



CINCINNATI BEARCATS

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Early Signing Day Press Conference Head Coach Scott Satterfield Dec. 21, 2022

Opening Statement

"First of all, for me, it's obviously exciting, the first signing day for us here. It's been a whirlwind the last two and a half weeks, building out staff and continuing to do that. I actually had a date yesterday to ride around and check out some houses in the area, so that was fun. The first time really being out, hadn't really been outside the hotel and complex. I think for us, it's been trying to get quality players in here, quality people. I think that and we've been able to accomplish that today with this signing class. We've got some high school players, and we've also got some guys out of the portal that I think will certainly help us, hopefully immediately, and then we're not done. I think that's probably the biggest message. I mean, we're not done. We're going to continue recruiting. I don't think you've ever really done recruiting. I think you have to recruit all the time. You got to continue to do that. So, we'll certainly at this stage now we are really looking more into portal guys over the next couple of weeks. We know in January, we're going to be able to bring some more on campus, Jan. 4-8. Then of course we start Jan. 9, so we'll see where that's at, but we're certainly not done. We're going to continue on, and we're just excited about it. I'm just ready to go. Go get some more players. I think that's our whole focus is trying to find players to come in here to help us compete in the Big 12."

On new quarterbacks, Brady Drogosh and Emory Jones

"We're fired up about Brady. When I first got here, I was watching the film on a lot of these guys, and man, I thought he was good. When I watched the film, I was really pleased to see the way he can run and throw, he's a winner. He's won a state championship in basketball as well as football twice. Then getting around him and his family, it was a great fit for us with his skill set. So, we're really excited about that. We felt we needed to go out and try to get a player that has a lot of experience and has played a lot of big-time ball and Emory Jones fits that. Emory is the guy who's played in the SEC. He's won big games in the SEC, he's going out to play at Arizona State; tough situation out there with the things that happen with the coaching aspect in that regard, but I do think he's got a tremendous upside. He's got a lot of

talent. He's got a really good arm and he can run as well. So it kind of fits what we want with that. I also believe it's important to be able to land a quarterback of his caliber at this stage to be able to help us in the wide receiver room. We know we got to help that room. We got to get some players in here that have played, so I think over the coming weeks we'll be able to get some players that come in here to help us next year. It was very important because the guys were talking to you, 'who's your quarterback' and certainly with the guys we have on campus here now but also you know you have to have multiple quarterbacks I think in order to be able to compete because we saw this year across the country, you got two backup quarterbacks that are playing the bowl game so you better have guys that can it can play and continue to compete at a high level."

On bringing offensive linemen Luke Kandra and Trevor Radosevich to help right away?

"Well, we need to be able to do that, as we as we came in and kind of looked at the roster, there were some guys that were in the senior category, that are not going to be here. So you got to continue to bring guys in that have played and can play, that can help us. We feel like both of these players can come in and help us in the interior, at guard and center. You better have some guys that have some depth is there as well. We'd love to have seven or eight guys that we could actually play and rotate in. We feel like these guys can come in here and have an immediate impact on our team. We're going to look to give try to get it maybe I tackle it in the portal as well, to come here and help us at the offensive tackle position."

How do you approach early signing day after only being at UC for two weeks.

"Man you're hitting it wide open fast as you can go. I mean, the thing about it is you have to hire some staff first to start recruiting. You just can't do it from one person. So, I was trying to get some staff in here to be able to help because also the recruits that are on your team, because you got to recruit them as well, and the recruits that are coming out of high school, they want to know who's going to coach. The relationship that you have with these players. So, to be able to get a few coaches in here and to be able to keep coach Coombs, I think was huge. To get those coaches in here to be able to talk to these guys to talk to the players on our team, I think that was kind of the first priority. We were able to do that. We had a huge weekend where a lot of these guys that were committed here before and had a great conversation over the weekend got to know them they got to know us. I think we all want to all feel good about it. You know both ways. I think we did it with some great families. They did a really good job of selecting some of these players and then we had two guys that were committed to us that were at Louisville. They were able to

switch over as well, Rayquan (Adkins), and Jayden (Davis) Jayden had an awesome day at the all-star game (U.S. Army All-American Bowl) the other day with two interceptions and seven tackles...really excited about him coming in here into our defensive backfield.”

