

Sports

A look at winter athletics

Feeling the Magic

Whether at Vanderbilt or Venice, Chantelle Anderson is All-American. By NELSON BRYAN

JUST THE THOUGHT OF A BIG GAME, a full house and comrades-in-arms at her side brings out obvious joy and energy in senior center Chantelle Anderson.

"It's a great feeling—the pageantry, the camaraderie that you feel with your teammates," she says of taking center court. "You know that you've worked so hard just to get to this point. All these fans' expectations ... they

want you to win. You're taking their energy, and you're taking energy from your teammates and coaches. You can't really describe the feeling. It's just something you have to go through. You can feel the energy from everybody.

"It makes practicing three hours a day worth it," she says with a laugh. "It has to be something wonderful because practicing three hours a day isn't easy."

Anderson made the long trek from Vancouver, Wash., to Vanderbilt to play in the powerful SEC women's competition while attending a university with a renowned academic reputation.

"The SEC is the best conference in the nation," she says. "I had no problem coming all the way to Tennessee for that. Vanderbilt

gave me the best situation possible." As a bonus, she notes that "it rains a lot in Vancouver. I like the weather a lot better here."

Anderson finishes her Vanderbilt career under a new coaching staff. Coach Melanie Balcomb joined the University during the summer and instituted a new game plan, an up-tempo motion-style offense. "Off the court, Coach Balcomb is very funny and personable—extremely intense. We went bowling, and you could tell that she hates to lose.

That's where her intensity comes from.

She hates losing." The players and coaches quickly became acquainted with each other and the change of playing styles. They had to. In August they toured Italy and notched a 3-0 record against Italian club teams.

During their trip the team visited the Vatican and Sistine Chapel in Rome, and saw Michelangelo's "David" in Florence, the ruins of Pompeii and Lake

Como. Mount Vesuvius had nothing on Vanderbilt as the Commodores erupted for a 116-65 win in Pompeii against Boscreale with Anderson scoring 28 points and 10 rebounds.

The most memorable time for Anderson and many of her teammates was their stay in Venice.

"I loved the water," she says. "It was just gorgeous. We took a speedboat to the game, which was so fun." Apparently, it was energizing as well. The Commodores arrived at the game and sank Selezione Lombarda by a score of 103-58 with Anderson scoring 33 points and grabbing 10 rebounds.

"It was great in terms of team bonding and getting to know the new coaches and their getting to know us. Early exposure to the new system was definitely a plus."

Anderson is destined to be a star in the WNBA, the women's professional basketball league. Pundits predicted after her junior season that she should be the number-one pick in the draft. Those predictions should come to fruition after this, her final season at Vanderbilt. At the end of last season, she was named a first-team All-American by the Associated Press, Player of the Year and first-team All-SEC by the Southeastern Conference, and a Kodak All-American.

And life after professional basketball? Anderson is interested in a sports broadcasting career. "I've always wanted to be on TV," she laughs. She's already got a jump on that as well. Through her human and organizational development major, she has interned at Nashville's WKRN-TV and with the Tennessee Titans. "I also want to run my own basketball camp some day."

Pro teams will have to wait until spring to vie for her talents. Until then, Chantelle Anderson will be energizing the crowd and her teammates as they continue to make Memorial Magic.



PHOTOS BY NEIL BRANE

Strong Schedule for 2002-03 Cagers

NINE 2002 NCAA TOURNAMENT TEAMS, two NIT teams, and a demanding non-conference slate highlight the 2002-03 Vanderbilt men's basketball schedule.

The Commodores play 27 regular-season contests this season, including 16 home games. Six of Vanderbilt's conference games will be on television, including the Jan. 14 home game against Kentucky that was broadcast nationally by ESPN.

"Our non-conference schedule must be among the toughest in the country," says head coach Kevin Stallings. "I've always said we will try to match our schedule with our team. I don't want to over-schedule, but at the same time we want our schedule to be attractive to our team as well as our fans. This schedule reflects our belief we are in the process of getting better."

The always-tough SEC schedule began



NEIL BRAKE

Jan. 8 at Auburn. Home games scheduled to be televised were Jan. 11 against Alabama, Jan. 14 against Kentucky and Jan. 29 against Georgia, while the road games scheduled to be televised are Jan. 22 at Florida, March 1 at South Carolina and March 5 at Kentucky. The Commodores have two scheduled bye dates during the conference season, with the first day off coming Saturday, Jan. 25, and the second coming Wednesday, Feb. 19.

Hindy Honored with 9/11 Memorial

THE VANDERBILT ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT has created a permanent memorial in honor of former baseball player Mark Hindy, BS'95, who was killed in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack on the World Trade Center.

Hindy, originally from Brooklyn, N.Y., was an equity trader at Cantor-Fitzgerald, the financial securities firm devastated by the attacks. A memorial celebration of his life was held Sept. 24, 2001, in Brooklyn. "It should not surprise anyone who knew Mark that the event called together a gathering of more than 1,200 family, friends and former teammates to celebrate his life and honor his memory," said a statement from the athletic department. "Mark gave us so much during his four years at Vanderbilt. Now we have the opportunity to honor his memory by giving back."

