

WEEK FOUR
OHIO AT CINCINNATI

CINCINNATI -- Desmond Ridder led Cincinnati on a 92-yard fourth-quarter drive to take the lead then the defense stopped Ohio at the Bearcats 1-yard line with 52 seconds left on James Wiggins' interception for a 34-30 win on Saturday.

Michael Warren's 3-yard run brought the Bearcats all the way back from a three-touchdown deficit for Cincinnati's fourth straight win to start the season. Cincinnati has already matched its win totals of the last two seasons.

"We saw the resiliency of this team," Bearcats coach Luke Fickell said. "I most proud of the way they kept their chin up, especially the way it happened. We wouldn't have had a chance last year."

Nathan Rourke frustrated the Bearcats in the first half when Ohio built a 24-7 lead. He finished with a team-leading 96 yards rushing, including a 37-yard run on Ohio's final possession. He passed for 178 yards, eluding tacklers or getting passes off in the nick of time to draw three roughing-the-passer penalties. He even caught a pass that was called back by penalty.

"Rourke made play after play after play in that first half," Fickell said. "We gave up such big plays whether it was on penalties or broken plays. I give him a lot of credit. He made such big plays. Coaches get frustrated. As a player you surely get frustrated."

The second half was another story.

"It was the tale of two halves," said Fickell, who watched his defense step up and hold Rourke and the Bobcats to a pair of field goals.

"It was a hard-fought football game," Ohio coach Frank Solich said. "There were too good football teams out there playing, OK? It's not that they weren't playing the first half, it's not that they did a lot of adjustments in the second half. They made plays at times and we made plays at times. So, the game just went back-and-forth."

The Bobcats got the ball back with 3:18 left after the Warren touchdown run. Rourke broke away for a 37-yard run on the first play to the Bearcats 38. A pass-interference penalty against Cam Jefferies put the ball on the Cincinnati 13. A.J. Ouelette picked up 11 yards with two runs to the 2 with under two minutes left. Cincinnati's Jarrell White was tackled for a loss to the Bearcats 4. Wiggins made his interception at the 1 on the next play.

"Number four was their guy (Papi White). I knew I had to get my hands on him," Wiggins said. "The quarterback watched him the whole way and I jumped in front of it."

It was the first meeting in 36 years in this intrastate rivalry that began in 1896. The Bearcats grabbed a 24-23 lead in the series that includes four ties.

The Bobcats took a three-touchdown lead in the second quarter after Rourke improvised on a broken play. Rourke eluded tacklers on a 3-yard run when the intended ball carrier was no where to be found.

The Bearcats were limited to one first down until they took possession with 9:54 left in the first half, driving 80 yards in nine plays. Warren capped the drive with a 24-yard run.

Ohio put together a 73-yard drive with the benefit of three major penalties, including an unsportsmanlike penalty on an assistant coach, to take a 24-7 halftime lead with a 25-yard field goal by Louis Zervos.

"You might think it was negative in the locker room at halftime but it wasn't," said Ridder, who has become a boisterous leader. "No disrespect to anyone but I think that I am the best player on the field when I'm out there. We knew we had to come out and score on our first drive in the second half."

And the Bearcats did just that. Ridder completed a 77-yard pass to Rashad Medaris for a touchdown. It was the longest pass play of Ridder's career and the first career TD catch by Medaris.

Ridder added a 9-yard scoring run and a 26-yard touchdown pass to Jayshon Jackson.

Ridder finished with 274 yards on 19-of-29 passing. He threw one interception, the first of his career. Warren was the leading rusher with 124 yards in 24 carries.

RUBBER GAME

Ohio and Cincinnati met for the 51st time. The series was tied 23-23 with four ties. It was the first meeting since October 3, 1981, and the first time at Nippert Stadium since November 10, 1979.

THE TAKEAWAY

Ohio: Rourke is in the top 10 all-time in passing yards with 2,381 (ninth), completions 173 (tenth) and touchdown passes 18 (seventh). He was the leading Bobcats rusher for the second week in a row.

