



season OUTLOOK

SETTING THE STAGE

When Mick Cronin took over the head coaching job at the University of Cincinnati on March 23, 2006, he knew he faced the daunting task of rebuilding a program. With just one returning letterwinner and a team of freshmen and junior college transfers, Cronin spent the next two years in the opening act of an epic, creating a new team from scratch and developing a new culture, while putting together two recruiting classes that will lay the foundation of the program moving forward.

With the program's progress last year, quadrupling the team's BIG EAST wins, making the league tournament, and returning to the postseason for the first time under Cronin, a foundation was built that has UC on the cusp of taking its place in the BIG EAST as an annual contender in the nation's premier basketball conference.

The curtain opens on Act II in 2008-09 when Cronin welcomes in a highly-touted recruiting class that includes two Top 100 players in freshmen guard Cashmere Wright and power forward Yancy Gates. Chicago Public League star Dion Dixon, from the highly respected Crane Technical Prep program, and junior college transfer Steve Toyloy, who averaged a double-double in two years at Miami Dade College and led the NJCAA in rebounding as a freshman, round out the 2008-09 newcomers.

This incoming class will have an advantage Cronin's first two programs did not ... experienced leadership. After two years learning the intricacies of Cronin's offense and defense and the hardwork and dedication it takes to play at the highest level, junior guard Deonta Vaughn, a 2007-08 first-team all-BIG EAST selection and seniors Mike Williams, a forward, and Branden Miller, a wing, will work together to mold a new sense of team chemistry and unity that will lift the program to new heights.

THE BACKCOURT

A large part of how the 2008-09 Bearcats perform will depend on its backcourt starting with junior Deonta Vaughn.

Vaughn, a preseason all-America candidate and 2007-08 first-team all-conference selection, supplies a large part of the Bearcats offensive punch, averaging almost 16 points per game in his first two seasons and leaving him just 12 points short of 1,000 for his career. After spending parts of his first two years at the point guard spot, Vaughn will stay at the off-guard position this season where his skills are focused on scoring and not running the offense. Even though, he averaged 17.3 points per game last season, he also found a way to get everyone involved ranking ninth in the BIG EAST in assists (4.16).

The emergence of freshmen Cashmere Wright and Dion Dixon as regulars will be keys to keeping Vaughn from handling the ball along with the play of Larry Davis and senior team captain Branden Miller.

Wright was highly touted coming out of Urban Christian Academy in Savannah, Ga., as one of the nation's Top 100 incoming freshmen and one of the top point guards available. He brings a reputation as a complete point guard that can handle running the offense and put points on the board.

At 6-foot-3, Dixon is versatile and has the ability to move around and play both guard spots. He can also score as he led the Chicago Public League last year with 21 points a game.



LETTERWINNERS RETURNING (8)

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Elig.	GP/S	PPG	RPG
Kenny Belton *	F	6-8	255	So./So.	21/0	1.6	1.0
Rashad Bishop (s) *	F	6-6	225	So./So.	32/20	5.4	3.4
Larry Davis *	G	6-3	195	So./So.	32/2	4.3	0.7
Anthony McClain *	C	7-0	255	So./So.	31/0	2.7	3.0
Branden Miller ***	G	6-4	210	Sr./Sr.	6/0	0.0	0.3
Alvin Mitchell *	F	6-5	210	So./So.	22/1	2.8	1.3
Deonta Vaughn (s) **	G	6-1	190	Jr./Jr.	32/32	17.3	2.9
Darnell Wilks *	F	6-7	205	So./So.	17/0	0.9	0.4

LETTERWINNERS LOST (5)

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Elig.	GP/S	PPG	RPG
Marvin Gentry **	G	6-3	180	Sr.	27/15	6.0	2.5
Marcus Sikes ** (s)	F	6-8	230	Sr.	32/1	3.9	3.5
Jamual Warren ** (s)	G	6-2	195	Sr.	26/25	5.6	4.7
John Williamson ** (s)	F	6-6	225	Sr.	32/32	11.6	6.3
Adam Hrycaniuk *	C	6-10	230	Sr.	32/32	6.4	5.3

NEWCOMERS (6)

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Elig.
Dion Dixon	G	6-3	195	Fr./Fr.
Yancy Gates	F	6-9	260	Fr./Fr.
Steve Toyloy	C	6-8	255	Jr./Jr.
Eddie Tyree !	G	5-10	175	Jr./Jr.
Mike Williams ^	F	6-7	240	Sr./Sr.
Cashmere Wright	G	6-0	175	Fr./Fr.

