



UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON 2000-01 COUGAR BASKETBALL

Houston Cougars at Cincinnati Bearcats

Feb. 24, 2001, Shoemaker Center , Cincinnati, Ohio, 6:05 p.m. (EST)

The Game

The University of Houston will be looking to win its third straight Conference USA game and fourth game in seven outings when the Cougars travel to Cincinnati on Saturday, February 24. The Cougars enter the game with a 7-18 overall record and are 4-9 in C-USA play after winning their first road game of the season at Tulane, 81-76, last Wednesday night. Houston began the week with a 71-51 victory over Saint Louis last Monday night in Houston.

Meanwhile, Cincinnati will play its final home game of the 2000-01 campaign and enter Saturday game with an 18-8 overall record, which includes an 8-5 C-USA mark. The Bearcats are in a three-way tie for fourth place with Charlotte and Southern Miss in the C-USA standings. Marquette, Memphis and South Florida are in a three-way tie for first place in the C-USA standings entering Saturday's games.

Houston-Cincinnati Quick Facts

Tip-off: 6:05 p.m. (EST)
Records: Houston is 7-18 overall and 4-9 in C-USA play, while Cincinnati has an 18-8 overall record and an 8-5 C-USA mark.
Radio: KUHF-FM (88.7) in Houston; Craig Ackerman calls the play-by-play, while Carl Dukes of KTRH provides color commentary.
Television: WXIX-TV in Cincinnati.
The Series: Cincinnati leads 18-1.
The Coaches: Ray McCallum is in his first season at Houston and has 133-94 career record in eight seasons as a head coach. Bob Huggins is in his 12th season at Cincinnati and has a 294-94 record at the school, and a 462-166 mark in 20 seasons as a collegiate head coach.
Next Games: Following the Cincinnati game, Houston will return home and play Marquette on February 28

Conference USA Standings

(Through Games of February 22)

	C-USA		Overall	
	W-L	Pct.	W-L	Pct.
American				
Marquette	9-4	.692	14-10	.583
Cincinnati	8-5	.615	18-8	.692
Charlotte	8-5	.615	16-9	.640
Louisville	6-7	.462	10-17	.370
Saint Louis	5-8	.385	13-13	.500
DePaul	4-9	.308	12-14	.462
National				
South Florida	9-4	.692	17-9	.654
Memphis	9-4	.692	15-11	.577
So. Miss	8-5	.615	18-7	.720
UAB	6-7	.462	14-12	.538
Houston	4-9	.308	7-18	.280
Tulane	2-11	.154	9-17	.346

HOUSTON'S 2000-01 RECORD	
Overall Record	7-18
Record at Home	4-7
Record on the Road	1-10
Record at a Neutral Site	2-1
C-USA Record	4-9
Record at Home	3-3
Record on the Road	1-6

Saturday, February 24

Houston at Cincinnati	6:05
Louisville at Marquette	8:00
UAB at DePaul	3:00
Tulane at Southern Miss	1:00

Sunday, February 25

Charlotte at Saint Louis (ESPN2)	7:00
South Florida at Memphis (ESPN2) ...	9:30

all times are eastern.

Houston's Lineup At Cincinnati

Probable Starters Ht... Wt. . Yr.-Exp. . Hometown PPG RPG... Notes

F .. 42 . George Williams ..	6-8..	215 ..	So. -1L..	Missouri City, Texas	13.5 ...	7.3 ..	22 points, 7 rebounds at Tulane.
F .. 43 . Patrick Okafor	6-8..	235	Jr.-JC ...	Houston, Texas	10.4 ...	8.3 ..	16 points, 8 rebounds at Tulane.
C . 4 . Alton Ford	6-9..	270 ...	Fr.-HS ..	Houston, Texas	9.9 ...	5.9 ..	16 points, 8 rebounds at Tulane.
G . 1 . Dominic Smith ...	5-10.	175	Jr.-JC ...	Ashland, Va.	13.0 ...	3.0 ..	10 points, 5 assists at Tulane.
G . 3 . Marcus Oliver	6-3..	180 ..	So. -1L..	Charlotte, N.C.	5.9 ...	3.1 ..	11 points, 4 assists at Tulane.

