

# Sports

A look at Vanderbilt athletics

## At Home on the Lanes

Bowling, a new varsity sport at Vanderbilt, is old hat to Michelle Peloquin.

BY NELSON BRYAN, BA'73

**Y**OU CAN FIND Michelle Peloquin easily enough. Just listen for the sound of rolling thunder followed by the crash of splintering wood. The sophomore bowler is with her teammates, at home on the lanes.

Just a 25-minute drive from campus lies the Smyrna Bowling Center, home of the Vanderbilt women's bowling team, now entering its third year as a Vanderbilt varsity sport. The Smyrna location is a good choice, coach John Williamson says, because unlike closer bowling alleys, Smyrna lets Vanderbilt call the "shots"—the amount of oil used and where it's applied on the lanes. Collegiate tournament players require different standards than the local leaguers.

"This is like a brand-new, old-school bowling alley," Williamson says. "It's a bowling-only center, no arcade games."

But Vanderbilt and Smyrna are a lot farther down the road from Peloquin's hometown of Enfield, Conn., where she was valedictorian of her



class at Enrico Fermi High School and a member of the National Honor Society, and where she started bowling when she wasn't much taller than a tenpin.

"I started bowling when I was 5," Peloquin recalls. "I started playing soccer when I was 6. I did double duty all the way through high

school. Up to a point, soccer was definitely something I was a little more serious about. But once I got to middle school, soccer turned into a Monday through Friday event with practices and games after school. So my weekends really became dedicated to bowling. I started going to local and regional tournaments. Probably my freshman year of high school, I knew that bowling was the route I wanted to take."

She credits her father with sparking her interest in bowling. A bowler himself, he is an assistant bowling coach at Sacred Heart University, where her older sister, Nicole, was a collegiate bowler. Sacred Heart seemed like the natural destination for Michelle, but she was looking for more.

"I needed something a little bigger."

Sacred Heart's head bowling coach tipped off Peloquin that Vanderbilt was starting a new bowling program.

"She said it might be something I want to look into because I was really trying to get the best of both worlds," Peloquin says. "I wanted a good academic

institution that would also enable me to bowl competitively."

Peloquin's high school principal offered to put in a good word for her with Williamson.

"Coach called me later that night and asked if I wanted to come take a look at the school," she says. "It happened pretty fast."

The academics at Vanderbilt have been a good fit for Peloquin. A chemistry major, she is leaning toward a career in pharmacy. The bigger challenge for Peloquin was going from what had been a strictly individual sport to a team sport.

"Connecticut does not offer high-school bowling as a team sport," she explains, "so everything I competed in was individual. My league was individual, and I bowled in regional tournaments through an organization called the Junior Bowlers Tour."

The Junior Bowlers Tour doesn't distinguish between men's and women's divisions, and the number of female competitors was relatively few.

"I was basically bowling against males the entire time. It was probably a good thing. In order to stay in the pack, I really had to put a lot of effort into it and probably a good amount more than they did, just because I had that much more to make up."

In 2003 she won the Keystone Junior Bowlers Tour Tournament of Champions and in 2005 was the New England Conference Junior Bowlers Tour Bowler of the Year. She has bowled a perfect score of 300 on a number of occasions and says of the experience, "It's very cool."

There's an old coaches' saw that says, "There is no 'i' in team." OK, but there is an "m" and an "e," and after years of individual competition, Peloquin is happy to blend her "me" into a team environment.

"Last year we played almost entirely five

*continued on page 83*



Michelle Peloquin

PHOTOS BY NEIL BRADY



### Organ Picked to Lead Women's Swim Team

Jeremy Organ has been chosen head coach of the fledgling women's swimming program, Vanderbilt's newest varsity sport. He comes to Vanderbilt after serving as head senior assistant/head masters coach at the Nashville Aquatic Club, one of swimming's most competitive club teams. A former collegiate swimmer himself, he was a six-time All-American at the University of North Dakota and was the North Central Conference Swimmer of the Year in 1995.

"We are excited to begin our women's swimming program and become part of a very competitive Southeastern Conference sport," says David Williams, vice chancellor for university affairs. "In Jeremy Organ we have a seasoned swimming expert who has both competed and coached successfully. He

has a record for developing young swimmers, and he will be an asset as we begin in this demanding league."

