



2019 CINCINNATI BEARCATS FOOTBALL

POSTGAME NOTES

CINCINNATI 27, #18/#19 UCF 24

OCTOBER 4, 2019 | 8:01 PM | CINCINNATI, OH | NIPPERT STADIUM

ATTENDANCE: 40,121 (sell out)

SERIES INFORMATION

- The Bearcats pulled to within one game of evening the all-time series with the Knights as UCF now leads, 3-2
- With the win, the Bearcats improved to 2-1 all-time against the Knights when the game is played in Cincinnati
- Tonight's win halted a three-game winning streak in the series for the Knights

CAPTAINS/COIN TOSS

- Cincinnati's captains for today's game: #6 Perry Young, #11 Bryan Wright, #75 Chris Ferguson, #78 Morgan James
- Cincinnati won the toss and chose to defer; UCF will receive and defend the north

NOTING THE CROWD

- Tonight marked the fourth Nippert Stadium sellout since the 2015 renovation and expansion, the first under Head Coach Luke Fickell and the first since September 15, 2016, a Thursday night game against #6/#7 Houston
- The announced crowd of 40,121 is the second-highest called attendance in Nippert Stadium history behind the 40,140 against UConn October 24, 2015
- The student attendance of 7,825 tonight is a Nippert Stadium record

TEAM NOTES

- Tonight's win is the first for the Bearcats over a ranked team since the 2012 season when Cincinnati downed #25 Virginia Tech, 27-24, in a neutral site game at FedEx Field in Landover, Md. UC had lost the previous 10 times between the VT and UCF games. The last time the Bearcats won a home game over a ranked foe came in 2009 when UC downed #23 West Virginia, 24-21.
- The UC defense did something not many teams have done to UCF and that is limit their points and yards. UCF entered the game averaging 49.0 points per contest, 232.6 yards rushing, 336.0 yards passing and 568.6 total yards. Tonight, the Knights were limited to 24 points (-25), 126 yards rushing (-106.6), 297 yards passing (-39) and 423 total yards of offense (-145.6).
- UCF entered the game with four total turnovers on the year. The Bearcats' defense forced four turnovers tonight, including three interceptions and one fumble recovery. This season, the Knights' largest number of turnovers in one game was a pair of interceptions at Pittsburgh, their only other loss this year.
- With the victory, the Bearcats posted their ninth-consecutive home win and their sixth in a row at home in conference games.
- The comeback from a 16-10 halftime deficit against then No. 18/19 UCF was the 12th come-from-behind win under Head Coach Luke Fickell. UC also came back and won against Miami (OH) after trailing by 10 early. UC put together seven come-from-behind wins in 2018, earning victories after facing deficits at UCLA (10), vs. Ohio (21), vs. Tulane (4), at SMU (2) and vs. Virginia Tech in the Military Bowl (3). The Bearcats had three comebacks in 2017, winning after trailing by 11 at Miami (OH), three at Tulane and seven against UConn.
- The 24-yard field goal kicked by UCF on the opening drive marked the first time this season the Bearcats defense have allowed points on the opening possession. Previously, UC recovered a fumble by UCLA and then forced its next three foes – Ohio State, Miami and Marshall – to punt.

QUICK HITS

- The Bearcats handed UCF their first loss in AAC play since the 2016 season, halting the Knights' 17-game undefeated streak in league action (19 games counting two AAC Championship Games).
- The UC defense limited UCF to just 24 points, the fewest the Knights have scored in 2019 (L, 34-35 at Pittsburgh) and is the fewest UCF has scored in a league game since November 19, 2016, a 35-20 home loss to Tulsa. The point total is also the lowest in an AAC road game since a 31-24 loss at Houston on October 29, 2016.
- UCF is now 35-4 all-time as a ranked team and 28-3 all-time as members of the Top 20. UCF also fell to 11-2 as a ranked team in a road contest.
- UCF entered the game 18-of-23 in the red zone with only three field goals compared to 15 touchdowns. Tonight, the Knights entered the red zone six times, scoring one touchdown and three field goals.

INDIVIDUAL NOTES

- At the end of third quarter, Michael Warren II broke a run for 61 yards to bring his game total to 115 at the time. With that run, he broke the 2,000-yard rushing mark for his career, becoming the 13th player in Bearcats history to reach the milestone. Warren finished the night with 133 yards rushing, marking his second 100-yard rushing game of the season (vs. Miami). Warren also hit the century mark for the ninth time in his career, tying him for seventh on the program's all-time Top 10 ledger.
- Desmond Ridder finished the night with 149 yards passing, two scores and one pick while adding 41 yards on the ground, including a 26-yard scamper, his longest of the season.
- In the third quarter, Ahmad Gardner picked-off a pass from Gabriel and returned it 16 yards for a score, putting UC ahead, 20-16, with 5:08 to play in the stanza. The interception is the first for Gardner, who entered the game with one career tackle to his credit. The last time a UC player tallied a pick-six came last year against ECU when Arquan Bush accomplished the feat.
- Trent Cloud entered the game with three catches for five yards on the year. In the second quarter, he pulled in a 5-yard pass from Ridder to record his first touchdown of the season as well as the first of his career. He finished the game with two grabs for 12 yards and one score.
- Cam Jefferies intercepted Dillon Gabriel in the second quarter and returned the ball 57 yards. The pick was the third of his career and his first with the Bearcats. The 57-yard return is the longest of the season and the second-longest play overall behind only the 73-yard scoring run by Michael Warren II against Miami.
- Michael Pitts recovered a UCF fumble in the second quarter, his first career recovery. The Bearcats would go on to score a touchdown on the ensuing possession.
- Elijah Ponder entered the game with 1.0 sacks in his career before recording two on the night.

FOR STARTERS

- Darius Harper made his first career start at left tackle
- Vincent McConnell made his first career start at left guard

NEXT UP

- Next week, the Bearcats will head to Houston, Texas, to face the Cougars at 3:30 p.m. The game will be broadcast live on ESPN2.