

WEEK FIVE
CINCINNATI at MARSHALL

Ridder throws 4 TDs, Cincinnati whips Marshall 52-14

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. -- Cincinnati started off slowly in its past two games and quarterback Desmond Ridder wanted to make sure that didn't happen against Marshall.

Ridder threw a season-high four touchdown passes, three in the first half, and the Bearcats rolled to a 52-14 victory over the Thundering Herd on Saturday.

Cincinnati (3-1) was dominant throughout its final nonconference tuneup before the start of American Athletic Conference play.

Cincinnati coach Luke Fickell said it was "probably the complete game we've been looking for. We've been in a little bit of a rut. We were 2-1, but it just didn't feel the same, the energy. And then after tonight you walk in that locker room, there's a different energy."

Two weeks ago Cincinnati trailed Miami, Ohio 10-0 after one quarter and rebounded for a 35-13 win. The Bearcats were blown out by No. 5 Ohio State 42-0 on Sept. 7.

"The past weeks we haven't started out strong. That was one big thing this week, just start off fast," Ridder said. "We did that. We prepared and executed."

Ridder had TD tosses of 13 yards to Rashad Medaris and 17 yards to Alec Pierce in the first quarter, and 13 yards to tight end Josiah Deguara in the second quarter.

Just before halftime, Ridder fumbled when he was hit by Marshall linebacker Tavante Beckett while attempting a pass. Deguara picked up the loose ball at the Marshall 2 and ran it in for a 28-0 half-time lead.

Ridder, a sophomore, added a 4-yard TD pass to tight end Bruno Labelle in the third quarter. Ridder completed 18 of 22 passes for 221 yards before being replaced by freshman Ben Bryant midway through the third.

"Des Ridder had a command of some things today," Fickell said.

Cincinnati led 45-0 entering the fourth quarter. Marshall (2-2) was limited to 256 yards of offense, with half of that coming in the fourth.

"Obviously that's a game we didn't play very well in any of the three phases," said Marshall coach Doc Holliday. "They came in and took it to us. From the beginning of the game, we could not get things going and unfortunately they played a lot better than we did."

THE TAKEAWAY

Cincinnati: Ridder, whose four TD tosses matched his total from the previous three games, looked at ease in the pocket and it helped that his receivers were often wide open. It marked the first game this season that Ridder did not throw an interception. He also rushed nine times for 48 yards. Pierce had season highs of six catches for 108 yards.

Marshall: The Thundering Herd had averaged 32 points over its first three games but didn't put up much of a fight Saturday. Green missed several of his targets and Marshall struggled to run the ball until after the outcome was already decided. Sophomore quarterback Isaiah Green finished 11 of 29 for 131 yards.

"We didn't execute and we didn't make enough plays," Green said. "This football team doesn't give up. We've got to move on."

AVOIDING A SHUTOUT

Backup running back Sheldon Evans' 13-yard TD run and Willie Johnson's 40-yard run on a reverse, both in the fourth quarter, enabled Marshall to avoid its first shutout loss at home since 1984 and its first overall shutout loss since 2000.

BRYANT'S FIRST

Bryant's first career completion was a 56-yard pass to Tre Tucker to the Marshall 1 late in the third quarter. Tavion Thomas scored on a 1-yard run on the next play.

TOUGH IN HUNTINGTON

Cincinnati and Marshall are about 150 miles apart. The Bearcats won in blowout fashion for the second straight time in Huntington. In 2008, Cincinnati won the last meeting at Marshall 33-10.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
CIN	14	14	17	7	52
MRSH	0	0	0	14	14

