CINCINNATI BEARCATS

Big 12 Conference

Satterfield Starts from Scratch (Almost)

Cincinnati has had several coaches guide the Bearcats to excellent seasons but no coach put UC on the national stage like Luke Fickell did from 2017 to 2022. He's now with the Wisconsin Badgers but guided the Bearcats to five straight seasons of nine wins or more which directly correlated to the Big 12 inviting Cincinnati into the conference. As a previous member of the Big East, this program is accustomed to competing at the top of college football and won't be shellshocked by jumping up to the Big 12. That being said, a coaching change will make the first year in the Big 12 that much more challenging. Scott Satterfield is Fickell's replacement and whose previous stops were at Appalachian State and Louisville. Some Cardinal fans weren't particularly sad to see him go and he was on the hot seat at points last season, but Cincinnati feels like they have their guy. Don't judge Satterfield too quickly since the former App State quarterback inherits just nine returners in what is essentially a complete roster overhaul from last season.

Satterfield made an early splash in the transfer portal, pulling in quarterback **Emory Jones**. Jones is a former member of Florida and Arizona State and is a very mobile quarterback who has nearly two full seasons of starting experience. His time with the Sun Devils was forgettable and his rush yards plummeted from 759 with Florida in 2021 to just 31 in 2022. However, it's worth noting that Arizona State's football program was in a state of chaos last season after firing Herm Edwards just three weeks into the season. Connecting with Satterfield could be exactly what Jones needs to move on from last year. Louisville's Malik Cunningham threw for 9,187 yards, ran for 2,724 yards, and scored 109 total touchdowns over his four years in Satterfield's system. Expecting output like that from Jones would be a little unfair, but he could have his best season yet. He beat out last year's starter Ben Bryant for the job who then transferred to Northwestern. **Evan Prater** saw time at quarterback last season too but was still recovering from a shoulder injury and opted to change his position to wide receiver.

Prater is a great athlete and may see the field immediately due to an extremely thin receiver group. Only one scholarship player is back from last year's team at that position and Satterfield had no choice but to hit the transfer portal hard. **Xzavier Henderson** is a former teammate of Jones' and transfers in from Florida. **Braden Smith** and **Dee Wiggins** are just two of numerous transfers who followed Satterfield from Louisville. The Bearcats badly need players to emerge as the primary, reliable targets for Jones.

During the height of Cincinnati's recent power, their offense was centered around a dominant run game. That ground attack hit a six-year low in terms of yardage but Jones' dual-threat ability at quarterback should help. Cincinnati must replace the production of their top back Charles McClellan (849 yards) and will likely do it by committee with the trio of **Corey Kiner**, **Ryan Montgomery**, and **Ethan Wright**. The offensive line is relatively inexperienced and will be relying on transfers to fill key roles and produce immediately, so fixing the run game is no small task.

Despite losing a plethora of stars to the 2022 NFL draft (only Georgia lost more production than Cincinnati) the defense remained strong. Ivan Pace was a big reason and led both the Bearcats and the American Conference with 137 tackles, ten of which were sacks. His brother **Deshawn Pace** had 95 tackles in 2021 and 62 last season. **Donate Corleone** is a ferocious tackle who made three sacks. **Jowl Briggs** was a fellow first-team All-AAC player at defensive end. The D-line should be the strength of the defense if not the entire team. On the flip side, the secondary (and specifically the cornerbacks) remain a major question after allowing a minuscule 182.2 yards per game through the air last season. If UC has to play the field position game, they've got one of the best punters in the country in **Mason Fletcher.**

The Bottom Line: A more challenging schedule and a major transition from one coaching staff to the next spells out a difficult year for the Bearcats and threatens their five-year bowl streak. A trip to visit old conference rival Pittsburgh will be interesting and the Bearcats do at least avoid Texas, Kansas State, and TCU and host Oklahoma and Baylor. It's possible that Satterfield could eek out six wins and it's quite plausible if Jones has a strong comeback season.