Reserves Ht... Wt. . Cl.-Exp. . Hometown PPG RPG... Notes

F .. 32 . Chad Hendrick	6-5..	210 ...	Sr.-3L ..	Houston, Texas	9.9 ...	4.3 ..	6 points, 2 assists vs. Tulane.
G . 21 . Bernard Smith	6-3..	180	Jr.-1L ...	Conroe, Texas	3.6 ...	2.8 ..	3 rebounds at Tulane.
G . 11 . Torrence Botts	6-1..	195	Jr.-2L ...	Friendswood, Texas ...	2.1 ...	0.6 ..	2 assists at Tulane.
F .. 24 . Willie Moore	6-5..	200 ...	Sr.-3L ..	League City, Texas	1.4 ...	1.6 ..	4 points, 5 rebounds at South Florida.
G . 35 . Treva Crosby	6-1..	170	Jr.-2L ...	Galliano, La.	0.0 ...	0.0 ..	one assist vs. South Florida.
G . 31 . Terry Price	6-4..	190	Jr.-1L ...	Houston, Texas	0.0 ...	0.0 ..	played for 2 minutes at South Florida.

2000-2001 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time
Nov. 16	#Air Force	L 53-59
Nov. 17	#Mt. St. Mary's	W 77-52
Nov. 21	at Rice	L 45-65
Nov. 25	Southwest Texas State	W 73-59
Nov. 28	LSU	L 59-61
Nov. 30	at UConn	L 60-72
Dec. 17	at SMU	L 69-94
Dec. 20	Texas	L 60-71
Dec. 23	Texas Southern	L 68-71
Dec. 27	SSE Missouri State	W 69-64
Dec. 28	\$UTEP	L 67-75
Dec. 31	Georgetown	L 63-79
Jan. 6	*Memphis	L 78-86
Jan. 10	*UAB	W 67-65
Jan. 17	*at Louisville	L 67-79
Jan. 20	*at Memphis	L 68-72
Jan. 24	*at Southern Miss	L 51-72
Jan. 27	*South Florida	L 68-93
Jan. 31	*at UAB	L 53-65
Feb. 4	*Charlotte (ESPN2)	W 73-72
Feb. 7	*at DePaul	L 78-90
Feb. 14	*Southern Miss	L 58-62
Feb. 17	*at South Florida	L 60-79
Feb. 19	*Saint Louis	W 71-51
Feb. 21	*at Tulane	W 81-76
Feb. 24	*at Cincinnati	5:05
Feb. 28	*Marquette	7:00
Mar. 3	*Tulane	7:00
Mar. 7	•C-USA Tournament	TBD
Mar. 8	•C-USA Tournament	TBD
Mar. 9	•C-USA Tournament	TBD
Mar. 10	•C-USA Tournament	TBD

#-BCA Classic (Winston-Salem, N.C.); \$-Sierra Providence Sun Carnival Classic (El Paso, Texas); *-Conference USA game; •-C-USA Tournament (Louisville, Ky.) Bold indicates home contest played at Guy V. Lewis Court at Hofheinz Pavilion.

Houston-Cincinnati All-Time Series Results

Date	Winner	Score
12/21/57	Cincinnati	70-53
1/13/58	at Cincinnati	93-57
1/10/59	Cincinnati	62-54
2/28/59	at Cincinnati	78-66
2/6/60	at Cincinnati	67-55
2/20/60	Cincinnati	57-47
1/5/61	at Cincinnati	(ot) 74-71
2/23/61	Cincinnati	85-80
2/1/62	Cincinnati	60-52
2/16/62	at Cincinnati	59-47
1/2/63	at Cincinnati	79-56
2/10/64	Cincinnati	(ot) 66-59
2/2/73	Houston	90-85
2/9/74	at Cincinnati	84-73
2/8/75	Cincinnati	103-83
2/18/97	at Cincinnati	97-64
1/4/98	Cincinnati	81-68
12/22/98	at Cincinnati	115-78
2/17/00	Cincinnati	77-65

COUGAR NOTES

UH Head Coach Ray McCallum

Ray McCallum is in his first season as the head coach at the University of Houston and enters the Cincinnati game with a 133-94 career record. McCallum, who is in his eighth season as a collegiate head coach, came to Houston after compiling a 126-76 record in seven seasons at Ball State University.

His .624 winning percentage at Ball State was the fourth-highest overall winning percentage in the history of the Mid-America Conference. He also was the only coach in Ball State history to lead the Cardinals to seven consecutive winning seasons and his 126-career victories rank second in the school's history.

