



**PLAYOFF  
SEMIFINAL**



**OFFICIAL  
GAME SUMMARY**



**6**

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**27**

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**76,313**

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Attendance

AT&T Stadium, Arlington, Texas  
December 31, 2021



#### SCORE BY QUARTERS

Team	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Cincinnati	3	0	3	0	6
Alabama	7	10	0	10	27

#### SCORING SUMMARY

Qtr	Time	Scoring Play	V-H
1st	09:51	ALA - #18 S.Bolden 8 yd pass from #9 B.Young (#16 W.Reichard kick), 11-75, 05:09	0-7
1st	04:52	CIN - #17 C.Smith 33 yd FG, 13-60, 04:59	3-7
2nd	14:56	ALA - #16 W.Reichard 26 yd FG, 13-67, 04:56	3-10
2nd	01:36	ALA - #7 J.Brooks 44 yd pass from #9 B.Young (#16 W.Reichard kick), 8-88, 02:03	3-17
3rd	09:57	CIN - #17 C.Smith 37 yd FG, 11-56, 05:03	6-17
4th	13:52	ALA - #81 C.Latu 9 yd pass from #9 B.Young (#16 W.Reichard kick), 9-70, 04:02	6-24
4th	06:20	ALA - #16 W.Reichard 43 yd FG, 9-49, 04:02	6-27

#### TIME DETAILS

Kickoff time: 02:40 PM  
End of Game: 05:59 PM  
Total elapsed: 03:18

#### OFFICIALS

Referee: Steve Strimling  
Umpire: Matt Jordan  
Linesman: Darryl Johnson  
Line judge: Cravonne Barrett  
Back judge: David Ross  
Field judge: Brad Glenn  
Side judge: Max Causey  
Center judge: Jim Wharrie  
Replay Official: Jim Northcott

#### WEATHER

Indoor



FULL GAME	CIN	ALA
<b>FIRST DOWNS</b>	13	27
Rushing	6	16
Passing	7	10
Penalty	0	1
<b>NET YARDS RUSHING</b>	74	301
Rushing Attempts	26	47
Average Per Rush	2.8	6.4
Rushing Touchdowns	0	0
Yards Gained Rushing	113	313
Yards Lost Rushing	39	12
<b>NET YARDS PASSING</b>	144	181
Completions-Attempts-Int	17-32-0	17-28-1
Average Per Attempt	4.5	6.5
Average Per Completion	8.5	10.6
Passing Touchdowns	0	3
<b>TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS</b>	218	482
Total offense plays	58	75
Average Gain Per Play	3.8	6.4
Fumbles: Number-Lost	0-0	1-0
Penalties: Number-Yards	6-39	6-36
<b>PUNTS-YARDS</b>	5-226	2-88
Average Yards Per Punt	45.2	44.0
Net Yards Per Punt	46.8	38
Inside 20	2	0
50+ Yards	1	0
Touchbacks	0	0
Fair catch	1	1
<b>KICKOFF-YARDS</b>	3-195	6-390
Average Yards Per Kickoff	65.0	65.0
Net Yards Per Kickoff	43.3	37.5
Touchbacks	2	5
Fair Catch Yards	0	0
Punt returns: Number-Yards-TD	1-12-0	4--8-0
Average Per Return	12.0	-2.0
Kickoff returns: Number-Yds-TD	1-40-0	1-15-0
Average Per Return	40.0	15.0
Interceptions: Number-Yds-TD	1-0-0	0-0-0
Fumble Returns: Number-Yds-TD	0-0-0	0-0-0
Miscellaneous Yards	0	0
Possession Time	26:19	33:41
1st Quarter	04:59	10:01
2nd Quarter	06:37	08:23
3rd Quarter	08:03	06:57
4th Quarter	06:40	08:20
Third-Down Conversions	2-12	5-13
Fourth-Down Conversions	0-3	1-1
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	2-2	3-3
Touchdowns	0-2	2-3
Field goals	2-2	1-3
Sacks By: Number-Yards	2-8	6-38
PAT Kicks	0-0	3-3
Field Goals	2-2	2-3
Points off Turnover	0	0



FULL GAME

CINCINNATI

RUSHING	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Jerome Ford	15	78	1	77	0	14	5.1
Ryan Montgomery	1	3	0	3	0	3	3.0
Desmond Ridder	10	32	38	-6	0	11	-0.6
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2.8</b>

PASSING	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Desmond Ridder	17-32-0	144	0	28	6
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>17-32-0</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>6</b>

RECEIVING	TAR	No.	Yards	YAC	TD	Long
Michael Young	6	4	55	25	0	28
Tyler Scott	7	4	43	20	0	22
Jerome Ford	3	3	11	19	0	6
Alec Pierce	5	2	17	2	0	12
Tre Tucker	5	2	12	20	0	11
Josh Whyte	1	1	12	6	0	12
Leonard Taylor	4	1	-6	0	0	0
Jadon Thompson	1	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28</b>

PUNTING	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB
Mason Fletcher	5	226	45.2	54	2	0
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>45.2</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>

RETURNS	Punt			Kickoff			Intercept		
	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg
Ryan Montgomery	1	12	12	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tyler Scott	0	0	0	1	40	40	0	0	0
Bryan Cook	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

FIELD GOALS	Qtr	Time	Dist	Result
Cole Smith	1st	04:52	33	GOOD
Cole Smith	3rd	09:57	37	GOOD

KICKOFFS	No.	Yards	Avg	TB	OB
Alex Bales	3	195	65.0	2	0

ALL-PURPOSE	Rush	Rcv	KR	PR	IR	Total
Jerome Ford	77	11	0	0	0	88
Tyler Scott	0	43	40	0	0	83
Michael Young	0	55	0	0	0	55
Alec Pierce	0	17	0	0	0	17

FUMBLES

Cincinnati - None  
Alabama - JoJo Earle 1-0

ALABAMA

RUSHING	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Brian Robinson Jr.	25	201	3	198	0	23	7.9
Trey Sanders	15	74	1	73	0	18	4.9
Jameson Williams	1	18	0	18	0	18	18.0
Bryce Young	6	20	8	12	0	12	2.0
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>6.4</b>

PASSING	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Bryce Young	17-28-1	181	3	44	2
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>17-28-1</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>2</b>

RECEIVING	TAR	No.	Yards	YAC	TD	Long
Jameson Williams	9	7	62	17	0	20
Ja'Corey Brooks	7	4	66	35	1	44
Slade Bolden	3	3	31	15	1	16
Jahleel Billingsley	3	1	12	7	0	12
Cameron Latu	2	1	9	4	1	9
Trey Sanders	2	1	1	5	0	1
JoJo Earle	1	0	0	0	0	0
Javon Baker	1	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>44</b>

PUNTING	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB
James Burnip	2	88	44.0	47	0	0
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>44.0</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

RETURNS	Punt			Kickoff			Intercept		
	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg
JoJo Earle	2	-7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Slade Bolden	2	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jameson Williams	0	0	0	1	15	15	0	0	0
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

FIELD GOALS	Qtr	Time	Dist	Result
Will Reichard	2nd	14:56	26	GOOD
Will Reichard	2nd	04:47	44	MISSED
Will Reichard	4th	06:20	43	GOOD

KICKOFFS	No.	Yards	Avg	TB	OB
Will Reichard	6	390	65.0	5	0

ALL-PURPOSE	Rush	Rcv	KR	PR	IR	Total
Brian Robinson Jr.	198	0	0	0	0	198
Jameson Williams	18	62	15	0	0	95
Trey Sanders	73	1	0	0	0	74
Ja'Corey Brooks	0	66	0	0	0	66



FULL GAME  
CINCINNATI

#	Name	Solo	Ast	Total	Sacks-Yds	TFL-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	Int-Yds	BrUp	Blks	QBH
0	Darrian Beavers	4	6	10	1.0-6	2.0-9	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
6	Bryan Cook	4	5	9	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	1-0	0	0	0
20	Deshawn Pace	3	6	9	0.0-0	0.5-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	1
3	Ja'von Hicks	3	5	8	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
13	Ty Van Fossen	2	6	8	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
41	Joel Dublanko	3	4	7	0.0-0	0.5-1	0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
21	Myjai Sanders	2	5	7	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	1	0	3
92	Curtis Brooks	2	4	6	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
1	Ahmad Gardner	2	3	5	0.0-0	1.0-1	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
9	Arqun Bush	3	1	4	0.0-0	1.0-2	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
7	Coby Bryant	2	2	4	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
99	Marcus Brown	1	2	3	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
2	Wilson Huber	1	0	1	1.0-2	1.0-2	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
90	Jabari Taylor	0	1	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
18	Jowon Briggs	0	1	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
42	Malik Vann	0	1	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>		<b>32</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>2.0-8</b>	<b>6.0-15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>1-0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>

ALABAMA

#	Name	Solo	Ast	Total	Sacks-Yds	TFL-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	Int-Yds	BrUp	Blks	QBH
14	Brian Branch	6	2	8	0.5-2	0.5-2	0	0-0	0-0	2	0	0
9	Jordan Battle	6	1	7	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
31	Will Anderson Jr.	2	4	6	2.0-12	2.0-12	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
2	DeMarcco Hellams	2	4	6	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
10	Henry To'oTo'o	1	4	5	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
1	Kool-Aid McKinstry	1	4	5	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
8	Christian Harris	1	3	4	0.5-5	0.5-5	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	1
48	Phidarian Mathis	2	1	3	1.0-6	2.0-7	0	0-0	0-0	2	0	0
6	Khyree Jackson	1	2	3	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
5	Jalyn Armour-Davis	1	1	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
3	Daniel Wright	1	1	2	0.0-0	1.0-6	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
94	DJ Dale	1	0	1	1.0-9	1.0-9	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
15	Dallas Turner	1	0	1	1.0-4	1.0-4	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
47	Byron Young	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
37	Demouy Kennedy	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
92	Justin Eboigbe	0	1	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	1
<b>Totals</b>		<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>6.0-38</b>	<b>8.0-45</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>



### CINCINNATI

Team	Qtr	Drive Started			Drive Ended			Consumed	
		Spot	Time	Obtained	Spot	Time	How lost	PI - Yds	TOP
CIN	1st	CIN25	09:51	Kickoff	ALA15	04:52	*FIELD GOAL	13 - 60	04:59
CIN	2nd	CIN25	14:56	Kickoff	CIN26	12:45	Punt	3 - 1	02:11
CIN		CIN30	11:17	Punt	CIN36	09:35	Punt	3 - 6	01:42
CIN		CIN26	04:47	FieldGoalMissed	CIN31	03:39	Punt	3 - 5	01:08
CIN		CIN40	01:27	Kickoff	CIN44	00:00	Downs	6 - 4	01:27
CIN	3rd	CIN25	15:00	Kickoff	ALA19	09:57	*FIELD GOAL	11 - 56	05:03
CIN		CIN29	07:03	Punt	CIN30	06:03	Punt	3 - 1	01:00
CIN		CIN49	04:54	Interception	CIN33	02:54	Punt	3 - -16	02:00
CIN	4th	CIN25	13:52	Kickoff	ALA26	10:22	Downs	8 - 49	03:30
CIN		CIN25	06:20	Kickoff	ALA38	03:10	Downs	7 - 37	03:10

Cincinnati	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	H1	H2	Total
Time of possession	04:59	06:37	08:03	06:40	11:36	14:43	26:19
3rd down conversions	2-3	0-4	0-3	0-2	2-7	0-5	2-12
Average field position	CIN25	CIN30	CIN34	CIN25	CIN29	CIN31	CIN30
4th down conversions	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-2	0-1	0-2	0-3

### ALABAMA

Team	Qtr	Drive Started			Drive Ended			Consumed	
		Spot	Time	Obtained	Spot	Time	How lost	PI - Yds	TOP
ALA	1st	ALA25	15:00	Kickoff	CIN00	09:51	*TOUCHDOWN	11 - 75	05:09
ALA	2nd	ALA25	04:52	Kickoff	CIN08	14:56	*FIELD GOAL	13 - 67	04:56
ALA		ALA33	12:45	Punt	ALA29	11:17	Punt	3 - -4	01:28
ALA		ALA09	09:35	Punt	CIN26	04:47	Missed FG	12 - 65	04:48
ALA		ALA12	03:39	Punt	CIN00	01:36	*TOUCHDOWN	8 - 88	02:03
ALA	3rd	ALA15	09:52	Kickoff	ALA36	07:03	Punt	5 - 21	02:49
ALA		ALA26	06:03	Punt	ALA30	04:54	Interception	3 - 4	01:09
ALA		ALA30	02:54	Punt	CIN00	13:52	*TOUCHDOWN	9 - 70	04:02
ALA	4th	ALA26	10:22	Downs	CIN25	06:20	*FIELD GOAL	9 - 49	04:02
ALA		ALA38	03:10	Downs	CIN27	00:00	End of half	5 - 35	03:10

Alabama	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	H1	H2	Total
Time of possession	10:01	08:23	06:57	08:20	18:24	15:17	33:41
3rd down conversions	3-5	1-3	1-3	0-2	4-8	1-5	5-13
Average field position	ALA25	ALA18	ALA24	ALA32	ALA21	ALA27	ALA24
4th down conversions	1-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-1	0-0	1-1



Team	Qtr	Drive Started			Drive Ended			Consumed	
		Spot	Time	Obtained	Spot	Time	How lost	PI - Yds	TOP
ALA	1st	ALA25	15:00	Kickoff	CIN00	09:51	*TOUCHDOWN	11 - 75	05:09
CIN		CIN25	09:51	Kickoff	ALA15	04:52	*FIELD GOAL	13 - 60	04:59
ALA		ALA25	04:52	Kickoff	CIN08	14:56	*FIELD GOAL	13 - 67	04:56
CIN	2nd	CIN25	14:56	Kickoff	CIN26	12:45	Punt	3 - 1	02:11
ALA		ALA33	12:45	Punt	ALA29	11:17	Punt	3 - 4	01:28
CIN		CIN30	11:17	Punt	CIN36	09:35	Punt	3 - 6	01:42
ALA		ALA09	09:35	Punt	CIN26	04:47	Missed FG	12 - 65	04:48
CIN		CIN26	04:47	FieldGoalMissed	CIN31	03:39	Punt	3 - 5	01:08
ALA		ALA12	03:39	Punt	CIN00	01:36	*TOUCHDOWN	8 - 88	02:03
CIN		CIN40	01:27	Kickoff	CIN44	00:00	Downs	6 - 4	01:27
CIN	3rd	CIN25	15:00	Kickoff	ALA19	09:57	*FIELD GOAL	11 - 56	05:03
ALA		ALA15	09:52	Kickoff	ALA36	07:03	Punt	5 - 21	02:49
CIN		CIN29	07:03	Punt	CIN30	06:03	Punt	3 - 1	01:00
ALA		ALA26	06:03	Punt	ALA30	04:54	Interception	3 - 4	01:09
CIN		CIN49	04:54	Interception	CIN33	02:54	Punt	3 - -16	02:00
ALA		ALA30	02:54	Punt	CIN00	13:52	*TOUCHDOWN	9 - 70	04:02
CIN	4th	CIN25	13:52	Kickoff	ALA26	10:22	Downs	8 - 49	03:30
ALA		ALA26	10:22	Downs	CIN25	06:20	*FIELD GOAL	9 - 49	04:02
CIN		CIN25	06:20	Kickoff	ALA38	03:10	Downs	7 - 37	03:10
ALA		ALA38	03:10	Downs	CIN27	00:00	End of half	5 - 35	03:10



