

WEEK FIFTEEN
CINCINNATI at MEMPHIS

Memphis tops Cincinnati for AAC title on Antonio Gibson's late TD

MEMPHIS, Tenn. -- Antonio Gibson caught a 6-yard touchdown pass from Brady White with 1:14 left and No. 16 Memphis defeated No. 21 Cincinnati 29-24 in the American Athletic Conference championship game on Saturday.

The victory marked the first time Memphis (12-1, No. 17, CFP) has won the AAC title in its third straight conference championship game. The Tigers now wait for an invitation to the Cotton Bowl as the highest-ranked Group of Five team.

In the meantime, Memphis coach Mike Norvell will be on the move. Sources told ESPN's Chris Low that Norvell has agreed to a deal to become Florida State's next head coach.

Eight days after beating the Bearcats 34-24 at home in the regular-season finale, Memphis rallied for another win.

"We knew this was going to be a game that was going to come down to responses," Norvell said. "How we responded to adversity. How we responded to success at times. But that's the character and the heart of these kids."

Along with scoring the go-ahead touchdown, Gibson ran for 130 yards, including a 65-yard TD dash.

"Give them a lot of credit. They made the plays down the stretch that needed to be made, and we didn't," Bearcats coach Luke Fickell said.

Cincinnati quarterback Desmond Ridder, who did not play last week against Memphis, passed for 233 yards and ran for 113 more. He also had a 15-yard touchdown in the first half.

The game became a back-and-forth battle in the fourth quarter. Sam Crosa's 33-yard field goal with 4:23 left gave the Bearcats (10-3, No. 20 CFP) a 24-23 lead.

On the Tigers' next drive, Gibson caught two passes and ran five times, setting Memphis up at the Cincinnati 6. On the scoring play, Gibson was split right and caught White's pass.

Cincinnati drove to the Memphis 26 on its final possession, but stalled.

"We didn't find a way," Fickell said. "We didn't have the answers there at the end. But it wasn't for lack of preparation. It wasn't from a lack of fight and it certainly wasn't from a lack of care and love for every one of those guys in that locker room."

TAKEAWAY

Cincinnati: Ridder was key in giving the Bearcats a chance in the championship game. He was able to scramble more than backup Ben Bryant, who played in the first game between the two teams.

Memphis: White, a second-team all-conference selection, completed just 18 of 40 passes for 253 yards. Memphis was able to remain close with a pair of second-half field goals by Riley Patterson of 50 and 52 yards.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
CIN	7	7	7	3	24
MEM	10	0	10	9	29

Scoring Summary -----

	CIN	MEM
FIRST QUARTER		
CIN TD 12:27 Michael Warren II 6 Yd Run (Sam Crosa Kick)		6
6 plays, 30 yards, 2:33	7	0
MEM FG 8:21 Riley Patterson 29 Yd Field Goal		3
12 plays, 64 yards, 4:06	7	3
MEM TD 2:36 Antonio Gibson 65 Yd Run (Riley Patterson Kick)		10
7 plays, 97 yards, 2:29	7	10
SECOND QUARTER		
CIN TD 2:37 Desmond Ridder 15 Yd Run (Sam Crosa Kick)		14
7 plays, 80 yards, 2:09	14	10
THIRD QUARTER		
MEM TD 11:59 Brady White 1 Yd Run (Riley Patterson Kick)		17
7 plays, 75 yards, 3:01	14	17
CIN TD 7:21 Michael Warren II 3 Yd Run (Sam Crosa Kick)		21
9 plays, 75 yards, 4:38	21	17
MEM FG 3:54 Riley Patterson 52 Yd Field Goal		20
10 plays, 41 yards, 3:27	21	20
FOURTH QUARTER		
MEM FG 14:47 Riley Patterson 50 Yd Field Goal		23
11 plays, 31 yards, 3:54	21	23
CIN FG 4:23 Sam Crosa 33 Yd Field Goal		23
13 plays, 54 yards, 6:27	24	23
MEM TD 1:14 Antonio Gibson 6 Yd pass from Brady White (Two-Point Pass Conversion Failed)		29
10 plays, 75 yards, 3:09	24	29

Team Stats	CIN	MEM
First Downs	21	25
Passes for First	9	11
Rushes for First	10	12
Penalties for First	2	2
Third Down Efficiency	7-17	7-18
Fourth Down Efficiency	1-2	0-1
Total Yards	454	447
Total Plays	76	85
Avg Gain Per Play	6.0	5.3
Net Yards Rushing	221	194
Rushes	39	45
Yards Per Rush	5.7	4.3
Net Yards Passing	233	253
Comp-Att	16-37	18-40
Yards Per Pass	6.3	6.3
Times Sacked	1	2
Yds Lost To Sacks	-2	-19
Interceptions	1	1
Punts	6	6
Punt Average	39.5	42.0
Penalties	11	4
Penalty Yards	70	40
Fumbles	2	1
Fumbles Lost	1	0
Time of Poss	28:58	31:02

Individual Stats

RUSHING							
	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
CINCINNATI							
Desmond Ridder	11	113	10.3	1	49		
Michael Warren II	23	99	4.3	2	18		
Gerrid Doaks	3	6	2.0	0	3		
Tre Tucker	2	3	1.5	0	2		
MEMPHIS							
Antonio Gibson	11	130	11.8	1	65		
Kenneth Gainwell	18	44	2.4	0	13		
Patrick Taylor Jr.	11	38	3.5	0	13		
Team	1	-2	-2.0	0	0		
Brady White	4	-16	-4.0	1	2		
PASSING							
	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
CINCINNATI							
Desmond Ridder	16	36	233	6.5	0	1	57.9
Team	0	1	0	0.0	0	0	--
MEMPHIS							
Brady White	18	40	253	6.3	1	1	39.9
RECEIVING							
	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
CINCINNATI							
Alec Pierce	5	87	17.4	0	30		
Malick Mbodj	2	63	31.5	0	32		
Rashad Medaris	2	28	14.0	0	24		
Josiah Deguara	2	22	11.0	0	12		
Thomas Geddis	2	21	10.5	0	13		
Tre Tucker	1	8	8.0	0	8		
Michael Warren II	1	2	2.0	0	2		
Jayshon Jackson	1	2	2.0	0	2		
MEMPHIS							
Damonte Coxie	9	165	18.3	0	45		
Kenneth Gainwell	3	40	13.3	0	26		
Antonio Gibson	3	32	10.7	1	14		
Kedarian Jones	1	18	18.0	0	18		
Patrick Taylor Jr.	2	-2	-1.0	0	0		