



Head Coach: Marvin Lewis (8th year)

Off. Coord: Bob Bratkowski; Def. Coord: Mike Zimmer

2009 Record: SUR 10-7, PSR 7-10, O-U 8-9

Field: Paul Brown Stadium (65,393) Grass



The best season in the Queen City in four years ended with a dull thud last January, with the Bengals losing 24-14 at home vs. the chest-thumping, trash-talking New York Jets. Cincy had been a one of the surprise teams of the NFL in 2009, charging out to a 9-3 start that included AFC North sweeps of defending Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh, rough & rugged Baltimore, and lowly but hated Cleveland. The only other team that swept its division foes LY was Indianapolis, which was flirting with a perfect record 14½ games deep into the season. But, including a regular-season-ending throwaway at the Jets followed immediately by that playoff loss to the brash New Yorkers, the Bengals ended up losing four of their last five contests, scoring only 13 ppg. That Cincy even got that far is somewhat amazing, as the Bengals had to fight through extraordinary 2009 adversity that saw defensive coordinator Mike Zimmer's wife pass away prior to Game Five and WR Chris Henry die in an accident/argument with his fiancée after Game 13. Marvin Lewis picked up several Coach of the Year awards, which rang hollow in the finality of such tragedies.

Meanwhile, GM Mike Brown has positioned his team back under the media microscope this season because of his renewed signings of controversial/troubled players, including CB/PR Pacman Jones in May. Partly due to fan outrage after 10 arrests of players in a 14-month span, the Bengals tried to clean up their act, releasing the very talented Henry in 2008 following his fifth collar. However, after having so much experience in trying to rehabilitate players, including Henry, who had reportedly "turned his life around," the eccentric Brown (who once referred to himself as a "redeemer") is again signing troubled players, most at bargain-basement, low-risk prices. Henry, RB Cedric Benson (1251 YR in 2009), and DT Tank Johnson are notable examples. The addition of former 6-6 Jacksonville receiver Matt Jones preceded Pacman this year. Brown is obviously confident in HC Lewis, his staff (d.c. Zimmer helped Johnson and lobbied for Pacman), and team leaders (e.g., Carson Palmer) to take the risk. History will judge whether the owner was right.

On the field, insiders have isolated two main areas of need that were factors in the Bengals' weak 1-4 finish LY: 1) a declining aerial game (26th in passing yards) due to receiver injuries and a run-oriented OL, and 2) a dearth of pass-rush pressure (only 34 sacks) by an otherwise nasty "D" (7th vs. the rush, 6th vs. the pass, 4th overall, 6th in scoring). In the offseason, the team was aggressive in rectifying those shortcomings.

Cincy ran the ball well enough LY behind that burly OL (even with No. 1 pick RT Andre Smith virtually disappearing due to a holdout, poor conditioning, and an injury) with RBs Benson and speedy rookie RB/KR Bernard Scott. But a cluster of injuries at TE & WR left QB Palmer (21 TDs, 13 ints.) without enough quality targets. Not so in 2010. Incoming are WR Antonio Bryant from T.B., No. 1 pick Jermaine Gresham from Oklahoma (a virtual lock to start at TE), No. 3 pick Jordan Shipley (116 recs. LY at Texas; likened to Wes Welker), the aforementioned 6-6 Jones, No. 6 pick Dezmon Briscoe from Kansas; surgically-repaired TE Chase Coffman, and others. Chad Ochocinco ("stuffed" by Jets' CB Darrelle Revis LY) is slowing down, but not done (he was moving pretty well on *Dancing With The Stars* in the offseason). In many throwing situations late LY, the OL could not protect the pocket-passing Palmer.