The 2006 team will be the first reincarnation since 1990, when the university dropped the swimming program due to inadequate facilities. The Aquadores will make the nearby Centennial SportsPlex their new home with a schedule that begins this winter.

### Goff Football Jersey Honors Slain Teammate

Junior linebacker Jonathan Goff has been selected by teammates to wear a special jersey patch honoring the memory of former Commodore tailback Kwane Doster.

Goff, a mechanical engineering major from Salem, Mass., is the first player to wear the patch, according to Head Coach Bobby Johnson. A player will be voted to wear the

Doster patch each year throughout Johnson's coaching tenure.

Doster, the SEC Freshman of the Year in 2002, was killed by gunfire in his hometown of Tampa, Fla., on Dec. 26, 2004. Last year the entire Commodore squad paid tribute to Doster by wearing a "Dot 1" helmet decal.

"Jonathan is a perfect choice to honor Kwane," Johnson says. "He is a great teammate, academically responsible, and has a dedicated type of leadership." The designated patch features the Vanderbilt star logo through Doster's No. 1, surrounded by the initials KD. It appears on Goff's upper left chest, just above the C (designating him as a team captain).



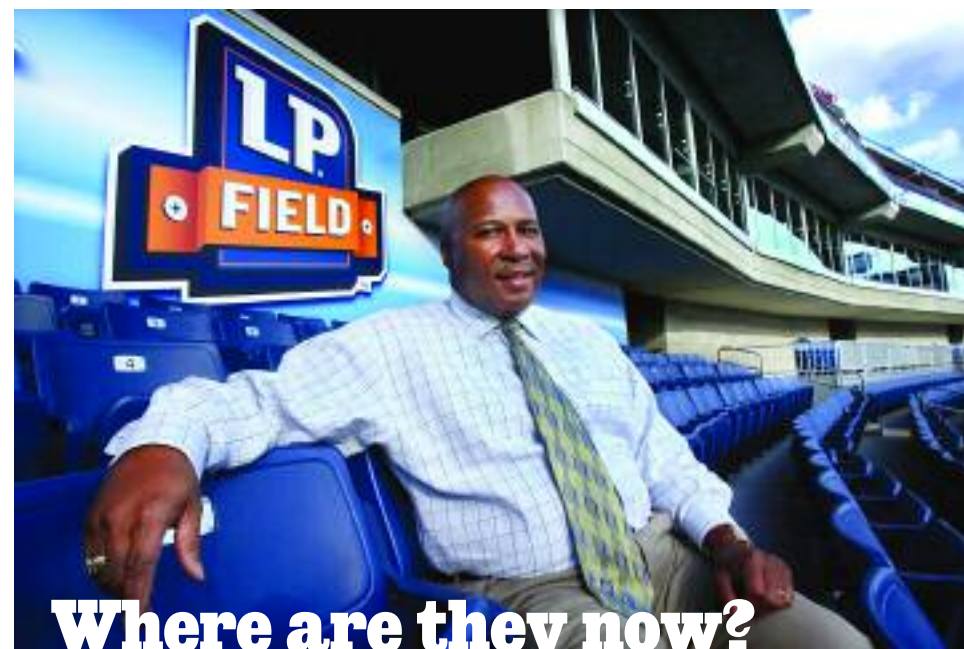
### Scholarship to Honor Late Vanderbilt Voice Paul Eells

Several Commodore alumni are establishing a memorial scholarship fund in honor of former radio play-by-play announcer Paul Eells, who was killed in an automobile accident near Russellville, Ark., on July 31.

Eells was a former sports director at WSM radio and television and, from 1967 to 1978, the voice of Vanderbilt football and basketball games. Members of the famed "F-Troop" basketball team from the mid-'70s—Butch Feher, Jeff Fosnes and Joe Ford, along with teammate Dickie Keffer—are working to fund an athletic scholarship to commemorate Eells' contributions to the university. The group encourages all former student-athletes impacted by Eells to contribute.

