occasions.

"Any time you get recognized for accomplishments in the league, that's good," he says. "Especially in the SEC. Nationally, that's nice. I guess I expect it of myself. When I don't get it, I'm kind of disappointed in myself. I expect that every week."

Life after Vanderbilt will still include a leather-covered sphere for Price, who majors in sociology. "Major League Baseball, obviously, has been my dream since I was young, so that's a top priority on my list. I'll definitely be getting a chance to play Major League Baseball. After that, I'll just retire and play golf all day."

Close to Home

Local recruit, All-American pitcher David Price sets his sights on the big leagues.

By NELSON BRYAN, BA'73



David Price was named SEC Pitcher of the Week and National Pitcher of the Week several times during his sophomore year.

PHOTOS BY NEIL BRAKE

2006 Commodore Baseball Season Is a Hit

The Commodores played another impressive season of baseball, logging a 38–27 record, advancing to the SEC Tournament Championship game, and playing the NCAA Regional Tournament in Atlanta. In the process, several players received awards for their efforts.

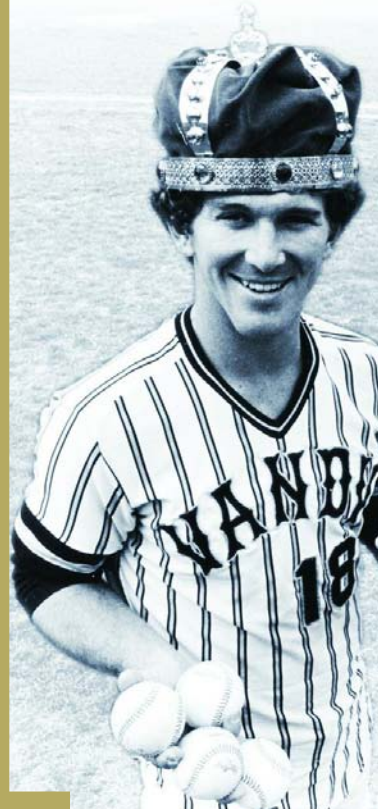
Freshman third-baseman Pedro Alvarez and sophomore pitcher David Price were All-American and All-South Region picks. Alvarez was named *Collegiate Baseball's* National Freshman of the Year, first-team All-American by *Baseball America*, and SEC Freshman of the Year and All-South Region by the American Baseball Coaches Association. Price was a third-team All-American choice by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association and a first-team All-South Region pick.



All-American Pedro Alvarez was named National Freshman of the Year for 2006 by *Collegiate Baseball*.

Several players were drafted by major-league teams at season's end. Senior pitcher Matt Buschmann and senior catcher Brian Hernandez were drafted by the San Diego Padres. Junior pitchers Casey Weathers and Greg Moviell were picked by the Detroit Tigers and Seattle Mariners, respectively.

{Where Are They Now?}



You remember **Scotti Madison**, BA'81. Baseball player. Stalwart performer on Vanderbilt's 1980 SEC Championship team. First-team All American. First-team All SEC. Third-round draft pick of the Minnesota Twins. And he still owns the Vanderbilt career home run record with 49. Today Scotti's still at the top of his game. He's been named the top agent—among 50,000 agents—with Aflac Insurance for four consecutive years. He lives in Acworth, Ga., with his wife, high-school senior daughter, and his 6-foot-3-inch, 15-year-old son. He's been coaching Little League baseball for eight years and watched the Commodores play Georgia Tech this year in the NCAA Regional Baseball Tournament. "I'm really pleased with Coach Corbin and the direction they're heading," he says of the present-day team. He also stays busy marketing Triggerlite, a self-recharging flashlight. And he started Georgians Need Summers, an organization designed to "stop the creep of year-round schools in Cobb County."

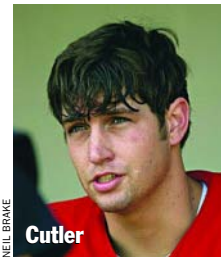


Cutler, Griffin Named Athletes of the Year

Future pro quarterback Jay Cutler and soccer standout Tyler Griffin were named Vanderbilt's Male and Female Athletes of the Year for 2005–06.

