

2025

OFFICIAL CINCINNATI BASKETBALL YEARBOOK



CINCINNATI BASKETBALL™



2025 CINCINNATI BASKETBALL YEARBOOK

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CINCINNATI MEN'S BASKETBALL

2025-26 SCHEDULE



	MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3	WESTERN CAROLINA	CINCINNATI, OH Fifth Third Arena
	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7	GEORGIA STATE	CINCINNATI, OH Fifth Third Arena
	TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11	DAYTON [^]	CINCINNATI, OH Fifth Third Arena
	SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16	MOUNT ST. MARY'S (MD.)	CINCINNATI, OH Fifth Third Arena
	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21	LOUISVILLE	CINCINNATI, OH Heritage Bank Center
	MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24	NJIT	CINCINNATI, OH Fifth Third Arena
	WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26	EASTERN MICHIGAN	CINCINNATI, OH Fifth Third Arena
	MONDAY, DECEMBER 1	TARLETON STATE	CINCINNATI, OH Fifth Third Arena
	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5	AT XAVIER [^]	CINCINNATI, OH Cintas Center
	SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13	GEORGIA [@]	ATLANTA, GA State Farm Arena
	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17	ALABAMA STATE	CINCINNATI, OH Fifth Third Arena
	SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21	CLEMSON [®]	GREENVILLE, S.C. Bon Secours Wellness Arena
	MONDAY, DECEMBER 29	LIPSCOMB	CINCINNATI, OH Fifth Third Arena
	SATURDAY, JANUARY 3	HOUSTON*	CINCINNATI, OH Fifth Third Arena
	TUESDAY, JANUARY 6	AT WEST VIRGINIA*	MORGANTOWN, WV WVU Coliseum
	SUNDAY, JANUARY 11	AT UCF*	ORLANDO, FL Addition Financial Arena

	WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14	COLORADO*	CINCINNATI, OH Fifth Third Arena
	SATURDAY, JANUARY 17	IOWA STATE*	CINCINNATI, OH Fifth Third Arena
	WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21	AT ARIZONA*	TUCSON, AZ McKale Center
	SATURDAY, JANUARY 24	AT ARIZONA STATE*	TEMPE, AZ Desert Financial Arena
	WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28	BAYLOR*	CINCINNATI, OH Fifth Third Arena
	SATURDAY, JANUARY 31	AT HOUSTON*	HOUSTON, TX Fertitta Center
	THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5	WEST VIRGINIA*	CINCINNATI, OH Fifth Third Arena
	SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8	UCF*	CINCINNATI, OH Fifth Third Arena
	WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11	AT KANSAS STATE*	MANHATTAN, KS Bramlage Coliseum
	SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15	UTAH*	CINCINNATI, OH Fifth Third Arena
	SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21	AT KANSAS*	LAWRENCE, KS Allen Fieldhouse
	TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24	AT TEXAS TECH*	LUBBOCK, TX United Supermarkets Arena
	SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28	OKLAHOMA STATE*	CINCINNATI, OH Fifth Third Arena
	TUESDAY, MARCH 3	BYU*	CINCINNATI, OH Fifth Third Arena
	SATURDAY, MARCH 7	AT TCU*	FORT WORTH, TX WVU Coliseum

[^] - Twyman-Stokes Classic / [^] - Skyline Chili Crosstown Shootout / [@] - Holiday Hoopsgiving / [@] - Greenville Winter Invitational

* - Big 12 Game | Home Games in **BOLD**, dates subject to change



HOME OF THE BEARCATS

FIFTH THIRD ARENA

A 20-month, privately-funded \$87-million renovation, Fifth Third Arena reopened prior to the 2018-19 season as the latest marker in the continued growth of University of Cincinnati basketball.

Improvements to the 12,012-seat arena include two 360-degree concourses with court-centric seating, club seats, loge boxes and premium suites. The Champions Club and Lexus Courtside Club provide entertainment options for fans. State-of-the-art videoboards and ribbon boards raise the gameday experience to the next level while increased points-of-sale concessions feature food options from some of Cincinnati's most famous restaurants.

New student-athlete amenities include new locker rooms, a film room and a hydrotherapy room.

What hasn't changed, though, is the thrilling environment on gameday, featuring loud and intimidating student sections along both baselines and passionate, determined play on the court.

In the first two seasons after its renovation, Fifth Third Arena welcomed more than 11,100 fans per game and ranked among the national leaders in attendance.

In all, more than 5.7 million fans have watched a Bearcats men's basketball game since the arena originally opened on November 25, 1989. In that time, Cincinnati men's basketball has posted a 475-107 record (.813 winning percentage) record in the building, while the program has achieved 21 NCAA Tournament bids, six Sweet 16 appearances, one Final Four and 12 regular-season conference titles.

Originally tabbed the Myrl H. Shoemaker Center, it was named after the former Ohio lieutenant governor who was instrumental in securing state funding for the building while he was chairman of the Ohio House Finance Appropriations Committee. Shoemaker died in 1985.

Affectionately known as "The Shoe," the arena was renamed Fifth Third Arena at Myrl H. Shoemaker Center in 2004 after recognition of Fifth Third Bank's support of the Varsity Village facilities enhancement project. Fifth Third Bank remains a valued long-term, campus-wide partner on numerous initiatives.

In 2002, the floor was named Ed Jucker Court in honor of the head coach who led Cincinnati to its two national titles in 1961 and 1962.

HOME OF THE BEARCATS

FIFTH THIRD ARENA

CONTD.

QUICK FACTS

Renovations included the building facade, entries and plazas, and the addition of an outdoor videoboard.

New hospitality areas, including main and upper level concourse bars available to all fans and the addition of three exclusive clubs - the Arena Club, the Champions Club and the Lexus Courtside Club.

New upper-level concourse with its own fan amenities, including new restrooms, concessions and a specialty drink bar.

Additional bars at the north end of the main and upper concourses - the Armory Bar and the Queen City Bar - that highlight UC Athletics' partnerships with Rhinegeist.

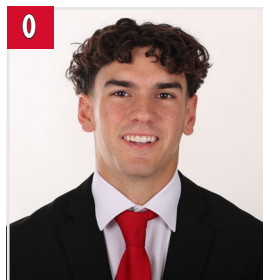
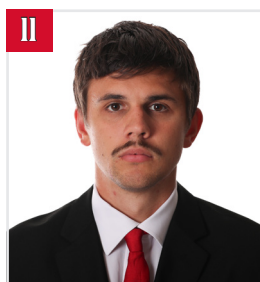
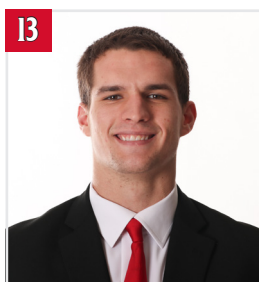
New center-hung videoboard, ribbon boards, sound system and LED lighting to enhance game atmospheres.

Increased points of sale for concessions including some of Cincinnati's favorite food options - Buffalo Wings & Rings, Skyline Chili and 50 West.

Open entrance plaza with centralized ticketing and guest services along with the new Fan First Center.



2025-26 BEARCATS ROSTER

**BRYSON BUCKINGHAM**G | 6'2" | 170 | FR.
EDMOND, OK**DAY DAY THOMAS**G | 6'1" | 190 | GR.
BISHOPVILLE, SC**JALEN HAYNES**F | 6'8" | 255 | GR.
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL**SENCIRE HARRIS**G | 6'4" | 175 | JR.
CANTON, OH**KEYSHUAN TILLERY**G | 6'0" | 184 | FR.
ALBANY, NY**SHON ABAEV**G | 6'8" | 195 | FR.
BROWARD COUNTY, FL**KERR KRIISA**G | 6'3" | 185 | GR.
VISSU KULA, ESTONIA**GRANT DARBYSHIRE**G | 6'2" | 188 | GR.
CINCINNATI, OH**LUCAS ATAURI**G | 6'5" | 191 | FR.
CAMPINAS, BRAZIL**JORDI RODRIGUEZ**G | 6'6" | 186 | FR.
BARCELONA, SPAIN**BABA MILLER**F | 6'11" | 215 | SR.
MALLORCA, SPAIN**TYLER MCKINLEY**F | 6'9" | 255 | R-FR.
CINCINNATI, OH**JALEN CELESTINE**F | 6'7" | 255 | GR.
AJAX, ONTARIO**MOUSTAPHA THIAM**C | 7'2" | 235 | SO.
DAKAR, SENEGAL**HALVINE DZELLAT**C | 6'10" | 240 | SO.
BLOIS, FRANCE

MEN'S BASKETBALL STAFF

Head Coach

Wes Miller

Associate Head Coach

Chad Dollar

Assistant Coach

Tim Buckley

Assistant Coach

Mamadou N'Diaye

Assistant Coach

Jaylen Stowe

Assistant Coach

Andre Morgan

Chief of Staff

Bill Comar

General Manager

Corey Evans

Special Assistant to the Head Coach

Kelly Peters

Assistant Director of Player Development

Malik Massey

Executive to the Head Coach

Ashley Hecimovich

Video Coordinator

Omari Prince

Sports Performance

Mike Rehfeldt

PT Residency Director

Bob Mangine

Graduate Assistant

Ken-Jah Bosley

Graduate Assistant

Nick MacDonald



HEAD COACH
WES
MILLER

FIFTH SEASON

Wes Miller enters his fifth season as head coach of the University of Cincinnati men's basketball program, continuing to lead the Bearcats through their transition into the Big 12. Known for molding tough, resilient teams, Miller has compiled a 267-194 career record across 14 seasons as a head coach, including seven 20-win seasons—two at Cincinnati.

A former walk-on and captain at North Carolina, Miller won the 2005 NCAA title as a player and is one of just seven current Division I head coaches to have captured a national championship on the court. By his 40th birthday, he had amassed 217 career wins, ranking 15th all-time and seventh among coaches who began after 1970.

At Cincinnati, Miller became the first coach in program history to start 5-0, highlighted by a 20-point win over No. 14 Illinois. He has guided the Bearcats to back-to-back NIT Quarterfinal appearances (2023, 2024) and delivered multiple signature victories, including four ranked wins in UC's inaugural Big 12 season—capped by a 72-52 rout of No. 16 Kansas in the Big 12 Tournament. The Bearcats have posted two 20-win seasons under his leadership, knocked off crosstown rival Xavier, and signed the program's first McDonald's All-American since 2009 in Shon Abaev.

Miller has coached 25 All-Conference players, including six at UC. Standouts like Landers Nolley II, David DeJulius, Dan Skillings Jr., and Aziz Bandaogo have earned league honors during his tenure. His teams have also excelled academically, setting a program-record 3.484 GPA in his first semester at the helm.

Before Cincinnati, Miller built UNC Greensboro into a perennial power, becoming the program's all-time winningest coach (185 victories). He guided the Spartans to five straight 20-win seasons, four Southern Conference regular-season titles, two SoCon Tournament championships, and two NCAA Tournament appearances.

Miller's playing career began at James Madison before transferring to UNC, where he helped the Tar Heels to two ACC regular-season championships, an ACC Tournament title, and three NCAA Tournament runs, including the 2005 national championship. Following graduation, he played professionally with the London Capitals, averaging 19.6 points per game.

Born Jan. 28, 1983, in Greensboro, N.C., Miller holds a degree in political science from UNC. Regarded as one of the nation's top young coaches, he was named ESPN.com's No. 1 Coach Under 40 in 2020 and continues to position Cincinnati among the nation's elite.

CAREER RECORD

YEAR	SCHOOL	OVERALL
2011-12	UNC Greensboro (Interim Head Coach)	11-11
2012-13	UNC Greensboro	9-22
2013-14	UNC Greensboro	14-18
2014-15	UNC Greensboro	11-22
2015-16	UNC Greensboro	15-19
2016-17	UNC Greensboro	25-9
2017-18	UNC Greensboro	27-8
2018-19	UNC Greensboro	29-7
2019-20	UNC Greensboro	23-9
2020-21	UNC Greensboro	21-9
2021-22	Cincinnati	18-15
2022-23	Cincinnati	23-13
2023-24	Cincinnati	22-15
2024-25	Cincinnati	19-16
TOTAL	14 SEASONS	267-194

CHAMPIONSHIPS

AS A PLAYER	
2005	NCAA Championships (North Carolina)
AS A COACH	
2017	Southern Conference Regular Season (UNCG)
2018	Southern Conference Regular Season & Tournament (UNCG)
2021	Southern Conference Regular Season & Tournament (UNCG)

AWARDS

2012	Southern Conference Coach of the Year (UNCG)
2018	Southern Conference Coach of the Year (UNCG)

ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH

CHAD DOLLAR

FIFTH SEASON



Chad Dollar enters his fifth season with the Bearcats in 2025-26 and third as associate head coach after being promoted in September 2022. Dollar joined Wes Miller's first Cincinnati staff in May 2021 and has been a key part of the Bearcats' recruiting efforts, player development and game planning as the program continues its rise in the Big 12.

Dollar arrived in Clifton after three seasons at Georgia under Tom Crean, where he coached Anthony Edwards, the No. 1 overall pick in the 2020 NBA Draft. He also helped Sahvir Wheeler set Georgia's freshman assist record (139) in 2019-20, ranking No. 14 on the Bulldogs' single-season list.

Before Georgia, Dollar spent the 2016-17 season at Auburn, where the Tigers posted their most wins since 2008-09, and five years at Georgia Tech (2011-16), including two as associate head coach. His coaching résumé also includes stops at Wichita State — where he helped the Shockers to the 2011 NIT title — Arkansas State, LSU, Murray State, Georgia Southern, Eastern Kentucky and Western Carolina.

Dollar began his coaching career at Gardner-Webb as a volunteer assistant and graduate assistant before joining Southern Miss for the 1996-97 season, where the Golden Eagles finished 22-11 and advanced to the NIT.

He also has international coaching experience with Athletes in Action, traveling to Macedonia, Croatia and the Ivory Coast for competition tours in 1997 and 2001.

As a player, Dollar was a three-year letterwinner at South Florida, helping the Bulls to the 1991 NIT and 1992 NCAA Tournament, before completing his career at Milligan College. He set a school record with 194 assists in 1994-95 while leading Milligan to its first NAIA Tournament appearance.

Dollar earned his bachelor's degree in sociology from Milligan in 1996. He and his wife, Kyla, have three children: Aliyah, Chloe and Darian.

ASSISTANT COACH RECRUITING COORDINATOR

ANDRE MORGAN

FOURTH SEASON



Andre Morgan joined the University of Cincinnati men's basketball staff in April 2021 as an assistant coach, bringing with him a reputation as a strong recruiter and player developer with deep ties to the Southeast. He enters his fourth season with the Bearcats in 2025-26 as a key member of Wes Miller's coaching staff.

Morgan came to Cincinnati after three seasons as an assistant coach at Middle Tennessee State, where he worked under head coach Nick McDevitt. While with the Blue Raiders, he was instrumental in recruiting and developing talent in Conference USA, helping the program add multiple all-conference performers.

Before MTSU, Morgan worked alongside Miller at UNC Greensboro from 2016-18, where he helped guide the Spartans to a 52-18 record, a 29-7 mark in Southern Conference play, and back-to-back SoCon regular-season titles. UNCG advanced to the 2018 NCAA Tournament as the league's regular-season and tournament champions, marking one of the most successful two-year stretches in program history.

Morgan's resume also includes one season as associate head coach at Kentucky Wesleyan, where he helped the Panthers to a 27-4 record, a Great Midwest Athletic Conference championship and an NCAA Division II Midwest Regional appearance. He previously spent a season as an assistant coach at The Citadel — his first stop in the Southern Conference — after working in Conference USA on head coach Jerod Haase's support staff at UAB.

A native of Buford, Georgia, Morgan began his coaching career with a three-year stint at Young Harris College, where he contributed to a 17-game turnaround and a 22-win campaign in 2011-12.

As a player, Morgan starred at Kennesaw State, where he was named 2006 Atlantic Sun Freshman of the Year, before transferring to North Georgia. He earned All-Peach Belt Conference honors as a junior and graduated with a degree in business administration in 2010.

