



## **Postgame Notes**

**Cincinnati 56, UCF 21**

**Oct. 16, 2021 | Attendance: 37,978 | Nippert Stadium**

### **Highlights**

- This is the first time in school history that the Bearcats have scored 50-plus points in back-to-back games (defeated Temple 52-3 on Friday).
- The Bearcats, with 24-straight wins at Nippert Stadium, continued the second-longest home win streak in the nation behind only Clemson (31). Cincinnati's last home loss came against Temple, 35-24, on Nov. 10, 2017.
- It also marks Cincinnati's ninth-straight win against AAC opponents and third-straight win against UCF.
- The Bearcats are 16-1 (.941) since 2019 against AAC opponents, which is the best mark in the conference.
- UC is now 37-5 (.881) since 2018, ranking among the top six teams in CFB in winning percentage during that span (.878).
- Head Coach Luke Fickell is now 41-14 (.745) in five seasons at Cincinnati. This is the Bearcats' third 6-0 start under him and it's their seventh 6-0 start in school history.
- Cincinnati's offense scored 56 points, which the most since they scored 63 against Alabama A&M on Sept. 15, 2018. The Bearcats' six rushing touchdowns today are also the most since that same Alabama A&M game.
- The Bearcats are outscoring their opponents 121-31 in first halves this season.
- Today's captains were Desmond Ridder, Myjai Sanders, Joel Dublanko and Coby Bryant. Cincinnati won the toss and elected to defer to the second half.
- UC improved its all-time record to 643-594-50 (.519).

## Offensive Notes

- Running back Jerome Ford had another career day. He rushed for a career-high 189 yards to go with a career-high four touchdowns. It is his second-straight game and fourth game of the year with two or more touchdowns. He now has 12 rushing touchdowns this year and 20 for his career.
- Ford has four 100-yard games in this season (all at home) and five for his career.
- He is the first player to rush for over 185 yards in a game since Mike Boone, who had 212 rushing yards against USF on Oct. 24, 2014.
- He is also the first player to rush for four touchdowns in a game since Isaiah Pead, who had four against Rutgers on Nov. 20, 2010, and it marks the eighth-such instance in school history.
- Cincinnati's 197 first half rushing yards were the most in a game this season. Its 336 total yards are its most since the Bearcats had 342 yards against Houston on Nov. 7, 2020.
- Quarterback Desmond Ridder threw for 140 yards and one touchdown. He also ran for 14 yards. He is 58 rushing yards away from becoming the second active player to throw for over 4,000 yards and rush for over 2,000 yards. He is responsible for 95 touchdowns in his career, which is the third most in the AAC.
- Ridder also improved his career record to 37-5 (.881). His 37 wins are the most all-time at UC.
- Tight end Leonard Taylor led the team with four catches for 47 yards. The four catches match his season high.
- Running back Ethan Wright scored his second touchdown in as many games. Today's was the second of his career.
- Evan Prater also had a rushing touchdown, his second of the season.
- Alec Pierce reeled in a 19-yard TD catch from Ridder, which was Pierce's second receiving touchdown of the year and the seventh of his career.
- Cincinnati scored 35 points in the first half, the third time they have done that this season.
- The Bearcats are outscoring their opponents 45-7 in the first quarter this year.

## **Defensive Notes**

- Cincinnati forced three turnovers in the game, two interceptions and a fumble. The Bearcats entered the day fifth nationally in turnover margin.
- The Bearcats have 17 takeaways over the last five games (11 interceptions and six fumble recoveries).
- Coby Bryant had the Bearcats' first interception returned for a touchdown since Jarell White against ECU on Nov. 13, 2020. Bryant's pick-six went for 76 yards, the longest UC pick-six since James Wiggins (86 yards) against SMU on Oct. 27, 2018.
- Linebacker Joel Dublanko led the team with a career-high 10 tackles on the day. He now has 43 tackles on the year, which is second on the team.
- Linebacker Jaheim Thomas recorded a career-high seven tackles today.
- Josh Whyte recorded his first blocked punt of his career, which was the Bearcats' first blocked punt since Ethan Tucky against Army on Sept. 26, 2020.
- Deshawn Pace had his third interception of the season, which paces the team. He also had five tackles, extending his team-lead to 45.
- Cincinnati's defense has not given up points on the opposing offense's opening drive since Nov. 21, 2020 against UCF.
- Ty Van Fossen had his first fumble recovery of the year and the second of his career.