Meanwhile, the Bengal defense is blessed with talent and depth, but Zimmer is in search of those game-turning sacks and takeaways. He says the first key is tighter coverage, even though CBs Leon Hall & Johnathon Joseph (six ints. each) are well-regarded. The presence of Pacman Jones and No. 3 pick Brandon Ghee will help immensely in nickel and dime situations. With improved coverage, Zimmer hopes to turn lose the penetrators in his front seven. DE Antwan Odom surprised with 8 sacks LY, as did DT Jonathan Fanene with 6. Zimmer hopes to get more out of 2009 No. 3 pick 6-7 Michael Johnson (3 sacks, 5 passes defensed) in a slashing, up-the-field OLB/DE mode. Short but quick No. 4 DT Geno Atkins impressed at minicamp, and No. 2 pick DE Carlos Dunlap flashed lots of potential (albeit erratically) at Florida. Head-hunting LB Rey Mauluga (drunken driving arrest in January) says he has learned his lesson. We'll see about him, and about Pacman, who says he's no longer running with the wrong crowd, "I'm to myself now. I have a fiancée. I have another baby on the way. I'm 26 years old and tired of hanging out with those knuckleheads who ain't doing nothing better for themselves."

Bottom Line... There are major questions in Pittsburgh, so it might be Cincy and Baltimore who duke it out for the AFC North title. With the Bengals improving their aerial game, the division might be up for grabs in Cincy's finale at Baltimore.

PRESEASON NOTES: Marvin Lewis has come alive as a preseason dog (6-2) and visitor (6-2) the L4Ys; he's 9-4 vs. the spread off a loss in the preseason since taking over Cincy in 2003.

2009 CINCINNATI BENGALS REGULAR-SEASON STAT LEADERS

PASSING	PA	PC	YDS	PCT	TD	INT	RAT
C. Palmer	466	282	3094	60.5	21	13	83.6
J. O'Sullivan	11	4	40	36.4	0	0	47.5
TOTAL	477	286	3134	60.0	21	13	82.7

RUSHING	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
C. Benson	301	1251	4.2	42	6
B. Scott	74	321	4.3	61	0
L. Johnson	46	204	4.4	27	0
C. Palmer	39	93	2.4	15	3
B. Leonard	27	84	3.1	11	0
TOTAL	505	2056	4.1	61	9

RECEIVING	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
C. Ochocinco	72	1047	14.5	50	9
L. Coles	43	514	12.0	40	5
A. Caldwell	51	432	8.5	24	3
J. Foschi	27	260	9.6	27	2
C. Henry	12	236	19.7	73	2
B. Leonard	30	217	7.2	18	0
D. Coats	16	150	9.4	23	0
C. Benson	17	111	6.5	19	0
TOTAL	286	3134	11.0	73	21

FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+
S. Graham	0/0	10/11	8/10	3/3	2/4
TOTAL	0/0	10/11	8/10	3/3	2/4

DEFENSE	Total	Tackles	Assists	Sacks	FR
D. Jones	113	76	37	3.5	1
C. Ndukwe	89	63	26	2.0	0
L. Hall	71	58	13	0.0	2
J. Joseph	69	58	11	0.0	1
K. Rivers	72	46	26	1.0	0
B. Johnson	58	40	18	1.5	0
C. Crocker	51	40	11	0.0	1
R. Mauluga	63	39	24	1.0	3
M. Trent	28	22	6	1.0	0
R. Geathers	36	21	15	3.5	1
T. Nelson	25	20	5	0.0	0
P. Sims	34	19	15	0.5	0
R. Williams	28	19	9	0.0	0
J. Fanene	36	18	18	6.0	0
A. Odom	19	18	1	8.0	0
T. Johnson	29	16	13	2.0	0
K. Hebert	20	14	6	0.0	0
R. Jeanty	20	13	7	0.0	0
D. Peko	23	12	11	0.0	0
A. Hodge	16	12	4	0.0	1
M. Johnson	17	11	6	3.0	0
TOTAL	1038	733	305	34	11
OPPONENTS	1141	791	350	29	18

INTERCEPTIONS	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
J. Joseph	6	92	15.3	32	1
L. Hall	6	47	7.8	26	0
C. Crocker	2	38	19.0	20	0
TOTAL	19	259	13.6	45	2
OPPONENTS	13	184	14.2	52	2

