lara.thornton@uc.edu (C) 513.295.4520

GoBEAR<u>C</u>ATS.com

	SCHEDULE/RESULTS	
DATE	OPPONENT	TIME/RESULT
March 5	at Detroit	W, 10-6
MARCH 7	DUQUESNE	L, 14-13 (20T)
MARCH 13	PRESBYTERIAN	NOON
March 20	at Oregon	1 p.m. (PST)
March 22	at Stanford	1 p.m. (PST)
March 23	at Fresno State	4 p.m. (PST)
March 24	at St. Mary's (CA)	3 p.m. (PST)
MARCH 30	LOUISVILLE*	5 P.M.
April 3	at Loyola*	Noon
APRIL 9	GEORGETOWN*	4 P.M.
APRIL 14	OHIO STATE	5 P.M.
April 17	at Notre Dame*	3 p.m.
APRIL 18	JACKSONVILLE	2 P.M.
APRIL 23	SYRACUSE*	5 P.M.
APRIL 25	CONNECTICUT*	NOON
April 30	at Villanova*	5:30 p.m.
May 2	at Rutgers*	1 p.m.

Denotes BIG EAST Conference game. Home games in **BOLD CAPS.** 

May 6-8 BIG EAST Championship New Brunswick, N.J.

2010 BIG EAST Championship

#### SPORTS COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

Richard E. Lindner Center

2751 O'Varsity Way
Cincinnati, OH 45221-0021
Phone: 513.556.5191
Fax: 513.556.0619
Website: www.GoBEARCATS.com

Lara Thornton Associate Director/Lacrosse Contact 513.295.4520 lara.thornton@uc.edu

#### **2010 TEAM CAPTAINS**

Captains Patty Kelly, Haley Marvine, Natalie Starvaggi

#### GAME 3: CINCINNATI VS. PRESBYTERIAN

Saturday, March 13 ➤ Noon ➤ Nippert Stadium (35,000) ➤ Cincinnati, Ohio



### BL<del>UE\HOS</del>E

#### **CINCINNATI BEARCATS**

Record: 1-1 Rankings: N/A

Last Game: March 7, 2010 L, 14-13 (2 ot) Head Coach: Lellie Swords Alma Mater: James Madison '96 Career Record: 10-25 (3rd season)

Record at UC: Same

Up Next: March 20 at Oregon, 1 p.m. (PST)

#### PRESBYTERIAN BLUE HOSE

Record: 1-6 Rankings: N/A

Last Game: March 9, 2010 W, 13-11 vs. Bryant Head Coach: Kristina Llanes Alma Mater: Pfeiffer'04 Record at PC: 4-17 (2nd season)

PC vs. UC: 0-1

Up Next: March 21 at Howard, 4 p.m.

#### STREAKS, STORYLINES, SIDEBARS

#### THE MATCH-UP

The University of Cincinnati hosts Prebsyterian on Saturday, March 13, in a noon game at Nippert Stadium. The Bearcats will look to bounce back after a double-overtime, sudden death loss to Duquesne on Sunday, March 7. Presbyterian is coming off its first victory of the season, defeating Bryant on Tuesday, March 9.

Admission is free for all of UC's home lacrosse games in 2010.

#### **LAST TIME OUT**

Katherine Russo set a school record with 23 saves but UC was unable to score the first goal in the sudden death, double overtime game against Duquesne. Cailin Colegrove scored for Duquesne with 1:47 remaining in the fifth period on a free position attempt, giving the Dukes the victory. The Bearcats had five goals from freshman Katie Liberatore, who handed out an assist to classmate Katie Kiriazoglou with five seconds remaining in the second period, sending the game to its first overtime. Laura Simanksi recorded four goals and Kiriazoglou hit the back of the net twice, while Natalie Starvaggi and Ali Mattingly each scored once for UC.