Morgan and his wife, Lynn, are proud parents of daughters, Amaya and Makenzie.

ASSISTANT COACH

TIM BUCKLEY

SECOND SEASON



Tim Buckley enters his second season with the Bearcats in 2025-26 after joining Wes Miller's staff as an assistant coach in June 2024. Buckley brings over 35 years of experience as a head coach, high-major assistant, and NBA scout, providing a wealth of perspective to Cincinnati's staff.

He came to UC after two seasons at South Carolina, where he helped lead the program's most successful season since 2017. The Gamecocks went 26-8 in 2023-24, tying the school record for wins and returning to the NCAA Tournament. South Carolina led the SEC in scoring defense (66.4 ppg) and ranked in the nation's top 50 in both offensive and defensive efficiency, according to KenPom.

Prior to Columbia, Buckley spent three seasons at UNLV (2019-22). In 2019-20, the Rebels tied for second in the Mountain West, their best finish in 12 seasons, and defeated No. 4 San Diego State for their highest-ranked road win in nearly three decades. Stadium's Jeff Goodman named him one of the Mountain West's top assistants that summer.

Buckley was a scout with the Minnesota Timberwolves from 2017-19 before returning to the college ranks. He spent nine seasons at Indiana under Tom Crean, helping the Hoosiers win two Big Ten titles (2013, 2016), make four NCAA Tournament appearances and reach three Sweet Sixteens. He coached future NBA players Cody Zeller, Victor Oladipo and Yogi Ferrell.

His career also includes assistant coaching stops at Marquette, Iowa, and Bemidji State, as well as head coaching stints at Ball State (2000-06) and Rockford University (1989-93). He guided Ball State to upset wins over No. 3 Kansas and No. 4 UCLA during the 2001 Maui Invitational.

Buckley earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from Bemidji State, where he also finished his playing career. He and his wife, Shannon, have a daughter, Meredith.

ASSISTANT COACH

MAMADOU N'DIAYE

FIRST SEASON



Mamadou N'Diaye enters his first season with the Bearcats in 2025-26 as an assistant coach on Wes Miller's staff. A proven developer of frontcourt talent and a respected international recruiter, N'Diaye brings more than a decade of coaching experience across multiple conferences, as well as a 10-year professional playing career that included four seasons in the NBA.

N'Diaye arrives in Clifton after four seasons at UCF, where he was elevated to associate head coach in 2024. He helped guide the Knights through their transition to the Big 12 and mentored one of the conference's top defensive frontcourts, leading the league in blocks per game in 2023-24. He played a key role in landing and developing some of the most talented players in program history, including five-star signee Moustapha Thi- am — the highest-rated recruit in UCF history — and Taylor Hendricks, who became the Knights' first lottery pick when he was selected ninth overall by the Utah Jazz in the 2023 NBA Draft.

Before UCF, N'Diaye spent two seasons as associate coach at San Francisco, where the Dons tied the program record for wins (22) since reinstatement and reached the West Coast Conference semifinals. He also coached at Georgia Tech (2014-16), helping the Yellow Jackets post consecutive top-two finishes in the ACC in rebound margin, and at Coastal Carolina (2011-13), where the Chanticleers won a Big South title and returned to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in 21 years.

A native of Dakar, Senegal, N'Diaye is widely recognized for his ability to identify and recruit international talent, establishing a pipeline for players from Africa to the college game.

As a player, N'Diaye was the first Senegalese player ever selected in the NBA Draft, going 26th overall to the Denver Nuggets in 2000. He went on to play for the Toronto Raptors, Dallas Mavericks, Atlanta Hawks and Los Angeles Clippers. At Auburn, he was a four-year letterwinner, a two-time All-SEC performer and ranks second in school history in blocked shots (241). He helped the Tigers to the 1999 SEC Championship and a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament.

ASSISTANT COACH DIRECTOR OF PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

JAYLEN STOWE

SECOND SEASON



Jaylen Stowe returned to Cincinnati in July 2024 as an assistant coach and director of player development, re-joining Wes Miller's staff after gaining valuable experience at the Division I level. Known for his strong player relationships and recruiting acumen, Stowe plays a key role in mentoring the Bearcats' student-athletes both on and off the court.

Stowe previously served as a graduate assistant at Cincinnati from 2021-23, Miller's first two seasons at the helm, before accepting his first full-time coaching position at High Point. As an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator, he was instrumental in assembling a roster that featured 11 newcomers. The Panthers went on to capture the Big South regular-season title and finish 27-9, setting a new program record for wins at the Division I level. The memorable campaign saw first-year head coach Alan Huss named Big South Coach of the Year, with several players earning postseason honors.

Before joining the Bearcats as a GA, Stowe spent the 2020-21 season with Miller at UNC Greensboro, helping the Spartans to a Southern Conference Championship and an NCAA Tournament appearance. That experience marked a reunion for Stowe and Miller within the SoCon, as Stowe played collegiately at Mercer from 2015-19, where he was a four-year letterwinner. He averaged 10.5 points per game as a senior while starting all 31 contests, showcasing leadership and consistency on both ends of the floor.

After graduating, Stowe played one season professionally in the ABA for the Richmond Elite before transitioning into coaching. His playing and coaching background give him a unique perspective on player development, recruiting, and the overall student-athlete experience.

Stowe earned his bachelor's degree from Mercer, where he was recognized for his academic commitment and leadership within the program. His return to Cincinnati underscores his strong connection to Miller's coaching philosophy and his passion for helping student-athletes reach their potential.

CHIEF OF STAFF

BILL COMAR

SECOND SEASON



Veteran coach and administrator Bill Comar joined the Cincinnati men's basketball staff in June 2024 as Chief of Staff. Comar brings more than two decades of experience and has been part of programs with 18 postseason appearances, including 12 NCAA Tournament berths and three Elite Eight runs. At Cincinnati, Comar serves as the program's chief of staff, managing day-to-day operations and ensuring all areas of the team function efficiently.

He spent the previous three seasons at Ball State in the same role, first under James Whitford and then Michael Lewis, where he oversaw all non-coaching personnel and coordinated relationships with academics, compliance, financial aid, housing, scheduling and athletics administration.

Prior to Ball State, Comar was on staff at Indiana, helping the Hoosiers recruit three straight Indiana Mr. Basketball recipients while posting three consecutive winning seasons.

From 2011-17, Comar played a key role at Dayton, where the Flyers earned four NCAA Tournament bids, reached the 2014 Elite Eight and captured back-to-back Atlantic 10 championships. He previously served as Dayton's director of operations and assistant coach from 1998-2001, helping the program earn its first NCAA Tournament appearance in 10 years.

A Wilmette, Illinois native, Comar played three seasons at Kenyon College and earned a bachelor's degree in 1993 and a master's degree from Miami (Ohio) in 1995. He and his wife, Liz, have two daughters, Camille and Emily.

GENERAL MANAGER

COREY EVANS

FIRST SEASON



Corey Evans was named Cincinnati's first-ever general manager for men's basketball on March 31, 2025. He brings a unique combination of NBA experience, scouting expertise, and operational knowledge to the Bearcats' staff.

Evans joins Cincinnati after serving as an amateur evaluation scout with the Oklahoma City Thunder since 2021. In that role, he was responsible for evaluating pre-draft prospects worldwide, conducting intelligence work on potential draft picks and assisting in the hiring of entry-level coaches and interns. During his tenure, the Thunder became the youngest team in NBA history to earn a No. 1 seed, a distinction they are in position to achieve again this season.

Before entering the NBA, Evans built a national reputation as a high school evaluator. From 2017-21, he worked with Rivals.com assessing talent across the country, and from 2012-21, he founded and directed the Roundball Rundown Report, providing subscription-based scouting reports to more than 130 Division I programs nationwide.

Evans earned his bachelor's degree in sport management from Old Dominion University in 2011. Known for his relentless work ethic and extensive network across all levels of basketball, he is poised to serve as a vital resource for the Bearcats' coaching staff, players and program operations.

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE HEAD COACH

KELLY PETERS

FIRST SEASON



Kelly Peters joined the University of Cincinnati men's basketball program in 2025 and currently serves as special assistant to the head coach. He brings more than a decade of experience in the NBA, having held positions with both the Golden State Warriors and the Philadelphia 76ers, as well as coaching roles with USA Basketball and multiple G-League affiliates. Peters provides valuable insight in scouting, game preparation and player development, adding championship-level experience to the Bearcats' staff.

Peters began his professional career with the Golden State Warriors, serving three seasons as an advance scout before moving to the organization's G-League affiliate, the Santa Cruz Warriors, where he worked as an assistant coach. He later joined the Philadelphia 76ers, spending time as a coaching associate, an assistant coach with the

Delaware Blue Coats and as an advance scout from 2020-23. In 2023, Peters was named an assistant coach with USA Basketball's FIBA Americas team, contributing to international competition and development initiatives.

In addition to his NBA career, Peters has four years of broadcast experience with Turner and CBS, assisting in preparation for NCAA Tournament coverage. He also spent 14 years coaching at his alma mater, Torrey Pines High School in San Diego, helping guide the program to 10 league titles and two CIF Section championships. His diverse background in coaching, scouting and media brings a unique perspective to the Cincinnati staff as they compete on the national stage.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PLAYER DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT VIDEO COORDINATOR

MALIK MASSEY

THIRD SEASON



Malik Massey joined the Cincinnati men's basketball staff as a graduate assistant in the summer of 2022 and was promoted to his current role as Player Development Associate in the summer of 2024.

Massey brings a strong connection to head coach Wes Miller, having played for him at UNC Greensboro from 2016-20. During his career with the Spartans, Massey was a three-year captain and helped lead the program to two Southern Conference regular-season championships. He remains the program's all-time leader in wins, serving as a steady presence in the backcourt throughout a historic run for UNCG basketball.

His leadership helped guide the Spartans to the 2017 NIT and a berth in the 2018 NCAA Tournament, where they pushed No. 4 seed Gonzaga to the final minutes before narrowly falling by four

points. Massey finished his collegiate career with 115 starts, more than 850 points scored and a reputation as one of the SoCon's toughest defenders.

Prior to college, Massey graduated from West Charlotte High School in 2015 and played a post-graduate season at New Hampton Prep in New Hampshire, the same prep program where Miller once played.

Massey now works closely with Cincinnati's student-athletes on their skill development and day-to-day growth on and off the court as the Bearcats transition into the Big 12 era.

EXECUTIVE TO THE HEAD COACH

ASHLEY HECIMOVICH

SECOND SEASON



Ashley Hecimovich joined the Cincinnati men's basketball staff as executive to the head coach in July 2024, bringing extensive experience in recruiting, operations and athlete relations to the program. She previously served as Cincinnati's Director of Football Recruiting from February 2022 to July 2024, overseeing all on-campus recruiting efforts and helping build strong relationships with prospective student-athletes and their families.

Before joining the Bearcats' staff full-time, Hecimovich served as director of on-campus recruiting at Western Michigan from 2021-22 and as an on-campus recruiting intern at Wake Forest from January 2020 to January 2021. She also spent several years at Indiana University Bloomington in multiple football recruiting roles from 2015-2018, assisting with official visits, coordinating game-day logistics, managing prospect evaluations and

serving as a student-athlete liaison.

Hecimovich began her collegiate career in men's basketball as a media relations assistant intern at Indiana, where she helped create student-athlete profiles, coordinate seating arrangements, and contribute to gameday operations. Across all her roles, she has developed expertise in recruiting strategy, operational efficiency and personalized athlete development.

A native of Indiana, Hecimovich earned her bachelor's degree in sport marketing and management from Indiana University Bloomington in 2018.

VIDEO COORDINATOR

OMARI PRINCE

THIRD SEASON



Omari Prince joined the Cincinnati men's basketball staff as a graduate assistant for the 2023-24 season and was promoted to Video Coordinator in 2024. He brings extensive experience in video analysis, player development, and technology-driven scouting to the Bearcats' staff.

Prior to Cincinnati, Prince served as an assistant coach at Prolific Prep in Napa, California, from 2021-23, working with top high school prospects and helping to develop elite-level skills and game preparation strategies. He also served as a student manager and video coordinator at his alma mater, Cal State Fullerton, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in 2021.

Prince has combined his passion for basketball and technology in various roles. He served as a Peer Educator with Team INC, a nonprofit organization that teaches youth STEM and sports technology, including tools such as MyVideoAnalyser, SportsCode, and Synergy.

During his undergraduate years, Prince gained professional experience in the NBA, interning with the 2017-18 Golden State Warriors during their championship season. He later worked as a part-time team attendant for the 2019-20 Los Angeles Lakers prior to the COVID-19 shutdown, another season that concluded with an NBA Championship.

A native of Fairfield, California, Prince earned an associate's degree in business from Napa Valley College before transferring to Cal State Fullerton.

SENIOR ASSOCIATE AD, SPORTS PERFORMANCE

MIKE REHFELDT

FOURTH SEASON



Mike Rehfeldt returned to Cincinnati in May 2021 as Associate Athletic Director for Sports Performance. He works directly with the men's basketball program while overseeing sports performance for all other sports outside of football. Rehfeldt's responsibilities include optimizing player development, enhancing performance, reducing injury risk, and preparing athletes through strength training, nutrition, recovery, and education.

Rehfeldt rejoined Cincinnati after serving as director of sports performance for men's basketball at UConn for one season. He previously led the Bearcats' men's basketball strength and conditioning program from 2012-20 and brings two decades of experience at the amateur, collegiate, and professional levels. His work has been instrumental in the development of NBA players such as Sean Kilpatrick, Troy Caupain, Gary Clark, and

Jacob Evans III.

Prior to returning to UC, Rehfeldt assisted the Cincinnati Bengals' strength and conditioning program, developing pre- and post-workout nutrition protocols, recovery techniques, and training for developmental players. He also served as head strength and conditioning coach for the Sacramento Mountain Lions of the UFL (2009-11) and as a strength and conditioning assistant with the Jacksonville Jaguars (2006-09), where he implemented rehabilitation programs and group training sessions.

A native of Blaine, Minnesota, Rehfeldt earned a degree in physical education from St. Cloud State University in 2005. He and his wife, Elise, have a daughter, Olivia.

SENIOR ASSOCIATE AD / PT RESIDENCY DIR

BOB MANGINE, PT, ATC

23RD SEASON



Bob Mangine returned to the University of Cincinnati in 2002 and currently serves as senior associate athletics director and physical therapy residency director. He also serves as head athletic trainer for men's basketball, a role he assumed in 2017, and for men's golf, overseeing the health, rehabilitation and performance of student-athletes across multiple programs.

Mangine brings more than four decades of experience in sports medicine and athletic training, providing expertise in injury recognition, treatment and prevention. He supervises year-round programs dedicated to the health and well-being of Bearcats athletes, drawing on his extensive collegiate and professional experience.

Mangine began his career as a student at the University of Pittsburgh, serving as assistant athletic

trainer for the Pittsburgh Condor Basketball Club and head athletic trainer at the Community College of Allegheny County. After earning his master's degree while serving as director of rehabilitation at UC from 1977-80, he held a position as assistant professor of physical therapy at the Medical College of Virginia before returning to Cincinnati.

He was instrumental in developing the nationally recognized Cincinnati Sports Medicine and Orthopaedic Center in 1982 and later merged his own practice with NovaCare Rehabilitation in 1998. Mangine has served as National Director of Sports Physical Therapy Clinical Residency for NovaCare and as President of MBM Consultants.

MEET THE BEARCATS

2025-26 ROSTER



0 BRYSON BUCKINGHAM

G | 6'2" | 170 | FR. | EDMOND, OK

Bryson Buckingham joins Cincinnati after a postgraduate year at Link Academy (Mo.), becoming the fifth Bearcat under Wes Miller to come from the nationally recognized program. A standout at Casady School (Okla.), he averaged 19.8 points, 7.1 rebounds, 2.4 assists and 1.8 steals per game as a senior, earning honorable mention All-Oklaoma honors in 2024. Known for his scoring ability, versatility and defensive presence, Buckingham adds depth and toughness to the Bearcats' roster.