On if there are any more players to announce today?

“We will, there are a few guys that have actually turned in their paperwork, but they're going to have their own deal at their home schools, which is kind of exciting for us. There are some good players and some players that maybe people hadn't heard of that will be jumping in the boat here, so we're excited about them as well. We're going to let them have their time this afternoon or evening, so we will be adding to this in the high school ranks as well as some more in the portal over the next few days.”

On how well the coach and the staff have done so far since getting to Cincinnati

“I don't think you ever hit it as good as you want to hit it. I think we want to continue to get great players and that's why to me this is like a starting point. We're not done we're going to keep going we're going to keep finding players that can come in here to help us compete. The thing as a coach is you sit there and I'll I can envision right now is next fall lineup and playing the teams we're going to have to play. The kind of players that I know are going to be coming off that sideline that's going to go in that field is going to help us compete and win. I mean, that's all I can think about. If you wait till the fall gets here is too late. I've been pressed on our coaches and everybody in the building; we got to recruit, we got to recruit. We got to make sure they're going to feel comfortable to play for us and be a part of this process. So that's what we're doing right now. We're going to have Christmas break here, but our phones are going to be on and ready to go. You got to continue to have those relationships, you needed to talk to players it's going to be a short window in between now, in January night before we start back.”

On no Cincinnati high school recruits being a part of the signing class

“Again, a lot of the players that are on this signing list, they were committed before, and you don't have time to come in here in one week and go get the high schools right here and go get players. A lot of this work right here happened a year ago. The class that Louisville signed this year happened a year and a half ago that was built out. It is something that it takes time and we're going to be in there; we're going to be all over the city. We're going to be all over the state. I can't wait to get that going in January. When we get back in here, we get our staff in here, we're going to be all out. It's a short period of time to be able to come in here and sign high school

players, from this area, but that is certainly is going to be a huge priority for us, as we're going to make that happen once we get back in January."

On how the signing of two quarterbacks today will impact the quarterbacks already on the roster like Evan Prater

"I think it remains to be seen, Obviously, that'll be up to Evan and his family and the players that are on this team. We're going to need quarterbacks, hopefully, they will be here and hopefully, they'll go through spring practice with us. We'll get to coach them and develop them, and see where we're at with everything. That position is one of the most critical positions in all in all sports and football, right? I mean, no matter what level is rec league, pros, college, whatever, you better have some quarterbacks and nowadays it is hard to keep three, four, or five quarterbacks on the roster. It's usually it's one guy that's going to play throughout a season, you may end up playing two or three depending on injuries, but they all want to play, and I get that they all want to be the guy and I tell quarterbacks every year, that I'm pulling for everybody in the room. We're going to play the best player we got to help us win games. The thing that they'll know here is that they're going to get an opportunity to compete. They're going to get a chance and we're going to play the best, whoever that is. I think anybody that has been in my programs or around us knows we're going to play the best player. I'm pulling for all of you, but whoever is the best going to go out there and play."

On focusing on recruiting wide receivers and tight ends in the portal

"Yeah, I think that's a fair assessment. We lost a lot as you looked at the game. There's not much experience out there and not many guys that have produced much this past fall. That's certainly going to be a position of need. We're going to get some guys that have played college football to come in here and help us in that regard. You have to have playmakers at wide receiver and certainly for us, we love using tight ends. Tight ends have been a huge part of our offense for a long time so we're going to be able to get some guys in here. That will be a huge priority in the next two weeks."

On Dorian Jones

"Dorian's been a hard worker. He redshirted and worked his way up this past season. He played a ton of football for us at Louisville. He's a very physical player, a downhill player. He has really good size. He's close to 240. He's strong. He's a thumper. He's a guy that can come in here and help us. He knows our system. He's been in it. We're excited about what he could bring to the table. And for him, it was an opportunity to

play in the same defense and coached by guys that he knows. We're excited about him getting in here in January and hitting the ground running."

On Rayquan Adkins and Jayden Davis

"Rayquan is a guy who's a ball hawk. Not very big, obviously once you get to college, we'll develop him and get some more size on him, but he's got a knack for the ball. He's got great hands. I love having DBs that have great hands because they can get the ball back for you as opposed to playing volleyball and knocking it down. But we want those guys that can catch the ball in the back end. He is that for sure. He's a guy that can play nickel, he can play corner. He's very versatile back there. He'll be able to do a lot of different things. A very confident player. I'm excited about what he's going to be able to bring to the table.

