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Fans crowd downtown after Vandy wins Music City Bowl

Posted: Dec 31, 2008 10:34 PM

Vanderbilt fans had much to celebrate this New Year's Eve.

For the first time in 53 years, the Commodores won a bowl game.

Vanderbilt defeated 24th ranked Boston College 16 to 14 Wednesday in the Music City Bowl at LP Field.

Vanderbilt hadn't made a bowl appearance since 1982, and the 'Dores win snapped the nation's longest bowl winning streak.

Boston College had won eight straight bowl games.

After the Music City Bowl, fans flooded downtown streets to start their New Year's celebrations and to celebrate the win.

It's not the fans, but the management at Demos' Steak & Spaghetti restaurant downtown that is doing the real celebrating.

After a tough economic year, they were hoping to end the year with a bang.

"We weren't sure what we were going to get," said General Manager Juan Vega-Romero. "A lot of these people live here so they can go home and eat, but it's been a fabulous event downtown. It's really drawn people out. We're pleased with the turnout."

Though Vanderbilt is a hometown team, some alumni, like Ben Gibbs, returned to cheer for the 'Dores, and boost the Nashville economy.

"It's been 26 years since Vandy went to a bowl game, so I figured take advantage of it while I could," Gibbs said.

Vega-Romero said, "Happy fans are fans that enjoy eating and spending money. Upset fans like to go home."

Even though Boston College lost, Music City wins when out of town fans come to Nashville.

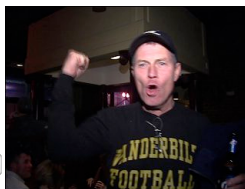
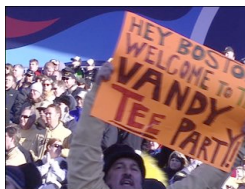
The Lynch family lives in Atlanta, but came to town to cheer on Boston College.

"We're staying downtown," they said. "It's a great city. We'll be back if we make it [to the bowl game] next year."

Overall, more than 54,000 tickets were sold to the Music City Bowl, and downtown businesses said they're feeling the positive effects of happy Vanderbilt fans.

Video Gallery < 1 >

 Vandy fans celebrate New Year's Eve win downtown 1:18	 Vandy wins first Bowl game since 1955 1:20
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