1 DAY DAY THOMAS

G | 6'1" | 190 | GR. | BISHOPVILLE, SC

Day Day Thomas enters his graduate season as a veteran guard for the Bearcats after averaging 10.2 points per game in 2024-25, including 40.2% from beyond the arc to become just the third Bearcat since 2017-18 to shoot over 40% on 30-plus makes. He also posted a team-high 56 steals, highlighted by two of the top-six single-game marks in program history and reached double figures 15 times. A transfer from Kilgore College (Texas), where he averaged 19.0 points and was ranked among the nation's top junior-college prospects, Thomas has established himself as a reliable two-way contributor in Wes Miller's program.



MEET THE BEARCATS

2025-26 ROSTER



3 JALEN HAYNES

G | 6'8" | 255 | GR. | FORT LAUDERDALE, FL

Jalen Haynes comes to Cincinnati after a standout season at George Mason, where he earned All-Atlantic 10 First Team, NABC All-District First Team, and A-10 All-Tournament Team honors in 2024-25. He averaged 15.0 points, 7.2 rebounds, 1.7 assists and 1.5 blocks per game while shooting 55.4% from the field, ranking second in the conference and 39th nationally. Haynes previously played at East Tennessee State, where he was a Third Team All-SoCon selection after averaging 14.6 points and 6.4 rebounds in 2022-23, and began his career at Virginia Tech. A skilled and physical forward, he adds proven scoring, rebounding and big-game experience to the Bearcats' frontcourt.



5 SENCIRE HARRIS

G | 6'4" | 175 | JR. | CANTON, OH

Sencire Harris joins Cincinnati after starting all 32 games at West Virginia in 2024-25, where he averaged 5.9 points, 4.3 rebounds, 1.6 assists and 1.7 steals per game on his way to earning Big 12 All-Defensive Team honors. He posted career highs of 13 points and nine rebounds during the season and contributed key performances in wins over top-25 opponents, including Gonzaga and Arizona. Prior to WVU, Harris spent two seasons at Illinois, appearing in 33 games as a freshman in 2022-23 and redshirting in 2023-24. A versatile guard known for his defensive energy and toughness, he adds experience and perimeter depth to the Bearcats' backcourt.



MEET THE BEARCATS

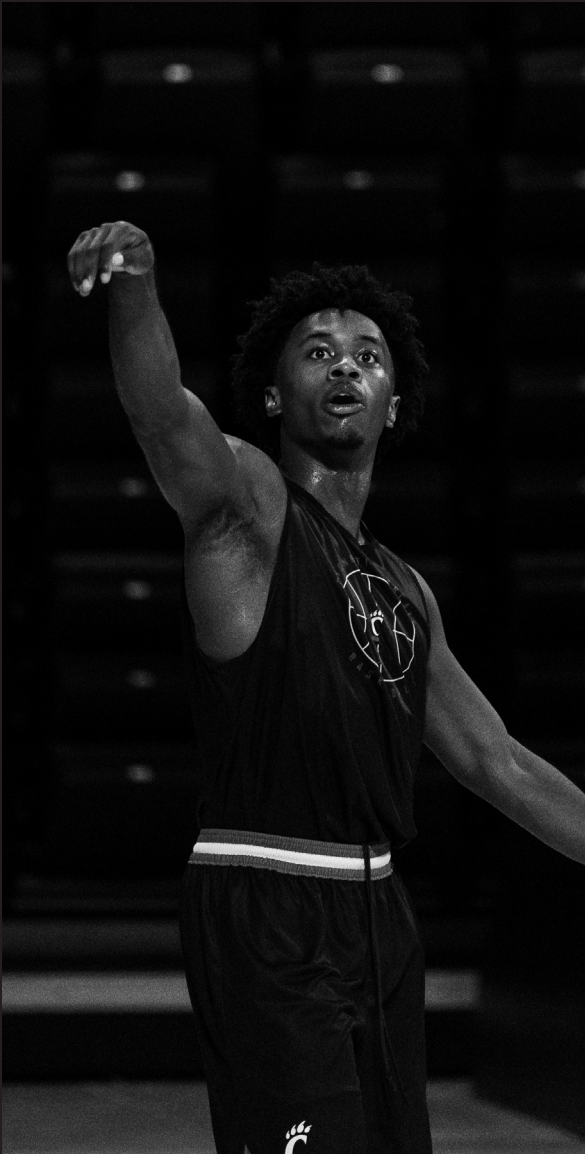
2025-26 ROSTER



7 KEYSHUAN TILLERY

G | 6'0" | 184 | FR. | ALBANY, NY

Keyshuan Tillery arrives at Cincinnati as a Top-50 national recruit and one of the nation's top point guards in the 2025 class. He played his final prep season at New Hampton School (N.H.), averaging 17.0 points, 5.3 rebounds and 6.1 assists per game while shooting 50.7% from the field, 35.3% from deep and 85.7% at the free throw line. Tillery earned NEPSAC Class AAA Player of the Year honors and shared National Prep Player of the Year recognition after leading New Hampton to a 22-4 record and a runner-up finish in the 2025 NEPSAC Class AAA championship. A former Times Union Large School Player of the Year at Albany Academy and standout with Nike EYBL's City Rocks, he brings elite playmaking, scoring and leadership to the Bearcats' backcourt.



10 SHON ABAEV

G | 6'8" | 195 | FR. | BROWARD COUNTY, FL

Shon Abaev joins Cincinnati as a consensus top-30 national prospect and the program's second-highest rated recruit of the 247Sports era, trailing only NBA veteran Lance Stephenson. A McDonald's All-American, he became just the eighth Bearcat signee to earn the prestigious honor, scoring eight points with two steals in the 2025 game. Abaev starred at Calvary Christian Academy while also competing with Fear of God Athletics in the Overtime Elite league and SOH Elite on the Under Armour Association Circuit. A highly skilled wing with shooting range and versatility, he adds elite pedigree and national recognition to Wes Miller's 2025 class.



MEET THE BEARCATS

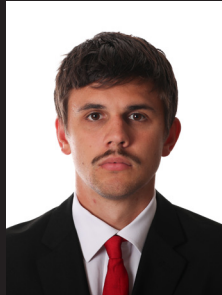
2025-26 ROSTER



11 KERR KRIISA

G | 6'3" | 185 | GR. | VISSU KÜLA, ESTONIA

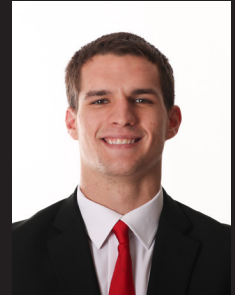
Kerr Kriisa joins Cincinnati after one season at Kentucky, where he averaged 4.4 points, 2.4 rebounds and 3.8 assists in nine games before suffering a season-ending foot injury, surpassing 1,000 career points along the way. He previously played at West Virginia, averaging 11.0 points and 4.7 assists while shooting 42.4% from three and spent three seasons at Arizona, where he led the Pac-12 in assists for two consecutive years and recorded multiple career triple-doubles. A skilled and experienced floor general, Kriisa brings elite playmaking, shooting and international pedigree from his native Estonia to the Bearcats' backcourt.



13 GRANT DARBYSHIRE

G | 6'2" | 188 | GR. | CINCINNATI, OH

Grant Darbyshire joins Cincinnati after spending three seasons at Kentucky, where he contributed as a reserve in multiple contests while earning recognition for his character and academics. He was inducted into the Frank G. Ham Society of Character, the highest honor a UK athlete can receive, and earned SEC Winter Academic Honor Roll and First-Year SEC Honor Roll honors during his time in Lexington. A forward with size and work ethic, Darbyshire brings depth, experience and a strong commitment to team and academic excellence to the Bearcats' roster.





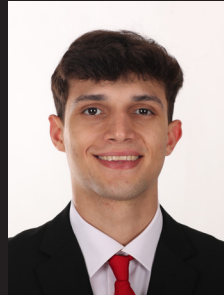
MEET THE BEARCATS

2025-26 ROSTER

14 LUCAS ATAURI

G | 6'5" | 191 | FR. | CAMPINAS, BRAZIL

Lucas Atauri joins Cincinnati after a standout season with Brazilian club team Paulistano, where he shot 38% from 3-point range and 86% from the free-throw line over 39 games. A member of Brazil's senior national team, he made his international debut in November 2024, scoring eight points in 17 minutes off the bench in a win over Panama. Atauri also helped Brazil's U-23 national team capture gold at the 2025 Global Jam in Toronto, averaging 11.5 points, 2.8 rebounds and 2.3 assists, including 14 points and seven rebounds in the gold-medal victory over a U.S. representative team. A versatile guard with international experience, Atauri adds scoring, shooting and playmaking to the Bearcats' backcourt.



17 JORDI RODRIGUEZ

G | 6'6" | 186 | FR. | BARCELONA, SPAIN

Jordi Rodriguez joins Cincinnati after a decorated international career, highlighted by leading Spain to the championship at the 2023 FIBA U-19 World Cup alongside fellow Bearcat Baba Miller. He averaged 13.6 points, 2.9 rebounds and 2.6 assists per game in the tournament, earning All-Tournament Team honors while shooting 40% from three. Rodriguez spent the 2024-25 season competing in Spain's top leagues with Grupo Ureia Tizona Burgos and Joventut Badalona, averaging 8.3 points and 2.7 rebounds per game while connecting on 41.5% of his 3-point attempts, including a 25-point performance with seven made threes versus Obradoiro. A versatile international guard, he brings scoring, shooting and high-level experience to the Bearcats' backcourt.





MEET THE BEARCATS

2025-26 ROSTER

18 BABA MILLER

G | 6'11" | 215 | SR. | MALLORCA, SPAIN

Baba Miller joins Cincinnati after three seasons of collegiate experience, spending 2024-25 at Florida Atlantic and two previous seasons at Florida State. At FAU, he started all 34 games, averaging a career-high 11.3 points and 7.0 rebounds per game while recording six double-doubles and leading the team with 237 total rebounds. At Florida State, Miller started 32 games in 2023-24, averaging 7.6 points and 4.9 rebounds while leading the team in blocks and contributing on both ends of the floor. A versatile forward with size, rebounding ability and defensive presence, Miller brings experience, athleticism and leadership to the Bearcats' frontcourt.



24 TYLER MCKINLEY

F | 6'9" | 255 | R-FR. | CINCINNATI, OH

Tyler McKinley joins Cincinnati as a highly touted freshman after an accomplished prep career in Ohio and Missouri. A former No. 1 player in Ohio for the Class of 2024 and ranked No. 64 nationally by 247Sports, McKinley starred at Walnut Hills High School, Link Year Prep Academy and Winton Woods High School, where he was an Ohio Mr. Basketball finalist after averaging 18.5 points, 9.9 rebounds and 3.3 assists per game as a senior. He helped lead Link Year Prep to the GEICO Nationals title in 2022-23 and participated in the 2023 USA U19 Men's National Team Training Camp. A versatile forward capable of scoring, rebounding and defending, McKinley brings elite athleticism and upside to the Bearcats' roster.



MEET THE BEARCATS

2025-26 ROSTER



32 JALEN CELESTINE

F | 6'7" | 225 | GR. | AJAX, ONTARIO

Jalen Celestine joins Cincinnati after five seasons of collegiate experience at California and Baylor. In 2024-25 at Baylor, he appeared in 31 games with 11 starts, averaging double-digit scoring multiple times and posting season highs of 20 points and eight rebounds. At California, Celestine ranked among the Pac-12's top 3-point shooters, connecting on 44% from beyond the arc in 2023-24 while averaging 8.7 points and 3.2 rebounds per game, and returned strong following a season-long knee injury in 2022-23. A versatile wing with shooting ability and experience in high-pressure games, Celestine adds scoring, perimeter shooting and veteran leadership to the Bearcats' roster.



52 MOUSTAPHA THIAM

C | 7'2" | 235 | SO. | DAKAR, SENEGAL

Moustapha Thiam joins Cincinnati after a stand-out freshman season at UCF, where he started all 34 games and averaged 10.4 points, 6.4 rebounds and 2.6 blocks per contest. A Kyle Macy Award finalist as one of the nation's top freshmen, Thiam led the Big 12 and ranked seventh nationally in blocks per game, setting a UCF rookie record with 88 swats, including a season-best eight against Kansas State. He scored in double figures 20 times, recorded multiple double-doubles and connected on 49.8% of his shots while adding 23 made 3-pointers. A versatile big man with rim protection, rebounding and scoring ability, Thiam brings elite shot-blocking and inside presence to the Bearcats' frontcourt.



MEET THE BEARCATS

2025-26 ROSTER



65 HALVINE DZELLAT

C | 6'10" | 240 | SO. | BLOIS, FRANCE



Halvine Dzellat joined Cincinnati as a freshman after competing in France's Pro B league with Lille and serving as captain of the French U20 national team, leading the squad to a gold-medal run while averaging eight points and 4.4 rebounds in seven games. He also represented France at the U19 level and was one of the youngest contributors on his club team, averaging 6.5 points and 4.5 rebounds per game. Dzellat appeared in 10 games for the Bearcats in 2024-25, including a 15-minute performance against DePaul in which he recorded his first career field goal. A versatile forward with international experience, Dzellat adds depth, rebounding and perimeter skills to the Bearcats' roster.



BEARCATS IN THE NBA

A HISTORY OF SUCCESS



ALL-TIME DRAFT LIST

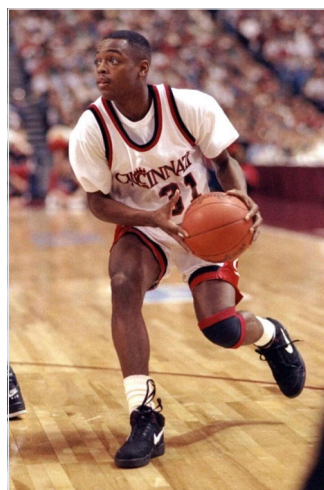
YEAR	PLAYER	RND.	OVR.	TEAM
1950	Dick Dallmer	n/a	n/a	Philadelphia Warriors
1950	Jack Laub	n/a	n/a	Baltimore Bullets
1951	Joe Luchi	n/a	n/a	New York Knicks
1952	Jim Holstein	n/a	n/a	Minneapolis Lakers
1955	Jack Twyman	n/a	n/a	Rochester Royals
1956	Dave Plunkett	n/a	n/a	St. Louis Hawks
1956	Phil Wheeler	n/a	n/a	Philadelphia Warriors
1957	Frank Nimmo	5th	39	Syracuse Nationals
1958	Connie Dierking	1st	6	Syracuse Nationals
1958	Wayne Stevens	7th	49	Cincinnati Royals
1959	Mike Mendenhall	3rd	15	Cincinnati Royals
1960	Oscar Robertson	1st	1	Cincinnati Royals
1960	Ralph Davis	3rd	17	Cincinnati Royals
1960	Larry Willey	19th	94	Cincinnati Royals
1961	Bob Weisenhahn	2nd	11	Cincinnati Royals
1961	Carl Bouldin	14th	106	Cincinnati Royals
1962	Paul Hogue	1st	2	New York Knicks
1963	Tom Thacker	**		Cincinnati Royals
1963	Tony Yates	5th	41	St. Louis Hawks
1964	Ron Bonham	2nd	16	Boston Celtics
1964	George Wilson	**		Cincinnati Royals
1965	Ron Krick	9th	71	Cincinnati Royals
1966	Roland West	8th	73	Baltimore Bullets
1966	Ron Krick	8th	74	Baltimore Bullets
1967	Ken Callaway	11th	118	Cincinnati Royals
1967	Roland West	20th	162	Baltimore Bullets
1968	John Howard	17th	201	Cincinnati Royals
1969	Rick Roberson	1st	15	Los Angeles Lakers
1969	Gordon Smith	9th	122	Boston Celtics
1970	Jim Ard	1st	6	Seattle SuperSonics
1970	Don Ogletree	12th	185	Detroit Pistons
1973	Derrek Dickey	2nd	29	Golden State Warriors
1973	Lionel Harris	15th	194	Philadelphia 76ers
1974	Lloyd Batts	4th	60	K.C.-Omaha Kings
1975	Mike Franklin	7th	124	Buffalo Braves
1977	Gary Yoder	3rd	47	Milwaukee Bucks
1978	Pat Cummings	3rd	47	Milwaukee Bucks
1978	Robert Miller	4th	85	Phoenix Suns
1980	Eddie Lee	3rd	48	Denver Nuggets
1981	David Kennedy	8th	162	Dallas Mavericks
1982	Bobby Austin	7th	158	Milwaukee Bucks
1983	Dwight Jones	4th	73	Cleveland Cavaliers
1993	Corie Blount	1st	25	Chicago Bulls
1993	Nick Van Exel	2nd	37	Los Angeles Lakers
1994	Dontonio Wingfield	2nd	37	Seattle SuperSonics
1997	Danny Fortson	1st	10	Milwaukee Bucks
1998	Ruben Patterson	2nd	31	Los Angeles Lakers
1999	Melvin Levett	2nd	54	Detroit Pistons
2000	Kenyon Martin	1st	1	New Jersey Nets
2000	DerMarr Johnson	1st	6	Atlanta Hawks
2000	Pete Miceal	2nd	58	Dallas Mavericks
2001	Kenny Satterfield	2nd	54	Dallas Mavericks
2002	Steve Logan	2nd	30	Golden State Warriors
2005	Jason Maxiell	1st	26	Detroit Pistons
2006	James White	2nd	31	Portland Trailblazers
2010	Lance Stephenson	2nd	40	Indiana Pacers
2018	Jacob Evans III	1st	28	Golden State Warriors

**TERRITORIAL CHOICES



SEAN KILPATRICK

Sean Kilpatrick finished with 2,145 points from 2009 to 2014 to rank second in school history only to the legendary Oscar Robertson (2,973 points from 1958-60). His career included a 2012 Sweet 16 finish among four NCAA Tournament bids, and he played four years in the NBA, averaging 10.3 ppg. He was inducted into UC's James P. Kelly Athletics Hall of Fame in September 2024.