McCallum led Ball State to two MAC Tournament championships and two first-place finishes in the MAC's Western Division. He guided the Cardinals to two NCAA Tournaments and one NIT appearance.

Series History

Houston and Cincinnati will meet for the 20th time in a series that began on December 21, 1957 when both schools were members of the Missouri Valley Conference. The Cougars enter Saturday's game with a 1-18 record against the Bearcats.

The Bearcats won the first 12 meetings between the two schools, including six MVC games, before Houston won a 95-85 decision on February 2, 1973 in Houston.

Since then, the Bearcats have won the last six contests between the two schools, including four Conference USA games.

The first time they met as Conference USA foes was on February 18, 1997, when the Bearcats won a 97-64 decision at the Shoemaker Center. Houston suffered an 81-68 loss on January 4, 1998 in Houston, a 115-78 setback on December 22, 1998 in the Shoemaker Center and a 77-65 loss in Houston on February 17, 2000.

Houston will be looking for its first win in Cincinnati, and enter Saturday's game with a 0-9 record on the Bearcats' home court, including a 0-2 record in the Shoemaker Center.

Cougars Win First Road Game

The Cougars will be seeking their second straight Conference USA road victory of the 2000-01 season when Houston travels to Cincinnati on February 24. UH enters the game with a 1-10 record in road games this season after beating Tulane, 81-76, in New Orleans last Wednesday night.

The victory was Houston's first road victory of the season and third victory away from Hofheinz Pavilion this year. Houston beat Mount Saint Mary's College in the consolation game of the BCA Classic in Winston-Salem, N.C. The Cougars also defeated Southeast Missouri State in the first round of the SunClassic on December 27 in El Paso, Texas.

The Cougars had lost six straight Conference USA road games before the win at Tulane. Houston also lost non-conference road games at Rice, Connecticut, SMU and UTEP.

Houston on Guy V. Lewis Court

Houston's 71-51 victory over Saint Louis on February 19 improved the Cougars' record to 4-7 on their home court this season. It was Houston's second victory in its last three home games and third C-USA home victory. The Cougars are 3-3 in C-USA home games.

Houston defeated Saint Louis after suffering a heart wrenching 62-58 loss against Southern Miss on Valentine's Day, and beating Charlotte, 73-72, on February 4.

Houston also beat UAB, 67-65, on January 10. In between, Houston lost to South Florida on January 27.

Before the UAB contest, Houston had lost five straight home games after defeating Southwest Texas State, 73-59, on November 25. The five losses came against LSU, 61-59 on November 30, Texas, 71-60 on December 20, Texas Southern, 71-68 on December 23, Georgetown, 79-63, on December 31 and Memphis 78-86 on January 6.

Houston in Regular Season Tournaments

Houston has played in two regular season tournaments this year and finished second at the Sierra Providence Sun Classic on December 28-29, at El Paso, Texas. Houston opened the season with a third place finish in the BCA Classic on November 16-17, in Winston Salem, N.C..

COUGAR NOTES

Last Time Out

George Williams led a balanced offensive attack with a season-high 22 points as Houston defeated Tulane, 81-76, at Fogelman Arena in New Orleans. The victory was Houston's first win on the road in 15 games dating back to January 22, 2000, when Houston won a 98-89 decision at Memphis and only the third time in the last 17 games that Tulane has lost a game at Fogelman Arena.

Houston used a dominating inside attack as Williams and Alton Ford combined to score 27 points of Houston's season-high 43 points in the first half as the Cougars took a 43-34 lead into halftime.

The Green Wave came back early in the second half as they tied the score, 60-60, on Brandon Spann's layup. After Tulane took a 62-60 lead, Ford made two free throws and Marcus Oliver added a jumper to give the Cougars a 64-62 lead with 7:40 left to play.

The Cougars never trailed again. After Tulane pulled to within 77-76 with 54 seconds left, Dominic Smith and Marcus Oliver combined to make four free throws to give Houston the victory.

In addition to Williams' 22 points, Ford and Patrick Okafor added 16 points each, Oliver tallied 11 and Smith scored 10.

A Balanced Attack in February

All five of Houston's starters scored in double figures at Tulane. It is the fourth time in the last six games that Houston has had at least four players scoring in double figures after the Cougars closed out the month of January without any starters scoring at least 10 points at UAB.

The feat at Tulane was also the first time this season and first time since Houston beat Memphis, 98-89, on January 22, 2000 at the Pyramid. That is a span of 38 games.