* Letters won at Cincinnati

(s) - starter

^ - Sat out 2006-07 after transferring; missed 2007-08 with injury.

! - Will sit out 2008-09 after transferring.

Adding more experience and leadership to the youthful backcourt will be Davis, a sophomore, who played in all 32 games last year and Miller. Davis added an offensive spark at times to the Bearcats' lineup last year, averaging 4.3 points per game as the team's second-leading freshman scorer. This will be Miller's third year playing for head coach Mick Cronin and he will play a crucial role, showing

the younger players the right work ethic as they transition to Division I college basketball.

FRONT COURT

The Bearcats face some of the biggest and tallest front courts in the nation in the BIG EAST and during this re-tooling process over the last two years, Cronin has assembled a new cast that will compete with the best night in and night out.

Even though he has not played college basketball in two years after transferring to UC from Texas and then suffering an Achilles tendon injury that kept him out during 2007-08, 6-foot-7, 240-pound senior Mike Williams is ready to show off his rugged, high-energy style of play that made him a McDonald's All-American selection as a senior at Wilcox Central High School in Camden, Ala. In two years at Cincinnati, he has been able to study and learn UC's playbook inside and out, an advantage that should help him quickly make the transition back to the floor and game situations.

Williams anchors a seven-man group that averages 6-foot-8 and 243 pounds. Returning with Williams are sophomores: wings Rashad Bishop, Darnell Wilks, and Alvin Mitchell, power forward Kenny Belton, and center Anthony McClain.

Bishop, the team's leading freshman scorer last season (5.3 points per game), made key plays on both ends of the court for the Bearcats last year and will also see time at the guard spot this year.

An extremely athletic 6-foot-7 guard with a 36-inch vertical jump, Wilks has been working on his overall game this offseason and working to find more consistency. He will compete with explosive Mitchell to earn more floor time.

Down in the blocks, Cronin will be equipped with more depth than at any other time in his UC tenure. Sophomores McClain, who put up 2.7 points and 3.0 rebounds in just under 10 minutes of action per game last year, and Belton, will see more floor time this year, but it is the addition of junior college transfer Steve Toyloy, a physical rebounder, and impact freshman Yancy Gates who give Cronin his newest weapons in the post.