2010		2009		2008		2007		2006	
		(SUR: 10-7 PSR: 7-10 O-U: 8-9)		(SUR: 4-11-1 PSR: 7-9 O-U: 6-10)		(SUR: 7-9 PSR: 7-9 O-U: 7-9)		(SUR: 8-8 PSR: 8-7-1 O-U: 7-9)	
S.12 New England		S.13 DENVER	L -5 7-12 u41'	S.07 Baltimore	L -2 10-17 u38	S.10 BALTIMORE	W -2 27-20 o40	S.10 Kansas City	W +2 23-10 u46'
S.19 BALTIMORE		S.20 Green Bay	W +8 31-24 o41'	S.14 TENNESSEE	L -1 7-24 u37	S.16 Cleveland	L -7 45-51 o41'	S.17 CLEVELAND	W -10 34-17 o41
S.26 Carolina		S.27 PITTSBURGH	W +3 23-20 o37	S.21 Ny Giants-OT	W +13 23-26 o41'	S.23 Seattle	W +3 21-24 u49'	S.24 Pittsburgh	W -2 28-20 o43
O.03 Cleveland		O.04 Cleveland-OT	L -6 23-20 o37'	S.28 CLEVELAND	L -2 12-20 u43	O.01* NEW ENGLAND	L +7 13-34 u53'	O.01 NEW ENGLAND	L -6 13-38 o36'
O.10 TAMPA BAY		O.11 Baltimore	W +8 17-14 u42	O.05 Dallas	W +16 22-31 o45	O.08 Bye		O.08 Bye	
O.17 Bye		O.18 HOUSTON	L -4 17-28 u46	O.12 NY Jets	L -8 14-26 u44	O.14 Kansas City	L -3 20-27 o42'	O.15 Tampa Bay	L -4 13-14 u44
O.24 Atlanta		O.25 CHICAGO	W +1 45-10 o42'	O.19 PITTSBURGH	L +9 10-38 o35	O.21 NY JETS	W -6 38-31 o47'	O.22 CAROLINA	N -3 17-14 u41
O.31 MIAMI		N.01 Open Week		O.26 Houston	L +9 6-35 u44'	O.28 PITTSBURGH	L +3 13-24 u48	O.29 ATLANTA	L -4 27-29 o45
N.08* PITTSBURGH		N.08 BALTIMORE	W +3 17-7 u44'	N.02 JACKSONVILLE	W +7 21-19 o39'	N.04 Buffalo	L -1 21-33 o43'	N.05 Baltimore	L +3 20-26 o41'
N.14 Indianapolis		N.15 Pittsburgh	W +7 18-12 u41'	N.09 Bye		N.11 Baltimore	W +3 21-7 u44'	N.12 SAN DIEGO	L +1 41-49 o48
N.21 BUFFALO		N.22 Oakland	L -9 17-20 o36	N.16 PHILA.-OT	W +9 13-13 u41	N.18 ARIZONA	L -3 27-35 o48'	N.19 New Orleans	W +3 31-16 u51
N.25* NY Jets		N.29 CLEVELAND	L -13 16-7 u39	N.20 Pittsburgh	L +11 10-27 o34'	N.25 TENNESSEE	W +1 35-6 u47	N.26 Cleveland	W +3 30-0 u43
D.05 NEW ORLEANS		D.06 DETROIT	L -13 23-13 u42	N.30 BALTIMORE	L +7 3-34 o36'	D.02* Pittsburgh	L +7 10-24 u40	N.30* BALTIMORE	W -3 13-7 u42'
D.12 Pittsburgh		D.13 Minnesota	L +6 10-30 u43	D.07 Indianapolis	L +13 3-35 u41'	D.09 ST. LOUIS	L -9 19-10 u45'	D.10 OAKLAND	W -10 27-10 u39
D.19 CLEVELAND		D.20 San Diego	W +7 24-27 o43'	D.14 WASHINGTON	W +7 20-13 u36'	D.15* San Francisco	L -8 13-20 u42'	D.18* Indianapolis	L +3 16-34 u54'
D.26* SAN DIEGO		D.27 KANSAS CITY	L -13 17-10 u39'	D.21 Cleveland	W +2 14-0 u31'	D.23 CLEVELAND	W +2 19-14 u43'	D.24 Denver	W +3 23-24 o44'
J.02 Baltimore		J.03 NY Jets	L +10 0-37 o34	D.28 KANSAS CITY	W -2 16-6 u39	D.30 Miami	W -2 38-25 o45	D.31 PITTSBURGH-OT	L -6 17-23 u44
		J.09 NY JETS-P	L -2 14-24 o34						