20 Free Throws in a Game

Houston attempted 32 free throws at Tulane to mark the eighth straight game in which the Cougars have shot 20 or more free throws. Houston also shot 24 free throws against Saint Louis, 24 free throws at South Florida, 23 against Southern Miss, 21 at DePaul, 29 against Charlotte, 25 at UAB and 29 against South Florida. UH has 20 or more free throw attempts in 20 of its 25 games overall this season.

A Record-Setting Performance

Houston set a new Hofheinz Pavilion record for the highest free throw percentage with .897 in its 73-72 victory over Charlotte when the Cougars made 26 of their 29 free throws against Charlotte. It surpassed Houston's former record of 87.1 (27-31) percent against Texas A&M on February 29, 1992.

25 Free Throws Made in a Game

Houston's 26 free throws against Charlotte also marked the fifth time this season that the Cougars have made 25 free throws in a game. UH also made a season-high 34 free throws against Texas Southern, 25 against Memphis on January 6, 25 versus UAB on January 10, and 26 at Louisville.

Other Notables in the Charlotte Victory

Dominic Smith's two free throws with four seconds left to play marks the first time since November 21, 1999 that Houston has won a game at the free throw line. Last year, Marcus Oliver made a free throw to give the Cougars a 93-92 victory over George Washington in the Top of the World Classic.

Houston did not lead in the game until Smith hit the game-deciding free throws.

In addition, this marked the first time this season that that Houston has won a game when allowing a team to shoot over 40 percent from the field. Charlotte ended the game with a .455 field goal percentage.

Second Half Comebacks

During the last seven games, Houston has proven to be quite resilient as the Cougars have rallied from deficits in the second half of each contest.

While playing at UAB, the Cougars trailed by 12 points (52-40) with 6:22 left to play before they closed to within 52-46 with five minutes left. However, UAB went on to win 65-53.

Then, on February 4, Houston overcame an 18-point second-half deficit (60-42) with 12:26 left to play and rallied for a 73-72 victory on Dominic Smith's two free throws with four seconds left.

After trailing by as many as 14 points in the first half, Houston came back to take a four point lead in the second half at DePaul before eventually falling 90-78.

On February 14, the Cougars overcame a 13-point shortage (51-38) with 8:11 left to play to take a 58-57 lead with 34 seconds left before falling 62-58.

On February 17 in Tampa, Houston battled back from an 11-point half-time deficit against South Florida and closed to within 45-39 with 13 minutes left to play.

Last Monday night, after trailing 33-27 with 19:10 left to play, Houston surged to a 71-51 victory over Saint Louis.

Houston led most of the way at Tulane, but did trail by two points (62-60) with 8:26 remaining to play before closing the game with a 21-14 run to win 81-76.

Defense, Defense

One area where Houston is vastly improved over last year is on the defensive end of the floor.

The Cougars have given up 80 points just four times this season after allowing 80 points in 17 games last year. UH held Saint Louis to 51 points on February 19, and it is the fewest points the Cougars have given up since they defeated California, 54-51, on December 9, 1997. That is a span of 104 games.

Houston also has allowed opponents to 45 percent just nine times this season after allowing opponents to shoot 45 percent in 25 games last year.

COUGAR NOTES

On the Board

Another area in which Houston is improved this season is rebounding. The Cougars enter the Cincinnati game averaging 37.4 rebounds per game and that ranks sixth among Conference USA teams. UH also is sixth in rebounding margin with an average advantage of 2.2 rebounds per game.

The Cougars have held a rebounding dominance during eight of their last 12 games after out-rebounding Saint Louis 42-35. Houston and Tulane recorded 34 rebounds each on January 21.

Prior to the Saint Louis game, Houston held a 36-35 rebounding advantage over Southern Miss and a 39-31 rebounding edge over Charlotte and a 42-41 rebounding edge over South Florida after out-rebounding Southern Miss, 34-31, Memphis, 43-37, and Louisville, 35-29. The only two times during the last nine contests that Houston was out-rebounded was at South Florida, at UAB and at DePaul.

20-Point Games

George Williams became the third Cougar to score 20 points in a game this season when he netted a career-high 22 points at Tulane. Williams also tallied 20 points against Southwest Texas State.

Dominic Smith leads the Cougars with four 20-point games this year. Smith 23 points against Charlotte and SMU, 22 points at Louisville and 20 points at Memphis. He is the only Cougar to score 20 points in more than two games this season.