Jayden Davis, he's got a huge upside. He's a guy that's 6-2. He's skinny right now. Again, he'll be a guy that fills out, but he can run it. He's a really good receiver as well. He can catch the ball as shown in the All-Star game that he played in with two interceptions. We had the most takeaways in the country last year at Louisville. That's a huge thing that you want to be able to do defensively is take the ball away, but you have to have guys that can do that. Both of these guys are going to be able to come in here and be able to get interceptions. That's going to be huge for us and they're both great people. We've been recruiting them for a long time and they're going to fit in very well here."

On Evan Tengesdahl

"He has good size and again, you're looking at where is he going to be at potential wise. He's going to be a kid that's going to be over 300 pounds. He's going to bring that physical brand of blocking up front that we're going to want to have. We're really a big inside-outside zone team. I think his physical presence is going to be able to bring that. Some people look at the spread offense and they say, well, we don't want to be physical. That's not the case. We want to be nasty, physical. He's going to be able to bring that to the table as an interior player. I think he's going to have the size. Hopefully, he'll have the ability to come in here and help us early. We'll see once he gets on campus, but he certainly has the ability to do that. We're excited about what he brings as well."

On Ty Perkins and Trevor Carter

"I haven't met Trevor in person. He was unable to come up on the visit. Ty was able to come up. Ty's long, got long arms. He's got really good hands. They're winners, both of them. Coming from a program that's winning. I'm excited about what they're

going to be able to come here and bring to the table, too. That work ethic, that toughness. Ty certainly has the opportunity to come in here. Again, depends on what we can bring out of the portal, but the wide receiver's a huge position of need. For him to be here, man, we're excited about him to come in here and hit the ground running. Of course, Trevor is a guy who's going to have to put on some weight once he gets here. Once we get into the weight program, and we've seen it over time, where he'll put on 15 pounds easily the first year, be pushing that to 220- to 225-mark, and be that really good inside linebacker that we're going to need."

On Brian Simms III

"He was excited about that as we're showing him some film of what we're doing defensively. He was really excited about that. He has really good length, has a really good motor comes, coached from a great program that the competition they played this past season, some of the best in the country. He's going to be able to come in, have the confidence to be able to compete early. I'm excited to see what he's going to be able to bring to the table. We're certainly going to need some pass rushers. That's going to be huge for us. As we look toward the future for him, he'll be one of those guys that can get to the passer. That's what excites me the most about him."

On getting players who have played for great programs

"I like it. They're used to winning, and I think what we've found over the years, when they come from those type of programs, they're used to working hard. Usually in programs, you just don't show up and go win a lot of games. You have to work hard. The offseason is going to be hard for them. They're used to that. They've probably been coached hard as well. Once they get into the college program, there's less transition for those type of players. They're going to come in here. They've already been coached hard, they know how to work. They're used to that. They know this is what we have to do as opposed if you get a player from a program that maybe hasn't won as much, [they're] maybe not sure about what it's going to take to win. It's very important. I also like trying to get guys in leadership roles at their high school. They've been leaders. They've been captains. Those kinds of players translate into great players as well once they get to college."

On retaining commits from the previous staff

"This day and age, there's obviously a debate, are you are you committing to the school, to the city, or to the coaches? It's different for different kids. Some recruits are straight relationship oriented. Some just love where the school is at, the area, what type of school it is. I do think that these players love where the school's at, they love where we're going, they love we're going into the big 12, they love that this

stadium is awesome to play and play in front of these people. Once they got around our staff, they felt comfortable to say 'hey, I did love all that stuff about it, but now I like these coaches too. I like what they're bringing and their plan.' It was just a good fit. Some guys decided maybe it's not a fit for them and they're going to go somewhere else. I'm fine with that. I want it to be a good fit. You don't want somebody to come here just because. I want them to be here because they want to be here. I think that's going to be huge for us as we move forward. I want guys that want to want to be a Cincinnati Bearcat. That's why we have to hit this city hard. That's why we have to hit this state hard because there's a lot of pride in it. They want to come play for us, and they want to make us great. So, let's get those players. That's going to be huge for us. That's going to be our message as we head out in January."