Projection: 5-7 (13th in Big 12)

CINCINNATI BIO

National Championships - **0**

XO XO

Big 12 Championships: **0**

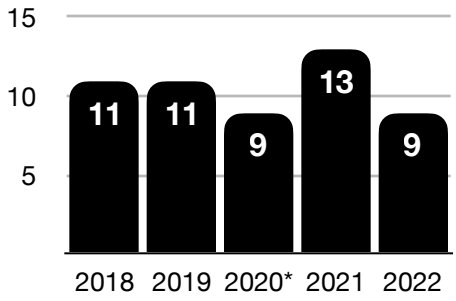
Location: **Cincinnati, OH**

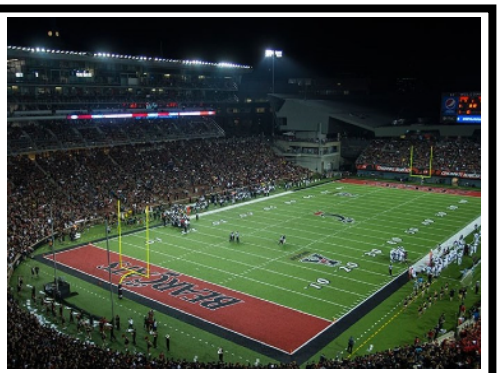
All-Time Record: **394-373-12**

2022 Results: **9-4**
Lost in Fenway Bowl

Head Coach: **Scott Satterfield**
1st Year (0-0)

5-YEAR WIN TREND





Nippert Stadium (40,000)

2022 Statistics

Points Scored	Rush Yards	Pass Yards	Turnover Margin
29.2	129.7	242.7	+6
59th in FBS	94th in FBS	55th in FBS	T-24th in FBS

Points Allowed	Rush YDS Allowed	Pass YDS Allowed
20.6	153.2	182.2
20th in FBS	72nd in FBS	11th in FBS

2023 Cincinnati Schedule

Week	Date	Team
1	Sat, Sept 2	vs. E. Kentucky
2	Sat, Sept 9	@ Pittsburgh
3	Sat, Sept 16	vs. Miami (OH)
4	Sat, Sept 23	**vs. Oklahoma**
5	Fri, Sept 29	**@ BYU**
6	Bye Week	
7	Sat, Oct 14	**vs. Iowa State**
8	Sat, Oct 21	**vs. Baylor**
9	Sat, Oct 28	**@ Oklahoma St.**
10	Sat, Nov 4	**vs. UCF**
11	Sat, Nov 11	**@ Houston**
12	Sat, Nov 18	**@ West Virginia**
13	Sat, Nov 25	**vs. Kansas**

Conference Games in Bold

KEY GAMES

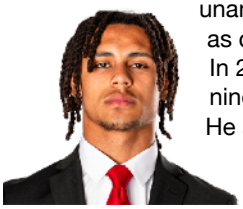
Sat, Sept 9: @ Pittsburgh - The "Paddlewheel Trophy" has been collecting dust since 2012 when the Bearcats and Panthers last met as Big East opponents. The rivalry is renewed and the Bearcats will have to take down a dangerous Pittsburgh team on the road.

Sat, Sept 23: vs. Oklahoma - Welcome to the Big 12, Cincinnati! The Sooners, led by Dillon Gabriel, figure to be at the top of the conference, but did I mention UC is an astonishing 31-1 at Nippert in the last five years?

Sat, Nov 25: vs. Kansas - Depending on how the rest of the season goes, Cincinnati may need a win against Kansas to claim a bowl bid. The defense will need to be ready against dynamic QB Jalon Daniels.

KEY PLAYERS

Deshawn Pace - LB



Deshawn got overshadowed a bit by his unanimous All-American brother Ivan but is just as capable of making a big impact at linebacker. In 2021 he impressed with 95 tackles including nine against Alabama in the Playoff semifinals. He added four interceptions, too. 2022 was a bit more lean with 62 tackles and one interception but there's no denying Pace's talent and instincts, and the Cincinnati kid should have another solid season.

Dontay Corleone - DT

Corleone is one of college football's most dominant tackles. PFF gave him a grade of 93.8 which was tops among any defensive player in all of FBS (via PFF). He swallows up running backs and he nabbed the quarterback three times and recorded 44 tackles. Even though Cincinnati's quality of opponents jumps up, Corleone should transition seamlessly and wreak havoc yet again.

2022 RESULTS (9-4)

@ Arkansas (L 24-31)
Kennesaw State (W 63-10)
Miami (OH) (W 38-17)
Indiana (W 45-24)
@ Tulsa (W 31-21)
South Florida (W 28-24)
@ SMU (W 29-27)
@ UCF (L 21-25)
Navy (W 20-10)
East Carolina (W 27-25)
@ Temple (W 23-3)
Tulane (L 24-27)
Louisville (L 7-24)

CINCINNATI BEARCATS

RECRUITING

2023 Class Ranking

74th

(Via 24/7 Sports)