

CINCINNATI BEARCATS



CINCINNATI DEFENSE

POSITION OUTLOOK FOR 2016

QUARTERBACKS - Not since 2005 has Cincinnati made it through a season without its backup QB's getting significant playing time. In '13 the starter was OFY Wk 2. In '14 they brought in Notre Dame transfer Gunner Kiel (PS#1). After 3 gms Kiel had topped 1,000 yds with a 14-2 ratio (17-11 after that). He inj'd his ribs vs Memphis (hit 11-27) and Munchie Legaux QB'd the 2H. Kiel threw for 3,254 (60%, 31-13, 142 rush) and his 2 bkps comb'd for 652. HC Tommy Tuberville said Hayden Moore is going to be a star here (RS '14). LY Kiel was regarded as a high NFL prospect. Against Temple, he threw for 427 but had 4 2H int's in the loss. Kiel was inj'd vs Miami, Oh. Moore had 4 TO in the 4Q but UC still held on. Kiel was injured again vs Memphis and Moore set an AAC/schl rec w/557 pass yds (Greg Cook '68). Tuberville stuck w/Moore vs Miami, FI and BYU but he struggled (50%) against the Cougars and Kiel started the next 6. Against UCF, Kiel became the 1st QB in the L2OY to have 15 comp's w/o a single incompleting (15-15). Kiel threw for a career high 523 vs Houston but cont'd to throw key int's (pick 6 vs Houston, 1Q vs USF). Moore played 2Q of the blowout loss (249 yds) to USF. Kiel missed the Bowl and Moore st'd. Kiel threw for 2,777 (65.2%, 19-11) while Moore added 1,885 (59.4%, 9-11). Kiel returns but with their top 5 rec's gone, this unit's numbers may go down (also more pro style than spread TV) despite 2 proven starters. Kiel missed the SG and rFr Ross Trail (PS#45) did enough in spring to be in the mix this fall.

RUNNING BACKS - In 2014 UC brought back their #1 rusher Hosey Williams (655, 5.7 '13) and #3 Tion Green (412, 4.5). Williams was OFY after 4 (140, 5.4). Green played in 3 but then was also OFY (118, 4.2). True Frosh Mike Boone (8-32 F/6) had 212 (19 att) vs USF and led w/650 (6.4). Moore was #2 w/618 (4.3). Last year they used a committee approach. Williams had 140 vs UConn (13 att, 84 yd run, 2nd long schl hist) and led w/775 (5.6). Boone was #2 w/749 (7.2, missed 2 w/inj) with the most 100 yard efforts (3) incl 118 vs Miami, Oh on just 4 att's. Green led w/127 in the opener and was #3 w/729 (4.8). Chad Banschbach added 72 (3.8) while Taylor Boose (6'0" 200, PS#107) and Joshuwa Hollomon (5'11" 188, PS#146) used their RS as true's. TY they lose Williams but with Green and Boone (explosive, great work ethic) back they have 67% of the RB rush yards returning.

RECEIVERS - In '14 the Bearcats returned 4 of their top 5 and Tuberville said it was the deepest receiving corps he had in his 18Y as a HC. Last year UC got their top 6 back. Shaq Washington led w/982 (2nd Tm AAC, 10.9) while setting UC rec's for rec's in a season (90) and career rec's (240). Chris Moore (#4DC BAL) was #2 w/870 (21.8) and broke Mardy Gilyard's school career td record w/26. Max Morrison was #3 (617, 11.9). Mekale McKay (UFA IND) put up 507 (18.8) while Alex Chisum added 475 (12.5). Johnny Holton (UFA OAK) had 461 (27.1) in just 8 gms. This year the Bearcats lose all 6 WR's. The top returnees are Nate Cole (262, 13.8) and TE DJ Dowdy (104, 8.7). They add two VHT transfers in Jamil Kamara (PS#19) from Virginia and Avery Peterson (PS#20) from LSU. The transfers will ease the pain but this group is depleted.

OFFENSIVE LINE - In '15 UC had to replace LT Eric Lefeld who was UC's first 3x 1st Tm All-Conferly's Jason Fabini (95-'97). The car sts ret still climbed to 76 allowing UC to show marked improvement (178 ypg, 4.5, 26 sk). TY they must replace 2x 1st Tm AAC LT Parker Ehinger (13/51, #4DC KC), RT Justin Murray (13/25, UFA DEN) and OG Chad West (3 st). The car sts ret drop to 62 but they do get back two 2nd Tm AAC OL's in C Deyshawn Bond (3Y str) and G Ryan Leahy. JB Grimes is the new OL coach after being at Auburn '13-'15. This is still a veteran group and the key guys are all upperclassmen.

