

WEEK SEVEN
CINCINNATI at HOUSTON

No. 25 Cincinnati holds off Houston late to win 38-23

HOUSTON -- Desmond Ridder passed for 263 yards and three touchdowns and No. 25 Cincinnati held off Houston's late surge to beat the Cougars 38-23 on Saturday.

The Bearcats (5-1, 2-0 American Athletic Conference) used a 21-point first half to pull away early and Perry Young's late 2-yard interception return for a touchdown sealed their fourth straight win.

Ridder finished 14 of 24 for 263 yards, three touchdowns and an interception. Ridder also had 11 carries for 50 yards and a score. Trailing 21-10, Houston quarterback Clayton Tune re-energized the home crowd with a career-long 69-yard touchdown pass to Marquez Stevenson to start the second half.

The Cougars (2-4, 0-2) cut the lead to five with 9:09 left on Tune's 6-yard pass to Christian Trahan, but it wasn't enough to prevent Houston's first 0-2 start in conference play since joining the AAC.

Tune finished 9 of 27 for 184 yards, two touchdowns and three interceptions.

THE TAKEAWAY

Cincinnati: A week after forcing four turnovers against Central Florida and limiting the Knights to their fewest points in 2019, Cincinnati's defense shined again. The Bearcats had four interceptions to run their season total to 13 and forced a fumble to help hold Houston to a season-low 23 points.

Houston: With D'Eriq King redshirting the rest of the season, Houston has been seeking his permanent replacement for this year. Tune, Bryson Smith and Logan Holgorsen all got playing time. Tune started, Smith was brought in to run the wildcat formation and Holgorsen got his first playing time in the first quarter.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

Cincinnati should move up with No. 23 Memphis losing to Temple on Saturday and No. 20 Virginia losing to Miami on Friday.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
CIN	14	7	0	17	38
HOU	3	7	7	6	23

Scoring Summary -----

FIRST QUARTER		CIN	HOU
CIN TD 12:44	Desmond Ridder 13 Yd Run (Sam Crosa Kick)		
5 plays, 75 yards, 2:16		7	0
HOU FG 7:24	Dalton Witherspoon 31 Yd Field Goal		
4 plays, 6 yards, 1:32		7	3
CIN TD 7:13	Rashad Medaris 75 Yd pass from Desmond Ridder (Sam Crosa Kick)		
1 play, 75 yards, 0:11		14	3
SECOND QUARTER		CIN	HOU
HOU TD 11:36	Jeremy Singleton 50 Yd pass from Bryson Smith (Dalton Witherspoon Kick)		
6 plays, 66 yards, 3:13		14	10
CIN TD 8:33	Josiah Deguara 15 Yd pass from Desmond Ridder (Sam Crosa Kick)		
3 plays, 35 yards, 1:28		21	10
THIRD QUARTER		CIN	HOU
HOU TD 12:40	Marquez Stevenson 69 Yd pass from Clayton Tune (Dalton Witherspoon Kick)		
4 plays, 85 yards, 2:20		21	17
FOURTH QUARTER		CIN	HOU
CIN TD 13:41	Michael Warren II 11 Yd pass from Desmond Ridder (Sam Crosa Kick)		
7 plays, 34 yards, 3:43		28	17
HOU TD 9:09	Christian Trahan 6 Yd pass from Clayton Tune (Two-Point Pass Conversion Failed)		
9 plays, 72 yards, 4:32		28	23
CIN FG 4:27	Sam Crosa 32 Yd Field Goal		
10 plays, 48 yards, 4:42		31	23
CIN TD 3:28	Perry Young 2 Yd Interception Return (Sam Crosa Kick)		
3 plays, 2 yards, 0:59		38	23

Team Stats	CIN	HOU
First Downs	17	16
Passes for First	9	7
Rushes for First	5	8
Penalties for First	3	1
Third Down Efficiency	5-12	5-15
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-0	2-3
Total Yards	394	424
Total Plays	58	67
Avg Gain Per Play	6.8	6.3
Net Yards Rushing	131	190
Rushes	34	37
Yards Per Rush	3.9	5.1
Net Yards Passing	263	234
Comp-Att	14-24	10-30
Yards Per Pass	11.0	7.8
Times Sacked	2	1
Yds Lost To Sacks	-13	-7
Interceptions	1	4
Punts	5	4
Punt Average	41.2	54.0
Penalties	12	7
Penalty Yards	84	69
Fumbles	0	1
Fumbles Lost	0	1
Time of Poss	29:40	30:20

Individual Stats

RUSHING							
CINCINNATI	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Michael Warren II	17	68	4.0	0	13		
Desmond Ridder	11	50	4.5	1	18		
Gerrid Doaks	5	15	3.0	0	6		
Team	1	-2	-2.0	0	0		
HOUSTON	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Kyle Porter	16	107	6.7	0	33		
Bryson Smith	5	27	5.4	0	11		
Patrick Carr	5	22	4.4	0	20		
Terrell Brown	6	17	2.8	0	5		
Logan Holgorsen	1	14	14.0	0	14		
Clayton Tune	4	3	0.8	0	5		
PASSING							
CINCINNATI	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Desmond Ridder	14	24	263	11.0	3	1	77.5
HOUSTON	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Clayton Tune	9	27	184	6.8	2	3	21.8
Bryson Smith	1	1	50	50.0	1	0	100.0
Logan Holgorsen	0	2	0	0.0	0	1	0.1
RECEIVING							
CINCINNATI	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Rashad Medaris	3	121	40.3	1	75		
Alec Pierce	2	59	29.5	0	44		
Malick Mbodj	3	24	8.0	0	9		
Josiah Deguara	2	22	11.0	1	15		
Tre Tucker	1	12	12.0	0	12		
Michael Warren II	1	11	11.0	1	11		
Trent Cloud	1	10	10.0	0	10		
Jayshon Jackson	1	4	4.0	0	4		
HOUSTON	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Marquez Stevenson	3	120	40.0	1	69		
Tre'von Bradley	2	52	26.0	0	35		
Jeremy Singleton	1	50	50.0	1	50		
Christian Trahan	2	15	7.5	1	9		
Bryson Smith	1	2	2.0	0	2		
Kyle Porter	1	-5	-5.0	0	0		