Senior Chad Hendrick also has two 20-point games this season. Hendrick netted Houston with 21 points versus Memphis on January 6 and a career-high 25 points against Mount St. Mary's College. His 25 points are the most points scored by a Cougar this season.

Alton Ford became the fourth Cougar to score 20 points in a game when he tallied 22 points against Saint Louis.

Houston's 20-Point Games in 2000-01		
Player	Number	High
Dominic Smith	4	23
Chad Hendrick	2	25
George Williams	2	22
Alton Ford	1	22

Double-Doubles Performances

Junior college transfer Patrick Okafor enters the Cincinnati with six double-double performances this season. Okafor is one of six players in Conference USA to record six double-doubles this season.

Okafor tallied 11 points and 10 rebounds against Charlotte; a career-high 19 points and 13 rebounds against South Florida; 13 points and 10 rebounds against Memphis; and 11 points and 13 rebounds versus Georgetown on December 31; 11 points and 13 rebounds against Air Force; and 17 points and 16 rebounds versus Mount St. Mary's College.

The only two players to record a double-double performance are George Williams and Alton Ford.

Williams has three double-doubles this year. He totaled 11 points and a game-high 11 rebounds at Memphis; 12 points and 11 rebounds at UTEP in the championship game of the Sierra Providence Sun Classic; along with 15 points and 10 rebounds at 16th-ranked Connecticut.

Ford recorded 17 points and a career-best 15 rebounds against LSU.

Eight Scholarship Players

Houston enters the Cincinnati game with eight scholarship players on its roster. The scholarship players are: Treva Crosby, Alton Ford, Chad Hendrick, Marcus Oliver, Patrick Okafor, Bernard Smith, Dominic Smith and George Williams

The Cougars also have Torrence Botts, Willie Moore and Terry Price playing as walk-ons this season.

A Local Roster

Houston has eight players on its roster who are from the Greater Houston area. These eight players include Torrence Botts (Friendswood), Alton Ford, Chad Hendrick, Terry Price and Patrick Okafor (Houston), Willie Moore (League City), Bernard Smith (Conroe) and George Williams (Missouri City).

The remaining active players are Treva Crosby (Galliano, La.), Marcus Oliver (Charlotte, N.C.) and Dominic Smith (Ashland, Va.).

Houston Player-of-the-Year Pipeline

The Cougars also have three of the last four All-Greater Houston Players-of-the-Year on its roster this season.

Bernard Smith was named The Houston Chronicle All-Greater Houston Players-of-the-Year in 1996-97. George Williams attained the honor in 1998-99 and Alton Ford earned the accolade in 1999-00.

The lone All-Greater Houston Player-of-the-Year not signed by the Cougars in the last four years was Rashard Lewis, who bypassed his collegiate career after his senior year in 1997-98 and is a forward for the Seattle Super Sonics.

McDonald's All-American

Freshman Alton Ford is the second McDonald's High School All-American to ever wear a Cougar uniform in 2000-01. He was named the best high school post player in the nation by The Sporting News. The only other McDonald's All-American to play at Houston was Rickie Winslow, who was a four-year starter for the Cougars from 1983-87.

Early Signees

Houston signed three players in the early November signing period. The Cougars inked Rickey Huckaby, Darrius Brannon and Bryan Shelton.

Huckaby is a 6-1, 175 pound guard who is a two-time Class 3A First Team All-State selection from Mexia High School in Mexia, Texas. He has a 40-inch vertical jump and averaged 21 points per game as a junior after scoring 24.7 points per game for Mexia's 1998-99 Class 3A state championship team that finished the season with a 33-5 record.

Brannon is a 6-9, 205-pound forward who is very athletic and has a good outside shot. He earned All-Golden Triangle and All-Region honors after leading Port Arthur Lincoln High School to a 32-3 record in 1999-00. Brannon also has been nominated for the 2000-01 McDonald's High School All-America team after averaging 14 points and 12 rebounds per game.

Shelton is a 6-4 shooting guard from Clear Brook High School in Friendswood, Texas. He was an All-District 24-5A performer as a junior in 1999-00 after averaging 14.4 points and 5.2 rebounds per game. He also made 55 three-pointers as a junior. Shelton is a pre-season all-district selection entering his senior campaign.