DEFENSIVE LINE - In 2014 the Bearcats had to replace their top 3 DT's but ret'd their top 4 DE's including Silverberry Mouhon (9.5 sk). With the weaker interior UC allowed 184 ypg rush (most s/01, 4.8, 35 sk). LY they lost 3 starters (5 of top 6 tkls) including a 1st Tm AAC DE (9 sk). Mouhon was the lone returning starter. Tuberville started some frosh, not because of injuries but due to performance. The inexperience was evident as they allowed 192 rush ypg (4.9) with a paltry 13 sks (#124 in FBS). This year they lose 1st Tm AAC Mouhon (11 st, 42 tkl, 4.5 sk) and DE Mason Antoun (1 st, 3 tkl). They get back 7 of their top 8 making the unit vastly more experienced.

LINEBACKERS - Last year UC had to replace their 1st Tm AAC (#1 tkl'r, 6.5 sk) and 2nd Tm AAC (#3 tkl'r) LB's. Former NW transfer Eric Wilson led in tkls (106) and was 2nd Tm AAC. True Frosh Bryce Jenkinson took over at MLB after 3 games and tied for #3 (59 tkl). The Bearcats fell to allowing 31.2 ppg after 2.2 the season prior. This year they must replace #3 tkl'r Kevin Brown (4 st) and #6 tkl'r Leviticus Payne (12 st). They go from one returning starter to two making them stronger.

DEFENSIVE BACKS - UC's secondary was much less exp'd in '13 but still finished #35 (58%, 16-13) in my PDR. They lost 2 starters but had 6 of the top 8 back in '14 but still fell down to #91 (60.8%, 22-8). LY they lost 1 str, then CB Adrian Witty was OFY after 3. Ten different DB's started incl 3 rFr and 1 true. Despite the inconsistent lineup, they moved up to #76 (57.8%, 24-9). This year they lose Witty and S Andre Jones (4 st, 20 tkl). They ret their #2 tkl'r Zach Edwards (2nd Tm AAC) and get 7 of their top 8 back. Tuberville said it is the first year in his UC tenure (4Y) that he has a secondary with experience.

SPECIAL TEAMS - Last year everyone ret'd for UC (#46 '14). K Andrew Gantz went 21-27 (L51) and had the GW FG vs EC for the 2nd yr in a row (2x 2nd Tm AAC). P Sam Geraci improved to 46.3 (39.8 tm net). They still fell to a disappointing #72. The team KR's were #90 in the FBS (20.0). This year they lose PR Shaq Washington (10.3) but the rest of the pieces return and they should at least improve to '14's level.

COACHES - Cincinnati has gone from Mark Dantonio to Brian Kelly to Butch Jones to Tommy Tuberville. What a job of reloading! Tuberville is in his 4th season. Tuberville was HC at Ole Miss ('95-'98), Auburn ('99-'08) and TT ('10-'12). Zac Taylor is the new OC (Miami NFL QB cch '13-'15/OC Nov '15). DC Robert

Prunty has been with Tuberville the last 7 seasons (co-DC '15). Ty Linder is in his 2Y as the ST coor & was ST coor at Oklahoma St & TCU prior.

THIS DECADE 49-28 (63.6%) #37 - The '09 season was remarkable (502 pts!) as UC had just 1 ret str on D but they still went 12-0 in the reg sn and were ranked as high as #4. They slumped to 4-8 in '10. In '11 UC made my Most Improved List and went 10-3 and were 10-3 again in '12 winning bowls over Vandy & Duke. Tommy Tuberville inherited just 12 ret str's in '13. They got back to the Belk Bowl but lost to NC 39-17 finishing 9-4. They finished #9 in the NCAA in total defense (316 ypg). In '14 the Bearcats played their HG's at Paul Brown Stadium. They got to the Military Bowl vs VT but lost 33-17 (Kiel miss 2H) for another 9-4 record (just 1 of 7 FBS programs w/9+ wins in each year from '11-'14). The Conf Title tie was Tuberville's first in 10 yrs ('04 Auburn). LY Cincy slipped to 7-6. They are still in the top 40 for the decade (49-28, 64%).