Scoring Summary -----

	CIN	MRSH
FIRST QUARTER		
CIN TD 12:40 Rashad Medaris 13 Yd pass from Desmond Ridder (Sam Crosa Kick)	7	0
5 plays, 61 yards, 2:20		
CIN TD 2:53 Alec Pierce 17 Yd pass from Desmond Ridder (Sam Crosa Kick)	14	0
19 plays, 64 yards, 8:48		
SECOND QUARTER		
CIN TD 8:45 Josiah Deguara 13 Yd pass from Desmond Ridder (Sam Crosa Kick)	21	0
7 plays, 88 yards, 2:41		
CIN TD 1:10 Josiah Deguara 2 Yd Run (Sam Crosa Kick)	28	0
9 plays, 75 yards, 3:51		
THIRD QUARTER		
CIN TD 8:46 Bruno Labelle 4 Yd pass from Desmond Ridder (Sam Crosa Kick)	35	0
10 plays, 57 yards, 5:13		
CIN FG 1:39 Sam Crosa 32 Yd Field Goal	38	0
6 plays, 50 yards, 2:55		
CIN TD 0:03 Tavion Thomas 1 Yd Run (Sam Crosa Kick)	45	0
2 plays, 57 yards, 0:31		
FOURTH QUARTER		
MRSH TD 12:35 Sheldon Evans 13 Yd Run (Justin Rohrwasser Kick)	45	7
8 plays, 75 yards, 2:28		
MRSH TD 10:40 Willie Johnson 40 Yd Run (Justin Rohrwasser Kick)	45	14
1 play, 40 yards, 0:10		
CIN TD 1:20 Michael Kopaygorodsky 1 Yd Run (Sam Crosa Kick)	52	14
7 plays, 52 yards, 3:23		

Team Stats	CIN	MRSH
First Downs	29	14
Passes for First	12	5
Rushes for First	14	6
Penalties for First	3	3
Third Down Efficiency	7-13	4-15
Fourth Down Efficiency	2-2	1-2
Total Yards	525	256
Total Plays	77	59
Avg Gain Per Play	6.8	4.3
Net Yards Rushing	230	125
Rushes	51	29
Yards Per Rush	4.5	4.3
Net Yards Passing	295	131
Comp-Att	21-26	11-30
Yards Per Pass	11.3	4.4
Times Sacked	2	2
Yds Lost To Sacks	-14	-16
Interceptions	0	0
Punts	3	8
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	9	7
Penalty Yards	75	65
Fumbles	2	0
Fumbles Lost	1	0
Time of Poss	37:08	22:52

Individual Stats

RUSHING							
CINCINNATI	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Tavion Thomas	11	70	6.4	1	38		
Desmond Ridder	9	48	5.3	0	12		
Michael Warren II	13	42	3.2	0	11		
Gerrid Doaks	6	32	5.3	0	11		
Michael Kopaygorodsky	5	19	3.8	1	12		
Ben Bryant	3	11	3.7	0	9		
Ryan Montgomery	3	5	1.7	0	3		
Josiah Deguara	0	2	0.0	1	0		
Rashad Medaris	1	1	1.0	0	1		
MARSHALL							
	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Brenden Knox	16	49	3.1	0	11		
Sheldon Evans	7	42	6.0	1	16		
Willie Johnson	1	40	40.0	1	40		
Isaiah Green	5	-6	-1.2	0	8		
PASSING							
CINCINNATI	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Desmond Ridder	18	22	221	10.0	4	0	84.8
Ben Bryant	3	4	74	18.5	0	0	61.1
MARSHALL							
	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Isaiah Green	11	29	131	4.5	0	0	10.2
RECEIVING							
CINCINNATI	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Alec Pierce	6	108	18.0	1	46		
Tre Tucker	1	56	56.0	0	56		
Josiah Deguara	3	42	14.0	1	15		
Rashad Medaris	2	28	14.0	1	15		
Malick Mbodj	1	12	12.0	0	12		
Blue Smith	1	11	11.0	0	11		
Bruno Labelle	2	9	4.5	1	5		
Bryan Wright	1	7	7.0	0	7		
Thomas Geddis	1	6	6.0	0	6		
Leonard Taylor	1	6	6.0	0	6		
Michael Warren II	1	5	5.0	0	5		
Jayshon Jackson	1	5	5.0	0	5		
MARSHALL							
	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Brenden Knox	4	50	12.5	0	33		
Corey Gammage	2	28	14.0	0	20		
Willie Johnson	1	23	23.0	0	23		
Armani Levias	2	20	10.0	0	15		
Xavier Gaines	2	10	5.0	0	6		