CINCINNATI

AFC NORTH

CINCINNATI 2009 REGULAR SEASON TEAM STATS

	BENGALS	OPPONENTS
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	295	276
FIRST DOWNS (Rushing-passing-by penalty)	109-159-27	95-165-16
THIRD DOWN CONVERSIONS	93/229	81/210
FOURTH DOWN CONVERSIONS	10/14	7/15
TOTAL OFFENSIVE YARDS	4946	4822
OFFENSE (Plays-Average Yards)	101-4.9	980-4.9
TOTAL RUSHING YARDS	2056	1573
RUSHING (Plays-Average Yards)	505-4.1	399-3.9
TOTAL PASSING YARDS	2890	3249
PASSING (Comp-Att-Int-Avg)	286-477-13-6.6	318-547-19-6.4
SACKS	34	29
FIELD GOALS	23/28	23/29
TOUCHDOWNS	34	32
(Rushing-Passing>Returns-Defensive)	9-21-1-3	12-18-0-2
TIME OF POSSESSION	32:28	28:27

PROJECTED OFFENSE

QB	9 Carson Palmer	4 J.T. O'Sullivan
		5 Jordan Palmer
RB	32 Cedric Benson	28 Bernard Scott
	40 Brian Leonard	30 Cedric Peerman
FB	37 Fui Vakapuna	38 Joe Tronzo
WR	85 Chad Ochocinco	88 Dezmon Briscoe (6th Rd)
	19 Freddie Brown	14 Maurice Purify
WR	81 Antonio Bryant	87 Andre Caldwell
	11 Jordan Shipley (3rd Rd)	18 Matt Jones
TE	84 Jer. Gresham (1st Rd)	86 Daniel Coats
		80 Chase Coffman
LT	77 Andrew Whitworth	73 Anthony Collins
LG	62 Nate Livings	66 Evan Mathis
C	64 Kyle Cook	50 Jonathan Luigs
RG	63 Bobbie Williams	60 Otis Hudson (5th Rd)
RT	71 Andre Smith	74 Dennis Roland

PROJECTED DEFENSE

DE	91 Robert Geathers	92 Frostee Rucker
		96 Carlos Dunlap (2nd Rd)
DT	94 Domata Peko	68 Jonathan Fanene
		97 Geno Atkins (4th Rd)
DT	99 Tank Johnson	90 Pat Sims
DE	98 Antwan Odom	93 Michael Johnson
OLB	58 Rey Mauluga	53 Rashad Jeanty
		56 Roddrick Muckelroy (4th Rd)
MLB	57 Dhani Jones	52 Abdul Hodge
OLB	55 Keith Rivers	59 Brandon Johnson
CB	22 Johnathan Joseph	20 David Jones
S	31 Roy Williams	41 Chinedum Ndukwe
S	42 Chris Crocker	27 Gibril Wilson
CB	29 Leon Hall	25 Morgan Trent
	21 Brandon Ghee (3rd Rd)	24 Pacman Jones

PROJECTED SPECIALISTS

K	3 Dave Rayner	2 Mike Nugent
P	10 Kevin Huber	8 Jake Richardson

Cincinnati 2010 Draft Picks

Rd	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	School
1 (21)	Jermaine Gresham	TE	6'5"	261	Oklahoma
2 (54)	Carlos Dunlap	DE	6'6"	277	Florida
3 (84)	Jordan Shipley	WR	5'11"	193	Texas
3 (96)	Brandon Ghee	CB	6'0"	192	Wake Forest
4 (120)	Geno Atkins	DT	6'1"	293	Georgia
4 (131)	Roddrick Muckelroy	LB	6'2"	246	Texas
5 (152)	Otis Hudson	OG	6'5"	312	Eastern Illinois
6 (191)	Dezmon Briscoe	WR	6'2"	207	Kansas
7 (228)	Reggie Stephens	OL	6'3"	333	Iowa State

