





2011 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship Second Round | Thursday, March 17, 2011 | Verizon Center | Washington, D.C. GAME NOTES: #6 CINCINNATI 78, #11 MISSOURI 63

Cincinnati (26-8) advances to the NCAA Championship Third Round to face #1 Connecticut at approximately 9:40 pm ET on Saturday. Missouri finishes the 2010-11 season with a 23-11 record.

Tonight's meeting was the first-ever between the two programs.

Cincinnati improves to 41-23 in 25 NCAA Championship appearances. Cincinnati made its first NCAA Championship appearance since 2005, and won its opening game of the NCAA Championship for the third consecutive time (2004, 2005, 2011).

Missouri falls to 22-24 in 24 NCAA Championship appearances. The loss is the Tigers' first in their last six NCAA Championship opening games after winning first-round games in 2001, 2002, 2003, 2009 and 2010.

Cincinnati head coach Mick Cronin won his first NCAA Championship game in three tries (1-2). Cronin lost first-round games in 2004 and 2006 as the head coach at Murray State.

Cincinnati improved to 25-0 this season when leading at halftime, while Missouri dropped to 0-11 when trailing at halftime. The Bearcats led 39-28 at halftime.

Cincinnati junior Yancy Gates recorded an 18-point, 11-rebound double-double, his sixth double-double of the season and 14th of his career. Gates made both of his three-point attempts, a new career high, after making just three career three-pointers his previous 99 games. The Bearcats are a perfect 7-0 this season when Gates posts a double-double.

Cincinnati placed at least four players in double-figures for the 10th time this season (Gates 18, Dixon 16, Wright 11, Kilpatrick 10).

Missouri's 63 points was its third-lowest scoring output of the season, more than 18 below its season average of 81.4 points per game. The Tigers had at least four players in double figures for the 22nd time this season (Ratliffe 13, Dixon 11, Denmon 10, Bowers 10).

Cincinnati's 42 points in the paint were its fifth-most of the season and its 53.7 percent field-goal rate was its fourth-best shooting effort of the season.

Cincinnati held Missouri without a field goal the final 7:27 of the first half, going on a 13-4 run over that span to lead 39-28 at halftime. The Tigers' 11-point halftime deficit matched their largest halftime-deficit of the season (38-27 at Texas, 1/29/11).

Missouri went 10:41 spanning the first and second halves without a field goal. The Tigers were outscored 17-4 during that span.