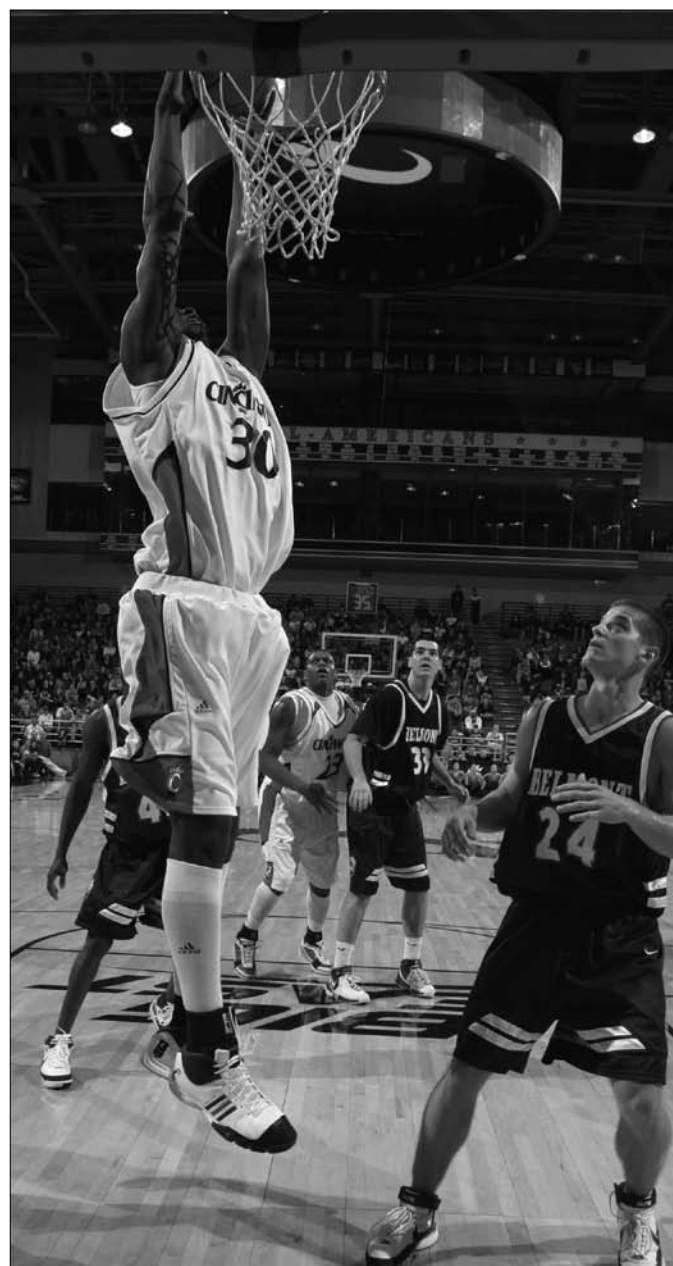


season OUTLOOK

Toyloy joins the Bearcats after a successful two-year career at Miami Dade College where he averaged a double-double and led the NJCAA in rebounding as a freshman.

Gates, a blue-chip recruit out of Withrow High School, decided to stay home in Cincinnati and brings his 6-foot-9, 260-pound frame to the Bearcats. The 2008 Ohio Division I High School Player of the Year is the most highly touted player to come out of Cincinnati since O.J. Mayo was playing for North College Hill. An all-around player, he averaged 21.2 points and 10.5 rebounds per game last year.

When the young Bearcats come together and mature into their new roles, UC will compete in the BIG EAST thanks to its up-tempo offense and aggressive defense. As the curtain comes down on the year, UC hopes to find its spotlight pointed in the direction of the NCAA Tournament.



2008-09 SCHEDULE

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	TELEVISION	TIME
Sat.	Nov. 1	CARLETON UNIVERSITY (Exh.)		1 p.m.
Tue.	Nov. 11	NORTHERN KENTUCKY (Exh.)		7:30 p.m.
Sun.	Nov. 16	SOUTH DAKOTA	FSNO	Noon
Tue.	Nov. 18	TEXAS SOUTHERN	FSNO	7:30 p.m.

Global Sports Classic

(1st and 2nd Rounds - Cincinnati, Ohio; 3rd and 4th Rounds - Las Vegas, Nev.)

Sat.	Nov. 22	WESTERN ILLINOIS		TBA
Mon.	Nov. 24	COASTAL CAROLINA		7:30 p.m.
Fri.	Nov. 28	vs. Florida State (Thomas & Mack Center)		10:30 p.m.
Sat.	Nov. 29	vs. UNLV or Cal (Thomas & Mack Center)		TBA
Sat.	Dec. 6	UAB	FSNO	Noon
Sat.	Dec. 13	XAVIER	ESPN2	8 p.m.
Mon.	Dec. 15	CHARLESTON SOUTHERN	FSNO	7:30 p.m.

SEC/BIG EAST Invitational (Cincinnati, Ohio)

