

# Postgame Notes Cincinnati 35, Houston 20 Dec. 4, 2021 | Nippert Stadium

# **Highlights**

- Cincinnati improves to 13-0 for the first time in program history. It is the second time the Bearcats have ever been on a 13-game win streak (1953-54).
- This is Cincinnati's second-straight AAC Championship after beating Tulsa in 2020, 27-24.
   It's the Bearcats' third overall AAC title, and 16<sup>th</sup> conference championship in program history.
- The win marks Cincinnati's 16<sup>th</sup>-straight win against AAC opponents and third-straight against Houston. It also marks UC's 39<sup>th</sup>-straight win against unranked opponents.
- Cincinnati has won 27-straight games at Nippert Stadium, which is the second-longest home win streak in the nation (Clemson, 34). They are 7-0 at home this season.
- The Bearcats are 22-2 (.917) since 2019 against AAC opponents, which is the best mark in the conference.
- UC is now 44-6 (.880) since 2018, ranking among the top five teams in CFB in winning percentage during that span.
- Head Coach Luke Fickell is now 48-14 (.774) in five seasons at Cincinnati. This is the Bearcats' first 13-0 start under him and in program history.
- After today's performance, the Bearcats now have 70 touchdowns and 510 points this season, breaking the previous record of 502 points and 66 touchdowns.
- UC is 37-2 when leading at the half under Fickell.
- This was the first time in UC history that the team has worn red helmets, jerseys and pants.

- Today's captains were Desmond Ridder, Coby Bryant, Myjai Sanders and Joel Dublanko.
- UC won the coin toss and elected to defer.
- UC improved its all-time record to 650-594-50 (.522).

# **Charting Quarterback Desmond Ridder**

- Ridder trails only Brady White (Memphis, 90) in career passing touchdowns in the AAC. He has 87 after throwing three touchdowns today.
- On the offense's first drive, Ridder went 4-4 with 76 yards and a 25-yard passing touchdown to Tyler Scott. It was Ridder's UC-best 85<sup>th</sup> career passing touchdown and 28<sup>th</sup> of the year.
- Ridder threw for 190 yards today, bringing his career total to 10,095. He is ranked second in UC history, trailing only Gino Guidugli, who has 11,453 career passing yards.
- Ridder remains the winningest active quarterback in college football with a 44-5 (89.8%) record. The 44 wins are good for third place all-time. The only two quarterbacks who have more are Colt McCoy (45-8, Texas) and Kellen Moore (50-3, Boise State)
- With 190 passing yards today, Ridder now has 10,095 passing yards in his career becomes just the second player in UC history to pass for 10,000 yards (Gino Guidugli, 11,453).
- Ridder finished 27-0 at all-time at home.

### **Offensive Notes**

- Tyler Scott hauled in a 25-yard touchdown from Ridder on the first drive of the game. It was the 5<sup>th</sup> touchdown of the season for Scott.
- Jerome Ford scored on a 79-yard rush in the first quarter and a 42-yard touchdown in the third, giving him 20 total touchdowns and 19 rushing touchdowns on the season. He is now tied for the UC single season rushing touchdowns record with Michael Warren II (19). He is also tied with Warren II atop the single-season total touchdowns list with 20.
- Ford's 79-yard touchdown run marks the fourth 75+ yard rushing touchdown of his career and third of the season. His first came against Georgia in the 2021 Peach Bowl.

- Ford's 187 yards marks the fifth time he has run for over 100 yards in a game this year. It was his sixth career 100-yard rushing game.
- After rushing for 187 yards today Ford brings his season total to 1,242 yards, which is the ninth best in UC history for a single season.
- Leonard Taylor scored on an eight-yard touchdown pass from Ridder in the third quarter. It was Taylor's sixth career touchdown catch and fourth of the season.
- Alec Pierce came down with his eighth touchdown on the season on a 21-yard pass from Ridder. It's Pierce's 13<sup>th</sup> career touchdown.
- This is the seventh time this season that the Bearcats have had 400 or more total yards and the fourth straight game surpassing 400 total yards, finishing with exactly 400 total yards.
- Cincinnati has led at the half in 11 out of the 13 games this year.

## Defense

- Cincinnati forced 1 turnover today, giving the team 33 forced turnovers of the season, the second-most in the FBS.
- Joel Dublanko came up with his first career interception in the third quarter.
- Cincinnati's defense dropped the quarterback for a sack eight times today. It marks only the third time all season they've had 4 or more sacks. The eight sacks are the team's most since Sept. 20, 2014 against Miami (Ohio).
- The Bearcats allowed only 181 yards over the final three quarters.