Two four-year transfers will join those three players in 2001-02. Louis Truscott comes to Houston after playing his first two years as a collegian at Nebraska. Truscott, a 6-7 forward, averaged 8.2 points and 5.5 rebounds for the Cornhuskers as a sophomore. He was second on the team in blocked shots with 21. Truscott also played on Nebraska's NIT team in 1998-99 as a freshman.

Kevin Gaines transferred to Houston from Michigan in December. Gaines, a 6-4 guard, was named the Wolverines' co-MVP as a freshman after averaging 11.7 points, 3.8 rebounds and 4.58 assists per game.

UPDATED COUGAR BIOS

1 Dominic Smith

Dominic Smith leads Conference USA in steals with 2.32 steals per game, and ranks second in free throw percentage with .901 (128-142) after he made all six of his free throw attempts and collected a steal at Tulane.

He also is second among Houston's scoring leaders with 13.0 points per game after netting 10 points and five assists at Tulane.

Smith enters the Cincinnati game having made his last 10 attempts in the past two games and 80 percent of his free throws 16 times in the last 17 games. In addition to making all six of his free throws at Tulane, he also made all four of his free throws against Saint Louis.

His best free throw shooting performance came against Charlotte when he made all 12 of his free throws. It equaled the third-best single game free throw shooting performance in UH and Conference USA history. It also was the first time that a Cougar went 12-for-12 at the free throw line since David Diaz made all 12 of his free throw attempts on December 22, 1992.

He also enters the Cincinnati game having collected 32 steals in Houston's last eight games. He had a career-high eight steals against Charlotte, five steals against Saint Louis and South Florida, four steals against DePaul and two against Southern Miss and Tulane.

His eight steals against Charlotte was the first time that a Cougar has collected eight steals in a game since Clyde Drexler set a school record with 11 steals against Syracuse on December 11, 1982.

Smith has scored in double figures during 11 of Houston's last 13 contests, including 22 points at Louisville and 20 points at Memphis.

He also handed out five assists at Tulane marking the ninth time this season that he has handed out five or more assists. His eight assists against Saint Louis were the second highest total in his career. His career high is nine assists against Georgetown. He also had seven at DePaul and against Memphis, six at Memphis and at South Florida, along with five at SMU.

Smith was named to the Sierra Providence Sun Classic All-Tournament team after registering 35 points, seven rebounds, nine assists and seven steals in two games at the tournament.

He came to Houston from Paris Junior College, where he was named a second-team all-Region XIV selection after averaging 16.2 points, 6.0 assists and 2.5 steals per game in 1999-00.

Smith led Paris to a combined 44-22 record in his two years at the school, including a 20-13 mark during his sophomore season. He helped lead Paris to a 24-9 record as a freshman while averaging 7.7 points and 1.8 rebounds per game. Smith went to Paris after averaging 21 points, six rebounds and two steals per game at Patrick Henry High School in Ashland, Va..

3 Marcus Oliver

Sophomore Marcus Oliver scored 11 points at Tulane and that was the fourth time this season that he has scored in double figures. Oliver also tallied a season-high 12 points against Air Force and Memphis, and he scored 10 points against Texas.

He has made 20 starts for the Cougars this season, including the last 18 games. He began the season in the starting lineup at the BCA Classic, where he tallied 19 points and seven rebounds in Houston's first two games. In addition to his 12 points against Air Force, Oliver scored seven points and grabbed four rebounds against Mount Saint Mary's College.

A 6-2 sophomore, Oliver averaged 5.3 points per game in 1999-00. Oliver made eight starts for the Cougars and played in all of Houston's 31 games as a freshman. He scored a career-high 13 points against Texas Southern and Charlotte. Oliver grabbed a career-high 10 rebounds in his first collegiate start against SMU.

4 Alton Ford

Alton Ford is coming off three of his best performances of the season. Ford, who has started the last three games, scored 19 points and grabbed eight rebounds at South Florida. He also scored a career-high 24 points and grabbed nine rebounds to lead Houston to its victory over Saint Louis. Then, he scored 16 points and grabbed eight rebounds at Tulane to help the Cougars record their first road win of the season. It is the first time he has scored in double figures during three consecutive games this season.

He enters the Cincinnati game having scored in double figures 10 times overall this season. Ford also enjoyed another top performance against LSU when he scored 17 points and grabbed a career-high 15 rebounds. In addition, he tallied 15 points in Houston's victory over Mount Saint Mary's, 12 points against Charlotte, 11 points versus Memphis and 10 points at Southern Miss.