#### NATIONALLY RANKED

Sophomore goalkeeper Katherine Russo is ranked No. 2 in the country (out of 300) for saves per game (15.0 per game) and save percentage (0.625). Russo recorded seven saves and earned a win in goal in UC's season opener, a 10-6 win at Detroit. In UC's home opener against Duquesne, Russo set a school record with 23 saves. Sophomore attack Laura Simanski leads the nation in ground balls, averaging six per game. She also ranks No. 86 in goals per game (2.5). Junior Natalie Starvaggi, sophomore Rachel Mercier and junior Paige Stratton also rank in the Top 50 in ground balls. Starvaggi is ranked No. 22 with 3.5, and Mercier and Stratton both rank No. 43 with 3.0 ground balls per game. Freshman attack Katie Liberatore leads UC with seven points this season (6 G, 1 A) and is ranked No. 31 in the country with her 3.0 goals per game average.

#### **PLAYER OF THE WEEK**

Katherine Russo was named the BIG EAST Conference Defensive Player of the Week after her outstanding performances in the first two games of the season for the Bearcats. Russo's honor is the second time that a Cincinnati player has earned a weekly conference honor after the first week of play in a season. Last season, Laura Simanski was named the BIG EAST's Offensive Player of the Week after the opening week of play for the Bearcats.

#### **BIG EAST HONOR ROLL**

Katie Liberatore was named to the BIG EAST Honor Roll after the first week of play this season. She finished the week with seven points, including five goals against Duquesne. She was the only freshman player named to the BIG EAST Honor Roll for the week.

#### MISSING MARSHALL

The Bearcats lost one starter from the 2009 season, senior Lindsey Marshall. Marshall finished her career as the school leader in career goals (64), career caused turnovers (39), career ground balls (59) and career points (69).

#### **KELLY KELLY**

Senior Patty Kelly is one of the 2010 team captains and her sister, junior Lauren Kelly, is three ground balls away from becoming the school leader in career ground balls. She needs to cause nine turnovers to become the school leader in career caused turnovers.

#### **BURTON BRINGS IT**

Junior attack Lynsey Burton scored the first goal in program history at the 22:10 mark on a free position shot at Vanderbilt in 2008. Last season she scored UC's first goal

in the first three games of the season, at Presbyterian, at Duquesne, and at Robert Morris. She ranks third in school history with 37 career goals.

#### **AGAINST THE BLUE HOSE**

Last season the Bearcats played its season opener at Presbyterian College and won, 16-6. Cincinnati scored 12 goals in the first period and held on for the win, getting four goals from Laura Simanski and three from Natalie Starvaggi.

#### PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Natalie Starvaggi — Star - vah- gee
Katelyn Wettig — Wet - ig
Katie Kiriazoglou — Keer - ah - zog - lou
Jess Kazaks — Kay - zacks
Laura Simanski — Suh - man - skee
Maggie Hague — Hayg
Shannon Lynes — Lines
LB Zinkand — Zink - hand
Katie Liberatore — Lee - bruh - tory
Rachel Mercier — Mur - sear
Adrianna Piontek — Pee - on - teck
Lellie Swords — Lell-ee Sords

#### **HEAD COACH, LELLIE SWORDS**

ellie Swords begins her third season as the head coach of the University of Cincinnati's women's lacrosse program after building a resume that includes a playing and coaching career at the premier level. Dedicated to the complete development of her student-athletes, Swords provides her athletes the opportunity to succeed athletically, academically, and as contributing members of the community.

In 2009 the Bearcats began the season with a three-game win streak and ended the season on a two-game win streak. Cincinnati scored 58 more goals, controlled 48 more draws, picked up 15 more ground balls, and tallied 76 more points than the inaugural team, showing improvement in every statistical category.

Academically in 2009, the lacrosse team was one of 23 teams honored with the 2008-09 BIG EAST Conference Team Academic Excellence Award. The award recognizes the highest collective grade-point average in each conference sport. The squad also posted a perfect Academic Progress Report score in 2008 and Lindsey Marshall graduated magna cum laude in the summer of 2009. Additionally, five UC players earned IWLCA Academic Squad honors for the 2008-09 academic year. Jess Kazaks, Lauren Kelly, Patty Kelly, Shannon Lynes, and Lindsey Marshall were each recognized by the IWLCA for the excellence in the classroom.