Cincinnati: Ridding, a freshman, suffered his first turnover as a Bearcat. Cincinnati has turned the ball over just four times this season.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
OHIO	14	10	3	3	30
CIN	0	7	14	13	34

Scoring Summary -----

	OHIO	CIN
FIRST QUARTER		
OHIO TD 8:40		
A.J. Ouellette 9 Yd Run (Louie Zervos Kick)	7	0
7 plays, 84 yards, 3:51		
OHIO TD 0:23		
Maleek Irons 12 Yd pass from Nathan Rourke (Louie Zervos Kick)	14	0
10 plays, 64 yards, 5:37		
SECOND QUARTER		
OHIO TD 11:12		
Nathan Rourke 3 Yd Run (Louie Zervos Kick)	21	0
7 plays, 51 yards, 3:28		
CIN TD 5:44		
Michael Warren II 24 Yd Run (Cole Smith Kick)	21	7
9 plays, 80 yards, 4:10		
OHIO FG 0:30		
Louie Zervos 25 Yd Field Goal	24	7
11 plays, 73 yards, 5:07		
THIRD QUARTER		
CIN TD 13:42		
Rashad Medaris 77 Yd pass from Desmond Ridder (Cole Smith Kick)	24	14
3 plays, 75 yards, 1:18		
OHIO FG 8:38		
Louie Zervos 33 Yd Field Goal	27	14
7 plays, 44 yards, 2:02		
CIN TD 3:31		
Desmond Ridder 7 Yd Run (Cole Smith Kick)	27	21
4 plays, 28 yards, 1:25		
FOURTH QUARTER		
OHIO FG 14:55		
Louie Zervos 47 Yd Field Goal	30	21
8 plays, 28 yards, 3:30		
CIN TD 12:37		
Jayshon Jackson 26 Yd pass from Desmond Ridder (Cole Smith Kick)	30	28
5 plays, 71 yards, 2:11		
CIN TD 3:24		
Michael Warren II 3 Yd Run (Two-Point Run Conversion Failed)	30	34
13 plays, 92 yards, 5:02		

Team Stats	OHIO	CIN
First Downs	25	24
Total Yards	412	424
Total Plays	72	65
Avg Gain Per Play	5.7	6.5
Net Yards Rushing	234	150
Rushes	45	34
Yards Per Rush	5.2	4.4
Net Yards Passing	178	274
Comp-Att	12-27	19-31
Yards Per Pass	6.6	8.8
Times Sacked	0	1
Yds Lost To Sacks	0	-8
Interceptions	1	1
Punts	4	5
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	8	14
Penalty Yards	85	150
Fumbles	1	0
Fumbles Lost	1	0
Possession	35:22	24:38

Individual Stats

RUSHING

OHIO	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Nathan Rourke	9	96	10.7	1	37
A.J. Ouellette	21	71	3.4	1	10
Maleek Irons	12	64	5.3	0	22
Julian Ross	3	3	1.0	0	2
CIN	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Michael Warren II	23	124	5.4	2	24
Desmond Ridder	10	28	2.8	1	9
Team	1	-2	-2.0	0	0

PASSING

OHIO	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Nathan Rourke	12	27	178	6.6	1	1	77.0
CIN	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Desmond Ridder	19	29	274	9.4	2	1	73.2
Team	0	2	0	0.0	0	0	--

RECEIVING

OHIO	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Cameron Odom	5	114	22.8	0	41
Papi White	2	23	11.5	0	13
Maleek Irons	2	20	10.0	1	12
Andrew Meyer	2	15	7.5	0	13
A.J. Ouellette	1	6	6.0	0	6
CIN	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Rashad Medaris	3	104	34.7	1	77
Josiah Deguara	6	69	11.5	0	21
Kahlil Lewis	5	51	10.2	0	14
Jayshon Jackson	2	25	12.5	1	26
Thomas Geddiss	2	24	12.0	0	14
Wilson Huber	1	1	1.0	0	1