



**Postgame Quotes**  
**Cincinnati 52, Temple 3**  
**Oct. 8, 2021 | Attendance: 37,978 | Nippert Stadium**

**Head Coach Luke Fickell**

***Opening statement***

"What a night...first and foremost, the crowd was unbelievable. That's the best I've seen. It was really awesome to come back home. It's been three weeks since we've had the opportunity to be back in Nip and for it to be at night, and to have the student section. The crowd and everything was electric. That was awesome. And for us, for the first time, really kind of having and playing a complete game. Not saying it is perfect by any means, but a complete game and I'm talking about four quarters, I'm talking about complementary football...feeding off of each other. It was still a dogfight halftime. I thought the momentum was back and forth. They made a long field goal and we came out the second half and got the football. For Jerome Ford to break off a 75-yard run, I think that was really, kind of pressure that we kept talking about, that we would have to apply, at some point in time, to get a team to crack. And a big run like that coming out of halftime, I think it was kind of the difference maker. I know the turnovers and things like that were huge, but that run I think energized not just our team and the crowd and everything."

***On Jerome Ford's big game, including the 75-yard touchdown to open the second half***

"(laughs) It's mainly because we don't give him the ball enough in the first half. I think it's a part of our whole line wearing on people and it's never going to be easy, especially sometimes in the first half but the constant pressure of running and Desmond Ridder's ability to throw a football as well as he can, move the ball around, it really can wear on a defense and I think it's wearing on front. They were a three-down guy team that rushed three in a lot of situations and I think it might be showing a little bit in the second half .. our way around the football."

***On his thoughts at halftime, leading 17-3***

"Yeah, but as a coach you sit there and think about the opportunities you missed first, unfortunately, and the momentum of the game. This team was down 17 points to Memphis last week and they came storming back and won the football game, and I kept reminding the guys it was 17-0 or 17-3 and this team knows how to come back. We needed to come out and take the

air out of the sails. We had moved the ball, we had control in the first half but not on the scoreboard and you have to capitalize on those situations."

## **Cincinnati Senior Quarterback Desmond Ridder**

### ***On the play calling***

"Any given play, if we can execute then that play is going to be exciting for sure."

### ***On his connection with Alec Pierce***

"Me and AP have a great connection since he's been here. He came in with Ben Bryant, we were good friends, and off the field we were always together either golfing or lifting. We've had that connection ever since I've been here and I know he can go up and get any pass."

### ***On Chuck (running back Charles McClelland)***

"I am happy for Chuck. He's put in so much work. Every time it's his time to go something is going to happen. We are blessed to have Chuck with us and his presence is definitely felt on the field. Worked his butt off to get back on the field and to 100%."

### ***On Nippert at Night***

"Oh it felt great. Big shoutout to all the fans that came out tonight. We were sitting early on the bleachers and you see all the people and everyone is already in their seats."