



2019 CINCINNATI BEARCATS FOOTBALL POSTGAME NOTES

2020 TICKETSMARTER BIRMINGHAM BOWL GAME
#21 CINCINNATI (11-3, 7-1 AAC) **38, BOSTON COLLEGE** (6-7, 4-4 ACC) **6**
JANUARY 2, 2020 | 2:03 PM CT | BIRMINGHAM, AL | LEGION FIELD
ATTENDANCE: 27,193

SERIES INFORMATION

- With the win, Cincinnati and Boston College are now tied in the all-time series, 4-4
- The Bearcats have now won two in a row in the series after claiming a 24-6 win at BC in 1997
- The series has gone in wins of two in a row with BC winning the first two, UC taking games #3 and #4, BC winning #5 and #6 and the Bearcats claiming wins in the last two meetings
- The 38 points scored by UC are the most in the series for the Bearcats, surpassing the 24 scored twice, and the second-most scored by either team behind BC's 41 in 1988
- The 32-point margin of victory is the largest in the series for UC, easily surpassing the 18-point win in a 24-6 win in 1997

CAPTAINS/COIN TOSS

- Cincinnati's captains for today's game: #6 Perry Young, #11 Bryan Wright, #75 Chris Ferguson, #78 Morgan James
- Cincinnati won and deferred its choice; Boston College received and defended the east

WEATHER ISSUE

- With 7:55 remaining in the first quarter (2:25 p.m. CT), lighting in the area delayed the game which lasted 1:30 (3:55 p.m. CT).
- The in-game delay was the first for the Bearcats since the 2017 season when the home game with visiting UCF was delayed and then called at the end of the third quarter.

BOWL HISTORY

- The win pushed the Bearcats' all-time bowl record a 10-9 after winning back-to-back games over ACC opponents after scoring a 35-31 win over Virginia Tech in the 2018 Military Bowl
- Cincinnati is now 2-0 in bowl games played in Birmingham, Ala., after the Bearcats won, 31-21, over Southern Miss in the 2007 PapaJohns.com Bowl which was also played at Legion Field
- In their 10 wins, the Bearcats have scored at least 31 points eight times and have averaged 32.8 points per game in those wins
- The 38 points scored are the second-most in a bowl game for the Bearcats behind only their 48-34 win over Duke in the 2012 Belk Bowl (Charlotte, N.C.)

RIDDER NAMED MVP

- Desmond Ridder was unanimously voted as the MVP of the TicketSmarter Birmingham Bowl after an impressive display helped the Bearcats to victory for the second year in a row. The sophomore quarterback finished the game with 14-of-24 passing for 95 yards and one score while carrying the ball 21 times for 105 yards and three scores. The first UC quarterback to rush for 100+ yards in a bowl game, Ridder's feet broke several records for the Bearcats in bowl games, including:
 - Most rushing touchdowns with 3 (record was 2 three times, most recently in 2018, Michael Warren II vs. Virginia Tech)
 - Most touchdowns scored with 3 (record was 2 six times, most recently Warren in 2018)
 - Most points scored with 18 (record was 12 six times, most recently Warren in 2018)
 - Most touchdowns accounted for with 4 (ties record of Ben Mauk in 2007 and Brendon Kay in 2012, who had 4 passing TDs)

TEAM NOTES

- With the victory, the Bearcats finished the season with an 11-3 record, marking the fourth time in program history the team has posted 11 or more wins in a season, all of which have come since the 2008 season. The 11 wins in 2019 also mark just the second time in program history that the Bearcats have won 11 or more in back-to-back seasons after going 11-2 last year. The previous instance came in 2008 (11-3) and 2009 (12-1).

CINCINNATI'S 11+ WIN SEASONS

- 2019 (11-3) 2018 (11-2) 2009 (12-1) 2008 (11-3)