2015 ANALYSIS 7-6 - Cincinnati benefitted from 3 net close wins and despite going 7-1 in conf play, were only +72.4 ypg (5th best) in '14. LY UC drew both Houston & Memphis out of the West (both on road). In the AAC media poll they received 29 of 30 votes for #1 in the East and 22 votes to win the AAC overall. They caught Temple off their big win over Penn St and had a 557-296 yd edge but lost 34-26 (trailed 34-12). UC needed a 4Q comeback to beat rival Miami Oh again (10 str). They had a 752-570 yd edge at Memphis but lost by 7. Cincy upset Miami FI 34-23. After a bye and w/o QB Kiel (cch decision) they lost at BYU by 14 (led 17-3). UC crushed UConn and UCF but trailed Houston 30-14 in a 3 pt road loss (589-427 yd edge). UC led Tulsa 49-31 before allowing a TD w/15 left. The next week was a head scratcher. Greased by TO's Cincy trailed USF 51-3 at half on a Friday night. They needed a FG on the final play to get past EC on the road, keeping the Pirates from a bowl. QB Kiel missed the Hawaii Bowl and SDoSt led 42-0 with UC getting a TD w/3:21 left to avoid the shutout to finish 7-6 (4-4 tied 6th best AAC record).

ALSO ON ROSTER: QB Sam Fettes 6'0" 200 Fr. DL Tyler Lyon 6'4" 197 So. TE Doug Bates 6'4" 230 Fr. LB Cody Wright 6'1" 225 Fr. DL Beau Harmon 6'3" 295 Jr. DB Austin Sullins 5'10" 175 Jr.

PHIL'S FORECAST

OFFENSE - UC is loaded with 2 capable starters at QB and RB and 3 ret starters on the OL. They do lose 6 long time veteran WR's but bring in a couple of VHT's to help replace them. Cincy has avg'd 33.1 ppg over the L5Y and should at least stay in that range this year. UC did put up the most yds in school history LY (6,990) but OC Eddie Gran left for Kentucky and they are shifting to more of a pro-style attack.

DEFENSE - The Bearcats were #9 in the FBS in total defense in '13 (316 ypg) but with 6 st's back in '14 they allowed 573.6 ypg over the first 5 (355 ypg L8) and 439 on the year. With 6 st's back LY they improved a little to 409 ypg but the ppg went up from 27.2 to 31.2. This year they have 8 st's back on defense and should resemble that 2013 edition.

2016 - Cincinnati has now won or shared 5 of the last 8 Big East/AAC Titles. Last year they ret'd to their on campus stadium after an \$86 mil renovation and went 5-1 at home and are now 26-5 at home the L5Y (28 str wins vs non-conf @ Nippert). They were -19 in my Turnovers-Turnaround (pg 30) and have a Stock Market Indicator of +2.0. Cincy was just 7-6 in '15 but their +167.4 ypg in AAC play was best in the American. They only face one team on the road that had a winning record LY (Temple) and get 7 games at home. Six of my 9 sets of power ratings call for Cincy to have a double digit win year. Cincy was expected to win the AAC LY and went just 4-4 and that has them flying under the radar this year. This team will be a contender for the Group of 5 spot in the New Year's Day 6 bowls.

OFFENSE

JERSEY #
IN RED

2016 PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

JERSEY #
IN RED

DEFENSE

QB 11 GUNNER KIEL SR. 6-4 215 PS#1. ND trans '13. 13 st, 3254 (60%, 31-13), 3rd Tm AAC '14. 10 st, 2777 (65%, 19-11) LY. **8** Hayden Moore (6'3" 205 So) PS#107. 3 st, 9 gm, 1885 (59%, 9-11) LY. Ross Trail (6'3" 209 Fr) PS#45. 5-10 201 PS#168. 9 gm, 650 (6.4) as true. 1 st, 749 (7.2) LY. Tion Green (6'0" 230 Sr) PS#71. 14 gm, 540 (4.5) 2Y. 4 st, 729 (4.8) LY. **22** Deonte Buckley (5'9" 208 Jr) PS#72. Off Scout tm POY LY.

