

Young Bearcats Squad Ends Season On High Note

The 2002 University of Cincinnati's men's soccer team experienced a season of ups and downs but continued to make major strides in head coach Hyilton Dayes' second year at the helm. A runner-up finish at the Conference USA tournament highlighted a season that left the Bearcats hungry for 2003 as all but one starter return for the new year.

The Bearcats got off to a strong start, winning four of their first six games, marking the school's best start since 1999 and included UC's first ever 2-0 start in C-USA. Cincinnati also ended the season well, posting a 6-2-1 record in its final nine games, making it to the C-USA Tournament final for the first time in school history before losing a hard-fought, 3-2 battle to host Saint Louis. The Bearcats ended the season with an overall record of 11-8-2 and finished 5-4-1 in conference play.

Home Sweet Home

Cincinnati did a solid job of defending its home turf, posting a 7-1-1 record in matches played at Meyers Field. The Bearcats won a pair of key home C-USA matches on the campus of UC, defeating South Florida 2-0 and eventual C-USA co-champion Marquette, 2-1. UC also notched hard-fought wins over in-state rival Dayton, 2-1, and Alabama A&M, 3-1.

Stifling Defense

One trend during the 2002 season saw the Bearcats outshoot opponents by more than 100 shots on the season. Cincinnati amassed 273 shots while allowing 167, fewer than eight shots per game. Thanks in part to the defense, UC's goalkeepers posted a 1.24 goals against average in 2002. After taking over the starting duties midway through the season, John Adams posted an 8-2-2 record with a 0.81 goals against average, which led C-USA and ranked 20th in Division I. Adams also notched four shutouts, which tied him for third in the conference.

Second-Half Domination

Part of the reason for the Bearcats success in 2002 was their ability to control the second half. UC scored 22 of its 36 goals after the intermission, outscoring their opponents 21-9 in the second frame and 1-0 in overtime. In the first halves, UC had an 18-13 advantage over their opponents.

Spreading the Wealth

Nine different Bearcats scored a goal in 2002, led by Wiremu Patrick who finished with 11. Fellow New Zealander Tim Brown netted six goals while Josh Gardner added five. Scott Lyons and Jarrett Devereaux had four a piece and Matt Hayden had two while three others tallied one goal each.

with another thriller versus Marquette. The two teams battled to a 1-1 tie through regulation and overtime, making penalty kicks the determining factor. Junior goalkeeper John Adams started the penalty kick round by making a beautiful diving save, followed by Wiremu Patrick connecting on his try. After both teams tallied markers in the second round, Marquette missed its attempt in the third round while UC sophomore John Liersemann made good on his kick. Marquette's fourth try sailed high, advancing the Bearcats to the championship game.

The final proved to be no different than UC's opening round matches as it went right down to the wire. Trailing 3-2 to Saint Louis, the Bearcats had a barrage of shots just miss in the final minutes, including one by Preston Talbert that clanked off the post, as the Billikens took the match and the tournament championship.

Postseason Rankings

Cincinnati garnered some regional and national attention thanks to their finish to the 2002 season. *Soccer Times* had the Bearcats ranked No.30 in the nation in its end-of-season poll while the *National Soccer Coaches Association of America* had UC as the fourth best team in the Great Lakes Region. Finally, the Bearcats received a No. 2 ranking in the state of Ohio.

2002 Individual Statistics

Overall: 11-8-2 Home: 7-1-1 Road: 2-6-1 Neutral: 2-1-0

C-USA: 5-4-1 Home: 4-1-0 Road: 1-3-1

Name	G-GS	Shots	Goals	Ass.	Pts	GWG	Y	R	
Wiremu Patrick	21-21	40	11	5	27	3	0	0	
Josh Gardner	21-20	41	5	5	15	1	4	0	
Tim Brown	20-20	25	6	1	13	2	5	0	
Scott Lyons	21-21	44	4	1	9	1	3	0	
Jarrett Devereaux	21-19	29	4	1	9	1	0	0	
Matt Hayden	21-2	18	2	4	8	2	0	0	
John Liersemann	20-17	21	1	2	4	1	0	0	
Justin Lewis	10-0	12	1	2	4	0	1	0	
Brandon Dobbs	21-21	10	1	1	3	0	4	0	
Justin Dobbs	21-21	8	0	3	3	0	4	0	
Sean Connor	20-4	7	0	2	2	0	0	0	
Anders Cedergren	20-20	4	0	1	1	0	0	0	
Preston Talbert	11-0	8	0	0	0	0	2	0	
Mike Hessel	9-0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Brad Woods	6-1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Tom Weable	21-20	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	
Tom Chambers	3-1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Devon Cannon	8-2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Tony Morelli	1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
UC Team	21-21	273	35	28	98	11	26	1	
UC Opponents	21-21	169	27	24	78	8	40	0	
Goalie Stats	G-GS	Min	Svs	Shots	GA	ShO	GAA	Y	R
John Adams	13-13	1228:28	33	91	11	4	0.81	0	1
Sacha Nathu	9-8	736:20	21	54	16	0	1.96	0	0
UC Goalies	21-21	1964:48	59	145	27	4	1.24	0	1
Opp. Goalies	21-21	1964:28	119	252	35	4	1.60	0	0

Patrick the Scoring Machine

Sophomore Wiremu Patrick led the team in scoring with 27 points on 11 goals and five assists. Patrick ended the season tied for third in the conference in points (27) and goals (11) and was also tied for fourth in game-winning goals with three.

Season Ends With Wild C-USA Tournament

Cincinnati entered the C-USA Tournament as the fifth seeded team, determined to make the most out of its stay in Saint Louis. The Bearcats opened the tournament with a dramatic 3-2 double-overtime win over South Florida. Tim Brown scored the game winner with 3:31 remaining in the first overtime period.

UC followed that match up

2002 Cincinnati Awards

Verizon Academic All-District

Anders Cedergren

Matt Hayden

All-Great Lakes Region

Tim Brown, *Third Team*

All-Conference USA

Tim Brown, *Second Team*

Josh Gardner, *Second Team*

Brandon Dobbs, *Third Team*

Wiremu Patrick, *Third Team*

Conference USA All-Tournament Team

Tim Brown

Brandon Dobbs

Wiremu Patrick

Conference USA All-Freshman

Jarrett Devereaux

All-Ohio

Tim Brown, *First Team*

Brandon Dobbs, *Second Team*

Wiremu Patrick, *Second Team*

Academic All-Ohio

Tim Brown

Anders Cedergren