

WEEK TEN
CONNECTICUT at CINCINNATI

No. 17 Cincinnati stays unbeaten in AAC, routs UConn 48-3

CINCINNATI -- A couple of close calls against overmatched opponents got Cincinnati's attention. The 17th-ranked Bearcats made sure the lowliest team in the American Athletic wouldn't stick around very long.

Desmond Ridder threw for a pair of touchdowns and Michael Warren II ran for two more during a dominant opening half, and Cincinnati remained the only unbeaten team in AAC play by routing Connecticut 48-3 on Saturday. The Bearcats (8-1, 5-0) retained the inside track for the conference title by ending their recent trend of slow starts . They led 38-0 at halftime and began sending in its backups midway through the third quarter. "We haven't had one of these in a while," coach Luke Fickell said.

The Bearcats struggled in a home win over Tulsa, then had to rally in the fourth quarter for a victory at East Carolina. Fickell made sure they were much more focused against the worst all-around team in the conference. "Coach went in on Tuesday and kind of ripped into us a little bit," tight end Josiah Deguara said. "We can't play to our opponent. So, we had a really good week of practice and it showed tonight."

For UConn? Nothing good at all.

The Huskies (2-8, 0-6) had two players ejected while losing their 17th straight conference game. The Huskies have dropped 24 of their last 25 against FBS teams. They fell to 0-9 all-time at Nippert Stadium .

The Bearcats got rolling against a defense that has allowed the most points in the conference. Ridder connected with Deguara on touchdowns of 18 and 15 yards. Warren scored from 6 and 1 yards out, and Gerrid Doaks had a 53-yard run that set up his 1-yard touchdown in the first half.

Ridder went 13 of 23 for 136 yards and ran seven times for 94 yards. He was replaced after the opening drive of the third quarter.

"It was really good for us to come out there, jump on them quick, get up 14-0 and just keep it going," Ridder said.

The tone was set in the first 10 minutes, when the Huskies gave up a pair of touchdowns, got a punt blocked, and had linebacker Omar Fortt ejected for targeting a receiver. Defensive lineman Dillon Harris also was ejected in the second quarter for a high hit on Ridder that caused a fumble.

UConn coach Randy Edsall disagreed with both calls and ejections.

"If they are going to be throwing people out of the game for playing football, we might as well stop playing football," Edsall said. "The two calls they gave -- if that's targeting, let's stop playing."

Cincinnati's Darrick Forrest picked off Zack Zergiotis, giving the Bearcats 13 interceptions and 21 takeaways for the season, among the best nationally. Cincinnati has 11 interceptions and five fumble recoveries in the last five games.

Zergiotis was 4 of 14 for 35 yards in the first half with the interception, the true freshman's fourth turnover in the last two games. Mike Beaudry started the second half and went 6 of 9 for 35 yards.

"I told Jack at halftime: You're like a starting pitcher in baseball today," Edsall said. "You just didn't have it. It's like you gave up five home runs. You have to put the other guy in. Next start it might be a lot better." UConn's Kevin Mensah ran for 115 yards in his third straight triple-digit game. He has been the Huskies' only threat on offense lately.

"You just go out there and give it all you've got, try to motivate guys, try to motivate the team," Mensah said.

THE TAKEAWAY

UConn has lost its last two games against Cincinnati by a combined 97-10.

The Bearcats harped on playing with more focus after their ragged wins against Tulsa and East Carolina and were sharp in all aspects of their homecoming game.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

The Bearcats put themselves in position to improve upon their highest ranking since 2009, when they got as high as No. 4 during a perfect regular season. The Huskies fell to 3-32 against ranked teams.

BAD TIMES

The Huskies' last win over a ranked team was 20-17 over No. 13 Houston in 2015. The other two were over No. 19 Louisville in 2012 and against No. 11 South Florida in 2007.

MOVING UP

Warren has 29 touchdowns rushing in his career, moving ahead of Isaiah Pead into third place on the school's list.