- The Bearcats broke four team game records against Boston College with all four coming on the offensive side of the ball:
 - Cincinnati ran 91 offensive plays, breaking the previous record of 90 set in the 1997 Humanitarian Bowl (vs. Utah State)
 - Cincinnati accumulated 33 first downs, smashing the previous total of 24 set in both the 2004 Ft. Worth Bowl (vs. Marshall) and the 2000 Motor City Bowl (vs. Marshall)
 - Of those 33 first downs, 26 came via rushes, doubling the previous record of 13 in both the 2018 Military Bowl (vs. Virginia Tech) and the 2011 Liberty Bowl (vs. Vanderbilt)
 - Cincinnati tied the record for rushing touchdowns with 4 that was set last year in the 2018 Military Bowl (vs. Virginia Tech)
- **WHAT A RUSH:** Both Desmond Ridder (QB) and Michael Warren II (RB) reached the century mark on the ground as both posted identical lines of 105 yards on 21 carries in the game. The duo became the first Bearcats teammates to rush for over 100 yards in the same bowl game in program history while Warren became the first UC player to rush for 100+ yards in more than one bowl game. Here are the program's 100-yard rushers in bowl games:
 - Michael Warren II • 166 yards on 20 carries • 2018 Military Bowl (vs. Virginia Tech)
 - Isaiah Pead • 149 yards on 28 carries • 2011 Liberty Bowl (vs. Vanderbilt)
 - George Winn • 130 yards on 16 carries • 2012 Belk Bowl (vs. Duke)
 - **Desmond Ridder • 105 yards on 21 carries • 2020 TicketSmarter Birmingham Bowl (vs. Boston College)**
 - **Michael Warren II • 105 yards on 21 carries • 2020 TicketSmarter Birmingham Bowl (vs. Boston College)**
- **AGGRESSIVE:** Bryan Wright forced a fumble in the first quarter, his fourth of the year and fifth of his career, with Boston College recovering the ball. Later, midway through the second quarter, a pass attempt was fumbled by the BC quarterback that Wright fell on for his second recovery of the season and third of his career. That recovery marked the 30th takeaway of the season for the Bearcats defense, bringing their totals to 14 recovered fumbles to go with their 16 interceptions. The recovery also marked the 10th game in a row in which the Bearcats registered at least one takeaway.
- Cincinnati led 17-0 at the half, marking the fourth time this year the Bearcats shutout an opponent. The previous instances came at Marshall (28-0), home to UConn (38-0), and home to Temple (6-0). Tonight's first-half shutout marked just the second time the Bearcats have blanked a foe at the break after playing Virginia Tech to a 0-0 tie in the 1947 Sun Bowl, a game in which UC would go on to win, 18-6, in the modern-day bowl debut.
- **DOMINANT DEFENSE:** The Cincinnati defense had one of its best showings of the season by pitching a shutout (BC scored on a return of a blocked field goal attempt in the third quarter) and allowing the fewest total yards accumulated by an opposing offense. Here is how the defense stacked up against the rest of the season:
 - POINTS: UC did not allow an offensive point scored for the first time since shutting out Navy, 42-0, November 3, 2018
 - TOTAL YARDS: The Bearcats limited the Eagles to 164 yards of total offense, the lowest allowed this year, surpassing the 207 yards allowed to Miami (Ohio) this year. Additionally, the 164 yards allowed are the fewest for the Bearcats since September 21, 2013, when the defense limited Miami (Ohio) to 87 yards in Oxford.
 - RUSHING YARDS: UC held BC to 77 yards on the ground, marking the fourth time in 2019 a foe has been held under 100 yards rushing. The previous instances included 62 yards to UCLA, 64 to Miami and 78 to Temple.
 - PASSING YARDS: BC was held to 87 yards through the air, the second-lowest total allowed this year by the Bearcats. The lowest was 70 yards to UConn.

INDIVIDUAL NOTES

- **CHASING RECORDS:** Josiah Deguara, who started for the 27th-consecutive time to end his career, capped one of the best campaigns in program history for a tight end, finishing the game with three receptions for 12 yards. With those numbers, he cemented himself in the Top 2 of three career categories for tight ends, including the receptions record ahead of Brent Celek (2003-06). Those yards also helped him record 504 yards for the season, making him just the second UC tight end to gain 500+ yards in a season, joining Travis Kelce, who tallied 722 yards in 2012. Here is where Deguara ranks in program history:

Cincinnati Tight End Career Leaders

RECEPTIONS

1. Josiah Deguara (2016-19)	92	1,117 yards	12 TD
2. Brent Celek (2003-06)	91	1,135 yards	14 TD

RECEIVING YARDS

1. Brent Celek (2003-06)	1,135 yards	91 rec	14 TD
2. Josiah Deguara (2016-19)	1,117 yards	92 rec	12 TD

RECEIVING TOUCHDOWNS

1. Brent Celek (2003-06)	14	1,135 yards	91 rec
2. Josiah Deguara (2016-19)	12	1,117 yards	92 rec

- **RUNNING TRUCK:** Michael Warren II finished the game with 105 yards on 21 carries to hit the century mark for the seventh time this season and the 14th of his career. For the season, his seven 100-yard games ties him for the second-most in a single-season with James Bettis (1981), Allen Harvin (1978) and himself (2018) with only the eight recorded by Reggie Taylor (1986) being more.

On a career level, his 14 games ties him for second all-time with DeMarco McCleskey (1998, 2000-02) and David Small (1991-93) and leaves him seven shy of Reggie Taylor, who tallied 21 in his career.

- Warren and Ridder both recorded 100-yard rushing games, marking the second time the duo has done so this year. The last time game against ECU when Warren recorded 141 yards on 18 carries and Ridder added 121 yards on 12 rushes.
- **DEBUTS:** A pair of transfers saw their first action of the season after serving their one-year in residence with Cincinnati as both James Hudson (Michigan) and Ryan Cook (Howard) played. Cook was part of the kick-off coverage and recorded a pair of tackles while Hudson earned his first career start (offensive tackle).
- Late in the second quarter, Tre Tucker took an end-around hand off and turned up field for 39 yards. That was the only touch recorded by the freshman, who entered the game with seven career carries for 61 yards and a long of 19.
- Jabari Taylor recorded his first career sack as he brought down the BC signal caller for a loss of 13 yards late in the second quarter. Taylor finished with just two tackles in the game, but both were negative for the Eagles as his other tackle resulted in a tackle for loss.
- Malick Mbodj hauled in an 8-yard pass from Desmond Ridder on the opening drive of the second half to record his first career touchdown. The wide out, who had appeared in 25 games prior to tonight, had 23 grabs for 306 yards and no scores on his career. Tonight, he finished with three catches for 17 yards.
- **QUICK HITS**
 - Curtis Brooks made his first career start for the Bearcats on the defensive line.
 - Malick Mbodj's touchdown reception to open the third quarter was the first scoring grab for a UC wide receiver since Rashad Meddarris pulled in a 75-yard pass at Houston in the first quarter (33 quarters of play between).
 - Bryan Wright and Josiah Deguara ended their UC careers by starting their final 27 games in a row