



Postgame Notes

Game 2: Cincinnati vs. Western Carolina

Sept. 12, 2026 | Nippert Stadium

Team Notes

- With the 62-10 win over Western Carolina, Cincinnati moves to 2-0 for the first time since 2023 (Satterfield's first season in Clifton). It marks the Bearcats' 12th 2-0 start since 2000 (2000, 2003, 2007, 2009, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, 2021, and 2023).
- Cincinnati improves to 40-16 (71.4%) in "Nippert at Night" games since 2006.
- Since 2020, Cincinnati has enjoyed a 30-12 home record at Nippert Stadium, good for 30th best in the nation.
- Cincinnati is a perfect 21-0 against FCS opponents since 2000, outscoring those foes 997-191 for an average margin of victory of 38.4 points per game. Cincinnati is 74-32-2 all-time against FCS opponents.
- Cincinnati is now an unbelievable 166-8 when scoring 30 or more points at home.
- Today's game captains were MJ Cannon, Max Fletcher, JC French IV.
- Tight end Lyviel Waters, defensive lineman Thomas Johnson, and inside linebacker Filip Maciorowski made their first starts with the Bearcats Saturday night.
- Cincinnati's all-time record now stands at 676-620-51.
- Cincinnati improves to 2-0 all-time vs. Western Carolina as their previously meeting was a Bearcats victory in 2005.
- Cincinnati won the coin toss improving to a 2-0 record in the toss this season.
- Cincinnati scored over 40 points; they scored over 40 on three separate occasions a season ago.

Offensive Notes

- The Bearcats put up 690 yards of offense against the Catamounts, the fifth time under head coach Scott Satterfield that his team had at least 600 yards of offense. The 690 yards of offense ranks fifth all-time in school history.
- UC rushed for 418 yards, the sixth-most in a game in program history and the most since 1970 vs. Xavier.
- The last Big 12 team to rush for at least 400 yards and seven touchdowns in a game was Oklahoma State in 2021.
- Quarterback JC French ended his day with 245 passing yards, completing 21-of-24 passes, for two touchdowns.

- It was the 14th time in French's career he had multiple touchdown passes in a game.
- French's completion percentage (87.5%) is the highest by a Cincinnati quarterback in a single game with at least 20 attempts since at least 1996.
- French completed nine of his first 10 pass attempts, with each completion going to a different receiver.
- Combining Liam O'Brien (5-for-5) and Samaj Jones' (2-for-2) totals with French's output, Cincinnati's quarterbacks completed 90.3% of their passes, the third time UC has completed at least 90% of its passes since 1996 and the second time it has happened under Satterfield. The Bearcats completed 21-of-23 passes (91.3%) last year against Northwestern State.
- Thirteen different Bearcats ended up catching at least one pass. The last time UC had at least 10 different players log a reception was Sept. 21, 2024 vs. Houston.
- French ended the first half completing 13 consecutive passes. He completed 17-of-18 pass attempts in the first half. He completed his first pass in the second half before another incomplection, bringing his streak to 14.
- Running back Gi'Bran Payne led UC in rushing on Saturday 102 rushing yards on 12 carries while adding two touchdowns, his first career multi-touchdown game.
- Fellow running backs Zylan Perry and Cole Tabb added 76 and 72 yards, respectively, and quarterbacks Samaj Jones and JC French both had 52 yards rushing.
- Cincinnati's seven rushing touchdowns are the most in a game in the 21st century, besting the previous high of six rushing TDs. The last time UC rushed for six rushing scores in a game was 2021 against UCF.
- Six different players rushed for touchdowns on Saturday: running backs Gi'Bran Payne (2), Cole Tabb, Zylan Perry, and Zion Johnson, as well as quarterbacks Liam O'Brien and Samaj Jones. That ties a Big 12 record, most recently achieved by Kansas State in its season opener last week.
- Payne's 40-yard rushing touchdown in the third quarter was the longest rush of his career and his first rushing touchdown since 2023 against Stanford when he was at Notre Dame.
- Cole Tabb's 36-yard score marked the longest touchdown run of his career, though his overall career-long rush remains a 39-yard gain against NC State in 2024.
- Zion Johnson rushed for a 3-yard score at the end of the second quarter, his second career touchdown.
- The last time Cincinnati rushed for at least five touchdowns in a game was Oct. 16, 2021 against UCF. The Bearcats had six rushing TDs in that game. That was also the last time UC had three running backs rush for a touchdown, when Kiner, Myles Montgomery, and Charles McClelland did so.

- Wide receiver JV Gibson caught the first touchdown of the game, a 5-yard pass from JC French IV with 3:37 to go in the first quarter, Gibson's second touchdown as in as many games.
- Tight end Lyviel Waters had his first collegiate career catch, a 2-yard pass from French for a touchdown with 12:35 left in the second quarter, extending the lead 14-3.
- Malachi Henry's 56-yard completion in the third quarter was UC's longest scrimmage play so far this season.
- Cincinnati's offense scored a touchdown on all four of their possessions in the first half, converting a perfect six-for-six on third downs.
- The offense put up an impressive 160 rushing yards in the third quarter.

Defensive Notes

- After allowing a touchdown early in the second quarter, UC's defense forced three-and-outs on two of the next three drives.
- Over Western Carolina's final five drives of the game, Cincinnati allowed the Catamounts to gain just 16 yards of offense. Of those five drives, three ended in a three-and-out and one ended with an interception.
- Junior Marqavious Saboor picked off a pass in the fourth quarter, the first interception of his career.
- Cincinnati has begun the year +3 in turnover margin as the offense did not commit a turnover tonight or last week vs. BC.
- Damaine Wilson and Simeon Coleman led UC with seven tackles apiece. For Coleman, that constitutes a career-high tackle total.

Special Teams Notes

- Max Fletcher's first punt of the night was a 53-yard boot that pinned Western Carolina at its own 12-yard line. For Fletcher, it was his 53rd career punt to land inside the 20-yard line and his 44th career punt of at least 50 yards.
- Stephen Rusnak connected on all seven of his PATs and is now 58-for-58 as a Bearcat.