Thu.	Dec. 18	vs. Mississippi State (U.S. Bank Arena)	ESPN2	6:30 p.m.
Sat.	Dec. 20	EASTERN KENTUCKY	FSNO	6:30 p.m.
Mon.	Dec. 22	ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF	FSNO	7:30 p.m.
Mon.	Dec. 29	at Memphis	ESPN2	9 p.m.
Sun.	Jan. 4	at Marquette *	FSNO	2 p.m.
Wed.	Jan. 7	PROVIDENCE *	ESPNU	7 p.m.
Sat.	Jan. 10	CONNECTICUT *	FSNO	4:30 p.m.
Wed.	Jan. 14	RUTGERS *	FSNO	7:30 p.m.
Sat.	Jan. 17	at DePaul *	ESPNU	2 p.m.
Mon.	Jan. 19	at Providence *	FSNO	8 p.m.
Thu.	Jan. 22	at St. John's *	ESPNU	9 p.m.
Wed.	Jan. 28	GEORGETOWN *	ESPN360	7:30 p.m.
Sun.	Feb. 1	at Villanova *	BE Network/WKRC-TV	Noon
Wed.	Feb. 4	NOTRE DAME * (U.S. Bank Arena)	ESPN360	7:30 p.m.
Sat.	Feb. 7	at Georgetown *	BE Network/WKRC-TV	Noon
Wed.	Feb. 11	ST. JOHN'S *	ESPN360	7:30 p.m.
Sat.	Feb. 14	at Pittsburgh *	ESPN	4 p.m.
Sat.	Feb. 21	LOUISVILLE * (RING OF RED)	FSNO	2 p.m.
Thu.	Feb. 26	WEST VIRGINIA *	ESPN or ESPN2	7 p.m.
Sun.	March 1	at Syracuse *	FSNO	2 p.m.
Tue.	March 3	at USF *	ESPNU	7 p.m.
Sat.	March 7	SETON HALL *	ESPN360	Noon
March 10-14 BIG EAST Conference Championship (New York, N.Y.)			ESPN	TBA
March 19-22 NCAA Tournament (First and Second Rounds)				TBA
March 26-29 NCAA Tournament (Regionals)				TBA
April 4-6 NCAA Final Four (Ford Field, Detroit, Mich.)				TBA

Home games are **BOLD CAPS**. * - BIG EAST Conference game. All game times are Eastern and subject to change. BE Network - BIG EAST Network (FSNO and WKRC-TV - Cincinnati; check local listing for other markets) FSNO - FSN Ohio. WKRC-TV - Local 12 Cincinnati.

2008-09 ROSTERS

NUMERICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl./Elig.	Hometown (HS/Last School)
1	Cashmere Wright	G	6-0	175	Fr./Fr.	Savannah, Ga. (Urban Christian Academy)
2	Eddie Tyree	G	5-10	175	Jr./Jr.	Canal Winchester, Ohio (Groveport Madison/Thomas More)
3	Dion Dixon	G	6-3	195	Fr./Fr.	Chicago, Ill. (Crane Technical Prep Common)
5	Deonta Vaughn **	G	6-1	190	Jr./Jr.	Indianapolis, Ind. (Arlington/Harmony Community)
11	Larry Davis *	G	6-3	195	So./So.	Houston, Texas (Alief-Hastings)
15	Darnell Wilks *	F	6-7	205	So./So.	Nashville, Tenn. (Pioneer Christian Academy)
20	Branden Miller ***	G	6-4	210	Sr./Sr.	Cincinnati, Ohio (Indian Hill)
21	Mike Williams	F	6-7	240	Sr./Sr.	Camden, Ala. (Wilcox Central/University of Texas)
22	Rashad Bishop *	F	6-6	225	So./So.	Newark, N.J. (Kennedy)
23	Alvin Mitchell *	F	6-5	210	So./So.	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. (Cardinal Gibbons)
30	Anthony McClain *	C	7-0	255	So./So.	Trenton, N.J. (National Christian Acad.)
32	Kenny Belton *	F	6-8	255	So./So.	Salem, Va. (Dudley - N.C.)
34	Yancy Gates	F	6-9	260	Fr./Fr.	Cincinnati, Ohio (Withrow)
42	Steve Toyloy	C	6-8	255	Jr./Jr.	West Palm Beach, Fla. (Palm Beach Lakes/Miami-Dade CC)

* - Letters earned at Cincinnati.

- Will sit first quarter after transferring to UC at the semester break last season.

ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl./Elig.	Hometown (HS/Last School)
32	Kenny Belton *	F	6-8	255	So./So.	Salem, Va. (Dudley - N.C.)
22	Rashad Bishop *	F	6-6	225	So./So.	Newark, N.J. (Kennedy)
11	Larry Davis *	G	6-3	195	So./So.	Houston, Texas (Alief-Hastings)
3	Dion Dixon	G	6-3	195	Fr./Fr.	Chicago, Ill. (Crane Technical Prep Common)
34	Yancy Gates	F	6-9	260	Fr./Fr.	Cincinnati, Ohio (Withrow)
30	Anthony McClain *	C	7-0	255	So./So.	Trenton, N.J. (National Christian Acad.)
20	Branden Miller ***	G	6-4	210	Sr./Sr.	Cincinnati, Ohio (Indian Hill)
23	Alvin Mitchell *	F	6-5	210	So./So.	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. (Cardinal Gibbons)
42	Steve Toyloy	C	6-8	255	Jr./Jr.	West Palm Beach, Fla. (Palm Beach Lakes/Miami-Dade CC)
2	Eddie Tyree	G	5-10	175	Jr./Jr.	Canal Winchester, Ohio (Groveport Madison/Thomas More)
5	Deonta Vaughn **	G	6-1	190	Jr./Jr.	Indianapolis, Ind. (Arlington/Harmony Community)
15	Darnell Wilks *	F	6-7	205	So./So.	Nashville, Tenn. (Pioneer Christian Academy)
21	Mike Williams	F	6-7	240	Sr./Sr.	Camden, Ala. (Wilcox Central/University of Texas)
1	Cashmere Wright	G	6-0	175	Fr./Fr.	Savannah, Ga. (Urban Christian Academy)