### CINCINNATI

Pos	##	OFFENSE
QB	9	Ridder, Desmond
TE	11	Taylor, Leonard
WR	12	Pierce, Alec
WR	21	Scott, Tyler
RB	24	Ford, Jerome
OL	50	O'Quinn, Dylan
OL	51	Metz, Lorenz
OL	56	Renfro, Jake
OL	72	Tunstall, James
OL	74	Cooper, Jeremy
TE	81	Whyle, Josh

Pos	##	DEFENSE
LB	0	Beavers, Darrian
DB	1	Gardner, Ahmad
DB	3	Hicks, Ja'von
S	6	Cook, Bryan
DB	7	Bryant, Coby
DB	9	Bush, Arquon
LB	13	Van Fossen, Ty
DL	18	Briggs, Jowon
DL	21	Sanders, Myjai
LB	41	Dublancko, Joel
DL	92	Brooks, Curtis

### ALABAMA

Pos	##	OFFENSE
WR	1	Williams, Jameson
RB	4	Robinson Jr., Brian
WR	7	Brooks, Ja'Corey
QB	9	Young, Bryce
WR	18	Bolden, Slade
OL	55	Ekiyor Jr., Emil
OL	56	McLaughlin, Seth
OL	70	Cohen, Javion
OL	73	Neal, Evan
OL	79	Owens, Chris
TE	81	Latu, Cameron

Pos	##	DEFENSE
DB	1	McKinstry, Kool-Aid
DB	2	Hellams, DeMarcco
DB	5	Armour-Davis, Jalyn
LB	8	Harris, Christian
DB	9	Battle, Jordan
LB	10	To'oTo'o, Henry
DB	14	Branch, Brian
LB	31	Anderson Jr., Will
DL	47	Young, Byron
DL	48	Mathis, Phidarian
DL	94	Dale, DJ

#### Cincinnati

0-McClelland, Charles, 2-Huber, Wilson, 4-Wright, Ethan, 5-Sheppard, Jaquan, 7-Tucker, Tre, 8-Young, Michael, 10-Threats, Bryon, 12-Bumphis, Todd, 14-Fischer, Wyatt, 15-Ward, Taj, 17-Smith, Cole, 20-Thompson, Jadon, 20-Pace, Deshawn, 22-Montgomery, Ryan, 23-Jones Jr., Daved, 24-Thomas, Jaheim, 29-Dingle, Jacob, 30-Kopaygorodsky, Michael, 31-Fletcher, Mason, 35-Royer, Ryan, 36-Adams, Will, 39-Burton, Bryce, 42-Vann, Malik, 47-Lawler, Nate, 60-Huber, Joe, 65-Lamb, Cody, 70-Groeber, Joey, 71-Woodside, Colin, 75-Williams, John, 77-McConnell, Vincent, 78-Collinsworth, Luke, 82-Davis, Noah, 90-Taylor, Jabari, 91-Bales, Alex, 96-Pfeiffer, Cayson, 99-Brown, Marcus

#### Alabama

3-Wright, Daniel, 5-Baker, Javon, 6-Sanders, Trey, 6-Jackson, Khyree, 10-Earle, JoJo, 11-Story, Kristian, 11-Holden, Traeshon, 13-Moore, Malachi, 15-Turner, Dallas, 16-Reichard, Will, 18-Ray, LaBryan, 19-Billingsley, Jahleel, 20-Sanders, Drew, 30-Rias, DJ, 30-Mwikuta, King, 31-Williams, Shatarious, 35-Owens, Austin, 35-Lee, Shane, 36-Jackson, Ian, 37-Kennedy, Demouy, 41-Braswell, Chris, 42-Moody, Jaylen, 50-Smith, Tim, 51-Hibbett, Kneeland, 60-Randolph, Kendall, 65-Latham, JC, 74-George Jr., Damieon, 75-Brown, Tommy, 78-Kight, Amari, 84-Hall, Agiye, 86-Burnip, James, 92-Eboigbe, Justin



**1st Quarter**

Cincinnati wins toss and defers; ALA will receive; CIN will defend West end-zone.

#91 A.Bales kickoff 65 yards to the ALA00, Touchback.

**Alabama drive starts at 15:00**

- 1-10 ALA25 #4 B.Robinson Jr. rush for 6 yards gain to the ALA31 (#92 C.Brooks).
- 2-4 ALA31 #4 B.Robinson Jr. rush for 3 yards gain to the ALA34 (#0 D.Beavers; #92 C.Brooks).
- 3-1 ALA34 #4 B.Robinson Jr. rush for 5 yards gain to the ALA39 (#21 M.Sanders; #3 J.Hicks), 1ST DOWN. R1
- 1-10 ALA39 #4 B.Robinson Jr. rush for 7 yards gain to the ALA46 (#21 M.Sanders; #1 A.Gardner).
- 2-3 ALA46 #9 B.Young rush for 1 yard gain to the ALA47 (#41 J.Dublanco).
- 3-2 ALA47 #1 J.Williams rush for 18 yards gain to the CIN35 (#7 C.Bryant; #13 T.Van Fossen), 1ST DOWN. R2
- 1-10 CIN35 #4 B.Robinson Jr. rush for 9 yards gain to the CIN26 (#13 T.Van Fossen; #3 J.Hicks).
- 2-1 CIN26 #4 B.Robinson Jr. rush for 7 yards gain to the CIN19 (#13 T.Van Fossen; #3 J.Hicks), 1ST DOWN. R3
- 1-10 CIN19 PENALTY CIN Offside (#99 M.Brown) 5 yards from CIN19 to CIN14. NO PLAY.
- 1-5 CIN14 #6 T.Sanders rush for 4 yards gain to the CIN10 (#0 D.Beavers; #1 A.Gardner).
- 2-1 CIN10 #6 T.Sanders rush for 2 yards gain to the CIN08 (#92 C.Brooks), 1ST DOWN. R4
- 1-G CIN08 #9 B.Young pass complete to #18 S.Bolden for 8 yards to the CIN00 TOUCHDOWN, clock 09:51.
- CIN03 #16 W.Reichard kick attempt good.

**Cincinnati 0, Alabama 7.**

*11 plays, 75 yards, 05:09*

#16 W.Reichard kickoff 65 yards to the CIN00, Touchback.

**Cincinnati drive starts at 09:51**

- 1-10 CIN25 #9 D.Ridder pass complete to #24 J.Ford for 6 yards to the CIN31 (#14 B.Branch), out of bounds.
- 2-4 CIN31 #24 J.Ford rush for 3 yards gain to the CIN34 (#10 H.To'oTo'o; #48 P.Mathis).
- 3-1 CIN34 #9 D.Ridder pass complete to #8 M.Young for 4 yards to the CIN38 (#5 J.Armour-Davis; #9 J.Battle), 1ST DOWN. P1
- 1-10 CIN38 #24 J.Ford rush for 9 yards gain to the CIN47 (#10 H.To'oTo'o; #31 W.Anderson Jr.).
- 2-1 CIN47 #9 D.Ridder pass incomplete to #20 J.Thompson.
- 3-1 CIN47 #22 R.Montgomery rush for 3 yards gain to the CIN50 (#14 B.Branch), 1ST DOWN. R2
- 1-10 CIN50 #9 D.Ridder pass complete to #8 M.Young for 19 yards to the ALA31 (#2 D.Hellams), 1ST DOWN. P3
- 1-10 ALA31 #9 D.Ridder pass incomplete to #21 T.Scott broken up by #14 B.Branch.
- 2-10 ALA31 #9 D.Ridder pass complete to #21 T.Scott for 22 yards to the ALA09 (#9 J.Battle), out of bounds, 1ST DOWN. P4
- (05:48) Timeout by ALA.
- 1-G ALA09 #9 D.Ridder pass incomplete to #12 A.Pierce broken up by #10 H.To'oTo'o.
- 2-G ALA09 #9 D.Ridder pass incomplete to #12 A.Pierce.
- 3-G ALA09 #9 D.Ridder pass complete to #11 L.Taylor for 6 yards loss to the ALA15 (#3 D.Wright).
- 4-G ALA15 #17 C.Smith field goal attempt from 33 yards GOOD, clock 04:52.

**Cincinnati 3, Alabama 7.**

*13 plays, 60 yards, 04:59*

#91 A.Bales kickoff 65 yards to the ALA00, Touchback.

**Alabama drive starts at 04:52**

- 1-10 ALA25 #4 B.Robinson Jr. rush for 1 yard gain to the ALA26 (#0 D.Beavers).
- 2-9 ALA26 #9 B.Young pass incomplete to #81 C.Latu.
- 3-9 ALA26 PENALTY CIN Offside (#21 M.Sanders) 5 yards from ALA26 to ALA31. NO PLAY.
- 3-4 ALA31 #9 B.Young pass complete to #18 S.Bolden for 16 yards to the ALA47 (#6 B.Cook), 1ST DOWN. P5
- 1-10 ALA47 #4 B.Robinson Jr. rush for 16 yards gain to the CIN37 (#20 D.Pace; #6 B.Cook), 1ST DOWN. R6
- 1-10 CIN37 #9 B.Young pass incomplete to #7 J.Brooks QB hurried by #21 M.Sanders.
- 2-10 CIN37 #9 B.Young rush for 1 yard gain to the CIN36, End Of Play PENALTY ALA Illegal Forward Pass (#9 B.Young) 5 yards from CIN36 to CIN41. The previous play is under review. The ruling on the field stands.
- 3-14 CIN41 #9 B.Young pass complete to #1 J.Williams for 12 yards to the CIN29, End Of Play.
- 4-2 CIN29 #4 B.Robinson Jr. rush for 4 yards gain to the CIN25 (#6 B.Cook; #20 D.Pace), 1ST DOWN. R7
- 1-10 CIN25 #4 B.Robinson Jr. rush for 15 yards gain to the CIN10 (#20 D.Pace; #6 B.Cook), 1ST DOWN. R8
- 1-G CIN10 #4 B.Robinson Jr. rush for 1 yard gain to the CIN09 (#0 D.Beavers; #21 M.Sanders), out of bounds.
- 2-G CIN09 #9 B.Young sacked for loss of 6 yards to the CIN15 (#0 D.Beavers).
- 3-G CIN15 #9 B.Young rush for 12 yards gain to the CIN03 (#1 A.Gardner), out of bounds.

Summary	Score	Time Poss	R	1st Downs			Conversions		Rushing	Passing	Penalties
				P	X	T	3rd	4td			
Cincinnati	3	04:59	1	3	0	4	2-3	0-0	3-15	5-9-0-45	2-10
Alabama	7	10:01	7	1	0	8	3-5	1-1	18-106	3-5-0-36	1-5



FIRST QUARTER	CIN	ALA
Score	3	7
<b>FIRST DOWNS</b>	4	8
<b>RUSHES-YARDS (NET)</b>	3-15	18-106
<b>PASSING YDS (NET)</b>	45	36
Passes Cmp-Att-Int	5-9-0	3-5-0
<b>TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS</b>	12-60	23-142
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Punt Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Kickoff Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Interception Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Punts (Number-Avg)	0-0.0	0-0.0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	2-10	1-5
Possession Time	04:59	10:01
Third-Down Conversions	2 of 3	3 of 5
Fourth-Down Conversions	0 of 0	1 of 1
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	1-1	2-2

**CINCINNATI**

Rushing	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Jerome Ford	2	12	0	12	0	9	6.0
Ryan Montgomery	1	3	0	3	0	3	3.0

Passing	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Desmond Ridder	5-9-0	45	0	22	0

Receiving	TAR	No.	Yards	YAC	TD	Long
Michael Young	2	2	23	24	0	19
Tyler Scott	2	1	22	16	0	22
Jerome Ford	1	1	6	5	0	6
Leonard Taylor	1	1	-6	0	0	0

Punting	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB
<b>Punt Returns</b>	No.	Yards	TD	Long		
<b>Kick Returns</b>	No.	Yards	TD	Long		
Tackles	UA-A	Total	Sacks	TFL		
Darrian Beavers	2-3	5	1.0	1.0		
Bryan Cook	1-3	4	0.0	0.0		
Ahmad Gardner	1-2	3	0.0	0.0		
Curtis Brooks	2-1	3	0.0	0.0		

**ALABAMA**

Rushing	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Brian Robinson Jr.	11	74	0	74	0	16	6.7
Jameson Williams	1	18	0	18	0	18	18.0
Bryce Young	4	14	6	8	0	12	2.0
Trey Sanders	2	6	0	6	0	4	3.0

Passing	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Bryce Young	3-5-0	36	1	16	1

Receiving	TAR	No.	Yards	YAC	TD	Long
Slade Bolden	2	2	24	15	1	16
Jameson Williams	1	1	12	0	0	12
Cameron Latu	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ja'Corey Brooks	1	0	0	0	0	0

Punting	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB
<b>Punt Returns</b>	No.	Yards	TD	Long		
<b>Kick Returns</b>	No.	Yards	TD	Long		
Tackles	UA-A	Total	Sacks	TFL		
Brian Branch	2-0	2	0.0	0.0		
Henry To'oTo'o	0-2	2	0.0	0.0		
Jordan Battle	1-1	2	0.0	0.0		
Daniel Wright	1-0	1	0.0	1.0		

Qtr	Time	Scoring Play	V-H
1st	09:51	ALA - #18 S.Bolden 8 yd pass from #9 B.Young (#16 W.Reichard kick), 11-75, 05:09	0-7
1st	04:52	CIN - #17 C.Smith 33 yd FG, 13-60, 04:59	3-7



**2nd Quarter**

- 4-G CIN03 PENALTY ALA False Start (#60 K.Randolph) 5 yards from CIN03 to CIN08. NO PLAY.
- 4-G CIN08 #16 W.Reichard field goal attempt from 26 yards GOOD, clock 14:56.

**Cincinnati 3, Alabama 10.**

*13 plays, 67 yards, 04:56*

#16 W.Reichard kickoff 65 yards to the CIN00, Touchback.

