

**WEEK SIX
TULANE AT CINCINNATI**

CINCINNATI -- Michael Warren II's career-long 81-yard touchdown helped spur Cincinnati to a 37-21 win over Tulane on Saturday for the Bearcats' first 6-0 start since 2012.

Warren broke through the left side of the Tulane line and dove into the end zone for a 10-7 second-quarter lead and Cincinnati (6-0, 2-0 American Athletic Conference) pulled away from there. Warren gained 123 yards on 18 carries for his third straight 100-plus-yard rushing performance and fourth of the season.

Warren's run - the third longest run from scrimmage in Bearcat history -- negated a 17-yard touchdown pass from Justin McMillan to Darnel Mooney for Tulane (2-4, 1-1) and Cincinnati led 24-14 at halftime after the teams traded touchdown runs.

"I just saw a cut, made another cut and got vertical," said Warren, who sparked the offense that had struggled until then. "It takes one play to get us clicking. It was the play to get the team riled up and get the momentum."

Tulane's Darius Bradwell scored from 19-yards out after a 64-yard kickoff return by Ryan Jones with 2:51 left in the first half.

Desmond Ridder, 15 of 25 passes for 174 yards with a touchdown and an interception, ran up the middle for a 28-yard score with 41 seconds to go until halftime

"It was a pass play. I came off my first read and saw a hole in the pocket," Ridder said.

Cincinnati's Ethan Tucky blocked Zachary Block's punt, setting up Ridder's 14-yard touchdown pass to Kahlil Lewis, but Cole Smith missed the point-after attempt to keep the game within two scores.

"All week the special team coordinator (Brian Mason) talked about effort in a sense with all 11 guys straining," Tucky said. "It was like surreal. You dream about it when you're a kid making a play like that in a stadium with the student section cheering. When it actually happens it's like crazy it's any amazing feeling."

The Bearcats put the game away with nine-play, 87-yard touchdown drive culminating in Tavion Thomas' 25-yard scoring run.

"We were able to put that thing away so we could relax the seven or eight minutes but it was a battle. It was a fight," Cincinnati coach Luke Fickell said. "That second quarter and even later in the third quarter, the defense was on the field a long time."

The second-year coach has his team bowl eligible after a 4-8 season. Cincinnati has not played in a bowl game since 2015.

"I didn't even bring it up to the guys in there," Fickell said. "It is something that's in the back of your mind. We don't want anything to slow us down."

Cincinnati's defense forced Tulane off the field by holding them to 3-for-15 on third down and 0-for-4 on fourth down.

"Their defense did a great job," third-year Green Wave coach Willie Fritz said. "They whipped us up front and did a good job tackling and pressing us. It was hard for our receivers to get open."

McMillan, a transfer from LSU, took over for starter Jonathan Banks. He completed 11 passes for 130 yards and two touchdowns, including a 14-yard pass to Terren Encalade with 4:25 left to play.

It was McMillan's bid to win the starting job.

"He did some good things," Fritz said. "We'll evaluate it."

Green Wave leading rusher Bradwell followed a 143-yard rushing effort last week against Memphis with 88 yards on 16 carries.

Tulane leads the series between the teams 11-6.

THE TAKEAWAY

Tulane: The Green Wave offense was perfect in the Red Zone coming into the game with the Bearcats. Tulane was in the Red Zone eight times in their first five games with six touchdowns and two field goals. They remained perfect with three touchdowns and three trips against Cincinnati.