STREAKING

Cincinnati has won 12 in a row at Nippert Stadium since November 2017.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
CONN	0	0	0	3	3
CIN	14	24	3	7	48

Scoring Summary -----

FIRST QUARTER		CONN	CIN
CIN TD 11:31 Josiah Deguara 18 Yd pass from Desmond Ridder (Sam Crosa Kick)			(Sam Crosa Kick)
4 plays, 62 yards, 1:32		0	7
CIN TD 5:55 Michael Warren II 6 Yd Run (Sam Crosa Kick)			
7 plays, 65 yards, 2:44		0	14
SECOND QUARTER		CONN	CIN
CIN FG 14:49 Cole Smith 45 Yd Field Goal			
13 plays, 44 yards, 4:45		0	17
CIN TD 5:59 Michael Warren II 1 Yd Run (Sam Crosa Kick)			
7 plays, 71 yards, 2:48		0	24
CIN TD 2:35 Gerrid Doaks 1 Yd Run (Sam Crosa Kick)			
5 plays, 70 yards, 1:29		0	31
CIN TD 0:06 Josiah Deguara 15 Yd pass from Desmond Ridder (Sam Crosa Kick)			(Sam Crosa Kick)
5 plays, 55 yards, 0:36		0	38
THIRD QUARTER		CONN	CIN
CIN FG 10:53 Sam Crosa 32 Yd Field Goal			
11 plays, 56 yards, 4:02		0	41
FOURTH QUARTER		CONN	CIN
CIN TD 14:53 Ryan Montgomery 2 Yd Run (Sam Crosa Kick)			
11 plays, 93 yards, 5:07		0	48
CONN FG 5:37 Clayton Harris 32 Yd Field Goal			
16 plays, 52 yards, 9:08		3	48

Team Stats	CONN	CIN
First Downs	13	27
Passes for First	3	10
Rushes for First	9	14
Penalties for First	1	3
Third Down Efficiency	2-14	11-16
Fourth Down Efficiency	1-4	0-0
Total Yards	218	507
Total Plays	63	71
Avg Gain Per Play	3.5	7.1
Net Yards Rushing	148	307
Rushes	40	43
Yards Per Rush	3.7	7.1
Net Yards Passing	70	200
Comp-Att	10-23	16-28
Yards Per Pass	3.0	7.1
Times Sacked	5	1
Yds Lost To Sacks	-34	-5
Interceptions	1	0
Punts	7	2
Punt Average	40.9	43.0
Penalties	9	2
Penalty Yards	71	20
Fumbles	0	2
Fumbles Lost	0	1
Time of Poss	32:26	27:34

Individual Stats

RUSHING

CONNECTICUT	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Kevin Mensah	24	115	4.8	0	18
Art Thompkins	7	55	7.9	0	30
Mike Beaudry	6	-10	-1.7	0	7
Jack Zergiotis	3	-12	-4.0	0	0

CINCINNATI

	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Gerrid Doaks	13	123	9.5	1	53
Desmond Ridder	7	94	13.4	0	34
Michael Warren II	14	60	4.3	2	19
Tre Tucker	1	19	19.0	0	19
Michael Kopaygorodsky	2	7	3.5	0	7
Ryan Montgomery	3	5	1.7	1	2
Jake Sopko	1	2	2.0	0	2
Ben Bryant	2	-3	-1.5	0	2

PASSING

CONNECTICUT	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Mike Beaudry	6	9	35	3.9	0	0	3.7
Jack Zergiotis	4	14	35	2.5	0	1	3.0
CINCINNATI	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Desmond Ridder	13	23	136	5.9	2	0	93.8
Ben Bryant	3	5	64	12.8	0	0	72.7

RECEIVING

CONNECTICUT	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Ardell Brown	3	29	9.7	0	13
Jay Rose	3	18	6.0	0	9
Art Thompkins	3	12	4.0	0	9
Cameron Ross	1	11	11.0	0	11
CINCINNATI	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG
Josiah Deguara	5	45	9.0	2	18
Malick Mbodj	4	45	11.3	0	23
Josh Whyte	1	32	32.0	0	32
Jayshon Jackson	1	24	24.0	0	24
Leonard Taylor	1	20	20.0	0	20
Rashad Medaris	2	20	10.0	0	11
Blue Smith	1	8	8.0	0	8
Gerrid Doaks	1	6	6.0	0	6