**Cincinnati drive starts at 14:56**

- 1-10 CIN25 #24 J.Ford rush for 5 yards gain to the CIN30 (#2 D.Hellams), out of bounds.
  - 2-5 CIN30 #9 D.Ridder sacked for loss of 9 yards to the CIN21 (#94 D.Dale).
  - 3-14 CIN21 #9 D.Ridder pass complete to #21 T.Scott for 5 yards to the CIN26 (#14 B.Branch).
  - 4-9 CIN26 #31 M.Fletcher punt 43 yards to the ALA31 #10 J.Earle return 2 yards to the ALA33 (#21 M.Sanders).
- 3 plays, 1 yards, 02:11*

**Alabama drive starts at 12:45**

- 1-10 ALA33 #6 T.Sanders rush for 0 yards to the ALA33 (#21 M.Sanders) PENALTY ALA Illegal Formation 5 yards from ALA33 to ALA28. NO PLAY.
  - 1-15 ALA28 #9 B.Young pass incomplete to #6 T.Sanders.
  - 2-15 ALA28 #9 B.Young pass complete to #6 T.Sanders for 1 yard to the ALA29 (#41 J.Dublancko; #1 A.Gardner).
  - 3-14 ALA29 #9 B.Young pass incomplete to #1 J.Williams PENALTY ALA Holding declined.
  - 4-14 ALA29 #86 J.Burnip punt 41 yards to the CIN30 fair catch by #22 R.Montgomery at CIN30.
- 3 plays, -4 yards, 01:28*

**Cincinnati drive starts at 11:17**

- 1-10 CIN30 #24 J.Ford rush for 1 yard gain to the CIN31 (#8 C.Harris; #1 K.McKinstry).
  - 2-9 CIN31 #24 J.Ford rush for 5 yards gain to the CIN36 (#10 H.To'oTo'o; #2 D.Hellams).
  - 3-4 CIN36 #9 D.Ridder pass incomplete to #7 T.Tucker broken up by #48 P.Mathis.
  - 4-4 CIN36 #31 M.Fletcher punt 54 yards to the ALA10 #18 S.Bolden return for 1 yard loss to the ALA09 (#21 M.Sanders; #7 C.Bryant).
- 3 plays, 6 yards, 01:42*

**Alabama drive starts at 09:35**

- 1-10 ALA09 #9 B.Young pass complete to #1 J.Williams for 1 yard loss to the ALA08 (#1 A.Gardner).
  - #9 A.Bush injured on the play.
  - 2-11 ALA08 #9 B.Young pass complete to #19 J.Billingsley for 12 yards to the ALA20 (#3 J.Hicks), 1ST DOWN. P9
  - 1-10 ALA20 #4 B.Robinson Jr. rush for 6 yards gain to the ALA26 (#6 B.Cook). R10
  - 2-4 ALA26 #4 B.Robinson Jr. rush for 13 yards gain to the ALA39 (#9 A.Bush), 1ST DOWN. R10
  - 1-10 ALA39 #6 T.Sanders rush for 6 yards gain to the ALA45 (#41 J.Dublancko).
  - 2-4 ALA45 #9 B.Young pass complete to #1 J.Williams for 6 yards to the CIN49 (#7 C.Bryant), 1ST DOWN. P11
  - 1-10 CIN49 #4 B.Robinson Jr. rush for 9 yards gain to the CIN40 (#0 D.Beavers).
  - (06:21) Timeout by CIN.
  - 2-1 CIN40 #9 B.Young pass complete to #7 J.Brooks for 10 yards to the CIN30 (#20 D.Pace), out of bounds, 1ST DOWN. P12
  - 1-10 CIN30 #9 B.Young pass incomplete to #19 J.Billingsley QB hurried by #20 D.Pace.
  - 2-10 CIN30 #9 B.Young pass complete to #1 J.Williams for 4 yards to the CIN26, End Of Play.
  - 3-6 CIN26 #9 B.Young pass incomplete to #19 J.Billingsley broken up by #41 J.Dublancko.
  - 4-6 CIN26 #16 W.Reichard field goal attempt from 44 yards NO GOOD, clock 04:47.
- 12 plays, 65 yards, 04:48*

**Cincinnati drive starts at 04:47**

- 1-10 CIN26 #9 D.Ridder pass incomplete to #21 T.Scott broken up by #6 K.Jackson.
  - 2-10 CIN26 #9 D.Ridder pass complete to #12 A.Pierce for 5 yards to the CIN31 (#5 J.Armour-Davis), out of bounds.
  - 3-5 CIN31 #9 D.Ridder pass incomplete to #8 M.Young QB hurried by #8 C.Harris.
  - 4-5 CIN31 #31 M.Fletcher punt 48 yards to the ALA21 muffed by #10 J.Earle at ALA21 recovered by ALA #1 K.McKinstry at ALA12, End Of Play.
- 3 plays, 5 yards, 01:08*

**Alabama drive starts at 03:39**

- 1-10 ALA12 PENALTY ALA UNS: Unsportsmanlike Conduct (#42 J.Moody) 6 yards from ALA12 to ALA06.
- 1-10 ALA06 #6 T.Sanders rush for 6 yards gain to the ALA12 (#90 J.Taylor; #13 T.Van Fossen).
- 2-4 ALA12 #9 B.Young pass incomplete to #7 J.Brooks broken up by #21 M.Sanders.
- 3-4 ALA12 #9 B.Young pass complete to #1 J.Williams for 4 yards to the ALA16, End Of Play, 1ST DOWN. P13
- 1-10 ALA16 #4 B.Robinson Jr. rush for 3 yards gain to the ALA19 (#0 D.Beavers; #92 C.Brooks).
- 2-7 ALA19 #4 B.Robinson Jr. rush for 23 yards gain to the ALA42 (#9 A.Bush), out of bounds, 1ST DOWN. R14
- 1-10 ALA42 #9 B.Young pass complete to #7 J.Brooks for 14 yards to the CIN44, out of bounds, 1ST DOWN. P15
- 1-10 CIN44 #9 B.Young pass incomplete to #10 J.Earle.
- 2-10 CIN44 #9 B.Young pass complete to #7 J.Brooks for 44 yards to the CIN00 TOUCHDOWN, clock 01:36, 1ST DOWN. P16
- CIN03 #16 W.Reichard kick attempt good.

**Cincinnati 3, Alabama 17.**

*8 plays, 88 yards, 02:03*

#16 W.Reichard kickoff 65 yards to the CIN00 #21 T.Scott return 40 yards to the CIN40 (#9 J.Battle).

**Cincinnati drive starts at 01:27**

- 1-10 CIN40 #9 D.Ridder pass complete to #8 M.Young for 4 yards to the CIN44, End Of Play.
  - 2-6 CIN44 #9 D.Ridder rush for 9 yards gain to the ALA47 (#31 W.Anderson Jr.), 1ST DOWN. R5
  - 1-10 ALA47 #9 D.Ridder pass incomplete to #12 A.Pierce.
  - 2-10 ALA47 #9 D.Ridder pass incomplete to #11 L.Taylor.
  - 3-10 ALA47 #9 D.Ridder sacked for loss of 4 yards to the CIN49 (#15 D.Turner).
  - (00:02) Timeout by CIN.
  - 4-14 CIN49 #9 D.Ridder sacked for loss of 5 yards to the CIN44 (#31 W.Anderson Jr.).
- 6 plays, 4 yards, 01:27*

**Time                      1st Downs                      Conversions**



<b>Summary</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Poss</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>3rd</b>	<b>4td</b>	<b>Rushing</b>	<b>Passing</b>	<b>Penalties</b>
Cincinnati	0	06:37	1	0	0	1	0-4	0-1	7-2	3-8-0-14	0-0
Alabama	10	08:23	2	6	0	8	1-3	0-0	7-66	9-15-0-94	3-16



SECOND QUARTER	CIN	ALA
Score	0	10
<b>FIRST DOWNS</b>	1	8
<b>RUSHES-YARDS (NET)</b>	7-2	7-66
<b>PASSING YDS (NET)</b>	14	94
Passes Cmp-Att-Int	3-8-0	9-15-0
<b>TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS</b>	15-16	22-160
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Punt Returns-Yards	0-0	3--8
Kickoff Returns-Yards	1-40	0-0
Interception Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Punts (Number-Avg)	3-48.3	1-41.0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-0
Penalties-Yards	0-0	3-16
Possession Time	06:37	08:23
Third-Down Conversions	0 of 4	1 of 3
Fourth-Down Conversions	0 of 1	0 of 0
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	0-0	0-0

**CINCINNATI**

Rushing	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Jerome Ford	3	11	0	11	0	5	3.7
Desmond Ridder	4	9	18	-9	0	9	-2.2
Passing	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack		
Desmond Ridder	3-8-0	14	0	5	3		
Receiving	TAR	No.	Yards	YAC	TD	Long	
Tyler Scott	2	1	5	0	0	5	
Alec Pierce	2	1	5	1	0	5	
Michael Young	2	1	4	0	0	4	
Tre Tucker	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Punting	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB	
Mason Fletcher	3	145	48.3	54	2	0	
Punt Returns	No.	Yards	TD	Long			

Kick Returns	No.	Yards	TD	Long
Tyler Scott	1	40	0	40

Tackles	UA-A	Total	Sacks	TFL
Ahmad Gardner	1-1	2	0.0	1.0
Arquon Bush	2-0	2	0.0	0.0
Coby Bryant	1-1	2	0.0	0.0
Darrian Beavers	1-1	2	0.0	0.0

Qtr	Time	Scoring Play	V-H
2nd	14:56	ALA - #16 W.Reichard 26 yd FG, 13-67, 04:56	0-3
2nd	01:36	ALA - #7 J.Brooks 44 yd pass from #9 B.Young (#16 W.Reichard kick), 8-88, 02:03	0-10

**ALABAMA**

Rushing	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Brian Robinson Jr.	5	54	0	54	0	23	10.8
Trey Sanders	2	12	0	12	0	6	6.0
Passing	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack		
Bryce Young	9-15-0	94	1	44	0		
Receiving	TAR	No.	Yards	YAC	TD	Long	
Jameson Williams	5	4	13	8	0	6	
Ja'Corey Brooks	4	3	68	31	1	44	
Jahleel Billingsley	3	1	12	7	0	12	
Trey Sanders	2	1	1	5	0	1	
Punting	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB	
James Burnip	1	41	41.0	41	0	0	
Punt Returns	No.	Yards	TD	Long			

Punt Returns	No.	Yards	TD	Long
JoJo Earle	2	-7	0	2
Slade Bolden	1	-1	0	0

Kick Returns	No.	Yards	TD	Long

Tackles	UA-A	Total	Sacks	TFL
DeMarcco Hellams	1-1	2	0.0	0.0
Will Anderson Jr.	2-0	2	1.0	1.0
Brian Branch	1-0	1	0.0	0.0
Christian Harris	0-1	1	0.0	0.0



**3rd Quarter**

#16 W.Reichard kickoff 65 yards to the CIN00, Touchback.

**Cincinnati drive starts at 15:00**

1-10 CIN25 #9 D.Ridder rush for 9 yards gain to the CIN34 (#9 J.Battle).

#9 J.Battle injured on the play.

2-1 CIN34 #24 J.Ford rush for 2 yards gain to the CIN36 (#47 B.Young), 1ST DOWN. R6

1-10 CIN36 #9 D.Ridder pass complete to #21 T.Scott for 9 yards to the CIN45 (#14 B.Branch).

2-1 CIN45 #9 D.Ridder pass complete to #21 T.Scott for 7 yards to the ALA48 (#14 B.Branch), 1ST DOWN. P7

1-10 ALA48 #9 D.Ridder pass complete to #12 A.Pierce for 12 yards to the ALA36 (#1 K.McKinstry), 1ST DOWN. P8

1-10 ALA36 #24 J.Ford rush for 9 yards gain to the ALA27 (#9 J.Battle).

2-1 ALA27 #9 D.Ridder rush for 3 yards gain to the ALA24 (#31 W.Anderson Jr.; #6 K.Jackson), 1ST DOWN. R9

1-10 ALA24 #9 D.Ridder pass complete to #24 J.Ford for 5 yards to the ALA19 (#10 H.To'oTo'o; #6 K.Jackson).

2-5 ALA19 #24 J.Ford rush for 0 yards to the ALA19 (#8 C.Harris).

3-5 ALA19 #9 D.Ridder pass incomplete to #8 M.Young.

4-5 ALA19 #17 C.Smith field goal attempt from 37 yards GOOD, clock 09:57.

**Cincinnati 6, Alabama 17.**

*11 plays, 56 yards, 05:03*

#91 A.Bales kickoff 65 yards to the ALA00 #1 J.Williams return 15 yards to the ALA15 (#13 T.Van Fossen).

**Alabama drive starts at 09:52**

1-10 ALA15 #4 B.Robinson Jr. rush for 2 yards gain to the ALA17 (#6 B.Cook; #18 J.Briggs).

2-8 ALA17 #4 B.Robinson Jr. rush for 17 yards gain to the ALA34 (#9 A.Bush; #3 J.Hicks), out of bounds, 1ST DOWN. R17

1-10 ALA34 #4 B.Robinson Jr. rush for 3 yards gain to the ALA37 (#20 D.Pace).

2-7 ALA37 #6 T.Sanders rush for 1 yard gain to the ALA38 (#92 C.Brooks; #21 M.Sanders).

3-6 ALA38 #9 B.Young sacked for loss of 2 yards to the ALA36 (#2 W.Huber).

4-8 ALA36 #86 J.Burnip punt 47 yards to the CIN17 #22 R.Montgomery return 12 yards to the CIN29 (#37 D.Kennedy), out of bounds.

*5 plays, 21 yards, 02:49*

**Cincinnati drive starts at 07:03**

1-10 CIN29 #9 D.Ridder pass incomplete to #21 T.Scott.

2-10 CIN29 #24 J.Ford rush for 6 yards gain to the CIN35 (#6 K.Jackson).

3-4 CIN35 #9 D.Ridder pass incomplete to #7 T.Tucker broken up by #14 B.Branch.

4-4 CIN35 PENALTY CIN Delay Of Game 5 yards from CIN35 to CIN30. NO PLAY.

4-9 CIN30 #31 M.Fletcher punt 44 yards to the ALA26 fair catch by #18 S.Bolden at ALA26.

*3 plays, 1 yards, 01:00*

**Alabama drive starts at 06:03**

1-10 ALA26 #9 B.Young rush for 6 yards gain to the ALA32, out of bounds.

2-4 ALA32 #9 B.Young pass complete to #7 J.Brooks for 2 yards loss to the ALA30 (#9 A.Bush).

3-6 ALA30 #9 B.Young pass intercepted by #6 B.Cook at CIN49, End Of Play.

*3 plays, 4 yards, 01:09*

**Cincinnati drive starts at 04:54**

1-10 CIN49 #24 J.Ford rush for 1 yard gain to the CIN50 (#94 D.Dale; #48 P.Mathis) PENALTY CIN Illegal Shift 5 yards from CIN49 to CIN44. NO PLAY.

1-15 CIN44 #24 J.Ford rush for 1 yard loss to the CIN43 (#48 P.Mathis).

2-16 CIN43 #9 D.Ridder pass incomplete to #11 L.Taylor broken up by #48 P.Mathis.  
(03:47) Timeout by CIN.

3-16 CIN43 #9 D.Ridder sacked for loss of 10 yards to the CIN33 (#31 W.Anderson Jr., #8 C.Harris).

4-26 CIN33 #31 M.Fletcher punt 37 yards to the ALA30 #18 S.Bolden return 0 yards to the ALA30 (#21 M.Sanders).

*3 plays, -16 yards, 02:00*

**Alabama drive starts at 02:54**

1-10 ALA30 #4 B.Robinson Jr. rush for 3 yards loss to the ALA27 (#0 D.Beavers).

2-13 ALA27 #9 B.Young pass complete to #18 S.Bolden for 3 yards to the ALA30 (#9 A.Bush), out of bounds PENALTY ALA Holding (#79 C.Owens) 10 yards from ALA27 to ALA17. NO PLAY.

2-23 ALA17 #9 B.Young pass complete to #18 S.Bolden for 7 yards to the ALA24, End Of Play.

3-16 ALA24 #9 B.Young pass complete to #1 J.Williams for 20 yards to the ALA44 (#3 J.Hicks), 1ST DOWN. P18

1-10 ALA44 #6 T.Sanders rush for 1 yard gain to the ALA45 (#0 D.Beavers; #20 D.Pace).

