



Postgame Notes

Cincinnati 52, Temple 3

**Oct. 8, 2021 | Attendance: 37,978 (10th-highest crowd ever at Nippert)
| Nippert Stadium**

Highlights

- The Bearcats, with 23 straight home wins at Nippert Stadium, now have the second-longest home win streak in the nation behind only Clemson (31). Cincinnati's last home loss came against Temple, 35-24, on Nov. 10, 2017.
- The crowd of 37,978 matched the season-opener as the 10th-largest crowd in Nippert Stadium.
- It also marks Cincinnati's eighth-straight win against AAC opponents, second-straight win against Temple and 20th-straight in black jerseys.
- Cincinnati is 12-1 in its last 13 night games at Nippert Stadium. It is the fourth-straight home win at night for the Bearcats.
- The Bearcats are 21-3 (.875) in the past three years against AAC opponents, which is the best mark in the conference.
- UC is now 36-5 since 2018, ranking among the top five teams in CFB in winning percentage during that span (.878).
- Head Coach Luke Fickell is now 40-13 (.755) in five seasons at Cincinnati, the fifth-best percentage in program history.
- Cincinnati's defense held Temple to only three points, which is the fewest points allowed by the Bearcats since Nov. 9, 2019 against UConn.
- Game captains were Desmond Ridder, Myjai Sanders and Coby Bryant. Cincinnati won the toss and elected to defer to the second half.

- Cincinnati entered the game leading the country in red zone defense, and stopped Temple in its only chance. The Bearcats have now held opponents to just 43% in the red zone (6-of-14).

Offensive Notes

- Quarterback Desmond Ridder threw for 259 yards with three touchdowns while completing 22 of his 30 pass attempts. Ridder also reached two milestones during the game – 10,000 yards in total offense and 8,000 passing yards in his career. This was also Ridder's second game of the season with three or more passing touchdowns, the other being the home opener against Miami (OH) where he threw for four.
- Wide receiver Alec Pierce tallied his fourth career and second-straight 100-yard game, finishing with six receptions for 93 yards and a nine-yard touchdown catch at the end of the first quarter, his second of the season and seventh of his career.
- Wide receiver Michael Young secured his first touchdown catch of the year on an 11-yard strike from Ridder.
- Wide receiver Tyler Scott caught Ridder's second touchdown pass of the night, a 38-yard pitch and catch where Scott made a few Owls miss on the way to the endzone. It was Scott's third touchdown of the year, the only other being an 81-yard pass on the second offensive play of the season.
- Running back Jerome Ford had a career day, notching two touchdowns to go with a career-high 149 yards on only 15 carries. Ford's previous career-high came in the season opener against Miami (OH), which was 121 yards. This was Ford's third 100-yard rushing game of the year and fourth of his career.
- Ford's second touchdown came on a 75-yard scamper, the team's longest rush of the year.
- Running back Charles McClelland had a 28-yard rushing touchdown in the third quarter, which was his first of the season and his first since the ECU game on Nov. 23, 2018.
- Sophomore running back Ethan Wright broke away for a 58-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter, the longest rush of his career. He also had a career-high 76 rushing yards.
- Cincinnati scored 28 points in the third quarter, its most since Nov. 13, 2020 against ECU.
- UC's 542 yards matched the season-opening win against Miami for its season-high.

Defensive Notes

- Cincinnati forced three turnovers in the game, two fumbles and an interception. The Bearcats have 14 takeaways over the last four games (nine interceptions and five fumble recoveries).
- Linebacker Deshawn Pace led the team with eight tackles on the night. He now has 40 tackles on the year, which paces the team.
- Linebacker Wilson Huber recorded his first sack of the year and the second of his career.
- Both fumble recoveries by the Bearcats came on muffed punts by Temple. The first was recovered by Ja'von Hicks and the second by Tre Tucker. This is the second time this season the Bearcats have forced two fumbles in a game, the other being against Murray State.
- The defense only gave up 226 total yards, which is the lowest total of the year and the fewest since the Bearcats gave up only 164 total yards against Boston College on Jan. 2, 2020. It was also its fewest in a league game since 218 to UConn in 2019.
- Cincinnati's defense has not given up points on the opposing offense's opening drive since Nov. 21, 2020 against UCF.