Cincinnati: Michael Warren's 81-yard touchdown dash in the second quarter was the third longest run from scrimmage in Bearcat history. Joe Miller ran 91 yards for a touchdown in 1953 against Xavier University, the longest ever for Cincinnati. Ethan Tucky's blocked punt was Cincinnati's first blocked punt since October 25, 2008, Connor Barwin, now a NFL player, did it.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
TULN	7	7	0	7	21
CIN	3	21	6	7	37

Scoring Summary -----

	TULN	CIN
FIRST QUARTER		
CIN FG 5:55		
Cole Smith 28 Yd Field Goal		
10 plays, 65 yards, 3:16	0	3
TULN TD 2:01		
Darnell Mooney 17 Yd pass from Justin McMillan (Merek Glover Kick)	7	3
7 plays, 75 yards, 3:54		
SECOND QUARTER		
CIN TD 13:38		
Michael Warren II 81 Yd Run (Cole Smith Kick)		
2 plays, 91 yards, 0:37	7	10
CIN TD 4:20		
Kahlil Lewis 25 Yd pass from Desmond Ridder (Cole Smith Kick)	6	17
6 plays, 52 yards, 2:46		
TULN TD 2:51		
Darius Bradwell 19 Yd Run (Merek Glover Kick)	3	17
3 plays, 30 yards, 1:16		
CIN TD 0:41		
Desmond Ridder 28 Yd Run (Cole Smith Kick)		
8 plays, 75 yards, 2:10	14	24
THIRD QUARTER		
CIN TD 12:25		
Kahlil Lewis 15 Yd pass from Desmond Ridder (Cole Smith PAT failed)	1	30
1 play, 15 yards, 0:06		
FOURTH QUARTER		
CIN TD 6:15		
Tavion Thomas 25 Yd Run (Cole Smith Kick)	9	37
9 plays, 87 yards, 5:06		
TULN TD 4:26		
Terren Encalade 14 Yd pass from Justin McMillan (Merek Glover Kick)	5	37
5 plays, 46 yards, 1:41		

Team Stats	TULN	CIN
First Downs	14	22
Total Yards	263	441
Total Plays	69	73
Avg Gain Per Play	3.8	6.0
Net Yards Rushing	134	272
Rushes	38	48
Yards Per Rush	3.5	5.7
Net Yards Passing	129	169
Comp-Att	12-31	15-25
Yards Per Pass	4.2	6.8
Times Sacked	4	2
Yds Lost To Sacks	-22	-15
Interceptions	0	1
Punts	8	5
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	12	7
Penalty Yards	90	65
Fumbles	2	3
Fumbles Lost	1	2
Possession	27:27	32:33

Individual Stats

RUSHING

	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
TULN					
Darius Bradwell	16	88	5.5	1	20
Corey Dauphine	6	35	5.8	0	17
Jonathan Banks	4	11	2.8	0	8
Amare Jones	4	10	2.5	0	5
Stephon Huderson	2	3	1.5	0	2
Justin McMillan	6	-13	-2.2	0	7
CIN					
Michael Warren II	18	123	6.8	1	81
Desmond Ridder	16	65	4.1	1	28
Tavion Thomas	8	59	7.4	1	25
Charles McClelland	5	16	3.2	0	17
Chris Ferguson	0	6	0.0	0	0
Kahlil Lewis	1	3	3.0	0	3

PASSING

	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
TULN							
Justin McMillan	11	26	130	5.0	2	0	21.2
Jonathan Banks	1	5	2	0.4	0	0	1.9
CIN							
Desmond Ridder	15	25	174	7.0	2	1	68.9

RECEIVING

	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
TULN					
Darnell Mooney	4	65	16.3	1	33
Terren Encalade	2	31	15.5	1	14
Tyrick James	2	14	7.0	0	9
Amare Jones	1	11	11.0	0	11
Brian Newman	1	10	10.0	0	10
Charles Jones II	2	1	0.5	0	2
CIN					
Josiah Deguara	3	49	16.3	0	31
Kahlil Lewis	3	40	13.3	2	25
Michael Warren II	3	34	11.3	0	16
Thomas Geddiss	1	28	28.0	0	28
Jayshon Jackson	2	10	5.0	0	8
Javan Hawes	1	5	5.0	0	5
Rashad Medaris	1	4	4.0	0	4
Charles McClelland	1	4	4.0	0	4