

DIRECTIONS: Read closely and color code: **main idea**(2-3 sentences that capture what the whole article is about), **best evidence** (think credible sources), **interesting word choices/figurative language** (think about what the writer intends), **counterclaim** (if applicable). **You should also leave comments in margins if it helps you to think about the text.** When finished, you will write your summary paragraph at the bottom of this doc.

Vanderbilt's kicker Fuller becomes first woman to play in Power 5 football

By Joseph Wallsper, Associated Press

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COLUMBIA, Missouri — Sarah Fuller was playing around with a teammate sometime in September when she kicked a soccer ball through the uprights from 45 yards away. She joked about being able to kick a football with teammates during the Southeastern Conference soccer tournament.

On November 28, she made history.

Fuller became the first woman to participate in a Power Five conference football game when she kicked off for Vanderbilt to start the second half at Missouri, a moment that may take some time to soak in for her.

"I just think it's incredible that I am able to do this, and all I want to do is be a good influence to the young girls out there because there were times I struggled in sports," Fuller said. "But I am so thankful I stuck with it, and it's given me so many opportunities. I've met so many amazing people through sports, and I just want to say, literally you can do anything you set your mind to."

Fuller kicked with a holder rather than using a tee in a designed squib kick, and the senior sent a low kick to the 35-yard line where it was pounced on by Missouri's Mason Pack. Fuller didn't get any other opportunities in Vanderbilt's 41-0 loss to Missouri.

Coach Derek Mason made clear that Fuller kicked for the Commodores due to need, not for history or publicity. COVID-19 protocols and restrictions left Mason with very few options, prompting him to reach out to the soccer team for help.

Fuller, a 6-foot-2 goalkeeper, decided she was up for the challenge.

"I'm not about making statements," Mason said. "This was out of necessity. You look at our week. Our students had gone home. The ability to have access to students and tryouts was almost nil in terms of what's available. ... That just happened to be the most viable option."

After Fuller's kick, she went straight to the sideline, where she high-fived some of her new teammates and swapped some elbow bumps. Fuller's parents watched and cheered from the stands along with her boyfriend and best friend.

Fuller practiced with the Commodores leading up to the game after helping the Commodores win the Southeastern Conference (SEC) Tournament the weekend of November 21. Fuller said her longest field goal in practice was 38 yards.

She wore "Play Like A Girl" on the back of her helmet. The senior will get to keep the No. 32 jersey she wore on November 28, the same as her number when playing soccer.

Fuller even gave a halftime pep talk, which she usually left to her soccer teammates, telling her new teammates that Vandy won the SEC soccer tournament title by cheering for each other whether on the field or the sideline.

"We had a different mindset coming out the second half," quarterback Mike Wright said.

After her kickoff, reaction poured in on social media. Fuller was the No. 2 trending topic on Twitter, followed by Vandy. Her soccer team wrote on Twitter: "Glass. Everywhere."

As in glass ceiling.

Pat McAfee, a former National Football League punter, reviewed Fuller's squib kick, noting the ball didn't go out of bounds and there was no chance of a return, setting up the defense.

"Congrats to @SarahFuller_27 for being THE FIRST EVER WOMAN TO KICKOFF A POWER 5 GAME," McAfee wrote. "Incredibly rare to be the '1st ever person to do something' these days ... this is really cool."

No woman had appeared in an SEC football game or for any Power Five team. Liz Heaston became the first woman to score with two extra points for Willamette in National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) on October 18, 1997.

Katie Hnida was the first woman to score at the Football Bowl Subdivision level with two extra points for New Mexico on August 30, 2003.

April Goss was the second, with an extra point for Kent State in 2015. Tonya Butler was the first woman to kick a field goal in a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) game for Division II West Alabama on September 13, 2003. New Mexico congratulated Fuller on Twitter for joining Hnida and Goss for kicking in an FBS game.

"Welcome to the club, @April_Goss and I are waiting with snacks!" Hnida wrote on Twitter on November 27.

Missouri coach Eli Drinkwitz visited with Fuller before kickoff and repeated a message that Fuller has heard a lot in recent days. The father of four daughters told Fuller it was incredible they watched her make history.

"I've had girl dads come up to me and they're like, 'You're inspiring my little girls, and I want them to know that they can do anything and you're proving that point.' And I think that has been the coolest thing," Fuller said.

Fuller also made clear she'd be up for continuing to help the football team if needed. She believes she can refine her timing and technique with more practice.

Vanderbilt (0-8) visits No. 13 Georgia on December 5.

"If she wants to kick and she's available, we'd love to have her," Mason said.

DIRECTIONS: Now that you have read and thought about the article, write your summary below. It should consist of the articles 3-4 main points and should not contain 1st person pronouns (I, me, my) nor direct quotes from the text.