2-9 ALA45 #4 B.Robinson Jr. rush for 11 yards gain to the CIN44 (#41 J.Dublancko; #20 D.Pace), 1ST DOWN. R19

Summary	Score	Time Poss	R	1st Downs			Conversions		Rushing	Passing	Penalties
				P	X	T	3rd	4td			
Cincinnati	3	08:03	2	2	0	4	0-3	0-0	8-18	4-8-0-33	2-10
Alabama	0	06:57	2	1	0	3	1-3	0-0	9-36	3-4-1-25	1-10



THIRD QUARTER	CIN	ALA
Score	3	0
<b>FIRST DOWNS</b>	4	3
<b>RUSHES-YARDS (NET)</b>	8-18	9-36
<b>PASSING YDS (NET)</b>	33	25
Passes Cmp-Att-Int	4-8-0	3-4-1
<b>TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS</b>	16-51	13-61
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Punt Returns-Yards	1-12	1-0
Kickoff Returns-Yards	0-0	1-15
Interception Returns-Yards	1-0	0-0
Punts (Number-Avg)	2-40.5	1-47.0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	2-10	1-10
Possession Time	08:03	06:57
Third-Down Conversions	0 of 3	1 of 3
Fourth-Down Conversions	0 of 0	0 of 0
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	1-1	1-1

**CINCINNATI**

Rushing	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Jerome Ford	5	17	1	16	0	9	3.2
Desmond Ridder	3	12	10	2	0	9	0.7

Passing	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Desmond Ridder	4-8-0	33	0	12	1

Receiving	TAR	No.	Yards	YAC	TD	Long
Tyler Scott	3	2	16	4	0	9
Alec Pierce	1	1	12	1	0	12
Jerome Ford	1	1	5	9	0	5
Michael Young	1	0	0	0	0	0

Punting	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB
Mason Fletcher	2	81	40.5	44	0	0

Punt Returns	No.	Yards	TD	Long
Ryan Montgomery	1	12	0	12

Kick Returns	No.	Yards	TD	Long

Tackles	UA-A	Total	Sacks	TFL
Deshawn Pace	1-2	3	0.0	0.0
Arquon Bush	1-1	2	0.0	1.0
Darrian Beavers	1-1	2	0.0	1.0
Ja'von Hicks	1-1	2	0.0	0.0

Qtr	Time	Scoring Play
3rd	09:57	CIN - #17 C.Smith 37 yd FG, 11-56, 05:03

**ALABAMA**

Rushing	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Brian Robinson Jr.	5	33	3	30	0	17	6.0
Bryce Young	2	6	2	4	0	6	2.0
Trey Sanders	2	2	0	2	0	1	1.0

Passing	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Bryce Young	3-4-1	25	0	20	1

Receiving	TAR	No.	Yards	YAC	TD	Long
Jameson Williams	2	1	20	9	0	20
Slade Bolden	1	1	7	0	0	7
Ja'Corey Brooks	1	1	-2	4	0	0

Punting	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB
James Burnip	1	47	47.0	47	0	0

Punt Returns	No.	Yards	TD	Long
Slade Bolden	1	0	0	0

Kick Returns	No.	Yards	TD	Long
Jameson Williams	1	15	0	15

Tackles	UA-A	Total	Sacks	TFL
Khyree Jackson	1-2	3	0.0	0.0
Brian Branch	2-0	2	0.0	0.0
Christian Harris	1-1	2	0.5	0.5
Jordan Battle	2-0	2	0.0	0.0

Qtr	Time	Scoring Play

3-0



**4th Quarter**

1-10	CIN44	#9 B.Young pass incomplete to #7 J.Brooks QB hurried by #21 M.Sanders.	
2-10	CIN44	#9 B.Young pass complete to #1 J.Williams for 17 yards to the CIN27 (#20 D.Pace), 1ST DOWN.	P20
1-10	CIN27	PENALTY CIN UNS: Unsportsmanlike Conduct (#20 D.Pace) 14 yards from CIN27 to CIN13, 1ST DOWN.	X21
1-10	CIN13	#4 B.Robinson Jr. rush for 9 yards gain to the CIN04 (#6 B.Cook).	
2-1	CIN04	PENALTY ALA False Start (#79 C.Owens) 5 yards from CIN04 to CIN09. NO PLAY.	
2-6	CIN09	#9 B.Young pass complete to #81 C.Latu for 9 yards to the CIN00 TOUCHDOWN, clock 13:52, 1ST DOWN.	P22
	CIN03	#16 W.Reichard kick attempt good.	

**Cincinnati 6, Alabama 24.**

*9 plays, 70 yards, 04:02*

#16 W.Reichard kickoff 65 yards to the CIN00, Touchback.

**Cincinnati drive starts at 13:52**

1-10	CIN25	#24 J.Ford rush for 6 yards gain to the CIN31 (#1 K.McKinstry; #2 D.Hellams).	
2-4	CIN31	#24 J.Ford rush for 6 yards gain to the CIN37 (#9 J.Battle), 1ST DOWN.	R10
1-10	CIN37	#24 J.Ford rush for 6 yards gain to the CIN43 (#2 D.Hellams; #8 C.Harris), out of bounds.	
2-4	CIN43	#9 D.Ridder pass complete to #8 M.Young for 28 yards to the ALA29 (#9 J.Battle), 1ST DOWN.	P11
1-10	ALA29	#24 J.Ford rush for 6 yards gain to the ALA23 (#14 B.Branch; #1 K.McKinstry).	
2-4	ALA23	#9 D.Ridder pass incomplete to #7 T.Tucker.	
3-4	ALA23	#9 D.Ridder pass complete to #7 T.Tucker for 1 yard to the ALA22 (#10 H.To'oTo'o). (10:27) Timeout by CIN.	
4-3	ALA22	#9 D.Ridder sacked for loss of 4 yards to the ALA26 (#31 W.Anderson Jr., #14 B.Branch). <i>8 plays, 49 yards, 03:30</i>	

**Alabama drive starts at 10:22**

1-10	ALA26	#4 B.Robinson Jr. rush for 19 yards gain to the ALA45 (#7 C.Bryant), 1ST DOWN.	R23
1-10	ALA45	#4 B.Robinson Jr. rush for 8 yards gain to the CIN47 (#13 T.Van Fossen; #6 B.Cook).	
2-2	CIN47	#4 B.Robinson Jr. rush for 4 yards gain to the CIN43 (#3 J.Hicks; #99 M.Brown), 1ST DOWN.	R24
1-10	CIN43	#6 T.Sanders rush for 8 yards gain to the CIN35 (#6 B.Cook).	
2-2	CIN35	#6 T.Sanders rush for 8 yards gain to the CIN27 (#13 T.Van Fossen; #42 M.Vann), 1ST DOWN.	R25
1-10	CIN27	#6 T.Sanders rush for 0 yards to the CIN27 (#13 T.Van Fossen).	
2-10	CIN27	#6 T.Sanders rush for 2 yards gain to the CIN25 (#0 D.Beavers; #92 C.Brooks).	
3-8	CIN25	#9 B.Young pass incomplete to #5 J.Baker QB hurried by #21 M.Sanders.	
4-8	CIN25	#16 W.Reichard field goal attempt from 43 yards GOOD, clock 06:20.	

**Cincinnati 6, Alabama 27.**

*9 plays, 49 yards, 04:02*

#16 W.Reichard kickoff 65 yards to the CIN00, Touchback.

**Cincinnati drive starts at 06:20**

1-10	CIN25	#9 D.Ridder pass complete to #7 T.Tucker for 11 yards to the CIN36, out of bounds, 1ST DOWN.	P12
1-10	CIN36	PENALTY CIN False Start (#56 J.Renfro) 5 yards from CIN36 to CIN31. NO PLAY.	
1-15	CIN31	#9 D.Ridder pass complete to #81 J.Whyle for 12 yards to the CIN43 (#2 D.Hellams; #3 D.Wright).	
2-3	CIN43	#24 J.Ford rush for 14 yards gain to the ALA43 (#14 B.Branch), 1ST DOWN.	R13
1-10	ALA43	#9 D.Ridder sacked for loss of 6 yards to the ALA49 (#48 P.Mathis).	
2-16	ALA49	#9 D.Ridder pass complete to #24 J.Ford for 0 yards to the ALA49 (#92 J.Eboigbe; #1 K.McKinstry).	
3-16	ALA49	#9 D.Ridder rush for 11 yards gain to the ALA38, End Of Play.	
4-5	ALA38	#9 D.Ridder pass incomplete to #11 L.Taylor QB hurried by #92 J.Eboigbe. <i>7 plays, 37 yards, 03:10</i>	

**Alabama drive starts at 03:10**

1-10	ALA38	#6 T.Sanders rush for 12 yards gain to the ALA50 (#3 J.Hicks), 1ST DOWN.	R26
1-10	ALA50	#6 T.Sanders rush for 18 yards gain to the CIN32 (#41 J.Dublanko), out of bounds, 1ST DOWN.	R27
1-10	CIN32	#6 T.Sanders rush for 6 yards gain to the CIN26 (#99 M.Brown).	
<i>#79 C.Owens injured on the play.</i>			
2-4	CIN26	#6 T.Sanders rush for 0 yards to the CIN26 (#41 J.Dublanko; #99 M.Brown).	
3-4	CIN26	#6 T.Sanders rush for 1 yard loss to the CIN27 (#41 J.Dublanko; #20 D.Pace). <i>5 plays, 35 yards, 03:10</i>	

Summary	Score	Time Poss	R	1st Downs			Conversions		Rushing	Passing	Penalties
				P	X	T	3rd	4td			
Cincinnati	0	06:40	2	2	0	4	0-2	0-2	8-39	5-7-0-52	2-19
Alabama	10	08:20	5	2	1	8	0-2	0-0	13-93	2-4-0-26	1-5



FOURTH QUARTER	CIN	ALA
Score	0	10
FIRST DOWNS	4	8
RUSHES-YARDS (NET)	8-39	13-93
PASSING YDS (NET)	52	26
Passes Cmp-Att-Int	5-7-0	2-4-0
TOTAL OFFENSE PLAYS-YARDS	15-91	17-119
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Punt Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Kickoff Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Interception Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Punts (Number-Avg)	0-0.0	0-0.0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	2-19	1-5
Possession Time	06:40	08:20
Third-Down Conversions	0 of 2	0 of 2
Fourth-Down Conversions	0 of 2	0 of 0
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	0-0	0-0

CINCINNATI

Rushing	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Jerome Ford	5	38	0	38	0	14	7.6
Desmond Ridder	3	11	10	1	0	11	0.3
Passing	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack		
Desmond Ridder	5-7-0	52	0	28	2		
Receiving	TAR	No.	Yards	YAC	TD	Long	
Tre Tucker	3	2	12	20	0	11	
Michael Young	1	1	28	1	0	28	
Josh Whyte	1	1	12	6	0	12	
Jerome Ford	1	1	0	5	0	0	
Punting	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB	
Punt Returns	No.	Yards	TD	Long			
Kick Returns	No.	Yards	TD	Long			
Tackles	UA-A	Total	Sacks	TFL			
Bryan Cook	2-1	3	0.0	0.0			
Joel Dublanko	1-2	3	0.0	0.5			
Marcus Brown	1-2	3	0.0	0.0			
Ty Van Fossen	1-2	3	0.0	0.0			

ALABAMA

Rushing	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Trey Sanders	9	54	1	53	0	18	5.9
Brian Robinson Jr.	4	40	0	40	0	19	10.0
Passing	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack		
Bryce Young	2-4-0	26	1	17	0		
Receiving	TAR	No.	Yards	YAC	TD	Long	
Jameson Williams	1	1	17	0	0	17	
Cameron Latu	1	1	9	4	1	9	
Ja'Corey Brooks	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Javon Baker	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Punting	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB	
Punt Returns	No.	Yards	TD	Long			
Kick Returns	No.	Yards	TD	Long			
Tackles	UA-A	Total	Sacks	TFL			
Brian Branch	1-2	3	0.5	0.5			
DeMarcco Hellams	0-3	3	0.0	0.0			
Kool-Aid McKinstry	0-3	3	0.0	0.0			
Jordan Battle	2-0	2	0.0	0.0			

Qtr	Time	Scoring Play	V-H
4th	13:52	ALA - #81 C.Latu 9 yd pass from #9 B.Young (#16 W.Reichard kick), 9-70, 04:02	0-7
4th	06:20	ALA - #16 W.Reichard 43 yd FG, 9-49, 04:02	0-10



# GOODYEAR COTTON BOWL CLASSIC RECORDS

2021 CFP Semifinal at the 86th Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic  
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**No Cotton Bowl records were set.**

## Miscellaneous Record Listings

### 100-YARD RUSHING GAMES

Brian Robinson, Jr. 204, 26 carries; avg 7.8 yards

Tied for 5<sup>th</sup> best for Cotton Bowl

Record: 281 – Tony Temple Missouri vs Arkansas (2008) with 24 rushes

### TEAM QUARTERBACK SACKS

6 – Alabama tied for 8<sup>th</sup> with three others

Record: 9 (Miami, 1991 vs. Texas)

### HIGHEST AVERAGE RUSH

Alabama ties for 9<sup>th</sup> – 6.4, 47 attempts, total 301 yards

Today's attendance 76,313 (Ranks 9<sup>th</sup> best for Cotton Bowl)

Record: 88,175, Jan. 2, 2009

### FIRST DOWNS

Alabama ties for 10<sup>th</sup> with 27

### MOST FIRST DOWNS RUSHING

Alabama ties for 10<sup>th</sup> with 16

### FEWEST PUNTS

Alabama ties for 10<sup>th</sup> with 2

## Halftime Records

### MOST NET YARDS RUSHING

Brian Robinson, Jr., 134 yards, 17 attempts

4<sup>th</sup> best Net Rushing Yards at Halftime

Record: 197 Dicky Maegle, Rice vs Alabama, 1954, 7 attempts

### LONGEST SCORING DRIVE

Tie for 9<sup>th</sup>, 94 yards Alabama, 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2:03 - 8 Plays

Record: 97 yards held by six teams



# AT&T STADIUM RECORDS

2021 CFP Semifinal at the 86th Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic

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## THIRD MOST VICTORIES

- Alabama now has six wins at AT&T Stadium. This total ties Oklahoma for third most wins at AT&T Stadium.

## PERFECT RECORD

- Alabama is now 6-0 at AT&T Stadium. This total is the most for any FBS team at AT&T Stadium without having a loss.

## NON-CONFERENCE RECORD

- SEC teams are 18-2 vs. non-conference opponents at AT&T Stadium.

## SIXTH MOST RUSHING YARDS

- Alabama's Brian Robinson Jr. had 204 yards rushing. This total is sixth best for an FBS player at AT&T Stadium and are the most for a running back in this stadium since 2015.

## FIFTH LONGEST SCORING DRIVE FOR TOUCHDOWN

- Alabama's 94-yard touchdown drive in the second quarter ties two other teams for the fifth-longest scoring drive for a touchdown at AT&T Stadium.

## FIFTH MOST FIRST DOWNS RUSHING

- Alabama's 16 first downs by rushing tie two other teams for the fifth-most first downs rushing at AT&T Stadium.

## ATTENDANCE

- Today's attendance is 76,313. This is the largest attendance for a college football game at AT&T Stadium since 2018.



# COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF NEW YEAR'S SIX RECORDS

2021 CFP Semifinal at the 86th Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic  
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**BRIAN ROBINSON, JR. (RB), ALABAMA**

***Most Rushing Yards, New Year's Six Game***

- 204 (26 att.) for No. 2 on the list

**ALABAMA**

***Most Rushing Yards Per Attempt, New Year's Six Game***

- 6.4 (47 for 301) ties two other teams

***Largest Margin of Victory, New Year's Six Game***

- 21 for No. 7 on the list



# CINCINNATI POSTGAME NOTES

2021 CFP Semifinal at the 86th Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic  
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## Highlights

- Cincinnati ends the season with a 13-1 record. This was its first loss in almost exactly one calendar year, with the last one being against Georgia in last year's Peach Bowl on Jan. 1, 2021.
- Cincinnati became the first ever non-Power Five school to play in the College Football Playoff.
- Cincinnati's all-time bowl record moves to 10-11. The Bearcats have appeared in a bowl game in four-straight seasons.
- This game marked the fourth time an AAC and SEC team met in a bowl game.
- UC is now 44-7 (.863) since 2018, ranking among the top five teams in CFB in winning percentage during that span.
- Head Coach Luke Fickell is now 48-15 (.762) in five seasons at Cincinnati.
- After today's performance, the Bearcats have 70 touchdowns and 516 points this season. The previous records were 502 points and 66 touchdowns, which were broken during the AAC Championship game against Houston.
- Today's captains were Desmond Ridder, Coby Bryant, Myjai Sanders and Joel Dublanko.
- UC won the coin toss and elected to defer.
- UC's all-time record is now 650-595-50 (.521).