The 6-9 freshman was named one of the top 10 high school recruits in the nation by ESPN and Fans Only after earning McDonald's All-American honors and being named a finalist for the Naismith High School Boy's Basketball Player-of-the-Year Award in 1999-00.

Ford set the career scoring, rebounding and shot blocking records at Milby High School in Houston with 2,162 points, 1,381 rebounds and 268 blocked shots. He also was named the best senior high school post player and 13th best overall recruit by The Sporting News after averaging 23.5 points, 15.4 rebounds and 2.8 blocked shots in his senior campaign.

11 Torrence Botts

Torrence Botts handed out a season-high two assists at Tulane after recording three points and a rebound against Saint Louis. It was his two most productive outings since Botts made his only start of the season against South Florida on January 27 when he pulled down one rebound against the Bulls.

Prior to Houston's first South Florida contest on January 17, Botts enjoyed his most productive stretch of the season during Houston's previous six games. He scored four points at Southern Miss and five points at Memphis. Botts equaled his season high of seven points at Louisville after he scored five points in five minutes against UAB, three points against Memphis and seven points against Georgetown.

Botts also grabbed a season-high two rebounds against Southeast Missouri State. He opened the season playing a combined five minutes in the BCA Classic.

The junior guard averaged 4.0 points and 1.3 rebounds per game in 1999-00. He played in 22 games and started 12 contests as a walk-on guard in 1998-99 when he averaged 4.5 points per game.

21 Bernard Smith

Bernard Smith has grabbed five rebounds in Houston's last two games against Tulane and Saint Louis after seeing his first action in four games at South Florida. Smith enjoyed his most productive outing since November when he scored 10 points and recorded 2 steals against the Bulls. It was the most points he has scored in a game since he tallied a career-high 12 points against Southwest Texas State.

Smith started the first 17 games of the season for Houston and handed out a career-high seven assists at SMU. He also registered three assists at 16th-ranked Connecticut and two assists at UTEP.

A 6-3 guard from Conroe, Smith missed seven games and played the final two-thirds of the 1999-00 season with a two broken bones in his right wrist. He played in 24 games overall and made 14 starts for the Cougars last year after transferring from Texas. Smith scored a season-high 10 points against George Washington.

UPDATED PLAYER PROFILES

24 Willie Moore

A walk-on forward, Willie Moore has been one of Houston's top frontline reserves in three of the last five games. Moore played two minutes against Saint Louis after he scored four points and grabbed five rebounds at South Florida. He also grabbed a rebound in 10 minutes of action against Southern Miss and registered three points and four rebounds in 19 minutes at DePaul.

Before the DePaul contest, Moore grabbed a rebound in four minutes against Charlotte. His most productive outing of the season was against South Florida in Houston when he scored seven points and grabbed five rebounds.

Moore has played in nine games overall this season after sitting out last season as a redshirt. He played 19 games and averaged 2.1 points and two rebounds in 1998-99. He saw his most extensive action in 1997-98 when he started 11 games and averaged 4.5 points and 3.2 rebounds in 29 contests.

31 Terry Price

Terry Price made his second appearance of the season at South Florida when missed his only three-point attempts in the final two minutes of the game. Price made his first appearance against South Florida in Houston, and is a walk-on guard who practiced with the team during the fall semester. The marks the first time Price has suited up for the Cougars since 1997-98 when he grabbed one rebound in three games.

32 Chad Hendrick

Chad Hendrick returned to Houston's lineup during the last two games after sitting out the South Florida game for disciplinary reasons. Hendrick scored six points at Tulane and five points against Saint Louis.

Before the South Florida game, Hendrick was in Houston's starting lineup against Southern Miss and DePaul. He scored nine points and grabbed eight rebounds against the Golden Eagles after scoring 18 points and pulling down five rebounds against the Blue Demons.

His start against Southern Miss was Hendrick's ninth overall start of the season and second since Houston's game at SMU on December 17.

Hendrick served as Houston's sixth man during the 13 games before the DePaul and scored 32 points in the previous three games. Hendrick scored seven points and grabbed four rebounds against Charlotte after he led the Cougars with 18 points at UAB and netted seven points against South Florida.

He also scored 34 points and grabbed 11 rebounds in Houston's first two C-USA games. He tallied 13 points and eight rebounds versus UAB after leading the Cougars with 21 points against Memphis. He also led Houston with 19 points off the bench against UTEP after scoring nine points against Southeast Missouri State.

