

2018 CINCINNATI FOOTBALL POSTGAME NOTES

CINCINNATI 26, SMU 20 (OT)

OCTOBER 27, 2018 | GERALD J. FORD STADIUM | DALLAS, TEXAS

Captains: 8 Hayden Moore, 44 Marquise Copeland, 72 Garrett Campbell, 96 Cortez Broughton

Coin Toss: SMU won the toss and deferred. UC will receive and defend the south.

TEAM

- UC lost the opening coin toss for the first time this season. Including both overtime coin flips, UC is 9-1 on the season.
- UC is 7-1 on the season and 4-1 on the road, equaling the most wins away from home since 2014. UC also started 7-1 in 2011.
- UC leads the all-time series against SMU 3-1 with a 2-0 mark in Dallas. The teams have played two-straight overtime games.
- The Bearcats earned their first OT win since 2008 (at West Virginia), snapping a five-game slide in the extra period and are 7-9 all-time in overtime games.
- UC played an overtime game for the second-straight week for the second time in program history and the first time since 1997, a span of 21 years. UC played back-to-back road games at Houston (L, 2 OT) and at Miami (OH) (W, 2 OT) on Oct. 18 and Oct. 25, 1997, respectively.
- UC's 125 rushing yards was a season low and the Bearcats didn't score a rushing TD for the first time in 2018.
- UC has a turnover in every game this season and 11 takeaways on the year (8 interceptions, 3 fumble recoveries), equaling its 2017 number (5 interceptions, 6 fumble recoveries).
- UC turned it over three times on the afternoon and have nine giveaways over the last three games after surrendering only four in the first five games of the campaign.
- UC had 2.0 sacks and 6.0 tackles for a loss against SMU, moving its season totals to 16.0 and 50.0, respectively. The Bearcats had 12.0 sacks and 58.0 tackles for a loss in 2017.
- UC held SMU to 23 net rushing yards, a season-low for the Bearcats defense. UC last held an opponent to 20 or fewer yards on Sept. 21, 2013 when Miami (OH) was limited to seven yards rushing.
- UC forced three-and-outs on seven of SMU's 15 drives, the third straight game the Bearcats have forced seven or more opponent three-and-outs.

SCORING DRIVES

- UC started off strong, needing four plays, 74 yards and 1:23 to take a 7-0 lead on a 32-yard pass from QB Desmond Ridder to WR Kahlil Lewis. It was the 11th passing TD of the year for Ridder and the fourth receiving TD for Lewis.
- After a 31-yard punt return from Aulden Knight with an SMU penalty tacked on, UC started the second half with its best field position of the day at the Mustangs' 32-yard line and took a 14-7 lead on a 32-yard TD strike from Ridder to their second 32-yard score of the day.
- K Cole Smith booted a 24-yard field goal to cap a 10 play, 68-yard drive which took 5:03 off the clock and gave UC a 17-7 lead with 6:37 left in the third quarter.
- Down 20-17 with time running out, Ridder engineered a 10-play, 56-yard drive that put the Bearcats in field-goal range with five seconds remaining. Smith made the game-tying, 41-yard boot three times, after being iced twice by SMU timeouts, forcing overtime.
- S James Wiggins picked off SMU QB Ben Hicks and returned the interception 86 yards for the rare walk-off, pick-6 in overtime.

INDIVIDUAL

- WR Kahlil Lewis had a career day against SMU, finishing with 12 catches for 174 yards and a pair of 32-yard TD receptions. He eclipsed his previous career highs of 10 receptions, set a year ago against SMU and 150 yards set against ECU in 2016. It was his second multiple TD game of the season (Tulane) and fourth of his career. Lewis had only six catches in UC's previous three games and had seven first-half receptions. For his career, Lewis has 143 receptions for 1,748 yards and 17 TDs, ranking him No. 6 all time in receptions.
- QB Desmond Ridder put up career passing numbers, going 33-of-50 for 352 yards and a pair of TDs. It was the first 350-plus yard game for a Bearcats signal-caller since Hayden Moore threw for 381 yards at Navy on Sept. 23, 2017.
- K Cole Smith made a pair of field goals, from 24 and 41 yards, respectively. Smith has hit five kicks on the season, is 3-for-3 from 20-29 yards and sent the game into overtime with his 41-yard boot as time expired in regulation.
- RB Michael Warren II was thwarted in his effort for a fifth-straight 100-yard game, but he still tallied 67 yards on the ground along with a career-high six catches for 45 yards. He did not find the end zone for the first time this season, having scored in the previous seven games. Warren has 863 yards rushing and 12 TDs on the season.
- WR Thomas Geddis tied a season-high with five receptions for 38 yards.
- WR Rashad Medaris caught a career-best four balls for 56 yards. He has averaged a team-high 15.9 yards per catch.
- S James Wiggins had a game-winning, 86-yard interception return for a TD in overtime, his third interception of the season and first career TD. It was UC's first pick-6 since Malik Clements' game winner at Miami (OH) in 2017. The 86-yard run back was the fourth longest in school history and longest since current UC CB coach Mike Mickens had a 79 yard interception return for a TD against USF in 2007.
- CB Cam Jefferies tied his season mark with five tackles. He also had five stops at Temple.
- LB Bryan Wright led the defense with eight tackles, a sack, TFL and QB hurry.
- DT Cortez Broughton had five tackles, a half TFL and a PBU.
- DT Marquise Copeland recorded four tackles, a sack, two TFLs, a PBU and a QB hurry.
- PR Aulden Knight had a career-long, 31-yard punt return in the third quarter.