## Charting Quarterback Desmond Ridder

- Ridder trails only Brady White (Memphis, 90) in career passing touchdowns in the AAC. He ends today with 87 in his career.
- Ridder ends the season with 3,334 passing yards. He is just short of the single-season school record of 3,543 set by current quarterbacks coach and passing game coordinator Gino Guidugli in 2002.

- Ridder (12,418 career total yards) broke the AAC and Cincinnati total yardage records earlier this season. He is also the AAC's and Cincinnati's all-time leader in total touchdowns with 116 (87 passing, 28 rushing, 1 receiving). He broke Guidugli's career touchdown pass mark of 79 earlier in the season.
- Ridder remains the winningest active quarterback in college football with a 44-6 (88.0%) record. The 44 wins are good for third place all-time. The only two quarterbacks who have more are Colt McCoy (45-8, Texas) and Kellen Moore (50-3, Boise State)
- With 144 passing yards today, Ridder now has 10,239 passing yards in his career becomes just the second player in UC history to pass for 10,000 yards (Gino Guidugli, 11,453).
- With 30 touchdown passes in 2021, the senior ends just one behind the school record of 31 set by Ben Mauk (2007) and Gunner Kiel (2014).

### **Offensive Notes**

- After rushing for 77 yards today Jerome Ford brings his season total to 1,319 yards, which is the fifth-most in UC history for a single season.
- Michael Young Jr. led the Bearcats with four catches and 55 yards, including a 28-yard catch in the second half.
- Tyler Scott's 40-yard kickoff return near the end of the first half was a career-long. He also ended the game with four catches for 43 yards.
- Cole Smith hit a 33-yard field goal on Cincinnati's opening drive and a 37-yarder in the third quarter. They were his fourth and fifth made field goals this season and his first since Oct. 8 against Temple. The 37-yard kick is a season long and the two makes are a season high.
- Punter Mason Fletcher launched a season-long 54-yard punt in the second quarter to pin Alabama at its own nine-yard line. It was his 16<sup>th</sup> punt this season inside the 20-yard line and his sixth of 50 or more yards.
- With 17 receiving yards today, Alec Pierce ends his season with 884 yards, which is the most on the team.

## **Defense**

- Cincinnati forced 1 turnover today, giving it 34 forced turnovers of the season, the most in the FBS.
- Safety Bryan Cook picked off Alabama quarterback Bryce Young in the third quarter for his second interception of the season.
- The Bearcats held the Crimson Tide to a season-low 181 passing yards. They are the only team to hold Alabama to under 200 passing yards all season.
- Darrian Beavers recorded his fifth sack of the season at the end of the first quarter. Beavers ended the game with a team-high 10 tackles and two tackles for loss, tying a season high. He now has 12 TFLs on the season.
- Myjai Sanders led the Bearcats with five quarterback hurries, bringing his season total to 15, which leads the team.
- Wilson Huber recorded his third sack of the season in the third quarter.
- Before the game, Huber was named the Dan S. Petty Scholar-Athlete Award winner for Cincinnati at the 2021 Cotton Bowl. The award, which is given to one player on each team, recognizes the student-athlete for their excellence in athletics and academics.



# ALABAMA POSTGAME NOTES

2021 CFP Semifinal at the 86th Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic  
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- Alabama has played in a total of nine Cotton Bowl contests in school history, boosting its record 5-4 all-time in those games with its win over Cincinnati.
- Bryce Young set the school record for the most passing touchdowns in a season at 44, after connecting with Slade Bolden on an eight-yard touchdown pass on the Crimson Tide's opening drive.
  - Young reset that record throughout the remainder of the game, concluding the contest at 46.
- Young also broke the single-season passing yards record, surpassing Mac Jones who set the record at 4,500 in 2020.
  - Young came into the CFP Semifinal/Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic with 4,322 passing yards, and currently holds the record with 4,503 heading into the national championship game.
- Alabama logged 172 yards rushing in the first half, the most first-half rushing yards by the Crimson Tide this season.
  - The 172 yards rushing is also more than the Crimson Tide has recorded in a complete game in eight of 13 games this season.
- Brian Robinson Jr. had 134 yards rushing in the first half, marking just the second time this season he has recorded 100-or-more yards rushing in a half.
  - His 134 yards in the first half against Cincinnati is more than he has recorded in a complete game in 10 of his 12 games this season.
- Brian Robinson Jr. recorded a career-high 204 yards rushing in the game, setting an Alabama bowl record in the process
  - Robinson Jr. surpassed Bo Scarbrough, who recorded 180 yards against Washington on Dec. 21, 2016.
- Alabama's defense had six pass breakups against Cincinnati, tying a season high when the Crimson Tide interfered with LSU as many times on Nov. 6.
- The game captains against Cincinnati were Alabama's permanent captains in linebacker Will Anderson Jr., defensive lineman Phidarian Mathis, offensive lineman Evan Neal, quarterback Bryce Young.



# CINCINNATI POSTGAME QUOTES

2021 CFP Semifinal at the 86th Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic  
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## QUESTIONS FOR HEAD COACH LUKE FICKELL, QB DESMOND RIDDER, LB JOEL DUBLANKO, CB COBY BRYANT, CB AHMAD GARDNER, WR MICHAEL YOUNG, OL KACOB RENFRO, LB DARRIAN BEAVERS, WR ALEC PIERCE

**CINCINNATI HEAD COACH FICKELL:** Obviously, this is gut-wrenching and really, really difficult for everybody, but most importantly for the 30 or so seniors that have brought this program and this team so far. Those guys have done everything. They've sacrificed. They've committed. It's really tough. We didn't get it done tonight, and we didn't play complementary football.

We knew it was going to be a big deal, and I think that's kind of where the game is won. At no phase of it did we give ourselves the best opportunity. It's very difficult. It's difficult on these guys because they've worked so hard. They've committed so much. They've done everything we've asked them to do. We just were a bit short, obviously, tonight.

**Q. Dez (Desmond Ridder), obviously this is the last game in your Bearcats career, but I just wanted you to maybe reflect a little bit about that career and the good things that you're going to remember from that and think about. Obviously, this game didn't go the way that you wanted it to.**

**QB DESMOND RIDDER:** Yeah, met a lot of good brothers and a lot of close friends that will be with me the rest of my life. I played a lot of great football with a lot of great players. My true freshman year, when I wasn't playing to all the way until now. And this loss I'm going to remember.

I just want to thank Coach Fick (Luke Fickell) and all the coaching staff, all the training staff, academic staff. And all of our fans who supported us even in our down years. And everyone who came out this weekend and over this past week to come out, traveled to Dallas and support us. I just wanted to say thank you.

**Q. Follow that up with just your thoughts on this game, the emotions you have going through you right now, obviously coming up on the short end of this journey you guys have been on.**

**QB DESMOND RIDDER:** Yeah, obviously that's not how we or anyone would want the game to end is with a loss. So it hurts for us seniors, because we can't come back here and do anything with our brothers and try to get at them again next year.

But we know that at the end of our seasons, the only thing we can do is learn. These young guys are going to take it in, watch the film and continue to get better and continue to grow and continue to be a greater Cincinnati team in years to come.

***Q. What was it about what you got in terms of both pressures and coverage looks that was different from what you'd seen on tape? Or was it exactly what you expected and they just executed so well that it gave you too much trouble?***

**QB DESMOND RIDDER:** They didn't do much different than what we saw on film. To sit there and draw the twists and stunts that they do on the board and work it out through practice, it's another thing to come down here and play it on a big stage.

Our offensive line has done a great job all year, all season. And I want to thank them for what they've done for me. I missed a couple of completed easy throws, but it's just different between practice and on film. I think they did their best.

***Q. Obviously an outstanding season this year. Today's loss was a tough one, but how do you see the defense progress in the years to come?***

**LB JOEL DUBLANKO:** Guys with a little bit of experience are coming back, and I'm just really excited to see how they grow and see how these players step up. They've been under us a little bit, just with how much seniors and seniority we have on this team right now. But I'm just really looking forward to seeing how these guys grow and develop as leaders and as men.

I mean, I was just in the locker room talking to -- going through everybody. And just telling them I'm looking forward to seeing them grow and who they become as men and leaders. And seeing them ball out in the field.

I love everybody in that locker room. And especially the defense. All those days of practice, we just go through so much together. And the off-season, just trying to -- they are truly my brothers, and I want nothing but the best for them, and look forward to seeing them grow.

***Q. Desmond [Ridder], I wanted to ask you about something Coach Luke Fickell said last year at the end of the year, that you were a good team -- do you feel like this team was great this season? Do you view this as a great season for football?***

**QB DESMOND RIDDER:** Yeah, I definitely feel like it was a great season. It obviously didn't end the way we wanted to. That's going back and playing the champs. I'm sure if we played them again next year with the same team, it would be a different score.

I would definitely say it was a great season. All these guys in the locker room had a ton of fun. That pressure was put on us, we still won a conference championship. We obviously wanted it to end differently and win with a national championship. But for us and coming from Cincinnati, from the American Conference, this is about as good as you can ask for.

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***Q. Desmond [Ridder], you talk about unfinished business and coming back to this team and have more in the tank. Do you feel like even though it doesn't end in a national championship, that there is some finished business here as you go forward for you and for the team?***

**QB DESMOND RIDDER:** Yeah, for myself, I feel like for both of them, for the team and myself, the only way is up. I went out on a loss and our team went out on a loss. The only thing we can do is improve and get better.

No one out there, whether myself or offense or defense or special teams played exactly perfect and exactly 100 percent. Until we do that on the biggest stages of our lives, there's still room for improvement and ways to get better.

***Q. This question is for the student-athletes. What does it feel like representing the American Conference and showing folks that you don't have to be in those other conferences to be in these big games like you did this afternoon? I know it didn't come out the right way?***

**LB JOEL DUBLANKO:** I would say that the path is there. You just got to go out there and handle your business. Obviously, we would have liked for it to end differently. But we got here and we kept telling ourselves that we weren't necessarily carrying a flag for everybody else, but ourselves and representing our city and our program. But we did it, and we're just going to keep fighting.

**QB DESMOND RIDDER:** Yeah, we weren't carrying the flag for anyone but ourselves. You can say the American Conference -- we're just grateful to have this opportunity and to be able to be in the position we're at. Like you said, we also wanted it to end differently, and wish it could have ended differently. So I'm hoping that there are other so-called Group of Five teams, or teams from any conference that can make it in the playoffs and show they can compete with the best of the best.

***Q. This is for both Dez and Joel. Just walking off the field -- is it disappointment, is it pride, is it a mixture of both? I know it's kind of a tough moment. Can you describe what you were feeling there at the end of the game?***

**QB DESMOND RIDDER:** Yeah, I would say for myself, it was definitely a mixture of both. It was a little disappointing that we couldn't execute the way that we wanted to. We couldn't go out there and really play complementary football, as Coach Fick (Luke Fickell) stated earlier.

And then you know it was joy. It was seeing all those Bearcat fans, seeing all the fans in the stands who stuck around all the way to the end who made the 12, 13, 14-hour journey from wherever they were in the United States, to come watch us play football, it was just a surreal moment.

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I made sure that I was one of the last ones to leave the field, just to thank everyone who supported us along our journey.

**LB JOEL DUBLANKO:** Like Dez said, just a combination of both. Obviously, super disappointed to lose that game. Like you said, not really playing complementary football like we do, and like we have all season. But looking around and being able to look around and see all the Bearcats and people that came from all over the country who came and supported, it's truly a blessing.

And I'm so thankful that God put us in this position. I really felt like His hand was on us the entire season. Just keeping guys safe and protected from injuries and all of that. Just really thankful for the opportunity and yeah.

***Q. There has always been a big debate of whether the Group of Five schools deserves to be -- what do you think you guys showed tonight when it comes to that debate, in terms of does the smaller schools deserve a shot?***

**LB JOEL DUBLANKO:** Absolutely we do. I don't know what the score was -- whatever it was. But I just think that so many of those plays were just inches away of making the play -- or just a couple of missed tackles here and there, and that really cost us.

I think we absolutely belonged in this game. At the end of the day, we just didn't execute like we have all season. I definitely think people can play with the top dogs. And we're just right there, inches away, but just didn't get the job done.

**QB DESMOND RIDDER:** Yeah, I definitely think the so-called smaller schools, Group of Five schools, could potentially keep making the playoffs, as long as they put together seasons upon seasons. I think that it's not just one season of undefeated record. You can't go 2 and 6 or 2 and 10 in the season before, and then go undefeated and expect to make it in the college football playoffs.

I think it has to be a program that's built up over years and years of just good football and good execution football. And like Joel [Dublanko] said, the score was 27-6 and there was no fight to stop. We wanted to fight to the end. And our execution just wasn't there on offense. We weren't playing complementary football, so I think the score reflected a different game.

I think any of the teams in America can come out here and play with anyone they want to, as long as they come out here and execute and play their best ball.

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***Q. Coach, obviously this is one is a tough one to digest. You said it was gut-wrenching a little bit ago. At the end of the day, you've got to be proud of this group of guys; like you said, the seniors. What's your message to them as they end their careers in Cincinnati?***

**COACH FICKELL:** In the game of life, like sports, it very rarely ends how you envision it. These guys have done a phenomenal job. There's so much they've been through. I mean that for the whole group, especially the seniors. So it is very difficult. It's very tough.

But more than anything, I told them I do not want to see them hang their heads. I do not want to see any fraction of anything amongst the brotherhood that they have built. Because when you get beat like that, there's times you start to wonder why. We never pointed a finger and we won't start to point a finger. Those guys deserve the very best.

It doesn't feel like that right now. But I can't be more proud of that group of guys, in particular the seniors for what they've done for us and the program and our community and for me and my family.

***Q. Hey, Coach [Luke] Fickell, can you just talk about the excitement around the city of Cincinnati and what it means?***

**COACH FICKELL:** It's phenomenal. Last year was a great year, but it was difficult because of the situation. To have the electricity and the energy that was back in Nippert Stadium and amongst our campus and within our city.

I don't do a great job of recognizing and maybe stepping back to see some of that, but I took the opportunity there at the beginning of the game to kind of take a peek and to recognize the energy that these guys have created for our football team and for our program, but also for our community, our city, and our entire state.

***Q. Coach [Fickell], how does it feel to start building a legacy? You guys had a great year next year. You came back and did even better this year. How does it feel to be building something special for Cincinnati and a Group of Five?***

**COACH FICKELL:** It doesn't feel great right now, but step back here and reflect a little bit more and recognize where it is that we've come from. And I mean that just in the last five years. And I mean that with this group of guys.

I don't know if I can see it or think about it right now in the midst of this, but I promise you my wife (Amy Fickell) will make me, later tonight, try to take a couple of deep breaths and recognize where these guys have taken us and what they've done for us.

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***Q. Coach [Fickell], you spoke about the upper classmen and the importance of this group of guys, just how you want to thank them and what you want to say about what they've done to be a part of what Cincinnati has become in football.***

**COACH FICKELL:** Words can't describe what it is that those guys mean to me, mean to us, mean to this program. It's really difficult to put in words. They've done so much. And everybody just kind of recognizes the wins, but the reality is they've created an environment, a culture, they've created an atmosphere that's a true family.