NICK VAN EXEL

Thirteen-year NBA veteran and 2018 James P. Kelly Hall of Fame inductee Nick Van Exel, who led UC to the 1992 Final Four and 1993 Elite Eight in his two years in Clifton, completed his degree in Spring 2023. He averaged 15.2 points and 3.6 assists per game for the Bearcats and was an NBA All-Star for the Lakers in 1998.



Cincinnati won back-to-back American Athletic Conference Tournament Championship titles and consecutive player of the year awards in 2018 and 2019. Cary Clark (2018) and Jarron Cumberland (2019) both were tabbed AAC Player of the Year and American Athletic Conference Most Outstanding Players.

NUMBERS TO KNOW

2	National Titles (1961, 1962)
6	Final Fours (1959-63, 1992)
8	Elite Eights (Last: 1996)
10	Sweet Sixteen Appearances (Last: 2012)
33	NCAA Tournament Appearances (Last: 2019)
23	NCAA Tournament Appearances since 1992
12	NIT Appearances (Last: 2024)
29	Conference Titles (Last: 2020)
12	Conference Tournament Titles (Last: 2019)
1,911	All-Time Wins (12th most in nation)
32	All-Americans (Last: Jarron Cumberland, 2019)
90	All-Conference Selections (Last: Jizzle James, 2025)
57	NBA Draft Picks (Last: Jacob Evans III, 2018)
56	Members of the 1,000-Point Club
431	Weeks Ranked in AP Top 25
212	Weeks Ranked in AP Top 10
45	Weeks Ranked AP No. 1
2	Members of Basketball Hall of Fame (Jack Twyman & Oscar Robertson)
2	Olympic Gold Medalists (Oscar Robertson (1960) & George Wilson (1964))



BASKETBALL HISTORY

BY BRETT RYBAK

The University of Cincinnati men's basketball program ranks among the nation's elite with 33 NCAA Tournament appearances, six Final Fours and back-to-back national championships (1961, 1962).

The Associated Press thinks so too, listing the Bearcats' program 10th in the nation in 2017 for its all-time appearances in the weekly AP polls. And the program's 162 wins since the start of the 2016-17 season, including a school-record tying 31 victories in 2017-18, have helped the Bearcats climb to 12th nationally for most wins, with 1,930.

American Athletic Conference trophies returned to Clifton in 2017-18 as the Bearcats claimed their first outright regular-season title since 2002 and their first league tournament championship since 2004. The Bearcats repeated as league tournament champions in 2018-19 and claimed the AAC's regular-season crown in 2019-20. In fact, during UC's stay in the seven-year-old AAC, the Bearcats have claimed three regular-season crowns (2014, 2018, 2020) and two league tournament championships (2018, 2019) along a conference-best 99 league victories.

In all, since UC's program began in 1901-02, the Bearcats have won 41 conference championships (29 regular-season titles and 12 league tournament crowns).

UC has advanced to postseason play 44 times, including 33 appearances in the NCAA Tournament, where the Bearcats own a 46-32 (.590) record.

Cincinnati's excellence is not portrayed in numbers alone. UC is the alma mater of several college basketball greats - 31 Bearcats have earned All-America honors, two went on to become Olympic gold medalists, two are enshrined in the National Basketball Hall of Fame, and Oscar Robertson was the first UC basketball player inducted into the FIBA (International Basketball Hall of Fame).

One of the first of UC's long list of standouts was Jack Twyman, who earned All-America status in 1954-55. He went on to NBA stardom and is in the Basketball Hall of Fame.

Robertson is still widely recognized as one of the greatest to play the sport — college or professional. A unanimous three-time All-American, he was college basketball's all-time leading scorer at the close of his career. His 33.8 scoring average today ranks third on the NCAA career charts, and he has the NBA's sixth-most career assists. The Hall of Famer led the U.S. Olympic team to the 1960 gold medal.

Sparked by the exploits of Robertson, who became the first player to lead the nation in scoring in three consecutive seasons (1958-60), Cincinnati advanced to the Final Four in 1958-59 and 1959-60, settling for third place



BASKETBALL HISTORY

CONT'D.



1961 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Front Row (L-R): Jim Calhoun, Tony Yates, Carl Bouldin, Paul Hogue, Bob Wiesenhahn, Tom Thacker, Tom Sizer.

Back Row (L-R): Head Coach Ed Jucker, Larry Shingleton, Fred Dierking, Ron Ries, Dale Heidotting, Mark Altenau, Assistant Coach Tay Baker.

both years.

With a rookie head coach, and without Robertson, the Bearcats won their first national title in 1960-61. Then to prove that the first championship was no fluke, UC repeated as champion in 1961-62 — beating Ohio State in the title game both seasons. Cincinnati made a then-unprecedented fifth-straight trip to the Final Four in 1962-63, and narrowly missed capturing a third-straight national crown when Loyola (Illinois) overcame a 15-point deficit and defeated the Bearcats by a basket, 60-58, in overtime.

During those five seasons, UC recorded a 37-game win streak and posted a 161-16 ledger. The five straight Final Four appearances is a feat topped only by UCLA.

Connie Dierking (1958), Ralph Davis (1960), Bob Wiesenhahn (1961), Paul Hogue (1961, 1962), Tom Thacker (1963), Tony Yates (1963), Ron Bonham (1963, 1964) and George Wilson (1963) were accorded All-American recognition, with Wilson playing on the U.S. 1964 Olympic gold medal team.

The Bearcats success continued in the 1970s, during which UC compiled a 170-85 record (.667). Cincinnati inaugurated the Metro Conference by winning the league's first two tournament championships and made four post-season appearances. Jim Ard (1970), Lloyd Batts (1973), Steve Collier (1976), Gary Yoder (1977), Bob Miller (1978) and Pat Cummings (1979) earned All-America recognition.

Bob Huggins, who was named head coach in 1989, rekindled those national championship expectations in only his third season at the helm when he directed UC to the 1992 Final Four. The Bearcats advanced to the Elite Eight of the NCAA Tournament three times and reached the Sweet 16 four times under his direction.

Cincinnati won its conference season and/or tournament title 12 times during the Huggins era. UC claimed eight league tournament titles and 10 regular-season crowns during the span, including seven Top 10 finishes in the final polls. During this time, Cincinnati ranked among the nation's winningest programs both in terms of winning percentage and victories.

Seventeen Bearcats garnered first-team all-conference honors during this era with three of those, Danny Fortson (1996, '97), Kenyon Martin (2000) and Steve Logan (2001, '02), picking up a total of four C-USA Most Outstanding Player awards. Fortson (1996, 1997), Nick Van Exel (1993), Ruben Patterson (1998), Bobby Brannen (1998), Melvin Levett (1999), Logan (2001, '02), Martin (1999, 2000) and Pete Mickeal (2000) joined Cincinnati's list of All-Americans.

Fortson was a consensus first-team All-American in 1996-97 after receiving second-team recognition in 1995-96. Martin was college basketball's top player of the 1999-2000 season, making a clean sweep of the national Player of the Year awards. Logan was a consensus All-American in 2001-02 and a finalist for every national Player of the Year award.

Mick Cronin became the 26th head coach in school history prior to the 2007 campaign and reestablished the Bearcats as a national contender. In his 13 seasons leading his alma mater, Cronin guided the Bearcats to the NCAA Tournament nine consecutive years before leaving to coach UCLA following the 2018-19 campaign.

As a senior, All-American Sean Kilpatrick (2014) joined Oscar Robertson as only two players in school history to score 2,000 career points.

Gary Clark (2018) earned AP Honorable Mention All-America accolades and several conference awards, including the AAC Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year, in leading the Bearcats to a 31-5 overall and



1962 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Front Row (L-R): Larry Shingleton, Tony Yates, Larry Elsasser, Tom Thacker, Tom Sizer, Jim Calhoun.

Back Row (L-R): Assistant Coach Tay Baker, Bill Abernathy, Fred Dierking, George Wilson, Ron Reis, Paul Hogue, Dale Heidotting, Ron Bonham, Head Coach Ed Jucker.



BASKETBALL HISTORY

CONT'D.

16-2 league mark in 2017-18. UC was ranked in the AP Poll every week of the season, climbing as high as fifth.

Jarron Cumberland (2019) also earned AP Honorable Mention All-America honors and grabbed AAC Player of the Year accolades as a junior while helping the Bearcats to 88 wins during his first three years at Cincinnati. It marked the first time a Bearcat had won conference player of the year accolades in back-to-back seasons since Steve Logan in 2001 and 2002 (Conference USA).

In 2019-20, John Brannen became the first UC head coach to win a conference regular-season championship in his first season leading the program since Tay Baker in 1966. The Bearcats claimed the top seed in the AAC tournament prior to the event's cancelation due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

On April 14, 2021, Wes Miller was named the 28th University of Cincinnati men's basketball head coach after spending a decade as the head coach at UNC Greensboro. Regarded as one of the top young coaches in college basketball, Miller built the Spartans into perennial championship and NCAA Tournament contenders, was named as ESPN.com's No. 1 Coach Under 40 in May 2020 and also was tabbed for The Athletic's 40 Under 40 list a year ago. His 185-career wins coming into the 2021-22 season also put him in the national lead for coaches under 40, ahead of LSU's Will Wade (177) and New Mexico's Richard Pitino (159).

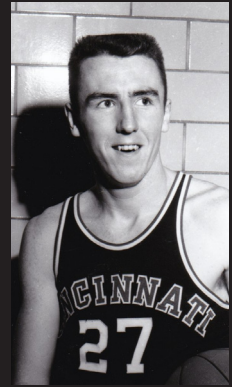


RETIRED NUMBERS

27 JACK TWYMAN

1952-1955

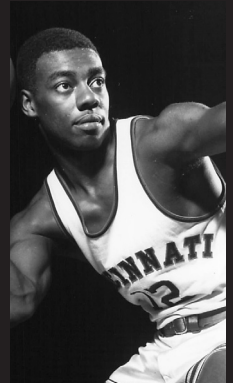
- Led UC in scoring and rebounding in his final three seasons
- Averaged 24.6 points and 16.5 rebounds as a senior to earn All-America honors
- Still ranks eighth in UC annals in scoring and second in rebounding
- Six-time NBA All-Star who led the league in scoring in the 1959-60 seasons



12 OSCAR ROBERTSON

1958-1960

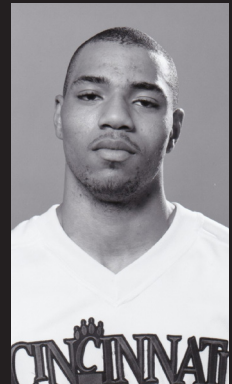
- Concluded his career as the NCAA's career scoring leader
- Career 33.8 scoring average is still third-best in NCAA history
- Three-time consensus All-American and three-time national Player of the Year
- 12-time NBA all-star, retiring as the career assists leader

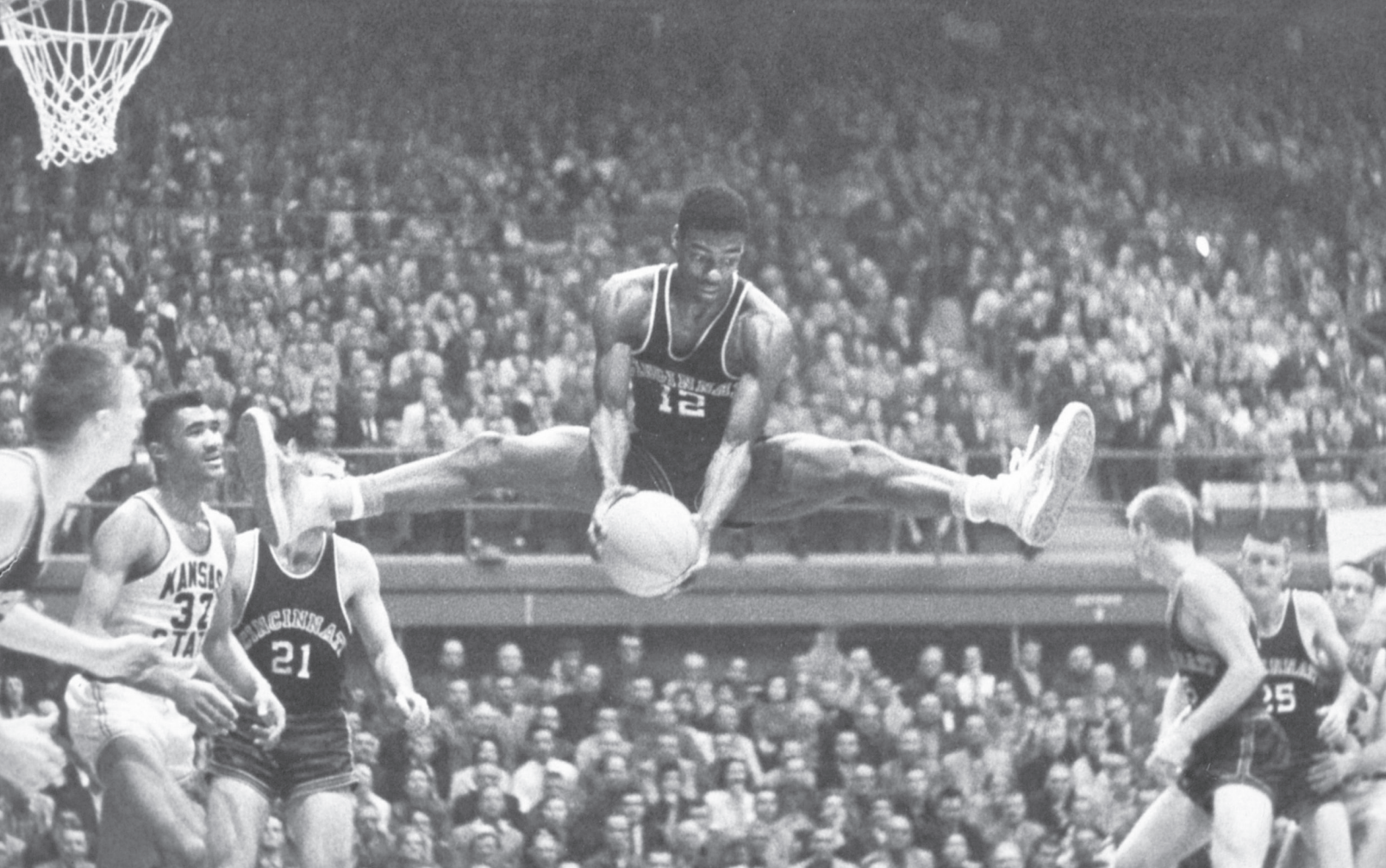


4 KENYON MARTIN

1997-2000

- Three-time Conference USA Defensive Player of the Year
- UC's career blocked shots leader
- Unanimous choice as Conference USA Player of the Year (2000)
- Consensus All-American as a senior and national Player of the Year
- No. 1 pick in the 2000 NBA Draft





OSCAR ROBERTSON, CINCINNATI LEGEND

A player like no other — that might be the best description of Oscar Robertson. The Bearcat great clearly was the greatest college performer of his time and today is recognized as one of the game's all-time bests on the pro and college levels.