Along with a plaque, the Mark Hindy Memorial includes a cross presented by Hindy's family and made from a fallen girder of the World Trade Center. Originally on display at the McGugin Center, the memorial now has a permanent home at the entrance to the new baseball stadium. The athletic department also has established a memorial fund in Hindy's name and renamed the annual athlete-alumni golf event the Mark Hindy Memorial Tournament "in order to capture the giving spirit of a gentle man, his extraordinary love of the game and, most important, the smile we all miss," said the statement.

During the 2002 season, the fitted game cap of every Vanderbilt baseball player and staff member displayed a gold 41, Hindy's old number, and everyone who assisted in the creation of the memorial plaque and fund received a replica of the special caps.

Two other charitable funds have been created in Hindy's honor. As a way to celebrate Hindy's love for children, his family has established the Mark Hindy Charitable Foundation Inc., which assists various children's charities. In addition, a scholarship has been created in his honor at his former Brooklyn high school, Poly Prep Country Day School. The athletic department invites alumni and friends to participate in the various causes. For more information, contact the Vanderbilt Athletic Department at 615/343-3109.

{Sports Roundup}

Hockey: Vanderbilt Tries for Championship Repeat

The Commodores will try to repeat as champions of the Great Midwest Collegiate Hockey Conference (GMCHC). Vanderbilt won the GMCHC championship last year after defeating the University of Tennessee in Indianapolis by a 3-1 score. En route to the title clash with UT, the Commodores defeated Eastern Kentucky and Butler. Vanderbilt's Brian Rayhack of Tampa, Fla., was named tournament MVP. Other team skaters named to the All-Tournament first team were Jonathan Tom and Taylor Vreeland. Paul Jabour and Matt McClain were named to the All-Tournament second team, and McClain, Tom and Earle were named to the All-Conference team.

Baseball: Sowers Named to Freshman All-American Team

Vanderbilt left-hander Jeremy Sowers was named to Collegiate Baseball's 2002 Louisville Slugger Freshmen All-American team. Sowers was one of 18 starting pitchers and 70 players honored nationwide.

Sowers, a native of Louisville, Ky., led all Commodore pitchers last season in wins (six), ERA (4.37), innings pitched (101.0), strikeouts (85) and pickoffs (12). He finished the year with a 6-5 record. His 101.0 innings pitched set a single-season record for Vanderbilt freshmen hurlers, while his 85 strikeouts were third most by a Vandy freshman pitcher in school history.

Among Southeastern Conference pitchers, Sowers ranked fourth in strikeouts, and his 12 pickoffs were a league high. He finished with a 4-5 record against the powerful SEC with a 5.52 ERA, 26 walks, 50 strikeouts and 91 hits in 75.0 innings of work.

Golf: Teams Climb in National Rankings

Both Vanderbilt's men's and women's golf teams were ranked among the top 10 in the nation following victories in the Mason Rudolph Championship in September. The tournament was held at the Legends Club of Tennessee in Franklin, Vanderbilt's home course.

The women's team earned No. 3 in a Golfweek.com top-25 poll compiled before the Commodores won the Mason Rudolph Championship. Three Commodores finished in the top five, led by junior Courtney Wood who won the individual title with a 2-under-par. Junior Sarah Jacobs finished in a tie for fifth place with a 222, senior Nicki Cutler finished in a tie for 13th place, followed by Joni Gossett in a tie for 22nd.

The men's team moved from No. 22 to No. 8 in the Golfweek/Sagarin Poll after claiming the team title at the second annual Mason Rudolph Championship with a school-record 29-under-par, three-round score of 811.



Courtney Wood

Individually, senior Brandt Snedeker moved up from No. 14 to No. 6 after claiming his first collegiate tournament championship with a 12-under-par score of 198 at the Mason Rudolph Championship. That victory came on the heels of his second-place finish at the Cleveland Golf Kiawah Island Intercollegiate in Kiawah Island, S.C. At that time, Snedeker was 141-1 overall, 3-0 versus top-25 players, 7-1 against top-50 players, and 12-1 versus top-100 competition. Sophomore Mark Donnell moved up from No. 39 to No. 21 in the poll.

Tennis: Riske and Tsubanos Win Doubles Title

Sarah Riske and Aleke Tsubanos became the first Commodores ever to win the Riviera/ITA Women's All-American Championships hosted at the Riviera Country Club in Pacific Palisades, Calif., last October. They had been seeded No. 1 heading into the tournament.

Riske, a senior from McMurry, Pa., and Tsubanos, a junior from St. Louis, defeated an Oklahoma State team 8-4 in the championship match. A victory in the quarterfinals over a strong Georgia doubles team was one of the keys, as the Bulldog pair had beaten them twice last year.

{Where Are They Now?}



Wendy Scholtens, BA'91, one of Vandy's greatest women's basketball players, is still intimidating the opposition as a civil litigator in Little Rock, Ark. Wendy holds a number of Vanderbilt individual and career records. Her career records include points (2,602), points per game (21.3), field goals made (959), free throws made (681), free throw percentage (.868) and rebounds (1,272). She also was Vanderbilt's first Kodak All-America basketball honoree and the first Vanderbilt woman to have her jersey retired. She was inducted into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame in 1999. Now Wendy Scholtens Wood, she is a part-time attorney at the law firm of Barber McCaskill Jones & Hale, practicing defense in civil litigation cases. She and her husband, Paul, met at law school at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock and married in 1996. They are parents of Madeline Grace Wood, born in April 2001.



Mark Harris and Katherine May climb the wall at the Student Rec Center.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY NEIL BRAKE

