

Vanderbilt Athletics Facility Tour

February 19, 2022

Memorial Gymnasium

The Southeastern Conference's most historic home for college basketball, Memorial Gymnasium serves as the home court for the Vanderbilt Commodores. Built and dedicated in 1952 as a memorial to all Vanderbilt men and women who served in World War II, the arena, with a capacity of 14,316, was built as a combination gymnasium and concert hall by the late master architect Edwin Keeble.

Fifty-four years later, the unique style of Memorial Gymnasium — with its benches situated on the baseline, a playing court that sits above portions of the crowd and deafening acoustics — continues to make the Commodores' home a dreaded stop for opponents. "Memorial Magic," with its capacity crowds, overflowing student section and lively pep band have assisted in numerous Commodore victories. In the stands, fans across Middle Tennessee have helped Memorial Gymnasium (capacity 14,316) rank among the NCAA's top 30 attendance leaders in men's basketball 23 times since 1977. The women's team has also been among the nation's attendance leaders. Since 2005-06, the Commodores have been one of just a handful of programs to finish in the top 25 of average attendance each season.



Hawkins Field

Home of the 2015 and 2019 national championship baseball teams, Hawkins Field serves as the home of the Vanderbilt Commodores and with recently completed facilities it stands as one of the top college baseball parks in the country. Built in 2002, Hawkins Field greets all fans with chairback seats close to the field of play, a 35-foot wall in left field that promises unique opportunities for excitement and a first-rate field that prevents bad hops and promotes dazzling defensive gems from the infielders and outfielders alike.

The complex is named for the Charles Hawkins Family. Charles Hawkins III, the stadium's namesake, was a long-time contributor to the Vanderbilt community, who graciously donated more than \$2 million to the stadium project. Sadly, he passed away on June 16, 2004, after his beloved Commodores ended one of their most successful seasons ever. A successful real estate developer, Hawkins played baseball and football for the Commodores from 1952-1954 and became the first Vanderbilt pitcher to earn All-Southeastern Conference honors. He was named to Vanderbilt's Athletic Hall of Fame in the fall of 2009. His father, Charles Hawkins II, lettered in both baseball and football at Vanderbilt in the mid-1920s.

Vanderbilt Stadium

Vanderbilt Stadium, an intimate 40,350-seat facility located in the heart of campus, has been the Commodores' home since 1981. Dudley Field, as it was named, was the first stadium in the South to be erected exclusively for college football.

Vanderbilt dedicated its new stadium October 14, 1922, with a game for the ages. The Michigan Wolverines, a national power even in those days, came to Nashville as heavy favorites. The Commodores battled to a 0-0 tie, giving every one of the 20,000-plus fans in attendance a memory to cherish.

The game was played in a carnival-like atmosphere, with the game ball being dropped from an airplane. Vanderbilt's most momentous defensive stop of the day came as Michigan attempted a fourth-down play on the Commodores' goal line. A Vanderbilt defender, using one of the goal posts to push off of, stopped the advancing Michigan runner and squelched any hope the Wolverines had of scoring on that day.

The 2022 season will mark the 100th anniversary of Vanderbilt Stadium. To commemorate the occasion, Vanderbilt athletics will be celebrating the anniversary surrounding the football game versus Elon on September 3, 2022. The university will also be creating a coffee table book featuring photographs and memorabilia celebrating the history of Commodore football.

The stadium has also hosted several concerts and speeches, including Beyonce and Jay-Z, Dave Matthews Band, Billy Graham, Luke Bryan, and The Rolling Stones.

McGugin Athletic Center

The home of Vanderbilt's athletics is the McGugin Center. The building houses Vanderbilt's athletic administration offices in addition to the offices of many Vanderbilt's coaches. The building is sandwiched in the middle of Vanderbilt's athletic facilities and is across Jess Neely Drive from Vanderbilt Stadium and Hawkins Field. The building also houses the Stratton Foster Academic Center, the Vanderbilt ticket office, the athletic training room, team locker rooms for student-athletes, the Hendrix Room Dining Facility and two weight rooms.

David Williams II Recreation and Wellness Center Fieldhouse

The David Williams II Vanderbilt Recreation and Wellness Center is a state-of-the-art facility. The venue includes 290,000 square feet of indoor facilities and seven acres of outdoor facility space. The facility includes three (3) basketball courts, one (1) auxiliary gym for basketball and volleyball, six (6) racquetball courts, two (2) squash courts, an elevated track, and a fieldhouse featuring a turf field and a 300-meter track. The 14,000 square foot fitness center on the first floor has exercise weight machines, a wide variety of cardio equipment. The facility also includes a 4,500 square foot fitness loft overlooking athletic fields. This area also serves as a functional trainer and fitness assessment area. The outdoor facilities include a sand volleyball court, four (4) lit multipurpose field and one (1) lit artificial turf field.