During his three-year career (1957-60), "The Big O" established himself not only as the finest player in Cincinnati history, but one of the finest in all of college basketball. Robertson was the first player to lead the nation in scoring for three straight seasons (LSU's Pete Maravich is the only player since to match that feat), and closed his career as the NCAA's all-time scoring leader. His 2,973 points currently ranks seventh on the NCAA career scoring list while his 33.8 career scoring average is the third-highest of all-time.

Though scoring was the most publicized portion of his game, it was far from the only aspect in which he excelled. Robertson also owns UC's season and career rebounding records and has the second-most assists — a record he would have also broken if assists had been kept as a statistic during his sophomore year.

He led the Bearcats to two Final Fours and a 79-9 record during his three varsity seasons. Among his 14 NCAA records was a career scoring mark that stood until Pete Maravich bested it in 1970. As a sophomore, Robertson scored 56 points in a tournament game at Madison Square Garden, and he

scored 62 points in another contest.

No brief sketch can begin to include all of Robertson's honors and accomplishments. He was a three-year consensus All-American and a three-time pick for National Player of the Year honors.

Robertson was well-honored for his performance during his 14-year career in the NBA, making the all-star team 12 times and amassing career records for assists. He is one of two players in league history to post a triple-double average for an entire season (1961-62), when he averaged 30.8 points, 12.5 rebounds and 11.4 assists per game.

Robertson is well-regarded as one of the top performers in the history of the league and was inducted into the National Basketball Hall of Fame in 1979, as well as the FIBA (International Basketball Association) Hall of Fame in 2009. He was honored with the NBA's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018.

ROBERTSON'S STATISTICS											
YEAR	G	FG-FGA	PCT.	FT-FTA	PCT.	REB.	AVG.	AST.	AVG.	PTS.	AVG.
1959-60	30	349-701	.526	273-361	.756	424	14.1	219	7.3	1,011	33.7
1958-59	30	331-650	.509	316-398	.794	489	16.3	206	6.9	978	32.6
1957-58	28	352-617	.571	280-355	.789	425	15.2	-	-	984	35.1
TOTALS:	80	1,052-1,968	.535	869-1,114	.780	1,338	15.2	425	7.1	2,973	33.8

RETURNING AND NEWCOMERS

1991-92-93
1973
2011-12-13-14
1986-87-88-89
1993-94-95
2024
1910-II
1972-73-74
2016-17-18-19
1971-72-73
2000
1928
1978
1980-81-82-83
2003-04
2014-15-16-17
2019
1990
2001
1980-81-82-83
1991-92
1975-76-77-78
1938-39-40
1994-96-97
1971-72
1915-16-17

RETURNING AND NEWCOMERS

26

ABOUT UC

As the global founder of what we like to call “hire education,” we at the University of Cincinnati are world renowned for experience-based learning — also known as cooperative education.

Indeed, U.S. News & World Report ranks UC’s co-op program in the top-five nationally, beating out institutions like Stanford, Duke and many more. In the 2023-24 school year, UC students earned a collective \$8.8 million working for nearly 2,000 global partners. How does co-op work?

Our students alternate academic semesters in the classroom with semesters of paid, professional work tied directly to their majors.

Today at UC, we make these and many other opportunities available to a community of more than 53,000 students.

On behalf of our students and our wider community, we’ve always been about advancing the power of creativity, ingenuity, invention and impact. That’s our mission as a leading urban, public university focused on innovation and impact — a legacy we foster every day through our strategic direction, Next Lives Here.

And our drive to invent in and beyond the classroom has also been the source of many other breakthrough contributions, including the oral polio vaccine and the first antihistamine. Our endeavors today encompass science, medicine, business, education, engineering, technology, the humanities and the arts. Some of our specific areas of focus include analytics, digital media, precision cancer medicine, water and urban futures.

It’s no wonder UC has been dubbed a “research heavyweight,” ranked in the top 40 among America’s public research universities by the National Science Foundation. UC has also been rated a Research 1 university by Carnegie Classification, as well as “the most ambitious campus design program in the country” by the New York Times.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

The university has more than 200 years of history as a research pioneer, with a culture strongly emphasizing collaboration in order to achieve innovative results that can be applied to solving complex problems and furthering scientific advancement. UC fosters early stage research and launches start-up companies via an expanding innovation incubator, the 1819 Innovation Hub, providing a key location amidst Cincinnati’s rising Innovation Corridor. Partnering with UC are a wide range of visionaries: From seed-stage investors like CincyTech (one of the most active in the nation) to Fortune 500, corporations like Procter & Gamble, Microsoft, Kroger, Fifth Third Bank and FIS.

UC FACILITY

Many UC faculty members have been awarded significant honors at the local, state, national and international levels. These include numerous NSF Career awards as well as Fulbright awards and Guggenheim grants. UC faculty and their work routinely receive support from the Ohio Board of Regents, Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, Department of Defense, Department of Education, Department

of Energy, U.S. EPA, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Endowment for the Arts, National Geographic Society, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Geological Survey, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute and many others.

UC is home to a number of Ohio Centers of Excellence where faculty research as well as their scholarly and creative endeavors serves to advance innovation and entrepreneurial activity as well as draw gifted students seeking to augment and apply their skills. These centers focus on advanced energy and sustaining the urban environment; transforming healthcare in the 21st century; intelligent air and space vehicle energy systems; nanoscale sensor technology; design and innovation; and music and theater arts.

UC STUDENTS

Throughout their academic careers, UC students earn many external honors and awards, including Fulbright and Goldwater scholarships as well as grants and research project support from internal and external entities as varied as the NSF, NEH, the U.S. Air Force and others. At UC, both undergraduates and graduate students receive both funding and mentoring support to pursue research through specialized programs like ROSE (Research, Observation, Service and Education Experiences), WISE (Women in Science and Engineering), and SURF (Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship). Such opportunities allow students to directly contribute to innovation, build a meaningful portfolio, engage with faculty and other thought leaders outside the classroom, and hone their inquiry and investigative skills according to the scientific method.

CINCINNATI, OHIO

Our urban campus is interwoven into a thriving city full of career opportunities, culture and memorable experiences.

Whether you are looking for professional opportunities, creative inspiration or just a great place to make memories with friends, you are in for something special in Cincinnati. It is a city in the midst of an exciting urban revival and a place known for its love of the arts, passion for sports and for its seriously impressive local food.

As the center of culture and commerce for a region of more than 2 million people, the Queen City is an important hub of the Midwest. The area is home to seven Fortune 500 companies and lays claim to one of the most vibrant startup ecosystems in the nation. People here experience big-city amenities — professional sports teams, major museums, pristine parks and cultural attractions — while enjoying a small-town friendliness and collaborative vibe.

Our city is distinctive, our heritage is largely German and our landscape is covered by hills — many of which offer a beautiful view of the scenic Ohio River. In recent years, Cincinnati has experienced an impressive renaissance of its urban core — from The Banks entertainment district and the downtown business corridor to the trendy Over-the-Rhine and Uptown neighborhoods near campus.



NEVILLE G. PINTO, PHD

PRESIDENT



Neville G. Pinto serves as the 30th President of the University of Cincinnati. A university teacher, researcher and administrator with nearly 40 years of experience in higher education, he became UC's chief executive on February 20, 2017. He is the first UC president to rise from the ranks of UC's faculty since Herman Schneider, the founder of cooperative education (1928–1932).

Dr. Pinto leads the Cincinnati region's only Carnegie Research 1 university — an institution attracting \$740 million in annual external research grants and contracts (including affiliates). In February 2018, he launched UC's strategic direction, NEXT LIVES HERE, which is a new paradigm for university planning that allows the university to be nimble and responsive to the world's changing landscape. It focuses on UC leading public universities into a new era of innovation and impact, with three main platforms of academic excellence, the innovation agenda and urban impact. As a part of this strategic direction, Pinto established a new position — the university's first Chief Innovation Officer — and UC opened doors to its 1819 Innovation Hub and Digital Futures Complex. Pinto's leadership led UC's intellectual property process to be reimagined and it became a model for the state's "Ohio IP Promise." Under Pinto's guiding vision, the university also is reinventing its cooperative education program — the world's first — for the digital economy and has attracted a \$100 million investment from JobsOhio to accelerate the number of its STEM graduates, promote federal research at UC and the affiliated Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, and launch the Cincinnati Innovation District in Uptown.

Pinto also presided as UC celebrated its Bicentennial in 2018–2019 while looking ahead to its next century and launching a \$2 billion comprehensive campaign, "Next, Now."

Regionally, Pinto currently serves on the Ohio Governor's Executive Workforce Board, the Cincinnati Business Committee (CBC) and as chair of the Uptown Consortium in Cincinnati.

Just prior to returning to UC to serve as president, Dr. Pinto led the University of Louisville as acting president and professor of chemical engineering. Before serving at the University of Louisville, he served for 26 years on the faculty in chemical engineering at the University of Cincinnati, where he established the Adsorption and Ion Exchange Laboratory, which focused on research in biochemical and environmental engineering. His research included purification of genetically engineered drugs, the study of bio-membranes, and air and water purification. His laboratory attracted over \$6 million

in external research funding and trained 32 graduate students including 16 PhD students, many of whom have moved on to become leaders in industry and academia.

Earlier in his career at UC, Pinto held a number of administrative posts including Department Head for Chemical Engineering, Assistant Dean for Graduate Studies in the College of Engineering and Applied Science, and Vice Provost and Dean of The Graduate School. As Dean, he had a leadership role in attracting major external awards totaling over \$10 million to UC to support graduate and STEM education.

Pinto joined the University of Louisville (UofL) as Dean of the Speed School of Engineering in 2011. While dean, his accomplishments included overseeing a major expansion in the enrollment of the college and spearheading the development of the Belknap Engineering and Applied Sciences Research Park. He significantly strengthened the university's relationship with GE, to develop a partnership that has led to significant educational and career opportunities for students and encouraged the company to bring its FirstBuild microfactory to campus. This effort earned the Silver Fleur-de-Lis award from Greater Louisville Inc. in 2015.

From May 2015 to July 2016, Pinto served as Interim Executive Vice President and University Provost at UoL. During this period, he finalized the 21st Century University Plan and launched major initiatives to strengthen educational excellence, student success and access, research and community engagement. He was appointed Acting President in 2016.

Pinto was elected Fellow of the Graduate School at UC based on outstanding scholarly attainment and was elected to the National Academy of Inventors in recognition of U.S. patents awarded. He has variously been active in the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, American Society for Engineering Education, American Chemical Society and is a member of the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society. He is also the recipient of numerous outstanding teaching and service awards.

Pinto was born in Mumbai, India. He was educated at the Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi, where he earned his bachelor's in chemical engineering. He earned his MS and his PhD in chemical engineering at Penn State University.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES



MONICA TURNER
TERM: 2018-2026

CHAIR

Monica leads P&G's North America business, the company's largest and most profitable region, representing 47% of net sales and serving 370 million consumers. Since joining P&G in 1987, she has held key roles in sales, strategy, and planning, consistently delivering growth and innovation. Monica is known for her inclusive leadership and focus on building high-performing teams. She serves on P&G's Corporate Women's Leadership Team and leads the African Ancestry Leadership Network. Beyond P&G, she is a University of Cincinnati trustee and Board Chair of the Network of Executive Women, where she helped create the Open Doors program to support multicultural women.



GREGORY HARTMANN
TERM: 2020-2029

VICE CHAIR

Greg Hartmann advises clients on complex public-private projects, drawing on 20 years of experience as an attorney, former elected official, and Ohio government relations consultant. He began his career as a prosecutor before serving as Hamilton County Clerk of Courts, managing over 500 employees. Elected County Commissioner in 2009, Greg launched initiatives like the Heroin Task Force and Coalition to Stop Fraud. He's a former nominee for Ohio Secretary of State and has received multiple leadership awards. Before joining KMK, he was a partner at Shea Hartmann LLP and president of GHSW Consulting. Greg holds degrees from Washington and Lee and Pepperdine Law.



JILL T. McGRUDER
TERM: 2021-2030

SECRETARY

Jill T. McGruder is senior vice president and chief marketing officer of Western & Southern Financial Group, where she oversees multiple subsidiaries and has helped grow the company to over \$65 billion in assets. Since joining in 1991, she has led major business expansions and acquisitions. A licensed and credentialed financial professional, she has served on national industry boards and was chair of LL Global Inc. McGruder is also a dedicated civic leader, holding roles with the Taft Museum of Art, ArtsWave, YWCA, and United Way. She earned her B.A. and J.D. from Capital University and lives in Indian Hill, Ohio, with her husband.



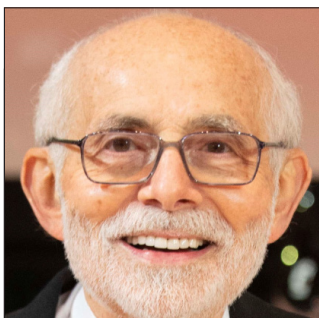
RONALD D. BROWN
TERM: 2018-2027

Ronald D. Brown is the retired Chairman and CEO of Milacron Inc., a global leader in plastics processing and industrial fluids. He also served as Vice Chairman and COO of The Armor Group. Ron currently sits on the boards of A.O. Smith Corporation, where he is lead director, and LSI Industries, where he was formerly interim CEO. He also serves on the boards of Master Fluid Solutions, Cincinnati Incorporated, and the James Advantage Funds Trust. A graduate of the University of Cincinnati and the University of Dayton School of Law, Ron is active in numerous civic organizations and lives in Cincinnati with his wife, Linda.



J. PHILLIP HOLLOMAN
TERM: 2019-2028

Mr. Holloman spent 22 years at Cintas, holding leadership roles including President & COO, Rental Division President, and Senior Vice President of Global Supply Chain. He helped launch Cintas' Diversity Committee and earned the company's highest honor, the Escalibur Award. Recognized as one of Black Enterprise's "100 Most Powerful Executives in Corporate America," he has received numerous honors, including an honorary doctorate from Wilberforce University and UC's Kautz Alumni Master Award. He serves on boards for Rockwell Automation, Florida A&M, and the University of Cincinnati, as well as several civic organizations including 3CDC and the Urban League of Greater Cincinnati.



STEVE BOYMEL
TERM: 2023-2031

Steve Boymel is Chairman of the Board of Hospice of Southwest Ohio and Resurgence Recovery, and a minority owner of Stay Well Home Health. A licensed Nursing Home Administrator since 1968, he founded Health Care Management Group (HCMG), overseeing a network of senior care facilities. Steve has served on numerous state task forces and trade associations, including as Legislative Chair of the Ohio Health Care Association and the Ohio Academy of Nursing Homes. He currently sits on several boards, including the Holocaust & Humanity Center and The Health Collaborative. A lifelong UC basketball fan, Steve and his wife Carol have been married over 50 years and have three children.