Hendrick was named to the BCA Classic All-Tournament team after averaging 19.5 points and 7.0 rebounds in Houston's first two regular season games. He totaled a career-high 25 points and eight rebounds against Mount St. Mary's College. Hendrick opened the season with 14 points and six rebounds against Air Force.

35 Treva Crosby

Treva Crosby made his ninth appearance of the season against Saint Louis. He handed out his only assist of the season against South Florida on January 27. Crosby also played four minutes at South Florida, the final two minutes at Southern Miss and one minute at Louisville.

Prior to his appearance at Louisville, Crosby played eight minutes against Texas Southern, and a season-high 12 minutes versus Air Force. He also saw limited action against SMU, Southwest Texas State and St. Mary's College.

Crosby returned to Houston's lineup after sitting out the 1999-00 season with a right shoulder injury. Crosby was Houston's third guard in 1998-99 and averaged 5.0 points per game. He tallied 16 points versus Charlotte that year and netted a career-high 18 points against UAB in his freshman campaign.

42 George Williams

George Williams leads the Cougars in scoring and blocked shots with 13.5 points and 0.96 blocked shots per game. He ranks 17th among Conference USA scoring leaders and is among the league's top 10 field goal shooters and rebounding leaders. He is averaging 7.3 rebounds per game and has a .498 field goal percentage (117-235).

Williams led the Cougars with a season-high 22 points and grabbed seven rebounds at Tulane. His 22 points mark the sixth straight game and 21st time overall this season that he has scored in double figures. He tallied 20 points against Southwest Texas State to begin the streak, and also had 19 points versus Southeast Missouri State, 17 points versus Georgetown, and 16 points in Houston's win over Charlotte.

He also has led the Cougars in rebounding during 10 times this year, including Texas when he pulled down 12 rebounds. He also had a team-high 11 rebounds against UTEP and Memphis, and 9 boards versus Southeast Missouri State, Louisville and Southern Miss.

In addition to his scoring and rebounding expertise, Williams had three blocked shots against LSU and Georgetown. He has started the last 23 games for the Cougars after sitting out the first two games of the season with a strained calf muscle.

The 6-8 Missouri City, Texas native was a member of the Conference USA All-Freshman team in 1999-00 after averaging 14.3 points and 8.5 rebounds per game.

43 Patrick Okafor

Patrick Okafor is one of the top rebounders and field goal shooters in Conference USA. Okafor enters the Cincinnati game ranked fifth among league leaders in rebounding with an 8.3 average after he tied for the team lead with eight rebounds at Tulane. He also grabbed eight boards against Saint Louis.

Okafor is among the league's field goal percentage leaders after making 7 of his 8 shots at Tulane. Okafor is shooting .497 (87-175) overall this season and has a .470 percentage against C-USA opponents.

Okafor scored 16 points at Tulane to mark the second straight game, fifth time in the last six games and 13th time overall that he has scored in double figures. He also tallied 14 points versus Saint Louis, 18 points at DePaul and 10 points versus Southern Miss.

Okafor leads the Cougars and ranks sixth overall in Conference USA with six double-double performances. He scored 10 points and grabbed 11 rebounds against Charlotte, and tallied a career-high 19 points and 13 rebounds versus South Florida. Okafor also recorded 11 points and 13 rebounds against Air Force, 17 points and a career-high 16 rebounds versus Mount Saint Mary's College, 11 points and 13 rebounds against Georgetown and 13 points and 10 rebounds versus Memphis.

In addition to his double-double performances, Okafor has grabbed 10 or more rebounds three other times. He pulled down 14 rebounds at SMU and 11 rebounds versus Southwest Texas State and UAB.

Okafor was named one of the top five junior college sophomore power forwards in the nation last year by The Sporting News and a two-team Region XIV selection. Okafor led Region XIV in rebounding with 12.1 rebounds per game and averaged 18.7 points per game as a sophomore after registering 22.9 points and 12.5 rebounds per contest as a freshman.

Okafor leads Conference USA in offensive rebounding with 4.42 offensive rebounds per game after he snaring 38 offensive rebounds in Houston's last eight games.

45 Tega Moceanu

Senior forward Tega Moceanu will miss the rest of the season with scaphoid fracture of his left wrist. Moceanu suffered the injury during the second half of Houston's game versus South Florida on January 27.

Moceanu was averaging 1.3 points and 1.2 rebounds in 17 games this season.