"Paul was the type of person who made you feel like you were his best friend," says Keffer. "As a student and player, I found him to be very generous and gracious."

At the time of his death, Eells was sports director at KATV in Little Rock and had spent the past 28 years as the voice of the University of Arkansas football and basketball games.



## Where are they now?

Thirty-some years after his playing days at Pearl High School and Vanderbilt University, **Walter Overton**, BA'74, is still integral to the football community in his hometown of Nashville. The former executive director of the Metro Nashville Sports Authority, he joined the NFL Tennessee Titans organization last March as general manager of LP Field, home stadium of the Titans and the Tennessee State University Tigers. He was the first black football player from a Metro Nashville school to receive a football scholarship at Vanderbilt and, as a quarterback-turned-wide receiver, led the team with 20 catches for 317 yards and two touchdowns in 1972. He also was present at the historic first-ever meeting between Tennessee State and Vanderbilt on the gridiron this year. "It's a dream come true," he says. "Having been exposed to both of these universities at an early age, it means so much to me for this to finally happen." By the way, Vanderbilt won the historic opener 38-9.



# Sports Roundup

### Women's Golf: Program Earns No. 4 National Ranking

The women's golf program has been ranked fourth nationally for junior golf prospects, according to a study compiled by *Golf Digest* magazine. "We're building a successful program at Vanderbilt," says Coach Martha Freitag, "and for us to have earned recognition as one of the nation's best schools validates the initial vision of where we could take this program." The two-time SEC Coach of the Year has guided Vanderbilt to three NCAA Championship finals and the 2004 SEC Championship while producing six All-America honorees and 22 SEC Academic Honor Roll selections.

Also, Jacqui Concolino was named second-team All-America by the National Golf Coaches Association last May, becoming the first freshman in school history to earn the distinction as one of the top 22 golfers in the nation. She also was the first Vanderbilt freshman to earn All-SEC first-team honors after finishing fourth at the SEC Championship.



### Baseball: Price Named Summer Player of the Year

Vanderbilt pitcher David Price was named *Baseball America* magazine's College Summer Player of the Year in August. He was dominant on the mound for the *USA Baseball* National Team's pitching staff and helped lead the squad to a gold medal at the FISU World University Championships in Havana, Cuba. He logged a 5-1 record with a 0.20 ERA and struck out 61 batters with just seven walks in 44 innings



pitched. This was his second year to play for the *USA Baseball* National Team, which was coached this year by Vanderbilt's Tim Corbin and also featured Vandy third-baseman Pedro Alvarez.

### Cross Country: Keith Called to Coach Commodores

Steven Keith has been named men's and women's cross country coach. A Vanderbilt alumnus, he lettered in cross country from 1977 to 1981. He has 20 years of coaching experience at the Division I level, most recently a five-year stint as head women's cross country coach at Alabama. "Vanderbilt has the potential to rise to an elite level on the national stage in cross country," says Vice Chancellor David Williams, "and we believe Steve Keith is the right person to lead us in that direction."

The cross country teams started the 2006 fall season at the Belmont Invitational with the men's team finishing second and the women's team finishing fifth.



Cross Country Coach Steven Keith, BA'81, preps his runners at the Belmont Invitational.

The women's swim team kicks off this winter after a 16-year hiatus.



**VJournal** *continued from page 9*

Center arrived at work one Monday morning to discover a pig's head on our patio. What first appeared to be an act of anti-Semitism turned out, apparently, to be done out of ignorance rather than malicious intent: Sigma Chi fraternity, whose house is across the street from the Schulman Center, had held a pig roast the previous weekend, and somebody got the bright idea that it would be a great prank to leave a pig's head outside the vegetarian restaurant, without any appreciation for how that might be perceived by Jews.

That event and the ensuing publicity showed me something I hadn't really considered before. Here was this fraternity right across the street from the Schulman Center. Every day, they walk in and out of their fraternity, we walk in and out of our building, and we aren't even the kind of neighbors who wave from across the street or greet one another as we're driving past.

Given a situation in which you're not communicating with your neighbors, eventually something unfortunate happens—whether it's a miscommunication, whether it's mischievous, whether it's malicious, a problem will inevitably arise, and when it does, you don't have a relationship you can fall back on to help resolve problems.

