A look at winter athletics

Feeling the Magic

Whether at Vanderbilt or Venice, Chantelle Anderson is All-American. By Nelson Bryan

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“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.”

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“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.”

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“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.
Strong Schedule for 2002–03 Cagers
Nine 2002 NCAA tournament teams, two NTI 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 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 byes 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-alumnus 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.

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 by 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 Ray of Tampa, Fla., was named tournament MVP. Their team skaters named to the All-Tournament first team were Jonathan Tom and Taylor Veeland. Paul Llister and Matt McClain were named to the All-Tournament second team, and McClain, Tom and Erie were named to the All-Conference team.

Baseball: Sowers Named to Freshman All-American Team
Vanderbilt left-hander Jeremy Sowers was named to College Baseball’s 2002 Louisville Slugger Freshman All-American team. Sowers was one of 18 starting pitchers and 70 players honored nationwide.

Sowers, a native of Louisville, Ky., led all Commodores pitchers in wins (5), ERA (1.37), innings pitched (101.0), strikeouts (95) and walks (19). He finished the season 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 Vanderbilt 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 4.0 record against the powerful SEC with a 5-5 ERA, 26 walks, 90 strikeouts and 97 hits in 75 innings of work.

Golf: Teams Clinch 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 men’s team moved from No. 22 to No. 14 in Golfweek.com top-25 golf compiled before the Commodores won the Mason Rudolph Championship. Three Commodores finished in the top five, led by junior Garrett Gurrolt who was the individual title with a 2-under-par score of 140. Senior Nicki Cutler finished in a tie for fifth place with a 222, senior Nicki Cutler finished in a tie for fifth place with a 222,

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

Overall, senior Grant Snooker moved up from No. 14 to No. 6 after claiming his first collegiate tournament championship with a 12-under-par score of 196 at the Mason Rudolph Championship. That finish came on the heels of his second-place finish at the Carolinas Golf Club Invitational at Kiawah Island, S.C. At that time, Snooker was 141-1 overall, 3-0 versus top-25 players, 7-1 against top-50 players, and 13-2 versus top-100 competitors. Sophomore Mark Downie moved up from No. 91 to No. 21 in the poll.

Tennis: Riske and Tsoubanos Win Doubles Title
Sarah Riske and Aleke Tsoubanos became the first Commodores ever to win the RivieraAT&T 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 Tsoubanos, a junior from St. Louis, defeated an Oklahoma State team 8-4 in the championship match. A victory in the quadruples over a strong Georgia doubles team was one of the keys, as the Bulldog pair had beaten them twice last year.

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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 (683), 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.

Where Are They Now?