MICHELLE "SHELLY" A. GILLIS
TERM: 2021-2032

Michelle ('Shelly') A. Gillis is Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer of American Financial Group, overseeing HR, communications, marketing, branding, real estate, and shared services. Since joining Great American Insurance Group in 2004, she has held senior HR roles, following earlier leadership positions at Fifth Third Bank. Shelly serves on the boards of the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber, its Foundation, and UC's Lindner Center for Insurance and Risk Management. She's also active with UC Health and mentors at Oyster Elementary. A UC alum with degrees in communication and labor relations, Shelly lives in Cincinnati with her husband, Joe, and their two children.



KERRY BYRNE
TERM: 2024-2033

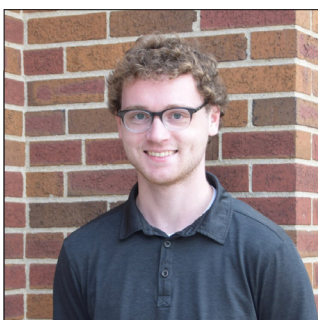
Kerry Byrne is President of Total Quality Logistics (TQL), bringing over 35 years of leadership experience. Since joining TQL in 2005 and becoming President in 2021, he has led the company through extraordinary growth—expanding revenue from \$196 million to \$6.7 billion and the team from 300 to over 9,000 employees. Under his leadership, TQL has grown from one office and line of business to over 60 offices and 15 service lines, becoming the second-largest freight brokerage firm in North America. A Cincinnati native, Kerry holds a B.B.A. in Marketing from the University of Cincinnati. He previously spent 17 years with Fifth Third Bancorp.



LARRY SHEAKLEY
TERM EXPIRES: 2034

Larry Sheakley, CEO of Sheakley, has started or acquired over 54 businesses and served on the Ohio Governor's Task Force on Employment Services. His investment firm, Lyonshare Investments, holds stakes in companies like The Cincinnati Reds and FC Cincinnati. Larry owns Pro-Pacure in London and a New Zealand golf and land business featuring a top-ranked course. He purchased Sheakley in 1980, growing it into a leading provider of HR and labor management solutions.

Larry and his wife, Rhonda, are active philanthropists in Greater Cincinnati, supporting youth shelters, arts organizations, and UC athletics. A Cincinnati native and Ohio University alumnus, Larry has received numerous honors including an honorary doctorate from UC and induction into the Cincinnati Business Hall of Fame.



JOSEPH LAMPTON
TERM: 2024-2026 GRADUATE STUDENT TRUSTEE

Joseph Lampton is a second-year Ph.D. student in School Psychology at the University of Cincinnati, where he earned his Master's in Foundations in Behavior Analysis in 2024. He holds an associate's degree from Ivy Tech Community College and a bachelor's from Indiana University Columbus. Joseph works as a Research Graduate Assistant and focuses on peer-mediated interventions, restorative practices, and supporting students with chronic illnesses. He is co-authoring a book chapter on Functional Behavioral Assessment and has presented at multiple conferences. After graduation, Joseph aims to pursue a faculty position in school psychology to contribute to teaching and research.

FACULTY REPRESENTATIVES

TAMIKA ODUM, CHAIR
LINDSEY MILLS
EVERRETT SMITH

STAFF REPRESENTATIVE

BRANDI ELLIOTT, CHAIR, STAFF SENATE

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

NEELAKSHI CHATTERJEE, GRADUATE STUDENT
BODY PRESIDENT
JOSHUA COPELEY, UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT
BODY PRESIDENT

JOHN CUNNINGHAM

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

Now in his sixth year as the Director of Athletics at the University of Cincinnati, John Cunningham has proven to be the perfect fit for the Bearcats, packing win after win into his time on Clifton Heights since taking the helm in December 2019.

Some of the many highlights of his tenure include guiding the Bearcats into the Big 12, opening the \$134 million Sheakley Indoor Practice Facility and Athletics Performance Center as part of a landmark \$100 million Day One Ready fundraising campaign, securing a new apparel deal with Nike and Jordan Brand and serving as the administrative oversight for the first-ever Group of Five team to advance to the College Football Playoff.

This spring, Cunningham also brought Cincinnati's multimedia rights representation (MMR) in-house by establishing Cincy Sports Partners. The department serves as the Bearcats' corporate sales and sponsorships home for student-athlete NIL, unique fan experiences, local broadcasting and much more.

In his first few months on campus, Cunningham led the Bearcats' response to the COVID-19 pandemic and created the Next Level Success Fund to provide the necessary resources to achieve competitive success and crucial support for UC's student-athletes.

In 2021, Cunningham spearheaded Cincinnati's charge to join the Big 12 and launched the \$100 million Day One Ready Campaign initiative. The Day One Ready Campaign raised money in the areas of student-athlete wellness, signature facilities and operational resources to compete for championships in the Big 12, which Cincinnati officially joined on July 1, 2023.

The centerpiece of the Day One Ready Campaign was the Indoor Practice Facility and Performance Center, which broke ground in May 2023. The state-of-the-art complex features a 100-yard football field, brand-new weight room, fueling station and sports medicine offices over more than 200,000 square feet.

Cunningham restructured his leadership team to provide a new focus on internal and external operations, tapped Wes Miller, one of the nation's best young coaches, to lead the men's basketball program, hired two-time conference coach of the year Scott Satterfield to guide the football team, and brought UC alum Katrina Merriweather back home to coach women's basketball.

He also added head coaches Jordan Bischel (baseball), Erica Demers (women's soccer) and Aimee Ponte (women's golf) to guide Bearcats' programs during the 2023-24 academic year among five new coaches during the first year of Big 12 competition. Bischel proceeded to guide the Bearcats to the NCAA Regionals this spring, their first appearance since 2019.

UNPRECEDENTED SUCCESS ON THE FIELD AND ON THE COURSE

The Bearcats' football program found unprecedented success in 2021, winning a school-record 13 games and a second consecutive American Athletic Conference Championship en route to becoming the first non-"Power Five" team to participate in the College Football Playoff.

UC football boasts two conference titles and 19 NFL draft selections since 2020.

Additionally, the Cincinnati men's golf program has found its most success in program history in recent years, culminating with the Bearcats first-ever NCAA Regional Championship appearance in 2023 and Ty Gingerich's individual Big 12 Championship in 2024.

Cunningham has also embraced the changing landscape of college athletics, fully embracing Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) by creating IMPACT, a comprehensive NIL development program. The Bearcats have been bold and innovative in the NIL space in recent years, partnering with Kroger on the nation's largest female-only activation as well as Jason and Travis Kelce's podcast, New Heights, to host a live event in 2024 where a significant portion of ticket sales supported NIL. Additionally, Cincy Reigns, the official NIL partner of UC Athletics, collaborated with Rhinegeist to create Cincy Light - the country's fastest-growing craft light lager.

In 2024, Cincinnati's IMPACT program was named the nation's Best Institutional Program at the NIL Summit in Atlanta.

UC CREATES NEW DEPARTMENTS, SETS ACADEMIC RECORDS

Cunningham has focused attention and resources on student-athlete-centric initiatives such as launching the department's first ever Sports Psychology Department and creating the Performance Nutrition department, while prioritizing student-athlete mental health and wellness. He also hired Brad Pike (now Chief of Staff) as UC's first ever Senior Associate AD for Health and Wellness and added Senior Associate AD/CFO John Daniel and Deputy AD/External Anthony Di Fino.

UC has reached exceptional heights in academics under Cunningham, as well.

In the spring of 2025, Bearcats student-athletes achieved a record overall GPA of 3.52, the fifth-straight semester above a 3.4.

Through the 2023-24 school year, Cincinnati ranked No. 1 in the Big 12 and sixth in the nation in Graduation Success Rate at 96%.

In 2022, six student-athletes collected Academic All-America accolades.

CUNNINGHAM SERVES AS DEPUTY AD AT MINNESOTA AND SYRACUSE

Before leading the Bearcats, Cunningham served as Minnesota's Deputy Athletics Director for Administration from 2016-19, overseeing the day-to-day administrative operations of the department, working with all 25 Gopher programs and external units, as well as serving as sport administrator for football, men's basketball and men's golf.

He was part of the fundraising and implementation of the Gophers' Athletes Village, a privately-funded project of \$166-million which added more than 338,000 square feet of new academic, leadership, nutrition, practice and team support space for all sports.

Cunningham joined the Minnesota staff from Syracuse, where he also served as the Deputy Athletics Director for Administration from 2015-16.

Prior to his tenure at Syracuse, Cunningham worked at Boise State University from 2011-2014 as the senior associate athletics director for external relations and executive director for NCAA Compliance.

BOISE STATE AND TCU BOLSTER HIS RESUME

At BSU, Cunningham was promoted to senior associate athletics director for external relations in 2014 after leading the NCAA Compliance program for three years. As the head of external relations, Cunningham led the operations of Boise State's development, marketing, media relations and ticket offices. He was also the sport administrator for men's basketball, men's and women's golf, and men's tennis.

Prior to his appointment at BSU, Cunningham worked at Texas Christian University for five years in the compliance field. He was hired by the Horned Frogs in 2006 as the assistant director of compliance and followed up a year later with a promotion to director of compliance. In 2011, he was promoted again to assistant athletics director for compliance. In that position, he was responsible for a comprehensive rules education program and provided rules interpretations for athletics staff, coaches, student-athletes and university officials.

LOVE FOR SPORTS TRACED BACK TO YOUTH IN LINCOLN

Cunningham started his career in collegiate athletics as the compliance coordinator at the University of Maryland. While in law school, he was a compliance intern at Maryland for two summers.

A 2001 TCU graduate, Cunningham received a law degree from the University of Nebraska's College of Law in 2005.

A native of Lincoln, Nebraska, he developed his love for college athletics by following his hometown Cornhuskers as a kid.

Cunningham and his wife, Caitlin, have two sons, Gus and Hank.





CHEER, DANCE & BEARCAT



The University of Cincinnati's Cincy Bearcats program is renowned for its elite cheer, dance and mascot spirit. The cheerleading squad has earned **MULTIPLE NATIONAL TITLES**, including the Division IA Gameday National Championship in 2022 and 2023 at the UCA College Cheerleading & Dance Nationals. The dance team is a powerhouse, with victories like the seventh hip-hop national crown in 2017 and five NCAA-recognized championships between 2004–2006, 2009 and 2015.

Adding to the spirit are the legendary Bearcat mascots. The costume character **"THE BEARCAT" HAS TWICE TAKEN HOME DIVISION I-A MASCOT NATIONAL TITLES (2022, 2023) AND SCORED A THIRD IN 2025 AT THE COLLEGE CHEERLEADING & DANCE NATIONALS**. In 2023, Bearcat received a prestigious nomination for the Mascot Hall of Fame and was recognized as 2009 Capital One Mascot of the Year.

With a secret team of six to eight students performing at around 350 university and 150 community events annually, Bearcat is a beloved ambassador. Together, these cheer, dance and mascot programs showcase Cincy pride through championship-caliber performances and award-winning spirit.

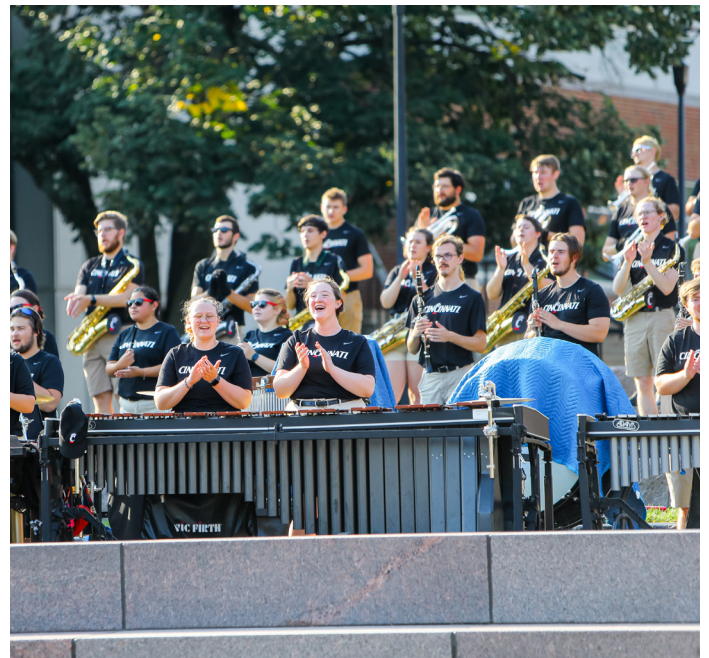
MARCHING BAND



The University of Cincinnati's Bearcat Marching Band, a flagship unit of the Bearcat Bands program, is celebrated for its dynamic performances, educational impact and historic achievements. Comprising over 270 members, including instrumentalists, color guard, twirlers, and drum majors, the band performs at home and select away football and basketball games, as well as bowl games like the Cotton and Fenway Bowls. Directed since 2017 by Christopher Nichter, the band embraces "tradition through innovation," holding triweekly rehearsals and rigorous preparation to ensure musical and visual excellence. The band has earned several unique honors: it was the first college band to perform in Egypt (2024) and at the DCI.

Its excellence at marching events is proven by its regular participation in Bands of America exhibitions since 1995. The band's alumni association won UC Foundation's 2024 Group Philanthropy Award and the UC Alumni Association's 2017 Constituent Network of the Year. Internally, musicians can earn the prestigious Roy A. Colclaser Award for outstanding performance and the program awards a variety of scholarships recognizing excellence across ensembles.

Affiliated with the College-Conservatory of Music, the band benefits from CCM's nationally ranked programs and strong support from donors who fuel initiatives like "Charge Into the Next Century," ensuring students have top-tier instruments. Through community engagement, international travel and award-winning musicianship, UC's marching band exemplifies the school's vision to be "the most musical campus in the United States."





UCATS FOUNDATION

Since 1979, UCATS (an acronym representing University of Cincinnati Athletic Teams Scholarships) has been the principal fundraising arm for UC Athletics. Purpose-driven and relationship-centered, UCATS provides a way for individuals, fans, alumni and corporate entities to help Bearcat student-athletes receive a quality education, while ensuring UC's tradition of academic and athletic excellence.

More than 5,000 active UCATS members provide philanthropic support for 400+ student-athletes across 16 sports, with a vast majority receiving financial aid from the athletics department to attend the University of Cincinnati. On average, UC Athletics spends more \$79,756.16 per year to fund one in-state student-athlete scholarship. For out-of-state student-athletes, that cost increases to \$95,090.16.

Donations to UCATS include philanthropic gifts. Through the outstanding financial investment of each member, UCATS was able to generate more than \$33M in total contributions. All contributions, both large and small, make it possible for UC Athletics to support Bearcat student-athletes with vital resources such as academic support, athletic training, sports medicine

and mental health services. UCATS members have also been instrumental helping Cincy Reigns become one of the best NIL (Name, Image and Likeness) collectives in the country, while supporting the ongoing construction and renovation of the Indoor Practice Facility and the Armory Fieldhouse, respectively.

To elevate the men's basketball program, a dedicated group of donors known as the Flight Club was formed in 2022. Comprised of 15 households each giving a minimum of \$100,000 annually, the Flight Club was established to help the Bearcats compete in the ever-evolving collegiate athletics landscape. These impactful contributions are used to enhance the men's basketball program at a national level, allowing the Bearcats to remain competitive in recruiting, development, and overall program resources.

Additionally, we want to give special thanks to Larry and Rhonda Sheakley, Dave and Wendy Herche and Ed and Nina Paul for their transformational gifts to our athletics department and student-athletes this past year.

Thank you to every UCATS donor and season ticket holder for your support of UC Athletics!