WR 20 Tshumbi Johnson Jr. 5-11 183 PS#129. 10 gm, 64 (16.0) LY. **84** Nate Cole (6'1" 202 Sr) PS#89. 25 gm, 184 (9.7) F2Y. 13 gm, 262 (13.8) LY. **82** Braxton Neal (6'3" 179 Fr) PS#224. **88** Jeremiah Williams (5'11" 180 So).

WR 17 Jamil Kamara So. 6-2 210 PS#19. 6 gm true. Virginia trans LY, used RS. **21** Devin Garg (6'1" 185 Jr) PS#262JC. Jerron Rollins is PS#174. Brayden Beard (5'8" 180 Fr) PS#408. Collin Widecan (6'0" 175 Fr).

WR 13 Avery Peterson So. 6-2 200 PS#20. LSU trans LY, had to sit out. **1** Kahlii Lewis (6'0" 197 So) PS#132. 11 gm, 53 (17.7) as true LY. Malik Mboji is PS#189. **80** Tyrin Summers is PS#346. **89** Jake Elfers (6'4" 229 So).

TE 81 DJ Dowdy Sr. 6-4 246 PS#61. 3 st, 36 (7.2) '14. 5 st, 104 (8.7) LY. **18** Tyler Cogswell (6'5" 254 Jr) PS#57. 20 gm, 25 (5.0) L2Y. Josiah Deguara (6'3" 221 Fr) PS#144. Doug Bates (6'4" 230 Fr) PS#58.

C 59 DEYSHAWN BOND SR. 6-1 291 PS#218. 13 st, 13.10 st '14. 12 st, 2nd Tm AAC LY. **65** David Niehaus (6'1" 295 Sr) 2 gm '14. 1 st, 4 gm LY. **72** Garrett Campbell (6'6" 312 Jr) 9 gm LY. **LS 47** Jon Vincent (6'1" 219 Jr).

RG 73 RYAN LEAHY SR. 6-6 292 PS#179. 4 gm '13. 3 st '14. 13 st, 2nd Tm AAC LY. **76** Evan Mallory (6'5" 318 Fr) PS#167. **74** Will Steur (6'4" 301 Jr). **53** Tyler McGarr (6'4" 284 Fr) PS#265. **55** Alex Hehl (6'2" 250 Fr).

LG 65 IDARIUS RAY SR. 6-6 312 PS#501JC. 9 st LY. **51** Delonte Murray (6'5" 334 Sr) PS#112JC. 1 st, 5 gm LY. **60** Zach Bycznski (6'3" 290 Fr) PS#128. IFS. **69** Chandler Marston (6'3" 322 Fr) DNP last season.

RT 71 Korey Cunningham Jr. 6-6 305 PS#74TE. 12 gm '14. 9 gm last season. **57** Morgan James (6'6" 290 Fr). Walk on. **77** John Kurtz (6'5" 290 Sr) PS#313. DNP last season. **LS 31** Kyle Curtis (6'2" 210 Jr).

LT 79 Ryan Stout So. 6-6 285 PS#233. 1 gm last season. **52** Reed Armagost (6'7" 230 Fr) PS#349.

74 Kendall Calhoun (6'7" 290 Jr) PS#150JC. IFS. **61** Mason Garrison (6'5" 280 Fr) add-on to spg 16 roster.

K 16 ANDREW GANTZ JR. 5-9 170 PS#23. 13 st, 16-20 fty, L47, 52-54 PAT, 1st Tm AAC '14. 13 st, 21-27 fty's, L51. 49-50 PAT, 2nd Tm AAC LY. **34** Josh Pasley (6'0" 193 Sr) PS#446. 1 gm LY. **97** Ryan Jones (5'10" 170 So) PS#125.

DE 48 Kevin Mouhon So. 6-1 242 PS#41. 2 st, 18 tkl LY. **51** Kimoni Fite (6'3" 243 So) PS#317. 3 st, 15 tkl, 1.5 tfl LY. **98** Lyndon Johnson (6'6" 277 Sr) PS#430JC. 12 gm, 9 tkl, 1 sk LY. Caleb Ashworth (6'3" 240 Fr) PS#231.

DT 99 ALEX PACE SR. 6-2 295 PS#193. 2 gm '13. 12 gm, 18 tkl LY. 14. 12 st, 27 tkl, 4.5 tfl LY. **90** Hakeem Alliance (6'4" 308 Sr) PS#87JC. 1 gm LY. **50** Sione Tongamoa (6'1" 287 Sr) 3 st, 20 tkl, 3 sk LY. Chris Ferguson (6'5" 295 So).