Before I came to Vanderbilt, I was director of the Freeman Center for Jewish Life at Duke University. While I was at Duke, there was an anti-Israel conference that a student group brought to campus, not something the university endorsed. That could have been a terrible experience for the Jewish students on

campus, and it was, in fact, a very difficult one. But we had put a lot of time into developing relationships across all faiths, and when it became clear that the conference was coming to campus, I was able to pick up the phone with various groups on campus representing different viewpoints, people with whom I was on a first-name basis, to say, "Let's talk about this." It made a huge difference in the way the campus experienced it.

Part of Hillel's goal at Vanderbilt is to have activities and dialogues with Christians and Muslims and whatever denominations are on campus. The idea that Hillel might be involved in bringing a Christian conservative or a staunch Republican speaker or group to campus, for example, can be uncomfortable for liberal Jewish students, but we try to provide programs that touch all our Jewish students. Some Christian groups on campus use the Schulman Center for their weekly meetings, and we try to open up our experience to different faiths. And it's not just interfaith; it's also intercultural. It's Latino, it's gay, it's any kind of group on campus.

Although the number of Jewish undergraduate students has grown dramatically at Vanderbilt, our graduate student population is only now beginning to see significant growth. This may be because Jewish students who didn't consider Vanderbilt when they were choosing an undergraduate school are unlikely to consider Vanderbilt when they're looking at graduate schools, and based on the growth of this year's graduate student population, this does appear to be happening. My hope is that,

as we move forward, the people who thought about Vanderbilt for undergraduate school will also consider it for graduate school.

In a short time Vanderbilt has put itself on the map in the eyes of the national Jewish community, and now Jews all over the country are looking at Vanderbilt as an option. It's an exciting time to be here.

Over the last year I've met many people in the Jewish community who have told me, "I love Vanderbilt, and it always made me sad when friends and family around the country would call me and say, 'We're looking at Vanderbilt. Is it a good place to send our kids?'" These people have told me how unhappy it made them to have to answer no. Now these same people tell me how gratifying it is to be able to recommend Vanderbilt to others. The excitement on their faces and the comfort it gives them are gratifying to me, too. ▼

**Vanderbilt Holdings** *continued from page 23*

Other German woodcut artists represented in the collection include Erich Heckel, the Expressionist, whose print of a young girl was reproduced in the first issue of the magazine *Genius* in 1920, and Gerhard Marcks, the Bauhaus artist. Of contemporary living artists, the most arresting work is by former East German Christiane Baumgartner, whose series of prints, *1 Sekunde*, represents one second of video shot during a road trip on the Autobahn translated into 25 individual wood engravings.

Taking the woodcut medium one step further in the direction of film, during February and March the Fine Arts Gallery will exhibit the work of American renaissance man Jay Bolotin, a writer, composer, performer, stage and set designer, choreographer and visual artist whose latest work is an animated film made entirely of woodcut prints. In a collaborative programming effort, the Fine Arts Gallery will exhibit the prints, while Sarratt Gallery and Cinema on campus will screen the film and exhibit studies and precursors to the completed portfolio.

All of which proves that even with the oldest print medium known, there are always new paths on which to collaborate and explore. ▼

**Sports** *continued from page 18*

freshmen who were all very experienced bowlers," says Williamson, "but Michelle had never bowled on a team. Anytime you do anything that's team oriented, it's a different atmosphere. This year I'm expecting a lot more from them because they've experienced those things. It should no longer be new to them."

The players now count on the coach and each other to keep things in perspective and in focus. There are times, Peloquin says, when in the middle of a game, "you think what might be happening on the lane is not actually what's happening. It's nice to have extra

sets of eyes behind you. It's not really an authoritative type of system. It's an exchange, and being able to talk it out helps a lot.

"I went to the Junior Gold Championships this summer, and they're completely individual," she says. "So that was the first event I had attended by myself since being here. The first shot of the tournament—I'm pretty sure I struck the first shot—I walked back thinking, 'Where are my high fives? Where is everybody?' You get used to that. It's so supportive. For the first time not to have it, I definitely missed it." ▼