Head Coach: Mick Cronin (3rd season at UC; 6th Season overall)

Associate Head Coach: Larry Davis

Assistant Coaches: Chris Goggin, Tony Stubblefield

Director of Basketball Operations: Chris Shumate

Athletics Trainer: David Fluker

Strength and Conditioning Coach: Dave Andrews

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Dion DixonDEE-on
 Steve Toyloy TOY-loy
 Deonta Vaughn dee-ON-tay VONN
 Eddie Tyree TIE-ree

tv/radio CHART

SEASON OUTLOOK

BIOGRAPHIES

COACHES & STAFF

ADMINISTRATION

SEASON REVIEW

BIG EAST

HISTORY & RECORDS

08-09 OPPONENTS

MEDIA INFORMATION

58



cashmere **WRIGHT**

1

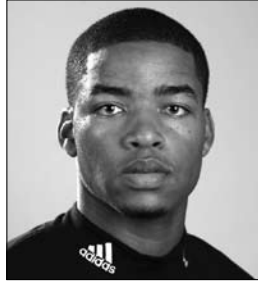
g | 6-0 | 175
freshman
Savannah, Ga.



eddie **TYREE**

2

g | 5-10 | 175
junior
Canal Winchester, Ohio



dion **DIXON**

3

g | 6-3 | 195
freshman
Chicago, Ill.



deonta **VAUGHN**

5

g | 6-1 | 190
junior
Indianapolis, Ind.



larry **DAVIS**

11

g | 6-3 | 195
sophomore
Houston, Texas



darnell **WILKS**

15

f | 6-7 | 205
sophomore
Nashville, Tenn.



branden **MILLER**

20

g | 6-4 | 210
senior
Cincinnati, Ohio



mike **WILLIAMS**

21

f | 6-7 | 240
senior
Camden, Ala.



rashad **BISHOP**

22

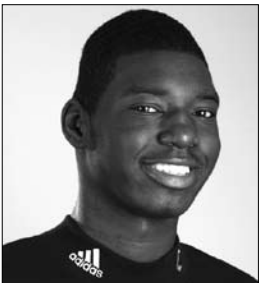
f | 6-6 | 225
sophomore
Newark, N.J.



alvin **MITCHELL**

23

f | 6-5 | 210
sophomore
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.



anthony **McCLAIN**

30

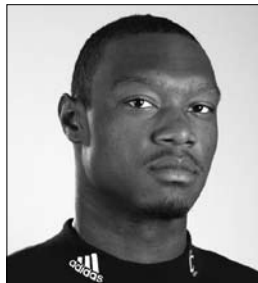
c | 7-0 | 255
sophomore
Trenton, N.J.



kenny **BELTON**

32

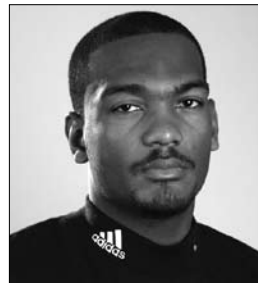
f | 6-8 | 255
sophomore
Salem, Va.



yancy **GATES**

34

f | 6-9 | 260
freshman
Cincinnati, Ohio



steve **TOYLOY**

42

c | 6-8 | 255
junior
West Palm Beach, Fla.



mick **CRONIN**

head coach



larry **DAVIS**

associate head coach



chris **GOGGIN**

assistant coach



tony **STUBBLEFIELD**

assistant coach



chris **SHUMATE**

director of basketball
operations