And in families, we do have issues and we do have ups and downs. But you really look around that locker room and there's obviously some heavy hearts. But then you see the love that they have for one another, and sometimes it takes something that doesn't go quite as well for you to kind of step back and recognize just how far these guys have really grown and grown together.

***Q. Coach [Fickell], your time at Cincinnati has kind of been defined by these checkpoints, getting up to the AAC conference championship, losing it, and coming back and winning it. Getting to a New Year's Six bowl game. Does this feel like that right now? Like, you got to another checkpoint, and this is going to be something that will help propel you past the next time?***

**COACH FICKELL:** That's the last thing that I reminded them as we broke it down in there is you don't ever forget the feeling. Just because you worked so hard, you have to recognize the things that aren't guaranteed to you.

I don't think you should ever forget the feeling that it's like when you do come up short. I know for myself, I know for a lot of guys in there that are built the same way, this will be an incredible motivation for finding a way to take the next step, and take that next step with a lot of new guys.

***Q. Coach [Fickell], you addressed it a little bit, but guys, like Evan Prater, Tre Tucker, Deshawn Pace, these are the leaders of program, how do you think this loss will impact them as they take the reins?***

**COACH FICKELL:** I hope, I hope it does. I hope they continue to grow. The motivation is always key to me. When you can sit there and see how much it means to those guys that are not going to have another opportunity to wear that helmet, put that C paw on their chest and go out there and represent our team, I hope they don't ever forget about what they saw from those guys.

Because when the times get tough, and they will, in preparation for games, they'll have to draw upon those things to continue to motivate them.

***Q. Luke [Fickell], are you able to reflect on the job you've done at Cincinnati to get here now? And are you able to see where you still want it to go from where you are sitting right now, even after tonight's loss still?***

**COACH FICKELL:** No, I haven't had a chance to reflect, but I know we're not where we want to be. I continue to reiterate: In order to be a top-ten program, which is what we strive to be, there's got to be consistency. Consistency year to year as a program, consistency on the football field, consistency in everything that we do. We won't rest. We won't relax until we get to that point.

Then when we get to that point, then we'll push to be a top-five program. So that's probably the best reflection that I've got. I don't know exactly where we are right now. But I know this hurts and I know that this will be a great motivator as we continue to climb back.

***Q. Coby. I just wanted to ask you, in moments like this -- and, unfortunately, your team had done so well during the regular season. What were some of the messages that your coach said to you guys after this game?***

**CB COBY BRYANT:** Really, the first thing's first. He appreciates us fighting to the end. That was the biggest thing. You know, me being a leader for this team and the other leaders as well, just kind of piecing together to get the guys just to finish. You know, the outcome of the sport doesn't define who we are. I'm super proud of the year that we had, as a senior coming back for a fifth year. I have no regrets. I appreciate all the guys fighting for me, as a senior, and vice versa. So I'm definitely appreciative for all those who've poured in, not only for myself but for the seniors as well.

***Q. Coby, just what did you think was the toughest thing of stopping Alabama's offense today?***

**CB COBY BRYANT:** You know, we can always say the toughest thing, we have to go back and watch it on film. It's hard to say because I was pretty much doing my job. The biggest thing, we just got to get our hats off to Alabama. They came out and beat us fair and square. We have to respect that. When you take a fair loss like that, all you can do is keep your chin up and keep it moving. Go back to work.

***Q. Coby, did they do anything that surprised you out there?***

**CB COBY BRYANT:** Not really. I wouldn't say they surprised us. But they just came out and played football. They beat us fair and square. Like I just said, you got to get your hats off to them and give respect when it's due.

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**Q. *With Cincinnati getting to this point, a place where people didn't think they could get, do you think this hurts or helps them down the road when it comes to getting in more playoff games?***

**CB COBY BRYANT:** Like I said, we don't really pay attention to the outside noise and what people think of us. Honestly, it's about the team. Just like I announced in the locker room for the leaders that's coming back next year, lead those guys better than what I did. That was the biggest thing for me, as a leader, just to lead the guys for the future leaders just to -- so they can get back to this moment. I always told them have this feeling that you feel right now throughout the whole off-season, throughout the spring ball, throughout everything. Just come back and just be willing to work and trust behind Coach Fickell because he has a great plan. He's a great coach. Like I said, it was a great year. I'm greatly appreciative.

**Q. *Being a leader on this team, Coby, I want to know what your message is to the rest of the team. Because you said you did come back as a fifth-year senior. You have no regrets. And, futuristically, sir, I wish you the best should you decide to make yourself eligible for the NFL draft, but what was your message to the team?***

**CB COBY BRYANT:** I literally stood up in front of the whole team and thanked them. It was a great season. And just like I said earlier in the questions, you know, the final score doesn't determine who we are. It's the fight from when the clock says zero that determines who we are. And, honestly, I feel like we fought to the very end. Just like I said, you have to give respect when it's due. They beat us fair and square. I respect them. They came out and got the job done. But like I just said, I made sure that I grabbed the younger guys and just had this feeling, just to use this chip on your shoulder. Have these feelings you're feeling right now. Use it in the off-season to motivate you so you can be great and have a better season than we did now. That was the biggest thing for me, as a leader, is to leave this program better than when I came in. So that's really the biggest thing. It's not really about the accolades or anything. It's about me being a leader and being a great example for the younger guys.

**Q. *When the score is around 7-3, 10-3 near the half, it was a really close game. Do you think there was anything at all that you might have changed for the score, any certain play you could have changed to make it closer?***

**CB COBY BRYANT:** Like I said, that's pretty hard for me to answer. Like I said, I'm pretty much focused on my job. I try not to do other people's jobs. It's about the 1% that I do for the defense and just to be the leader. Every time we got off the sideline, I just told them, Keep going. Give me all you got. Give me 100% every play. Lay it out there for me, and I'm going to do the same. That's kind of hard to answer, but I just try to be the best leader I can be for this team.

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***Q. Just kind of a follow-up, no regrets coming back for your senior season. Where do you feel like you've grown this year? Where do you feel like kind of the biggest difference from Coby last year to now is?***

**CB COBY BRYANT:** Just me being an extremely good leader. It's always a blessing and a great feeling when younger guys come up to me and tell me how great of a leader I am and how much they look up to me. That's better than, honestly, any accolades to me. Character is the biggest thing for me. That's what my family raised me to have great character. Everything isn't just about sports. So just to hear younger guys say how good of a person I am and a leader, that was the biggest thing for me. Honestly, that was part of the reason why I came back, was to be a better leader, not even just the back end or the defense but for the whole team so they could have someone to look up to.

***Q. Good evening, sir. I appreciate your time. I just would like to get your thoughts on not necessarily the outcome of the game but just your thoughts on how Cincinnati played tonight against Alabama.***

**CB AHMAD GARDNER:** Honestly, I feel like we played to the last whistle, until the clock hit 00. Unfortunately, I didn't get to play in the last bowl game, but this one I did play in. I was just very fortunate and made sure the back end, the defense was just finishing strong.

***Q. What did you see from Alabama's offense from your perspective today?***

**CB AHMAD GARDNER:** I seen what I seen on film. I didn't expect the running ball that much, but it wasn't nothing we couldn't handle. We tried to execute as much as we could.

***Q. Just what was kind of the message in the locker room from maybe some of the guys or Coach Fickell? Just afterwards.***

**CB AHMAD GARDNER:** Just keeping our head up, you know? Bigger than just football. I had the honor of playing with all of my teammates this year. It was a huge blessing. I feel like we went out like we were supposed to. We should have got the win.

***Q. Just how did you feel like Alabama kind of targeted you? It seemed like they went after you a couple of times with Jameson Williams. And obviously seemed like you held your own in the back field in breaking up the pass.***

**CB AHMAD GARDNER:** He's a great player. I feel like they didn't try to target me as much. I'm not sure how many targets I had. All I know is he's a great player. We went out there and played like we were supposed to.

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**Q. On the sideline, I mean the last couple minutes, the score is what it is. What are you guys going to say to each other or even on the field at that last drive? You talked about playing to the final whistle. What are you guys kind of saying to each other out there at the end?**

**CB AHMAD GARDNER:** That's all we kept saying. Just don't stop. Keep giving it everything we got. It would have been easy for us to be like, all right, yeah, we lost. Let's just relax and let them impose their will against us. But we kept fighting.

**Q. They ran for over 300 yards against your defense in this pivotal game. What do you think you could have done to stop that kind of rushing attack? Thank you.**

**CB AHMAD GARDNER:** I don't know what we could have did. We did what we prepared to do, as far as the way we ran our defense. Hats off to them. They had a great O-line, great backs. And they showed that.

**Q. Can you describe what you saw from Alabama's defense? You know, six points for you guys kind of made it difficult for you guys to punch it in today.**

**WR MICHAEL YOUNG:** Very fast and physical, as you guys saw. They fly around a lot, sideline to sideline. They have great players. They did a lot as far as upfront with their front seven, and they did a lot on the back end with variations of different coverages. They definitely showed their hand today, but they did a good job. They executed really well. Hats off to them.

**Q. We just spoke to Coby, and we just spoke to Ahmad. They said that this team played to the very end, from whistle to whistle. Can you just talk to me about during these moments where you knew you had to make some type of play to get a stop or something to turn this game around. What was part of not only your game plan but just your mindset with seeing what you could do to disrupt Alabama.**

**WR MICHAEL YOUNG:** Nothing really in particular other than stick to our game plan. We were confident with our game plan going in, confident in your coaches and what they set up for us. Ultimately, it was just, you know, we were just thinking about when we got the chance, when our number's called, make the play. Nothing too deep. Nothing too specific, other than when, like I said, your number's called, you make the play. Any form it comes in, whether that's a catch, whether that's a block, whether that's a run, it didn't matter. You just do your job to the best of your ability and let everything else take care of itself.

**Q. What were you guys kind of saying to each other? You had quite a number of three and outs, just on the sidelines after those. What were you saying to each other on the sideline trying to keep yourselves in the game?**

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**WR MICHAEL YOUNG:** We just knew we'd get another opportunity, just keep our foot on the pedal, and we'd go out there, just make the most of it. We didn't have too many rah-rah guys trying to galvanize the group. I think we have a pretty strong group, a very senior-led, very intrinsically motivated group to where no one has to necessarily call out or preach or anything like that. We just knew what the task was at hand. You know, we knew we'd get the opportunity, and we'd just go out and make the best of it.

***Q. As you mentioned, a big senior class. What was kind of the message in the locker room afterwards?***

**WR MICHAEL YOUNG:** Hold our heads up. Obviously, we knew this wasn't going to be an easy task, but just the fact we made it this far when so many people have doubted us. Even though we don't necessarily pay attention to the outside noise, we know it's there. And the fact that we pulled off what we did in the fashion in which we did it, just to hold our heads high. You know, it won't be the last time you see Cincinnati. That's not just saying from a senior standpoint. I truly, wholeheartedly believe that this will not be the last time you'll see Cincinnati on this stage. I'll just leave it at that.

***Q. How did Alabama kind of, I don't know, match your expectations of what you expected going in, in terms of their defense?***

**OL JACOB RENFRO:** Yeah. So we knew Alabama was a phenomenal football team going in. They got great players all around. So we expected them to be really good. That's what they were. They came out and they punched us in the face a little bit. We needed to respond better. I believe that started with me. I just needed to be better in my communication, my calls, and just how I play football.

***Q. I appreciate your time, sir. Being a part of this offensive line, can you talk to me a little bit about what Alabama's defense was able to do to maybe disrupt your game plan this evening?***

**OL JACOB RENFRO:** Yeah. So we knew their defense line was going to be super active. And they were super active. They were stunting. They were blitzing. They were looping. They just caught us off guard just a little bit. I believe we responded all right, but you know, we just need to be better in the future.

***Q. Kind of what was the reaction? You had two drives with field goals to begin the first half and second half. Does it feel like a success? You were able to get points on the board, or disappointment at not able to score a touchdown when you get to the goal line?***

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**OL JACOB RENFRO:** Our main goal is to score touchdowns. When we get stopped on the 9-yard line, you have to settle for a field goal, it's not the best feeling in the world. So we just needed to finish more drives, put some more points on the board.

**Q. *Jacob, I just wanted to know what your message was to the team. And, more importantly, Mr. Young said this was not the last time we're going to be seeing Cincinnati in these types of playoff games. Just wanted to know what your thoughts were around that, sir.***

**OL JACOB RENFRO:** I'm in 100% agreeance with Mike. We have a phenomenal team coming back next year. I know we're losing a lot of seniors who built this program, but our young guys who are stepping up, they stepped up a lot and are looking forward to this off-season to get prepared for next year because this will not be the last time you see Cincinnati in the playoffs.

**Q. *What were you guys kind of saying to each other on the sidelines, on the field, as the time wound down? The score what it is. A couple of guys before you were talking about just play hard to the final whistle. They felt like you guys accomplished that.***

**OL JACOB RENFRO:** Yeah. Never give in; never give up. That's not who we are. That's not how we train. That's not how we do anything. So just never gave up. Fight to the finish, no matter what the outcome was. Just never give in.

**Q. *Darrian, obviously, the rushing attack, they were able to get over 300 yards today. What do you think made their run game so tough to stop?***

**LB DARRIAN BEAVERS:** They have really good players. They have a really good coach and really good players. They schemed us up good. We tried to make some adjustments, tried to slow them down; but, like I said, it's just a really good team.

**Q. *Appreciate your time, sir. Thank you so much. I just wanted to know in situations like this where your team had thrived so much in the regular season, and you face a tall task, if you will, like this, was there ever a moment where the game got to be too much for you, in your opinion?***

**LB DARRIAN BEAVERS:** No. This is what we live for, man. We play football. When our back's against the wall, we try to come out and change the aspect on the game. Like I said, they just have really good players. They played their heart out. We played our heart out. They just got the win.

**Q. *Just a quick follow-up to that. Both Michael Young and Jacob Renfro said that this is not the last time we're going to see Cincinnati in these types of playoff games. I just wanted your opinion on that, please, sir.***

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**LB DARRIAN BEAVERS:** Yeah. I think this team is a top-ten program. You're definitely going to see a lot of Cincinnati in the future. We have a lot of young talent. Obviously, we have a lot of seniors leaving, but we have a lot of young talent that's going to step up and keep Cincinnati rolling.

**Q. What did you say or what was your message after the game to your guys with a hard-fought loss? Thank you.**

**LB DARRIAN BEAVERS:** I just told them I love them. I love them and it's an honor to play with them. That includes the seniors that came back with me. That includes the young guys, like I said, that's going to step up and play next year. I love all my teammates. That was the message we had to get through. And they have a mission too. They have the same goals we had. The young guys need to step up and have the same goals. That's the message we have.

**Q. Darrian, what did you think that long touchdown pass near the end of the first half kind of did for you guys? It was right before half-time. Gave them a two-score lead. Obviously, you guys had time to talk about it at half-time as well.**

**LB DARRIAN BEAVERS:** Any touchdown hurts. Our defense, we drive on and try to make plays and try to stop their offense from scoring. Obviously, every touchdown hurts; but, like I said, we have to forget that. We have to go one play at a time. Once that touchdown happened, we try to forget about it and keep our heads up. Obviously, we went straight into half-time, but we had to play the rest of the game and try to forget about all the touchdowns and all the stuff they had. They have really good players. Shout-out to them.