UCATS BY THE NUMBERS

FUNDS RAISED IN FY25

\$33M+

DONORS

5,000+

\$100,000 GIFTS

40





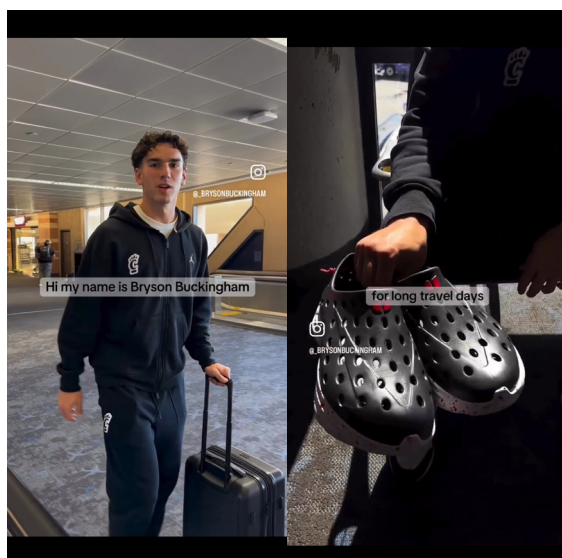
CINCY CONNECT NIL

Cincy Connect NIL is a dynamic unit that oversees all Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) activities for Bearcat Student-Athletes, connecting them with the city, opportunities, resources and education.

NIL is today's most cost-efficient marketing channel for reaching a hyper-focused, highly engaged audience. Whether you want to gain top-of-mind awareness, drive foot or digital traffic for your business or attract top talent to work for you, there's a Cincinnati NIL solution that fits any budget and amplifies your overall strategy.

The best time to plan your next activation is right now! Opportunities are only limited by your creativity. Product launches, social series, in-person appearances, camps and lessons and whatever else you can come up with are all possible. For more information, contact Trevor Wright, Associate AD Student-Athlete Management (Trevor.Wright@uc.edu), Eddie Taylor, Director of NIL (Eddie.Taylor@uc.edu) or Grace Diederich, NIL Associate (Diedergr@mail.uc.edu).

Other ways to support Cincinnati student-athletes include purchasing merchandise, collecting trading cards or contributing to the Impact Fund.



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SEASON PREVIEW

BY BRETT RYBAK

Now in its third year in the Big 12, the Cincinnati men's basketball team enters the 2025-26 campaign with lofty expectations despite a roster that features 12 newcomers and only one player with more than 10 games played in a Bearcat uniform.

Those expectations are elevated in large part by a combination of six veteran transfers come to Cincinnati averaging 80 career games played at the college level, in addition to graduate point guard Day Day Thomas' 67 career games played as a Bearcat. Throw in a strong freshman class that is spearheaded by top-30 recruit and McDonald's All-American Shon Abaev and the Bearcats feel they have all they need to compete in the Big 12 and nationally.

"I thought our staff did an excellent job of identifying the right types of players to put a roster together, recruiting those players and finding a way to piece it together," fifth-year head coach Wes Miller said. "We worked to not just get talent and Big 12 talent, but to piece together a group that makes sense on paper. Now, the fun part for coaching is getting them out here together and making that all come to life."

Making that come to life will start with Thomas, a veteran of 67 games and 50 starts in a Bearcat uniform, who has averaged 10.3 points and three assists per contest in his two seasons in Clifton. The Bishopville, S.C., native has always been a defensive standout, but he made significant strides offensively

a season ago, shooting 40.2% from deep, up from 28% the year before. To help bolster the Bearcat backcourt, Miller brought in Sencire Harris from West Virginia and Kerr Kriisa from Kentucky — a pair that has combined to play in 173 career games. Harris knows all about what it takes to compete in the conference — the Canton, Ohio native was the only guard names to the Big 12 All-Defensive Team a year ago — and Kriisa, from Vissu Kula, Estonia, is a 1,000-point scorer who became the first player to lead the Pac-12 in assists in in back-to-back years for the first time since 2001 while he was at Arizona.

Then in the frontcourt, newcomers also bring a wealth of experience, with Jalen Celestine (Baylor) entering his sixth year of college basketball, Jalen Haynes (George Mason) seeing his fifth, Baba Miller (Florida Atlantic) playing in his fourth and Moustapha Thiam (UCF) entering his second. Celestine and Haynes each bring a plethora of toughness, maturity and versatility to the roster, Miller's coming off a year in which he averaged 11.3 points and seven boards per contest, while dishing out 92 assists and blocking 58 shots at FAU and Thiam was a Kyle Macy Award finalist, which is given to the nation's top freshman, last year while averaging 10.4 points, 6.4 rebounds and 2.6 blocks per game. All that is in addition to what returning big men Halvine Dzellat and Tyler McKinley. Dzellat, from Blois, France, played in 10 games as a freshman a year ago, while McKinley, a local product, is a former No. 1 player in the state of Ohio who suffered a season-ending injury last September.

SEASON PREVIEW

CONT'D.

Then come the fresh new faces, led by Abaev and fellow Top-50 recruit Keyshuan Tillery. Abaev, from Broward County, Fla., is a consensus top-30 recruit, a McDonald's All-American and Cincinnati's second-highest ranked recruit of the 247Sports era, behind only eventual NBA veteran Lance Stephenson. Tillery, a native of Albany, N.Y., was the No. 6-ranked point guard in the 2025 class and led New Hampton School (N.H.) to a 22-4 record and a runner-up finish at the 2025 NEPSAC Class AAA Championship.

On top of that, Miller brought in a pair of international guards. Jordi Rodriguez averaged 13.6 points, 2.9 rebounds and 2.6 assists per game while teaming with fellow Bearcat Baba Miller to lead Spain to the championship at the 2023 FIBA U-19 World Cup and Lucas Atauri, a member of the Brazilian national team, shot 38% from beyond the arc and 86% from the charity stripe in 39 contests last season for his club team, Paulistano. Fellow newcomer guards Bryson Buckingham, a freshman from Edmond, Okla., and Grant Darbyshire, a Cincinnati native who is a graduate transfer after three seasons at Kentucky, will provide additional depth to the Bearcat backcourt.

"I think offensively, there's a lot of versatility with this team," Miller added. "You see so many different skillsets and areas that you could play through. There are ways to play back to the basket — not just to throw it to score, but to play offense from a back-to-the-basket situation. You look at multiple guys on this roster that can catch it back to the basket or in the post area, and we can score it or play offense from that spot on the floor. There are multiple guys that can play in pick-and-roll action or dribble handoff action or on-ball screening action. There are a lot of different areas you could go offensively with this group. It's not limited."

The Bearcats will be facing a non-conference schedule that certainly will prepare them well for running the Big 12 gauntlet. In the non-league portion of the schedule alone, Cincinnati will face seven NCAA Tournament teams from a season ago. The Bearcats will face Mount St. Mary's, Alabama State and Lipscomb at Fifth Third Arena, Louisville downtown at Heritage Bank Center, Xavier on the road in the Crosstown Shootout, Georgia at Holiday Hoopsgiving at State Farm Arena in Atlanta and Clemson in the Greenville Winter Invitational at Bon Secours Wellness Arena.

The Big 12 slate opens against reigning regular-season and tournament champion Houston at Fifth Third Arena before road games at West Virginia Jan. 6 and UCF Jan. 11. The Bearcats return home for matchups with Colorado Jan. 14 and Iowa State Jan. 17 before a trip west to Arizona Jan. 21 and Arizona State Jan. 24. January concludes with a home contest against Baylor Jan. 28 and a road matchup in Houston Jan. 31.

The Bearcats open a string of three of four at Fifth Third Arena against West Virginia Feb. 5. Cincinnati welcomes UCF Feb. 8 and Utah Feb. 15 around a road matchup at Kansas State Feb. 11. Trips to Kansas and Texas Tech follow on Feb. 21 and Feb. 24, respectively, before the Bearcats host Oklahoma State Feb. 28 and BYU for a Senior Night matchup March 3. The regular season concludes March 7 with a road contest at TCU.

The Phillips 66 Big 12 Men's Basketball Championship is March 10-14 at Kansas City's T-Mobile Center.



SEASON PREVIEW

CONT'D.



"I've enjoyed this group," Miller added. "I've really, genuinely enjoyed the time on the court with this group. Like anything else, you have to find your why, and I enjoy just walking out onto the court and doing what I love to do every day. This group has been as fun to work with as any group I've coached. And again, we have a long way to go and a lot to go through, but I have enjoyed this group a lot."

This group of Bearcats do have a long way to go, but they have all the necessary parts to compete and excel in 2025-26.



SPORTS MEDICINE

The University of Cincinnati's sports medicine program is responsible not only for helping student-athletes make speedy recoveries from injuries, but also for preventing injuries from occurring.

UC's sports medicine program, in partnership with NovaCare Rehabilitation, takes a comprehensive approach to injury care and the overall wellness of the University's nearly 500 student-athletes. The program utilizes state-of-the-art diagnostic and treatment equipment along with the latest methods in injury care and prevention.

The goal is to help UC's student-athletes return to the classroom and the playing field at 100-percent capacity. New student-athletes undergo thorough evaluations before participating to detect potential issues, and all student-athletes are afforded advanced therapeutic care.

During the summer of 2011, following an extensive departmental review, UC decided to outsource its sports medicine operations to Select Medical, the parent company of NovaCare Rehabilitation, which has been UC's long-time provider of rehabilitation services.

Under the direction of Senior Associate AD Bob Mangine and UC Athletics' Chief of Staff Brad Pike, UC's athletic trainers serve as the backbone of the sports medicine program.

Mangine, who works with men's basketball and men's golf, is entering his 51st year as a collegiate athletic trainer and is in his second rotation at UC, having returned in 2002 and previously serving in multiple roles within the department. He currently serves as the head trainer for men's basketball and oversees the year-round health and wellness program for UC athletes, drawing on over four decades of experience in sports medicine, including work with amateur and professional athletes, the Olympics and the Goodwill Games.

Mike Donaworth is entering his 11th season as the men's basketball team physician, and Adrienne Maniktala is a physical therapy intern working with men's basketball this season.





SPORTS PERFORMANCE

THE MONSTER FACTORY

Championship basketball programs establish a consistent strength and conditioning regimen year-round. The focus is on athletic enhancement through physical development, education and reinforcement, providing elite-level professional training tailored to the needs of each athlete. The goal of the program is to optimize functional basketball strength, power, quickness, agility, flexibility, speed, injury prevention and conditioning, purposefully bridging the gap between the weight room and the court. The success of both the team and individual players is built on preparation, commitment and development.

University of Cincinnati Senior Associate Athletic Director of Sports Performance Mike Rehfeldt returned to UC after a short stint at the University of Connecticut (2020-2021 season) and has been part of Bearcats Men's Basketball since June 2021.

"I was thrilled to return to Cincinnati and join Coach Wes Miller and his staff," Rehfeldt said. "What I love about being a coach is the ability to foster deep and meaningful relationships, be part of something greater than myself, and have the daily opportunity to positively impact others. There is nothing more rewarding than watching student-athletes grow and develop—not just on the court but as people."

Rehfeldt oversees the physical development of UC players, helping them perform optimally while reducing the risk of injury. He is closely involved in preparing each player for practices and games through nutrition, recovery and education. His efforts have been instrumental in the development of former Bearcats Sean Kilpatrick, Troy Caupain, Gary Clark, and Jacob Evans III, all of whom have gone on to play professionally in the NBA. In 2022, Rehfeldt played a key role in hiring Dillon Frees, UC's first Director of Performance Nutrition, to guide student-athletes in proper fueling strategies. Initiatives include team nutrition education, Kroger field trips, updated menu options at the Gould Family Dining Hall at the Sheakley Indoor Practice Facility and sharing simple, healthy recipes via the Instagram account @gobearcats.fuel.

The 4,000-square-foot University of Cincinnati basketball-specific Sports Performance Center, known as the Monster Factory, is designed to bridge the gap between physical development in the weight room and performance on the court. The facility features customized equipment, an in-house sports science laboratory, a BlazePod reactive intelligence wall for vision training, and force plate technology. Fans can follow along on Instagram at @monster_factory_uc.



HEAD COACH KATRINA MERRIWEATHER

THIRD SEASON

Katrina Merriweather enters her third season as head coach of the University of Cincinnati women's basketball program, continuing to guide the Bearcats through their transition into the Big 12. One of the fastest-rising coaches in the country, Merriweather has amassed 180 wins in nine seasons as a head coach, leading three different programs to six postseason appearances, including two NCAA Tournaments. The former Bearcat captain and one of the winningest players in school history has quickly revitalized her alma mater, delivering Cincinnati's first winning season since 2019-20 and first postseason appearance since 2019 with a berth in the 2024 WNIT. Under Merriweather, UC posted its best non-conference winning percentage since 2005-06, strung together its longest win streak since 2019-20, and earned its first SEC win in nearly two decades. The Bearcats also led the Big 12 and ranked among the nation's top five in made free throws per game, while forward Jillian Hayes became the first player in program history to earn All-Big 12 honors.

Before returning to Cincinnati, Merriweather transformed Memphis into a contender, guiding the Tigers to their first 20-win season in more than a decade and a WNIT Sweet 16 berth in 2023. She turned a four-win team into a 38-23 program in just two years, clinching the highest AAC regular-season finish in school history and producing three All-Conference players. Merriweather previously built Wright State into a Horizon League power, winning three Coach of the Year awards, two league tournament titles, and the program's first NCAA Tournament game in 2021. She finished her five-year tenure with a program-record .706 winning percentage (113-47) and seven postseason appearances as either a head coach or assistant.

Internationally, Merriweather helped USA Basketball earn a silver medal at the 2023 FIBA Women's AmeriCup in León, Mexico, serving as a bench coach after previously assisting with the 2021 U19 National Team Trials.

A four-year letterwinner under Hall of Fame coach Laurie Pirtle from 1997-01, Merriweather became UC's first player to advance to four consecutive postseasons and later helped the Bearcats to their first NCAA Tournament win as a graduate assistant. The Indianapolis native holds two degrees from Cincinnati—English literature (2001) and secondary education (2002)—and remains deeply connected to the program she now leads. She is committed to building a championship-caliber program that reflects the pride and tradition of Bearcats basketball.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COACHING STAFF



**ASHLEY
BARLOW**
ASSOCIATE COACH
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR



**ABBY
JUMP**
ASSOCIATE COACH
RECRUITING COORDINATOR



**KATRINA
MERRIWEATHER**
ASSOCIATE COACH
DIRECTOR OF CULTURE
DEVELOPMENT



**ABBY
OWINGS**
ASSISTANT COACH
DIRECTOR OF SCOUTING AND
ANALYTICS



**MICHAL
MILLER**
ASSISTANT COACH
DIRECTOR OF PLAYER
DEVELOPMENT



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

2025-26 ROSTER

1 MYA PERRY

G | 5'11" | SR. | REYNOLDSBURG, OH

Mya Perry joins Cincinnati after transferring from FAU, where she started all 29 games for the Owls and led the team in scoring with a career-best 450 points while topping the roster in 3-point percentage, 3-pointers made, field goals made, and steals per game. A three-year letter-winner at Reynoldsburg Summit High School, she finished as the program's all-time leading scorer and three-point leader, earning all-state and all-conference first team honors and a spot on the Super 10 team. Known for her sharpshooting, versatility, and defensive presence, Perry adds scoring, athleticism, and leadership to the Bearcats' roster.



2 PAIGE WHITTED

G | 5'9" | FR. | MEMPHIS, TN

Paige Whitted, a shooting guard from Memphis, Tennessee, joins Cincinnati after a standout career at Briarcrest Christian Academy under coach Lee Smith. She competed in the BCAT All-Star Game and earned Division II-AA All-State honors while collecting First Team All-Region recognition. Averaging 11 points, four rebounds, two assists, and two steals per game in high school, Whitted is known for her scoring ability, defensive instincts, and versatility, bringing depth and athleticism to the Bearcats' backcourt.





WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

2025-26 ROSTER

3 REAGAN JACKSON

G | 5'8 | JR. | FORT WORTH, TX

Reagan Jackson, a guard from Texas, started all 29 games during the 2024–25 season and notched 12 double-digit scoring performances, including a career-high 29 points with five three-pointers in a win over Western Illinois. She poured in 24 points with six three-pointers in the Big 12 Championship first-round matchup against Arizona State and recorded a career-high seven assists vs. West Virginia while surpassing 500 career points. Jackson made an immediate impact as a freshman, starting 26 of 32 games and posting six double-digit scoring performances. A star at Kennedale High School, Jackson brings scoring, playmaking, and leadership to the Bearcats' backcourt.



