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Women's soccer begins conference play with a tie

Mekenzie Bartone | Contributor

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The University of Cincinnati women's soccer team took on the Memphis Tigers at Gettler Stadium on Thursday, Sept. 22, 2022. The match resulted in a tie (2-2).

Noah Garel | Contributor

The University of Cincinnati (UC) women's soccer team tied the Memphis Tigers 2-2 at home on a chilly Thursday night, moving their record to 4-1-4 and opening American Athletic Conference (AAC) play with a tie. The Bearcats and Tigers have competed only nine times, with this draw being just the second in the contest's history.

"[Conference play] is more intense, physical, faster, there is just more at stake and I think the players really rose to the challenge," head coach Neil Stafford said after the game.

"From the locker room, before, we were ready to just go at Memphis," Lauren Bastian said.



UC had an electric first play getting the ball down to the Tigers' goal to get the first shot off.



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Despite the early chance from the Bearcats, the Tigers responded with a goal within the first two minutes. Forward Saoria Miller put a ricocheted corner in the back of the net. Although the Tigers had five corner kicks, they only scored one goal in the first half. Memphis led at the half 0-1.

The Bearcats came out of the half with fire, moving the ball all over the field and showing their skills in possession. Freshman Megan Smith scored Cincinnati's first goal of the night with an assist from Ashley Barron. The goal was Smith's third of the season and first in AAC play.

Shortly after, though, the Tigers punched back with an almost immediate score by forward Mya Jones.

With eight minutes left in the game, Bastian made a shocking shot off Tigers keeper Claire Wyville's fingertips for the game-tying goal.

"I'm thinking no doubt in my mind, we are going to come back," Bastian said of her goal, which was the last of the intense second-half stat sheet that featured three goals.

The Bearcats will go on to play in Orlando, Florida, where they will face off with AAC opponents UCF on Thursday, Sept. 29.