**Q. Just as a follow-up, just like the third quarter, it seems like you guys came out pretty strong. Had some good stops to begin the third quarter.**

**LB DARRIAN BEAVERS:** Yeah. It's just like I said. We got to go one play at a time. Obviously, they had a touchdown; but in the third quarter, we tried to come out strong and set the tone. This is what we pride ourselves on.

**Q. Hey, Darrian. You were there 4-8., but that's only one loss the last two years. You guys are come from high school programs that played for state championships or were just dominant. How much harder does that make it when you haven't had that experience, and it's in the final game?**

**LB DARRIAN BEAVERS:** I came from UConn. So my first two years at UConn, we had a lot of losing. It always hurts. Every loss hurts. We put our heart and soul into this game. Every loss hurts. It's never a good feeling after the game. So yeah.

**Q. First of all, Alec, I know, obviously, this didn't turn out like you wanted it to, but I hope that you will remember for the rest of your life what a spectacular year this was.**

**Now, my question is: It seemed like with all the extra preparation time, you sometimes think you might see a lot of very different, exotic, and new things. But from what I've seen from both teams this year, it seems like you guys sort of did what you normally do. But were there any things that were different or were a surprise, different from what you've seen on tape when you studied Alabama?**

**WR ALEC PIERCE:** No. They kind of did the same things we were expecting. Might have changed a little bit of things up, but for me it was a lot of man coverage out there. They bailed out a lot and were trying to keep us in front. But, yeah, that's all stuff we saw on film. You're right. We did stick to what we've been doing all year and didn't try to change anything because we didn't think we needed to. Yeah.

**Q. Alec, I just wanted to ask you, sir, was there anything specific that you said to Desmond [Ridder] after the game?**

**WR ALEC PIERCE:** Just thanked him for everything. You know, it's been a great ride with him. Extremely special player. I've just enjoyed every minute of catching balls from him. He's just been a great leader to this team and really got us to the point where we were at. So I thanked him for that.

**Q. Just a real quick follow-up if I may. A lot of your teammates have said that this is not the last time that we are going to see Cincinnati in these playoff-type situations. I just would like to get your thoughts on this, sir.**

**WR ALEC PIERCE:** Oh, I agree completely. You see they're moving conferences in the future. I think it will lay out the blueprint for them. They'll have much more opportunities for big games and be able to have a more fair chance of getting in. I think Coach Fick and the coaches are building something special, and they bring in great recruits. A lot of guys that haven't got chances to play just because we've had such an older team, but I'm really excited to watch them in the future to see what they do.

**Q. Just from your perspective, two passes in the end zone. One got knocked down at the line of scrimmage, but it seemed like it gets some separation and the one you had to jump for. Could you take me through those plays, those two, just what it was like from your perspective?**

**WR ALEC PIERCE:** Yeah, they were both similar plays. The first one was the RPO with glances on both sides. Des [Ridder] pulled it. I think you saw the safety down, so he pulled it and gave me a chance. Unfortunately, got knocked down at the line. And then the second one was a similar play, but it was a straight pass play. It was a post, actually, but down in the red zone, a post basically turns into a glance. Same thing. I had enough separation, got my hands on it. I just wish I was able to bring it in.

**Q. *With such a prolific offense such as yours, how did Alabama shut you down to only 144 passing yards, shutting down you and the rest of your receiving core? Thank you.***

**WR ALEC PIERCE:** I think they did a really good job getting after the quarterback and just not allowing us to have time to go through our progressions and give the receivers a chance to make plays.

**Q. *You faced a really, really good defense -- particularly a really good secondary -- every time you go to practice. And now you obviously faced this team. In what ways was this familiar, in terms of the things they do and the kinds of guys you were playing against when you played Alabama tonight? And what was different from the very fine defense you face every time you go to practice?***

**WR ALEC PIERCE:** I think I get a unique look every day in practice. I get Ahmad Gardner pressing in my face, not choking out any space there is. Alabama, today they played a lot. They bailed off me most the game. They didn't really do a whole lot of press. They did a lot of zone. But our defense is mostly man or at least on the outside, it plays out as man. And they're really aggressive and physical in press. I think those guys, you can see they do a great job. They did a good job containing Alabama today, I thought. So we got some special players on the outside.



# ALABAMA POSTGAME QUOTES

2021 CFP Semifinal at the 86th Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic  
Friday, December 31 • AT&T Stadium



## QUESTIONS FOR HEAD COACH NICK SABAN, RB BRIAN ROBINSON JR., LB WILL ANDERSON, LB CHRISTIAN HARRIS AND QB BRYCE YOUNG

**ALABAMA HEAD COACH NICK SABAN:** Well, first of all, I would like to congratulate Cincinnati's team for the great season that they had. They did a great job of competing in this game.

I'm really, really proud of our team, our players. I think they showed great competitive character out there in this game tonight. It was a tough game. We knew it would be a tough game.

The guys showed a lot of resiliency all year long to be able to have the opportunity to get to this game. They showed a lot of resiliency in the game tonight to overcome a lot of adversity, make plays when we needed to make them, played together as a team, everybody kind of had each other's back. And that helped us get the victory.

We turned the ball over. Defense made a big stop when they had pretty good field position. Offense took the air out of it when they needed to at the end of the game.

So this was a great team win for us. Obviously, both these guys had great games. B. Rob (Brian Robinson Jr.) did a great job running the ball for 200 yards rushing. Will [Anderson] has been a standout for us all year long. These guys have provided great leadership for some of the other younger guys on the team, and now they've created the opportunity to play for the national championship, which I'm extremely proud of this group for that.

***Q. Growing up a Tuscaloosa guy, what would you have thought as a young kid looking at what you just did tonight as a running back for Alabama football?***

**RB BRIAN ROBINSON JR.:** As a young kid, just always wanted to be a part of this program. Just always wanted to play for a national championship, just being able to go out there and just lead this team in this big game on this big stage, to have another opportunity to play for a national championship. As a young kid, that was the only thing I ever wanted to do. It's like a dream come true.

***Q. That first possession, you guys ran it 10 times on 11 plays. You guys really took it to them physically up front. Knowing the game plan, what was that moment like knowing that you were going to be able to run it straight at them?***

**RB BRIAN ROBINSON JR.:** We started out running the ball. We had some positive runs in the run game. And we just had to trust it, just stay with it. We knew we were going to have an opportunity to run the ball the rest of the game. So with that first drive, coming off 10 carries, it just let me get my mind right and be prepared to run the ball the rest of the game.

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***Q. Coach always talks about competitive character. He talks about toughness. You seem to be the personification of that. How much pride do you take in your competitive character and your toughness?***

**RB BRIAN ROBINSON JR.:** I literally put all my heart into this, this university, that team in that locker room. I don't ever want to let my brothers down. I don't never want to let my coaches down. I don't ever want to let this university down. I just give it everything I got every chance I get. And it's just a reflection of all the hard work we put in during the week.

***Q. Just wanted to ask you, with Cincinnati's defense, did you know that you were going to be kind of the spotlight for this game today?***

**RB BRIAN ROBINSON JR.:** I didn't think I was going to be a spotlight. We just game-planned. It was just, whatever they throw at us, we got to adjust to it. If the running game works for us, we got to stay with it. Coach O'Brien trusted me, just put the ball in my hand in critical situations. And just carrying this team means a lot to me.

***Q. This one is for Will Anderson. Just before games, in practices, in the weight room, what do you tell Dallas Turner? Because this young man just continues to grow and rise, and he feeds off of you and you feed off of him. What do you tell Dallas?***

**LB WILL ANDERSON JR.:** It's getting to the point where now I don't have to tell Dallas anything. He kind of just knows now because he has that confidence, he has that experience, he knows what to expect. He knows what he's going to get when he gets on the field. So now it's all about just going out there and playing ball and having fun.

I think the only thing I really say to Dallas during the week is just go have fun and play ball. That's what we always say to each other. We don't overthink nothing; we just go out there and have fun and play ball. All we think about is how we used to play, throw them up, bust them up in the backyard, something like that. It's the exact same thing, just go out there, have fun, and play ball. That's it.

***Q. For Will, what sort of statement do you think this defense made in this game? What opportunity still exists in the final game for the defense to make another statement?***

**LB WILL ANDERSON JR.:** I think we made a big statement as the season went on. We've been starting to get better on defense, cutting down mental errors and stuff like that.

So as the season is going on and we're coming up on our final game, I think it's really critical now that we pay attention to little details and make sure that we're all on the same page and keep cutting down on mental errors, keep having fun, and playing together as a unit. I think that's what we've been doing right now.

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***Q. Will, also a question for you. All season long you've talked about making sure your guys are mentally ready, always focusing on football. So to see the effort tonight, especially from some of those younger guys who stepped up and played, how do you feel about the way your team played today?***

**LB WILL ANDERSON JR.:** I'm so happy. I'm proud of the guys. It was a long time coming. We practiced our butts off for a few weeks and stuff like that. So mental energy was great. Like I said earlier, there was no cancers, nobody being negative. Everybody was just ready to play. And throughout the week, the preparation was good.

Defensively, we watched film together. Meetings were good. Everybody was locked in, paying attention to the small details. We were ready for anything they threw at us. I'm super proud of these guys. And we just got to keep it rolling.

***Q. Will, how satisfying was it to keep this team out of the end zone? This is a team that scored a lot of points this year.***

**LB WILL ANDERSON JR.:** That's one of our biggest goals as defense is holding people to a certain amount of points. What we did tonight is unbelievable. We still have more work to do; but for us to meet that goal, that's one of our biggest goals on our goal sheet. And to meet that goal, it means a lot to us. And we just got to keep going.

***Q. Yeah, what's your message as a leader on the team to the rest of the team moving forward because you guys aren't done yet?***

**LB WILL ANDERSON JR.:** Most definitely. The message is going to be the same. Nobody is going to give us anything. We have to go out there and take it. We have to earn it. We can't relax right now. Right now is not a time to relax. We have to enjoy this game for 24 hours, and we have to go back and get to business. Now we're going to be playing on the really biggest stage of college football now. And we have to be prepared and everybody has to be locked in and all in.

***Q. For either Brian or Will, what do you think about the way you guys won tonight with run game and defense says about this team?***

**RB BRIAN ROBINSON JR.:** I think we just showed a lot of physicality. We knew they were going to come out fired up. We knew they were going to come out and try to be physical. And we just proved that we were the most physical team, with the run game, the defensive front. Just the whole defense overall and the whole offense overall, we just proved that we were the more physical team.

**LB WILL ANDERSON JR.:** Defensively, I think that's one of the biggest things we hit on this week was just being physical up front and making sure that we were in our gaps, everybody being sound, and just playing physical. And I think that's what we did this game.

***Q. Brian, how did your relationship with former great Alabama running backs like Najee Harris help your performance tonight?***

**RB BRIAN ROBINSON JR.:** Just watching those guys play in these moments, just sitting on the sidelines and watching those guys take over in moments like this. And the way they prepare for it and the way they took the field, just dominating these moments. And just watching those guys do it over time, over the last few years, I already knew what to expect. I already knew what I had to do. And I was just glad to have the opportunity.

***Q. I want to ask you about the adversity. You've talked about it many times this season and what this team has gone through and just trying to prove consistency. How does this game speak to what they've been able to do throughout the season, and how proud are you of the fact that they were able to get it done really up front, as you just heard from your players, with physicality?***

**COACH SABAN:** Well, I think that this game probably is a little bit of what this season has been all about. We've had some really good players that are missing. It created opportunities for other players who have stepped up and showed that they have the confidence and the competitive character to go out there and do their job in a first-class way. The players believe in each other.

I think all those things were very evident in this game tonight. And I think those are things that have been a part of what this team is made of that has given them the opportunity to now have a chance to play in a national championship.

So I'm very proud of what they've done. We had a young team to start with, especially on offense. And those guys have done a great job. Bryce [Young] has done a great job. We were able to run the ball when we had to run it tonight, to be physical. And we stopped them in the running game pretty well, which was a real key in this game because they do run it well.

And Jerome Ford is one of the better running backs that we've played against. And I thought the players did say a really good job. I was concerned about how we would tackle in the game having all this time off, but I was really pleased with the way the defensive players tackled in the game.

***Q. We saw Emil Ekiyor leave the game late in the 1st quarter. Do you have an update on him?***

**COACH SABAN:** He's got a shoulder injury. We think that he's got a chance to be able to come back and play in the game, but it's probably too early to know. It depends on how he responds.

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Our medical staff will do a great job with all the players that were injured in the game. And hopefully we'll be able to get most of them ready to play.

***Q. You talk about resiliency. And Brian Robinson might be one of the best that embodies that. What was impressed you the most during his multiyear wait to be able to be the guy at running back?***

**COACH SABAN:** I think anytime a guy spends as much time behind as many good players as B. Rob (Brian Robinson Jr.) did, never complains, always works hard, and was willing to have the patience to wait his turn. And he worked hard. Whatever his role was on the team, he was willing to do it.

He's improved dramatically. He's a great person and a leader on the team right now. And I'm proud of him in terms of what kind of football player he's become, but I'm also proud of what kind of person he's become.

And I think he embodies what we really try to get our players to do, create value for themselves by what they invest in and what they do. And it took him a long time to do that, but he kept working at it. There are so many players now that are willing to cut and run as soon as things don't happen and they get immediate self-gratification from whatever their circumstance is.

And he certainly showed a tremendous amount of resiliency to stick with it, stay in the program, keep working. But there's probably not a whole lot of successful people in this world that don't have a lot of resiliency, because you have to be able to overcome adversity. And he's done that and become a very fine person and a really good player.

***Q. Did this feel almost like a throwback game early in your time at Alabama where you guys run over people, where you rely on your defense? Did it feel like maybe kind of when you first got to Alabama?***

**COACH SABAN:** Right. Well, we've had a couple games like that this year, but sometimes you've got to take what the defense gives. And a lot of these running plays that we had had RPOs and passes attached to them. But by the way they line up on defense, it's a give read. So you don't end up throwing the ball, and they play a lot of man-to-man. So sometimes they took the RPOs away. I thought Bryce [Young] did a really good job of making good decisions and taking advantage runs when we had them and a couple of advantage throws when we had them. So that's just part of it.

But we know that we have to have great balance on offense. When we're the best, we can run it, but we can make plays in the passing game. And we're missing a few players in some of those spots. So this will give us another opportunity to get some of these other guys the confidence they need to continue to be able to make a contribution.

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***Q. Obviously, any win is what you want. But the way you were able to physically manhandle them up front, was that any more gratifying to see the way you guys were able to control that line?***

**COACH SABAN:** I think you always want to control the line of scrimmage. I think it's important in any game. And we were able to do that on both sides of the ball. And I think that was a big part of having success in this game.

Now, we probably didn't make as many explosive plays because of that, but it shrinks the game. You don't have to play as many plays on defense. We did a good job on third down and fourth down on defense and got off the field. So the combination of those things with a couple of red area stops and being able to control the line of scrimmage up front were probably the key to being successful in this game.

***Q. Near the end of the first half, Kool-Aid [McKinstry] recovered a fumble, Ja'Corey [Brooks] scored a touchdown, and Dallas [Turner] had a sack on third down. How important was that sequence and how have you seen those true freshman handle the roles they've been lifted into?***

**COACH SABAN:** Well, those three guys have played really well for us. Kool-Aid played well tonight. Dallas has played well ever since Drew Sanders hurt his hand. So I'm really pleased the way those guys have developed.

But it means something to those guys. Those guys are very committed to trying to be good players, trying to learn, trying to grow, watching other players and how they do things and how they need to work in practice to prepare for a game. And I think that's why they've made the improvement and the progress that they've made. And now that they've played some, I think they have some confidence as well. And I think that's invaluable, especially at this point in the season.