4 CALIYAH DeVILLASEE

G | 5'8" | FR. | OWINGS MILLS, MD

Caliyah Devillasee, a standout guard from Maryland, joins Cincinnati after a decorated high school career at Our Lady of Good Counsel, where she surpassed 1,000 career points. Ranked the No. 1 player in Maryland by Prep Hoops and No. 62 in the ESPNW 2025 class, Devillasee is a four-star recruit (93 Scouts Grade) and a McDonald's All-American Games nominee. She earned Washington Post All-Met Third Team honors, was a Maryland Gatorade Player of the Year nominee, and a two-time WCAC First-Team selection. A proven winner at the national level, she played for Adidas 3SSB 17u – Elevate Elite, winning the 16u Adidas 3SSB championship in 2023, and earned Adidas All-American recognition in 2023 and 2024, bringing elite scoring and playmaking to the Bearcats' backcourt.





WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

2025-26 ROSTER

8 JOYA CRAWFORD

G | 5'8 | FR. | DYERSBURG, TN

Joya Crawford, a prolific scorer from Dyersburg High School in Tennessee, joins Cincinnati after a standout prep career in which she scored over 2,000 points and set the school record with 44 points in a single game. A McDonald's All-American Games nominee and Tennessee Miss Basketball finalist, Crawford helped lead her team to the 2024 TSSAA Class AAA State Championship, earning State Tournament MVP honors. She was a two-time Tennessee Offensive Player of the Year, a four-time District 13AAA First-Team selection, and a multiple-time Region 7AA Tournament MVP, recognized by the Tennessee Sports Writers Association, Tennessee Basketball Coaches Association, and BCAT. Known for her scoring ability, leadership, and competitive fire, Crawford adds elite talent and versatility to the Bearcats' roster.



9 DEE ALEXANDER

G | 6'2" | FR. | CINCINNATI, OH

Dee Alexander, the highest-ranked recruit in program history, joins Cincinnati as a five-star guard ranked No. 11 in the final ESPNW 2025 class and the No. 1 player in Ohio by Prep Hoops. A McDonald's All-American and the first Cincinnati signee to earn that honor, Alexander also competed in the Nike Hoop Summit, Jordan Brand Classic, and Ballislife All-American Games. At Purcell Marian, she was a three-time Ohio Ms. Basketball winner, four-time OHSAA state champion, and the school's all-time leading scorer. Alexander earned back-to-back Ohio Gatorade Player of the Year awards and represented Team USA, winning gold at the 2023 FIBA U16 Championship. Known for her scoring, playmaking, and championship pedigree, Alexander brings elite talent, leadership, and versatility to the roster.





WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

2025-26 ROSTER

10 KYLIE TORRENCE

F | 6'2" | FR. | HIGH POINT, NC

Kylie Torrence joins Cincinnati after a standout career at Winston-Salem Christian, where she averaged 20 points, nine rebounds, and three assists per game while serving as a team captain and earning conference MVP honors. She played three seasons with Elevate Elite, helping lead the team to an undefeated run and an Adidas Nationals championship in 2023. Known for her scoring, rebounding, and leadership, Torrence brings versatility, competitive drive, and championship experience to the Bearcats' roster.



14 RAMIYAH BYRD

F | 5'11" | R-SO. | COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

Ramiyah Byrd, a forward from Colorado, appeared in 28 games during the 2024–25 season, recording a career-high four blocks against West Virginia and multiple strong rebounding and scoring performances. Byrd made her collegiate debut vs. UIC and had a season highlight with six rebounds in 12 minutes against Kansas State. She prepped at Spire Institute and Academy in Geneva, Ohio, under former WNBA player Candice Wiggins, after transferring from The Vanguard School in Colorado Springs, where she was named the 2021 3A Gazette Player of the Year and led her team to its first-ever 3A semifinals. Known for her defensive presence, versatility, and athleticism, Byrd adds energy, shot-blocking, and interior toughness to Cincinnati's frontcourt.





WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

2025-26 ROSTER

21 KALI BARRETT

F | 6'2" | FR. | BRADENTON, FL

Kali Barrett, a standout forward from Florida, joins Cincinnati after a record-setting career at Cardinal Mooney High School, where she became the all-time leading scorer and led the team to its first Class 3A State Championship in 2024–25. Ranked the No. 4 player in Florida by Prep Hoops and a three-star recruit by ESPNW, Barrett finished her senior season with 513 points and a state-leading 24 double-doubles. She earned two-time FACA All-State honors, Sarasota-Manatee Player of the Year recognition, and three consecutive 3A Regional and District Championships. A proven leader with elite scoring, rebounding, and defensive skills, Barrett brings versatility and championship experience to the Bearcats' roster.



25 ALLIANCE NDIBA

F | 6'3" | R-SR. | LUBUMBASHI, CONGO

Alliance Ndiba, a forward from Congo, appeared in 19 games with 18 starts during the 2024–25 season, averaging 4.9 points, 7.1 rebounds, and 1.2 blocks per game while shooting 50.6% from the field. She recorded career highs of 12 rebounds, nine offensive boards, and four blocks in a win over Colorado and posted four double-digit rebounding performances. Ndiba made an immediate impact at Cincinnati after a decorated junior college career at Arizona Western, where she was a NJCAA Division I First Team All-American, ACCAC Player of the Year, and a consistent double-double machine. Known for her rebounding, shot-blocking, and defensive presence, Ndiba brings toughness, athleticism, and championship-level experience to the Bearcats' frontcourt.





WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

2025-26 ROSTER

32 DESTINY THOMAS

C | 6'4" | SR. | JONESBORO, AK

Destiny Thomas, a forward from Arkansas, appeared in 25 games with 17 starts during the 2023–24 season, averaging 4.8 points and 3.9 rebounds per game while shooting 51.8% from the field. She notched her first career double-double with 13 points and 12 rebounds vs. Lindenwood and tied her career-high with 13 points against Kentucky. A transfer from Memphis, Thomas was named to the AAC All-Freshman Team and averaged 4.7 points and 5.8 rebounds per game as a freshman. A standout at Jonesboro High School in Arkansas, she helped lead her team to two state runner-up finishes and a 5A State Championship in 2021. Known for her rebounding, efficiency, and interior presence, Thomas provides toughness and versatility to Cincinnati's frontcourt.



33 DELANEY SNYDER

C | 6'5" | JR. | RICHMOND, VA

Delaney Snyder, a versatile forward from Virginia, appeared in 29 games during the 2024–25 season, making seven starts and contributing key minutes off the bench. She posted career highs with four blocks at West Virginia and seven rebounds vs. Marshall, while scoring seven points in just 10 minutes against BYU. Snyder made her first career start vs. Houston, finishing with five points and five rebounds in 15 minutes, and provided consistent energy and defensive presence throughout the season. A standout prep player at TPLS Christian Academy who also competed in volleyball and played club basketball with FBC Havoc, Snyder brings toughness, versatility, and athleticism to the Bearcats' frontcourt.





WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

2025-26 ROSTER

42 MARY CARDEN

C | 6'6" | SO. | IDABEL, OK

Mary Carden joins Cincinnati after a freshman season at Oral Roberts, where she appeared in 28 games and reached double figures three times, including 11 points and nine rebounds against Oklahoma City. A standout in high school, Carden surpassed 1,000 points and 1,000 rebounds, won the 2024 state championship, and earned MVP honors at the Winter Classic. Known for her scoring, rebounding, and all-around impact, Carden brings versatility, athleticism, and a competitive edge to the Bearcats' frontcourt.



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SUPPORT STAFF

SYMONE DENHAM

Assistant General Manager



ANA OWENS

Director of Basketball Operations



LAYAH NEAL

Sport Program Associate



NATOSHA GOTTLIEB

Director, Sports Performance



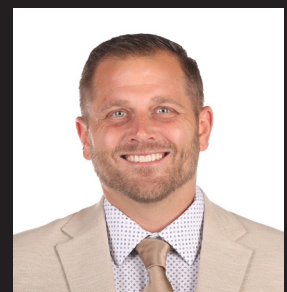
ELISE SUM

Performance Dietician



NATE HOFFMEIER
















Athletic Trainer













CINCINNATI WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

2025-26 SCHEDULE



	TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4	LEHIGH	CINCINNATI, OH Fifth Third Arena
	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7	AT PENN STATE	UNIVERSITY PARK, PA Bryce Jordan Center
	TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11	AT SAINT JOSEPH'S	PHILADELPHIA, PA Hagan Arena
	SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16	GEORGETOWN (KY)	CINCINNATI, OH Fifth Third Arena
	THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20	AT BALL STATE	MUNCIE, IN Worthen Arena
	SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23	CANISIUS	CINCINNATI, OH Fifth Third Arena
	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28	ALABAMA A&M^	FORT MYERS, FL
	SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29	NEW MEXICO^	FORT MYERS, FL
	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3	MIAMI (OH)	CINCINNATI, OH Fifth Third Arena
	SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7	XAVIER*	CINCINNATI, OH Fifth Third Arena
	SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13	UNLV	CINCINNATI, OH Fifth Third Arena
	TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16	HOWARD	CINCINNATI, OH Fifth Third Arena
	SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21	OKLAHOMA STATE*	CINCINNATI, OH Fifth Third Arena
	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31	AT KANSAS STATE*	MANHATTAN, KS Bramlage Coliseum
	SATURDAY, JANUARY 3	AT COLORADO*	BOULDER, CO CU Events Center

	WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7	IOWA STATE*	CINCINNATI, OH Fifth Third Arena
	SATURDAY, JANUARY 10	TEXAS TECH*	CINCINNATI, OH Fifth Third Arena
	WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14	AT UCF*	ORLANDO, FL Addition Financial Arena
	SUNDAY, JANUARY 18	WEST VIRGINIA*	CINCINNATI, OH Fifth Third Arena
	WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21	AT IOWA STATE*	AMES, IA Hilton Coliseum
	SATURDAY, JANUARY 24	ARIZONA STATE*	CINCINNATI, OH Fifth Third Arena
	SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1	AT HOUSTON*	HOUSTON, TX Fertitta Center
	WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4	BAYLOR	CINCINNATI, OH Fifth Third Arena
	SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7	AT KANSAS*	LAWRENCE, KS Allen Fieldhouse
	TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10	ARIZONA*	CINCINNATI, OH Fifth Third Arena
	SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14	AT UTAH*	SALT LAKE CITY, UT Jon M. Huntsman Center
	TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17	AT BYU*	PROVO, UT J. Willard Marriott Center
	SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21	UCF*	CINCINNATI, OH Fifth Third Arena
	WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25	TCU*	CINCINNATI, OH Fifth Third Arena
	SUNDAY, MARCH 1	AT WEST VIRGINIA*	MORGANTOWN, WV WVU Coliseum

^ - Florida Gulf Classic | ^ - Skyline Chili Crosstown Shootout
* - Big 12 Game | Home Games in **BOLD**, dates subject to change



CINCINNATI MEN'S BASKETBALL COMPLIANCE

ARE YOU A BOOSTER? IF YOU ARE READING THIS, YOU PROBABLY ARE!

A booster, also known as “a representative of UC’s athletic interests,” is someone who has ever:

- Contributed to a collective that supports UC
- Been a member of an organization promoting UC Athletics (UCATS).
- Contributed to the Department of Athletics or its booster organization.
- Made any financial contributions to any area of UC.
- Assisted in the recruitment of prospects for UC.
- Provided benefits (e.g., summer jobs or occasional meals) to prospects, enrolled student-athletes or their families.
- Been a season ticket-holder in any sport at UC at any time.
- Promoted the athletics program at UC in any way.
- Remember, once you become a booster, you retain that identity indefinitely.

SO I'M A BOOSTER, WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

As a booster, you are expected to abide by all NCAA, Big XII, and UC rules and regulations when it comes to your interaction and involvement with UC athletics, our student-athletes, and any potential recruits. As a booster, there are a few key things to be aware of, but the most important is to Ask Before You Act! UC Athletics Compliance is here to help you. A few other things to know:

PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETES (PSAs):

A PSA is any student that has started classes for the 9th grade or any college athletes at other institutions. A student can also become a PSA if they receive any benefits not available to all PSAs. There are limitations for boosters and institutional staff when interacting with PSAs. A student remains a PSA until they sign an athletic scholarship or accept admission to UC; they complete all academic requirements for high school or transfer; and they receive a benefit from UC.

SOCIAL MEDIA, PSAs, AND YOU!

You should NOT contact a PSA (or their family) to encourage attendance at UC. This includes commenting on a PSA's social media feed, @replies, mentions, and direct messaging. However, you may follow PSAs on social media (X/Instagram, etc).

Coaches also have these same social media expectations. They are also not permitted to comment on any PSAs publicly (includes verbally) except to confirm if we are recruiting them. Please do not pressure them to share inside recruiting information!

NAME, IMAGE, AND LIKENESS (NIL)

- Compensation is tied to the NIL activities: there is a valid business purpose for their deliverables and those deliverables are directly tied to their compensation
- Payment is not based on athletic participation and separate from team activities
- Payment is not an inducement to attend UC
- Pay is tied to the fair market value for the SA's service
- Student-Athlete (SA) reports the deal through NIL Go (<https://nilgo.com/login>)

TOP 10 NCAA RULES FOR BOOSTERS

ASK BEFORE YOU ACT! Please reach out to the compliance staff before any interactions with our student-athletes or any PSAs/recruits. We value your support of UC and want to make sure that can continue!

DON'T RECRUIT! The only persons who can permissibly contact a recruit are UC Coaches and authorized Department of Athletics Staff members. Boosters may NOT make any recruiting contact with PSAs or their relatives. This includes not making phone calls, sending DMs or emails, or making face-to-face contact with a PSA. If there is someone you think would be a great fit at UC, please share their info with our coaching staff.

NO FACE-TO-FACE CONTACT WITH PSAs You may see PSAs on campus, especially on game days. Game days are a great time for us to show off our campus and all UC has to offer. However, you are NOT permitted to have face-to-face contact with these PSAs nor are they permitted to be contacted by the media. Please continue to cheer on our current Bearcats and leave the visitors to our UC staff.

FEED THE STUDENT-ATHLETES! SAs may be invited to the home of a booster on an infrequent basis to have an “occasional meal.” These meals may be provided in the home of a booster, on-campus, or at an off-campus restaurant. Please reach out to UC Compliance for the Occasional Meal Form before hosting any student-athletes.

GIVE THEM A JOB (BUT ONLY AFTER HS GRADUATION!) Boosters are allowed to employ UC students AND PSAs, but only after they have graduated high school. They should be paid the going rate for their role and compensated for work actually performed. Reach out to the compliance office prior to offering any SAs or PSAs a job.

ENTER LEGITIMATE NIL DEALS WITH OUR SAs! Boosters are permitted and encouraged to do NIL deals with our student-athletes! NIL deals must have a valid business purpose and SAs must be paid the fair market value for the deal. SAs must submit all deals through the NIL GO platform (<https://nilgo.com/login>).

NO LOANS! Boosters may not be involved in providing or co-signing any type of loan (e.g., cosigning on an apartment) for a student-athlete, a PSA, or their family or friends. If a SA is concerned about their finances, you can enter valid NIL deals with them or hire them into a bonified job.

NO EXTRA BENEFITS OR INDUCEMENTS! Boosters may not provide extra benefits to current UC SAs and their families or provide inducements to any PSAs. Special arrangements or discounts, including use of a car, phone, house, boat, lodging, or discounts on any of these goods or services are NOT permitted.

SORRY, CAPTAIN MORGAN! While SAs are permitted to enter into NIL deals to promote various goods, there are certain product types student-athletes may not be involved with including liquor, gambling, and tobacco.

DON'T ASK FOR INSIDER INFORMATION! Sports gambling has been legalized across the nation, but UC SAs and staff are NOT permitted to gamble on any NCAA-sponsored sports at any level. This includes but is not limited to paying money to participate in fantasy pro-sports leagues or betting the over/under at a college game. All SAs and staff are also prohibited from sharing any inside information that could affect the outcome of the game with anyone that may place a bet. Don't put our students' eligibility at risk and ask for information to help you win a bet!