DE 307 CORTE BROUGHTON SR. 6-2 297 PS#428. 11 st, 28 tkl, 1.5 tfl LY. **44** Marquise Copeland (6'3" 260 So) PS#116. 3 st, 15 tkl LY as true. **84** Chris Burton (6'2" 290 Jr) PS#51TE. 24 gm, 27 tkl LY. **97** Norman Oglesby (5'11" 265 Fr).

DE 56 MARK WILSON JR. 6-3 246 PS#248. 9 gm, 3 tkl '14. 5 st, 20 tkl, 5.5 tfl, 4 qb LY. **47** Landon Brazile (6'5" 238 So) PS#223. 1 st, 6 tkl LY. **95** Bryn Wright (6'3" 238 Fr). **54** Keith Minor (6'4" 271 So) 2 gm, 2 tkl LY.

WLB 23 ERIC WILSON SR. 6-2 219 PS#183. N'wstrn trans '13. 13 gm, 30 tkl, 3.5 tfl '14. 12 st, 106 tkl, 3.5 tfl.

2nd Tm AAC LY. 33 Jaylin Minor (6'1" 241 Jr) PS#442JC. 1 st, 35 tkl, 2.5 tfl LY. Matthew Draper (6'2" 214 Fr) PS#105.

MLB 45 BRYCE JENKINSON SO. 6-1 235 PS#116. 9 st, 59 tkl, 3 tfl true LY. **42** Antonio Kinard (6'4" 220 Sr) PS#115JC. 11 gm, 9 tkl LY. Tyson Statham is PS#71RB. **40** Zach Hubbard (6'0" 200 So). **53** Franklin Brusciannelli (6'0" 234 Sr).

NB 5 MIKE TYQUAN SR. 6-2 206 PS#300. 9 gm, 18 tkl as true. 3 st, 41 tkl '14. 4 st, 32 tkl, 2 tfl LY. **30** Chris Murphy (5'11" 189 Jr) PS#117. Arkansas trans '14. 1 st LY. Ty Spensler is PS#181. **57** Trevor Ginn (6'0" 205 So).

CB 14 JJ PINCKNEY SO. 6-3 188 PS#155. 5 st, 18 tkl, 4 pbu LY. **13** Grant Coleman (6'0" 214 Fr) 6 gm, 5 tkl as true. 12 st, 56 tkl '14. 4 st, 9 tkl LY. James Wiggins is PS#172. Marquis Smith is PS#179. Sheldon Doss (6'1" 197 Fr).

CB 32 LINDEN STEPHENS JR. 6-0 180 PS#415. 13 gm, 19 tkl, 5 pbu true. 7 st, 34 tkl, 2 int LY. **27** Alex Thomas (6'1" 170 So) PS#385. 4 st, 22 tkl LY. Christian Angulo (6'2" 183 Fr). Kevin Smith (6'3" 175 Fr). Desmond Johnson (6'0" 175 Fr).

SS 2 TYRELL GILBERT SO. 6-1 195 PS#278. 8 st, 50 tkl, 6 pbu LY. **24** Malik Clements (6'0" 193 So) PS#235. 2 st, 23 tkl as true LY. Davin Pierce (6'2" 190 Jr) PS#236JC. Bryce Beard (5'9" 180 Fr). Anthony Legend (5'10" 186 So).

FS 4 ZACH EDWARDS SR. 6-1 200 PS#274. 11 st, 37 tkl, 2.5 tfl, 9 pd as true. 13 st, 121 tkl, 3.5 tfl, 8 pd '14. 12 st, 93 tkl, 4.5 tfl, 8 pbu, 3 int, 2nd Tm AAC LY. **20** Carter Jacobs (6'1" 196 Jr) 26 gm, 42 tkl, 12 LY. Eric Jenkins is PS#87JC.

P 26 SAM GERACI JR. 6-4 222 PS#258. 13 st, 51 punts 39.4 avg, L60, 15.29, 13 f, 35.9 team net, 10 TB on 1 KO '14. 13 st, 44 punts 46.3 avg, L63, 39.8 tm net, 31 TB/85 KO LY. **34** Josh Pasley (6'0" 193 Sr).

AMERICAN ATHLETIC - EAST