On breaking down Cincinnati's early signing day from the transfer portal

"It's probably going to end up being about what I thought once this evening is over, and we announce a bit more. It's always tough in transition. It just is. I do think the portal nowadays is a huge factor in college football, whether you like it or not. It's a factor. You have to embrace it and every team throughout the country is going to embrace that, some more than others. But I do want to be a program where we're bringing high school players in, and we can continue to develop. We want to develop. I love developing players. But, we know every year there's going to be needs where we're going to have to go into the portal, get a guy that's got experience, that's played college football, to come in here and help you. I really believe that as well. It has to be a good balance between the two. Hopefully we're having a program here where we're not losing too many players too. That's another thing that we want to try to continue to keep our players, continue to develop them which is harder and harder in today's landscape."

On the game, and recruiting, as a coach and transitioning jobs

"Well, it was really different. When I left App to go to Louisville, you didn't have the portal and that's huge. There are probably some players that would have come over to Louisville, but this is the world now. Ever since COVID, it's completely changed college football. That's when everything happened. NIL, transfer, where's this going to stop? Where is it going to go? The landscape, the conferences have moved. There are so many things that are different now. There's really no comparison. But we have learned over the last couple of years about the portal about how this stuff's working. We've kind of embraced it. I don't necessarily like it, but it is what it is. We've embraced it and we're going to try to make the best of it."

On timelines to fill out the rest of his staff

"It'll obviously be as it developments, but we're getting close. I think the plan is by January 3rd to have most everything in place. School starts the 9th. We'll bring some more players in the 4th so I kind of want to have most everything in place by January 3rd. As we move forward in that recruiting period, the players we're recruiting know who their coach is. That's going to be important. I think by January 3rd, we'll have a great idea who everybody's going to be."

On how much has changed for him as a coach in the post-COVID world

"Extremely, and every coach that last year when I talked to them pregame, we're all saying the same thing. It's like you don't even know what to say. It's crazy the world that we're in right now because you can have great players on your team that love your program and still may want to test the waters in the transfer world. We've seen it this offseason, just having the most-ever in the portal. I don't know where the end is. I don't know what's going to happen as we move forward. I don't really blame some of these players. They're getting an opportunity to make a lot of money at some schools out there. And particularly if I'm a really good player at a school that maybe has not tapped into the NIL world, they're going to test that...One of the hardest things that we have to deal with is roster management, year in and year out, and so, now, what that means is recruiting departments on college campuses have to grow. We're growing ours here, that'll be the biggest it's ever been, and it has to be because again, you have to recruit your players. You got to recruit the high school player, you got to recruit the portal, you got to see who's going to be leaving. You got to scout other colleges out there. There's so many things and aspects since COVID has started with these new rules that we have to implement in these programs."

On his pitch to retaining the returning players

"The pitch is 'hey, we've been very successful in things that we've been able to do and here's where we see you within that, and we think you're a good fit for us.' We're excited about it, of what we're going to be bringing in that's going to help this team continue to compete. But this this goes on every year. Last year, what I remember was throughout December, it used to be after the bowl game, you can relax at least a little bit, but the whole time, we're calling our players saying 'hey, you good, you leaving.' So, you're recruiting your own players every year. And a lot goes into that. There's all these players that want to play next year. Some of them won't be ready. Some of them are going to need to develop, go through a redshirt year. But we're going to have to play some of them. Get a little test out of it and let them play a little bit. There's just a fine line there. I think that's what I mean with roster management and coaching now. It's completely different than it was before all this

opened up. It's definitely a lot more of [people management]. A lot of 'hey, I'm the running back, coach. I'm bringing my running backs in on a weekly basis just to talk and find out where your head's at.' I think we're also in a world now with the internet and phone and is everybody wants it now, or they want it yesterday, actually. It's hard, because the guy's maybe not ready, but you're going to be great. You're going to be a great player. It's just not right now. You have to keep developing every single day, and that's hard for young people. Sometimes it's also hard for maybe whoever's in their head, from parents or whoever else is in there here, to say he's supposed to be playing, even if they're not quite ready yet. Those are the dynamics that we're all dealing with as coaches now that maybe we were not this way three or four years ago."