Postgame Notes
Game 6: Cincinnati at West Virginia
Oct. 17, 2026 | Milan Puskar Stadium

Team Notes

- Cincinnati fell to 4-2 (1-2 Big 12) with a 45-42 loss Saturday afternoon to West Virginia.
- Today's game captains were Antwan Peek Jr., JC French, and Evan Tengesdahl, the same trio for the third consecutive game.
- Cincinnati's all-time record now stands at 677-622-51.
- The Mountaineers lead the all-time series against the Bearcats, 19–3–1. WVU has won the last five meetings dating back to 2010.
- The Bearcats' last win in the series came in 2009, a 24–21 victory at Nippert Stadium. The last time UC defeated WVU in Morgantown was in 2008 (26–23 in OT), when both programs were members of the Big East.
- The Bearcats' next three opponents—No. 10 Texas Tech, No. 11 Utah, and No. 20 Houston are all currently ranked in the AP Poll. Cincinnati's remaining six opponents feature a combined record of 28-10 (.758 winning percentage) entering play today, ranking as the 6th-highest remaining opponent winning percentage in college football and highlighting a challenging back-half slate.
- Lyviel Waters made his second start of the season at tight end.
- Today's noon kickoff marked Cincinnati's first noon kickoff time of the season.

Offensive Notes

- Cincinnati posted 622 yards of total offense, its second most of the season and its most against an FBS opponent since last season at Kansas.
- Cincinnati's 21 first half points were its second most in the first half this season trailing 28 points scored vs. Western Carolina (9/12).
- Cincinnati posted 366 yards of offense in the first half, the most in an opening half this season.
- JC French finished the afternoon passing 22-of-30 for 389 yards and three touchdowns with zero interceptions to go along with 52 rushing yards and a score on the ground. 389 yards was a career high in passing.

- French's 441 yards of total offense rank as the sixth-most by a Bearcat in a single game, all time.
- French's three passing touchdowns were his most as Bearcat and his third career three passing touchdown game.
- Quarterback JC French's 25-yard first-quarter rush was a career-high.
- French passed 10-for-15 for 205 yards and two touchdowns in the first half.
- French's completion to receiver Malachi Henry for a 69-yard gain in the first quarter was Cincinnati's longest play from scrimmage this season and was also the longest of French's career.
- The score at 8:53 in the first quarter marked the quickest Cincinnati has scored its first points in a game this season. It was the second time this season when Cincinnati scored a touchdown on its first drive of the game.
- Junior wide receiver Isaiah Johnson took a quick forward pass 51 yards for a second-quarter touchdown, marking his first score of the 2026 season and his longest reception of the fall.
- Cole Tabb broke loose on a 28-yard rushing touchdown in the second quarter and scored his second of the game on an 11-yard receiving touchdown in the fourth quarter before his six-yard rushing score in the fourth quarter for his third three-touchdown game of the season.
- Tabb has eight rushing scores and two receiving scores, bringing his total to 10 touchdowns on the season.
- Tabb now has four rushing touchdowns of 20-plus yards.
- Tabb rushed for 118 yards, his second 100-yard game of the season.
- JV Gibson tied his season best in receptions with seven, to go along with 75 yards and a touchdown.
- Malachi Henry totaled two explosive catches of 69 and 59 yards for 128 receiving yards.
- Tight end Ka'Maurri Smith logged his first career reception in the first quarter, a 4-yarder.
- Earlier this week standout left guard Evan Tengesdahl was named a AP midseason Second Team All-America selection.

Defensive Notes

- The Mountaineers entered the game with the nation's fifth-best and the Big 12's No. 1 rushing offense (295.5 yards per game), while WVU running back Cam Cook came in leading the Big 12 and ranking fifth nationally with 132.2 rushing yards per game, but the Bearcats held Cook to just 40 yards on 15 carries and WVU overall to only 134 yards on 46 carries.
- Simeon Coleman recorded a five-yard sack on third-and-13 with 7:37 left in the second quarter, forcing West Virginia to punt.

- Jonathan Thompson recorded a career-best 15 tackles, the most since Ivan Pace had 17 against Louisville in the 2022 Wasabi Fenway Bowl. His 15 tackles were also the most under Head coach Scott Satterfield in his Cincinnati tenure.
- Patrick Bauer posted a career-best 3.5 tackles for loss.

Special Teams Notes

- In the second quarter, Max Fletcher booted a 59-yard punt to pin West Virginia on its own 15-yard line — the punt marked his 60th career punt inside the 20-yard line.
- With 2:16 left in the game, Fletcher unleashed an impressive 66-yard punt that rolled its way to the Mountaineers 1-yard line.