Cutler finished his Vanderbilt career as the SEC's Offensive Player of the Year and was drafted by the Denver Broncos as the 11th pick in the NFL draft. His final collegiate pass was a game-winning touchdown at Tennessee.

Goalkeeper Griffin was named the SEC Defensive Player of the Year after setting school records with 14 shutouts (also an SEC record) and 0.45 goals against average. Vanderbilt's athletes of the year are selected by a vote of the senior athletic staff administrators.



Cutler



Griffin

Meyer Honored by Metro Council for Lifesaving Effort

Athletic trainer Mike Meyer was recognized by Nashville's Metropolitan Council and the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) for his efforts in saving the life of Vanderbilt men's basketball player Davis Nwankwo in early March.

Nwankwo, a redshirt freshman, collapsed at the beginning of basketball practice March 6 when he suffered cardiac arrest. A student athletic trainer retrieved an automated external defibrillator, and Meyer resuscitated Nwankwo by administering one shock and two rescue breaths.

Meyer also was named the NATA Division I Athletic Trainer of the Year at the association's annual symposium in June.

He has been an assistant trainer with the men's basketball and women's golf programs since joining Vanderbilt in 2003.



Meyer

{Sports Roundup}

Men's Golf: List Earns First-Team All-SEC Honors



List

Junior Luke List was one of eight men's golfers to earn All-SEC recognition by a vote of the league's coaches. He notched seven top-10 finishes, winning medalist honors three times during the season: at the Mason Rudolph Championship, the All-American Classic, and the New Year's Invitational.

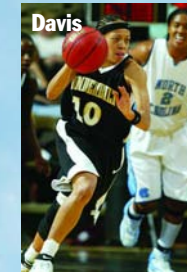
2006 Football Schedule

- Sept. 2 at Michigan
- Sept. 9 at Alabama
- Sept. 16 Arkansas
- Sept. 23 Tennessee State
- Sept. 30 Temple
- Oct. 7 at Ole Miss
- Oct. 14 at Georgia
- Oct. 21 South Carolina (Homecoming)
- Oct. 28 at Duke
- Nov. 4 Florida
- Nov. 11 at Kentucky
- Nov. 18 Tennessee

Women's Lacrosse: Four Commodores Make All-Region Team

Four members of the women's lacrosse team earned All-Region recognition from the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association in May. Senior Kate Hickman and sophomore Sasha Cielak were first-team honorees, and junior Molly Frew and sophomore Margie Curran were named to the second team. Hickman ranks third at Vanderbilt in goals scored and points. Cielak led the team with caused turnovers and ground balls this season. Frew was chosen as a team captain, and Curran led the team in assists with 23. The team ended the season with a 6–10 overall record.

Women's Basketball: Davis Named to SEC First Team

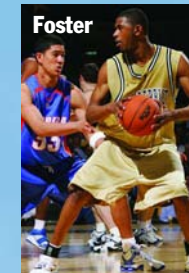


Davis

Junior point guard Dee Davis was named to the All-SEC first team, and sophomore center Liz Sherwood earned the inaugural Sixth Woman of the Year Award. Junior guard Caroline Williams was named to the All-SEC second team. Davis led the conference with 6.9 assists per game, placing third nationally.

Williams averaged 12.7 points per game and led the SEC in three-pointers made per game. Sherwood made 81 percent of her free throws, and led the nation in field-goal percentage with 66.4 percent. The Commodores finished the season with a 21–11 record.

Men's Basketball: Foster Named First-Team All-SEC



Foster

Sophomore wing player Shan Foster earned first-team All-SEC selection by the league's coaches last March. He is the first Commodore to earn the honor since Matt Freije did so in 2004. The men finished the season with a 16–13 record.

Bowling: Peloquin Named National Rookie of the Year

Freshman Michelle Peloquin was named a first-team All-American and winner of the national Rookie of the Year Award by the National Tenpin Coaches Association. She is Vanderbilt's first bowling All-American and the only freshman on the team. She rolled a 212 average over 64 games, second best in the NCAA. Classmate Tara Kane was selected to the honorable mention team.



Garret Westlake, MEd'04, played for and now coaches Vanderbilt's Ultimate Frisbee team. (Yes, it is a sport, and they do play other college teams.)

PHOTOS BY NEIL BRAKE