***Q. With Brian Robinson, he has a running style where he doesn't shy away from contact and almost seems to get better after he's run over a couple guys. In terms of toughness of the team, how contagious can that be in being physical and outphysicaling a team?***

**COACH SABAN:** I think that's always a goal for us, to play with more effort, more intensity, be more physical, play with more toughness than the other team. B. Rob (Brian Robinson Jr.) certainly exemplifies that in his style of play. And I think it fires up a lot of people around him when they see a player be able to do that. He made some tough runs tonight. He got lots of yards after first contact.

***Q. All season it seemed like your public comments about this team were very positive and forward-looking, even after the A&M loss or some close games or maybe there was some negativity with the fan base. Why did this particular team need that from you?***

**COACH SABAN:** I think we're a relatively young team. We've got a lot of young players that are out there playing. I think when you have success the previous season, which the guys that did come back were very successful, it really took a long time for us to sort of develop the chemistry on this team from a leadership standpoint. Because we had some great leaders on last year's team. So even though guys have leadership qualities they don't really see that as their role because it didn't have to be their role in the past.

But we've had some guys really step up for us and do a really good job. And I think -- I don't want to call it nurturing, but I felt like we needed to do that with this team, just getting on these guys all the time was not going to help their confidence. It was not going to help the young players develop. And then we started to develop some of these internal, intangible things that really helped us grow as a team.

***Q. Having a lot of experience here in The College Football Playoff, just what you can say about Luke Fickell and what he's done with this Cincinnati team. And just on the other sideline what you've taken away from him and his work?***

**COACH SABAN:** Well, you know, I think Luke [Fickell] has done a fantastic job. And really, anybody that looks and watches their team play, even playing us tonight, their team plays with a lot of toughness. They play hard. They're very well coached. They play together as a group. They're sound and solid in what they do in every phase of the game. And he took a program, I think that won four games or whatever, and got in The College Football Playoff. And there's no doubt in my mind that they belong in the playoff. I think the way they gave us all we could handle, you know, in this game tonight. If we don't stop them on fourth down a couple times and stop it in the red zone, this game could have been a lot closer. I have a tremendous amount of respect for what he's done and their program and their players in terms of the way they bought in. And they had a lot of players come back, you know, and want to create value for themselves. And I think that probably contributed to the success. And they have a lot of good leadership on their team. That's very evident when you watch them play together.

***Q. Talk about your defense. You guys did a fantastic job controlling that high-powered offense in Cincinnati. Are you guys peaking at the right time? Or do you think the next game might be the pinnacle of the season?***

**COACH SABAN:** I think that every team that you play offers different challenges. And whether it's match-ups, whether it's the style of offense that they play. I think we had a good plan. I think the players did a good job of executing the plan. They played well together. And we didn't give these guys a lot of explosive plays.

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That's one of the things that they've been sort of known for offensively all year long is they run, run, run, and then they make a big play in the passing game. And we were able to limit that. And I think that was the key to the drill.

And it took some patience, but I thought Pete [Golding] did a really good job of being patient. We wanted to make them drive it through. And twice, I think, they got the ball in the red zone and didn't make a touchdown, didn't score a touchdown. And you know, red zone and third down is big on getting off the field. And I think we had three fourth-down stops to go with that. The defense did a good job. The defensive staff did a good job and the players did a great job of executing the plan.

***Q. You've talked all season about the resiliency of this team. And the epitome of that really showing today with a lot of young guys and new faces stepping in. How happy were you with the effort from some of the younger guys today?***

**COACH SABAN:** I was elated with the way a lot of these guys played. We have confidence in the players when they get an opportunity. And I think every time that they get opportunities, they learn more and more, not only about what they need to do but how they need to prepare. So that they can go in the game and play with confidence, not make mental errors, do their job well. I think those things are really, really important. And when young players get an opportunity to play, they learn and grow from their mistakes. And these guys will continue to get better. But I think because they go about it the right way, they've made a tremendous amount of improvement. And I was really pleased with Ja'Corey Brooks has played well for us. He has to step up now that John Metchie is out. And we have a lot of young other players that have done a really, really good job for us. So I'm proud of each and every one of them. But I also have confidence in them as well.

***Q. Just specific to the defense, what might have led to some of those batted passes at the line of scrimmage?***

**COACH SABAN:** I don't know which question I'm supposed to answer, but I will answer the one that I heard. You know, we really work hard on what we call matching the hand. And we got a couple good guys that have a knack for that. You push the pocket in the middle, and you kind of study the quarterback and his mannerisms in the pocket. And then when his hand comes through, you want to match the hand with whatever hand you can get up. And I think that was, you know, we made some big plays doing that tonight. Some of these, I call them street plays, zone option, flat plays, if you have pressure on the edge, it's tough for the quarterback sometime to get the ball over the top of the guy. And we had a couple of those as well. But we've got some guys that do a good job of pushing the pocket. Pass rush has been a thing that has helped us a lot on third down. We were able to pressure the quarterback, even at times when we don't get sacks, we're forcing the quarterback to throw the ball before he really wants to. And I think that's really important to being successful in pass defense.

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**Q. [Brian] Branch was all over the football field tonight, has eight total tackles, was one of your best players. What have you seen from him in the weeks leading up to this game, and just talk about him and what a special player he is for your group.**

**LB CHRISTIAN HARRIS:** Oh, yeah, B.B. is a really great player. That's really the truth. You see these guys working every day in practice. When they come out to the game and they have that breakout game where everybody starts to take notice, you're not really surprised by it. Like I said, I see it every day. He's a hard worker. We love to have him and love what he does for us.

**Q. Just how locked in is the defense right now at this point in the season with one game left?**

**LB CHRISTIAN HARRIS:** I would say that we're pretty locked in. We ought to enjoy this one for 24 hours and then see who we're playing in the national championship and get ready for that. But I definitely think we're locked in. We're ready.

**Q. Hey, Christian. You guys were able to have a lot of success batting down passes at the line of scrimmage. Is that something you guys saw on film or felt confident that you would be able to affect the quarterback that way today?**

**LB CHRISTIAN HARRIS:** I think it might have been a part of Coach's [Nick Saban] game plan. Everybody up front did a really great job of trying to close the pocket with a low-ball flight, keeping their hands up and batting balls, destroying passes, trying to get out quick because the pressure is coming. So up front seven definitely did a really great job with that today, batting the ball.

**Q. I wanted to ask about some of the young guys on Defense. Kool-Aid [McKinstry] had a pretty good game, and then on offense Ja'Corey Brooks scores another big touchdown. How huge is it to have those contributions from those guys?**

**LB CHRISTIAN HARRIS:** It's exciting to see the young guys step up in big-time moments like this. Not everybody can do that. Be able to make those big-time plays like C7 did with a touchdown, play a whole game like Kool-Aid knowing they are going to come at you.

So those guys were ready. I seen the preparation and the amount of work they put in throughout the week. I'm really happy for them, for this game. I'm excited to see what they do in the future.

**Q. Talk about the overall play of the defense, able to hold Cincinnati to two of 12 on third downs, on three-on-four downs, really controlled the game really from the start, keeping them out of the end zone.**

**LB CHRISTIAN HARRIS:** Coach [Nick Saban] had a really good game plan for us. I think the main thing for us was making sure we're all on the same page and knowing that we're going to come out there, we had about -- I don't know how many practices. But, of course, we're going to see some new stuff we haven't seen before. But let your rules apply.

I think that's just what we did out there. We stay together. Regardless of we knew they were going to make some plays. They're a good team. They're there for a reason. It's all about how you respond to that. I think we responded pretty well.

***Q. The pride that the defense unit had coming off the championship last year, how much did that feel getting back to this stage again in back-to-back years?***

**LB CHRISTIAN HARRIS:** I think the defense with the confidence that we have, I mean, it really started developing over the second half of the season this year. I mean, the national championship was nice to have last year. We know this is a new team. We've got new players. We have to set new goals. I think we're doing pretty good with that right now.

***Q. For a long time, Alabama has been known as running the football and playing defense. That was the MO of the program. Now as you're getting ready to head back to the national championship, you are running the football effectively and you're playing defense at an elite level. Is that kind of the moniker, is that the kind of MO or the reputation you guys want as you head back to another national title?***

**LB CHRISTIAN HARRIS:** We just want to show we're a physical team. That we're going to play four quarters and we know that each team we play, especially in moments like this, big games like this, you know, we have to come with it every single play. It's a 15-round fight. It might not happen the first or second quarter, but you got to keep going, you got to keep pushing.

Regardless, if that's the game plan, they put offense on and focus running the ball, then the defense is to focus on them stopping the run, that's what it is. I think it's really just executing whatever Coach [Nick Saban] has for it.

***Q. Just talk about how unbelievably talented both you, Will Anderson and, of course, Henry To'oTo'o have been for you this season? Obviously, To'oTo'o comes in from Tennessee, had to learn a whole new defensive scheme. And then what's it's like to watch Will Anderson just come off the edges, especially on passing downs?***

**LB CHRISTIAN HARRIS:** It was really exciting. I love it. Seeing Will do what he did this year and last year, young guy coming in like that and having that confidence, showing that leadership on the team. It really motivates everybody him, positively affects everyone on the team.

Henry does the same thing. He's a great guy with great energy. He shows that every day when he comes into practice. It's not really a surprise to me to see him going crazy in the games now. I really like that for him. I'm really happy. It's helping us win. It's helping us play better on defense. So whatever those guys are doing, I hope they keep doing it because it's definitely helping.

***Q. Cincinnati got down in the red zone a couple times. You were never able to get in the end zone. What was the difference between the defense once you were able to get down there?***

**LB CHRISTIAN HARRIS:** It was the mindset of "bend, don't break" whenever you get in the red zone. Once you get down there, you can't let them in the end zone. That's something a lot of defenses pride themselves on. We definitely do as well, definitely gets tough down there. That's something we work on. We really take pride in that.

***Q. Just want to talk a little bit about Brian Robinson and the game he had today. Was it obvious that y'all were going to have to run the ball pretty heavily this game? And just talk about Brian's performance and what you thought about it.***

**QB BRYCE YOUNG:** I mean, B. Rob was huge for us all night. Making that first guy miss, falling forward, fighting for those extra yards. B. Rob, he was huge for us. He was a constant all night. And that's just B. Rob for you. And really him and the entire offensive line, really all night dominating up front. And that's the whole -- up front and B. Rob, that's everyone.

Trey [Sanders] when he got in, the whole running game, that starts up front. So those guys get a lot of the credit. Again, B. Rob did a tremendous job. Making those right reads, cutting off the right guy, falling forward, making that first person miss.

For me as a quarterback, having a running game like we did tonight, that made my job way easier. All those guys played tremendously.

***Q. With John [Metchie] out in this game, I feel like a lot of people thought Jameson [Williams] would be pretty go-to but all the guys that scored touchdowns, all a little bit more unlikely. Can you sort of talk about how big it was for them to step up in this game? And could you also walk me through the play to Ja'Corey [Brooks] for that touchdown.***

**QB BRYCE YOUNG:** That's always big for us. We have a "next man up" mentality. With losing Metchie, that's not someone you can replace. At the same time, as Coach [Nick Saban] says, it creates opportunity for someone else.

We knew other guys were going to have to step up. Like you said, with the guys who scored, those are guys who are always ready, who's just been waiting for their number to be called in a moment like this, a big game with obviously a lot of writing on it. Those guys stepped up.

The touchdown with Ja'Corey, we saw one-on-one coverage. We made sure for me up front we had something else on. We liked our match-up and made sure that we got us protected for that. O-line did a great job of protection on that. Ja'Corey did a great job of catching and running and scoring. So happy to see C7 step up and all the rest of the guys step up.

***Q. Did you get a chance to say anything to him (Ja'Corey Brooks) after the touchdown? His two this season have been in pretty big spots.***

**QB BRYCE YOUNG:** Yeah, everyone seems excited, but I see the work, day in and day out, and someone I have a tremendous amount of confidence in.

So when I knew we were going there, I had all the confidence in the world, so I wasn't shocked or surprised. He's someone who has stepped up big-time throughout the entire year. Just happy for him and his offense. Whenever we get to put seven on the board, it's big-time.

***Q. Quick question for you about your defense tonight who balled out for you all and gave up only six points in the game. Brian Branch had eight tackles. Will Anderson Jr. had a couple of sacks. Last few games they've really started to settle into a groove. And how much more comfortable is it to play quarterback when you know you have a defense that isn't allowing many points on the other side?***

**QB BRYCE YOUNG:** Like you said, the defense played tremendously the entire night. From the first snap to the last snap, those guys were flying around and making a lot of plays. It's good to see what they allowed against a really good offense. That's huge for us.

So for me, it definitely gives us a lot more confidence. Obviously, it's a huge facet of the game. Defense playing like they have been, for me, it's not something I would say I recently gained confidence in. I've had confidence in them since I've been here.

I always have faith and trust in those guys, and those guys did an amazing job tonight.

***Q. The physical running style you guys ran with tonight, did you see at a point Cincinnati start to wear down defensively?***

**QB BRYCE YOUNG:** For us, we just had to take it snap by snap, play by play. So when we were having success with certain run plays, we wanted to stick to them and maybe dress them up different. But we want to keep the ball on the ground.

Again, that credit goes to the line up front, them doing a great job down the line of scrimmage. And then the backs, whether there's B. Rob (Brian Robinson) or Trey [Sanders], reading off those blocks, making cuts for them, making efforts, making that first guy miss. So that's all of them.

And for us, when you see the success we have, we want to do what's best for us offensively. So for me, being able to hand the ball off and just clapping and hand the ball to B. Rob or Trey and have the production we had, it's amazing to have a night like that.

***Q. Was that the game plan from early on that's this is what you guys were planning to do in this game, run the ball as much as you did?***

**QB BRYCE YOUNG:** Yeah. I mean, there were certain runs we definitely liked. And I feel like we did a great job of executing those runs. It's always a streamlined process. So we go in with stuff we want to do. But it's always about adapting and adjusting and seeing what works, what doesn't, and then seeing what new thing you're going to get.

But there are certain runs in the game plan that we felt confident in, and I felt like we did a good job of executing up front. It was a great night for the run game.

***Q. I want to ask you just about the -- seems like the mentality that's worked -- and as we know, in sports, mentality is a big part of the game on top of talent -- but the mentality for this team is to kind of look at yourselves as underdogs, even if you may not be. I want to ask you, heading into this match-up, how does that play a part, that noise? We heard it from Will Anderson before the game, that you guys kind of like that edge and that chip on the shoulder. How do you feel that plays a part in not only winning but just carrying you guys throughout the season?***

**QB BRYCE YOUNG:** I feel like adversity has been a big theme for us this whole season. For whatever it may be, we feel like all season there's been times where we've had to face adversity.

That's something that translates not on Saturday, I guess Friday in this instance. But that's every day during the week. That's practice, that's meetings, making sure that, like you said, we act and we move with that chip on our shoulder. And we understand what's at stake and it's on us to push ourselves every day to give ourselves the best chance to be successful and accomplish our goals.



## **MOST VALUABLE PLAYERS**

**J. CURTIS SANFORD MOST VALUABLE OFFENSIVE PLAYER IS:**

**Brian Robinson Jr.  
6'1" Sr, RB, Tuscaloosa, AL**

**OF**

**University of Alabama**

**FELIX McKNIGHT MOST VALUABLE DEFENSIVE PLAYER IS:**

**Will Anderson Jr.  
6'4" So, LB, Hampton, GA**

**OF**

**University of Alabama**