Swords has also encouraged her athletes to become active members of the community, varying from volunteering time around the holidays at the Drop Inn Center to visiting the Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Other community service projects have included Adopt a Family, Adopt a Troop, Toys for Tots, Sports Buddies, Cincinnati Kid Fest, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Ronald McDonald House, Winners Walk Tall, Friends of Jaclyn Foundation, Bras for Bridges, and Breast Cancer Awareness. The Bearcats have also given back to the lacrosse community as well. During the summer and fall, the team hosted several clinics for area youth.

Swords became UC's first intercollegiate women's lacrosse coach on Feb. 16, 2007, and led the Bearcats to the first win in school history on March 7, 2008, against Saint Mary's. She was selected as one of three BIG EAST coaches to serve on the Intercollegiate Womens' Lacrosse Coaches Association (IWLCA) Board of Directors.

Prior to her coaching stop at UC, Swords helped Johns Hopkins build one of the premier women's lacrosse programs in the nation. The Blue Jays posted a 56-28 record during her time on the Baltimore campus. In 2003 and again in 2005, she directed a defense that was ranked in the Top 10 nationally.

After beginning her coaching career at George Mason, Swords moved on to Cornell where she worked primarily with the Big Red defense. During her three-year stay in Ithaca, N.Y., Cornell was ranked as high as No. 15 in the national polls and won the ECAC Championship in 2000.

In 2001, Swords was an assistant coach at the St. Paul's School for Girls in Baltimore while concurrently serving as a volunteer assistant at Hopkins.

A four-year letterwinner at James Madison, Swords started all 35 games over her final two seasons. She led the team in interceptions in each of her final two seasons and was awarded the squad's Unsung Hero award in 1996. She also garnered Virginia I/South II honors as a senior.

The Cherry Hill, N.J., native graduated from JMU in 1996 with a bachelors degree in kinesiology and minor in business. She continued her playing career on Team Toyota until retirement in 2005. Swords' husband, Kyle, played professional soccer in the A-League with the Hershey Wildcats and Charleston Battery, and in the indoor league with the Harrisburg Heat and Baltimore Blast. He is currently serving as a volunteer assistant coach for the UC women's soccer team. The Swords have three children, Ryanne, Killian, and Jameson.

2010 QUICK FACTS		
Location	Cincinnati, OH 45221	
Founded	1819	
Enrollment	39,667	
Affiliation	NCAA Division I	
Conference	BIG EAST	
Nickname	Bearcats	
Colors	Red & Black	
Home Field	Nippert Stadium	
Capacity	35,000	
President	Dr. Gregory H. Williams	
Alma Mater, Year	Ball State, 1966	
Athletics Director	Mike Thomas	
Alma Mater, Year	Colorado State, 1983	
Faculty Representative	Dr. Fritz Russ	
HISTORY		
First Year of Lacrosse	2008	
All-time Record	9-24	
NCAA appearances/last	NA	
2009 TEAM INFORMATION		
Overall Record	7-10	
BIG EAST Record	0-7	
Points Leader	Laura Simanski (52)	
Leading Scorer	Laura Simanski (47 goals)	
Leading Assists	Lauren Houck (11 assists)	
Ground Ball Leader	LB Zinkand (42 ground balls)	
2010 TEAM INFORMATION		

## 2010 TEAM INFORMATION Starters Returning/Lost 11/1 Letterwinners Returning/Lost 24/3 2010 Captains Natalie Starvaggi, Patty Kelly, Haley Marvine

# COACHING STAFF Head Coach Lellie Swords (James Madison, 1996) Overall Record (Years) 9-24 (Third) Record at Cincinnati (Years) Same Assistant CoachLauren Schwarzmann (Johns Hopkins, 2008) Year at Cincinnati 2nd Assistant Coach Christy Finch (Northwestern, 2008) Year at Cincinnati 1st Volunteer Assistant Adam Paulus Year at Cincinnati 2nd

#### SPORTS COMMUNICATIONS Assistant AD/Media Relations Mike Harris Associate SID Ryan Koslen Associate SID/Lacrosse Contact Lara Thornton Office/Cell 513-295-4520 Email lara.thornton@uc.edu Assistant SID Jeremy Martin Assistant SID John Berry Web Site GoBEARCATS.com **Sports Communications Fax** (513) 556-0619 Mailing Address Richard E. Lindner Center Suite 860, 2751 O'Varsity Way, Cincinnati, OH 45221-0021