CINCINNATI BENGALS POINTSPREAD BREAKDOWN (INCLUDING PLAYOFFS)

	SUR	Spread	Home SUR	Home Sprd	Road SUR	Road Sprd	SB Sprd	Fav Sprd	Fav>3 Sprd	Dog Sprd	After SUL
2009	10-7	7-10	6-3	3-6	4-4	4-4	---	0-8	0-7	7-2	3-3
2008	4-11-1	7-9	3-4-1	4-4	1-7	3-5	---	1-3	---	6-6	4-7
2007	7-9	7-9	5-3	4-4	2-6	3-5	---	3-6	1-3	4-3	5-4
2006	8-8	8-7-1	4-4	3-4-1	4-4	5-3	---	4-4-1	2-4	4-3	2-4-1
2005	11-6	8-8-1	5-4	2-7	6-2	6-1-1	---	7-5	3-4	1-3-1	2-3
L5 Years	40-41-1	37-43-2	23-18-1	16-25-1	17-23	21-18-1	---	15-26-1	6-18	22-17-1	16-21-1

CINCINNATI BENGALS 2009

REGULAR SEASON STAT RANKINGS

OFFENSE	TOTAL	RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE (Yds. Per Game)	309.1	24
FIRST DOWNS (Per Game)	18.4	18
POINTS PER GAME	19.1	22
RUSHING (Yds. Per Game)	128.5	9
RUSHING TDS	9	T-22
PASSING OFFENSE (Yds. Per Game)	180.6	26
PASSING COMPLETION %	60.0	20
PASSING TDS	21	T-16
FIELD GOALS	23	T-17
TIME OF POSSESSION	32:29	5
DEFENSE	TOTAL	RANK
TOTAL DEFENSE (Yds. Per Game)	301.4	4
SCORING DEFENSE	18.2	6
RUSHING DEFENSE (Yds. Per Game)	98.3	7
PASSING DEFENSE (Yds. Per Game)	203.1	6
PASS COMPLETION%	58.1	6
INTERCEPTIONS	19	T-9
SACKS	34	T-16
TOTAL TEAM PENALTIES	114	6
TURNOVER MARGIN	EVEN	18

CINCINNATI—2009 Game-by-Game Statistics, including playoffs

OPPONENT	PF	PA	RA-YR	PC-PA-I-YP	SK F-FL	RA-YR	PC-PA-I-YP	SK F-FR
Denver	7	12	27/86	21/33/2/221	3 1-0	20/75	17/28/0/227	3 1-0
Green Bay	31	24	34/151	15/23/2/168	2 2-0	18/89	21/39/0/222	6 2-1
Pittsburgh	23	20	19/100	20/37/0/173	2 0-0	28/102	22/31/1/271	1 0-0
Cleveland	23	20	30/154	23/44/1/221	2 2-1	33/146	26/48/1/249	2 1-1
Baltimore	17	14	34/142	18/31/1/261	1 3-1	18/82	22/31/2/175	2 0-0
Houston	17	28	17/46	23/35/1/250	1 2-2	31/87	28/40/1/385	2 3-1
Chicago	45	10	45/215	20/24/0/233	0 0-0	12/35	27/39/3/244	1 3-1
Baltimore	17	7	39/146	20/33/0/223	1 1-1	17/55	18/32/2/160	4 1-0
Pittsburgh	18	12	29/61	18/30/0/157	2 0-0	18/80	20/40/1/146	4 1-0
Oakland	17	20	43/177	14/22/1/171	3 5-3	24/92	17/34/1/183	0 3-2
Cleveland	16	7	45/210	13/24/0/96	3 1-0	18/58	16/35/0/111	1 0-0
Detroit	23	13	44/119	17/29/2/202	2 1-1	20/80	13/29/2/165	3 0-0
Minnesota	10	30	24/119	16/28/0/91	1 2-1	37/142	17/30/1/180	2 1-0
San Diego	24	27	21/114	27/40/1/293	2 2-0	20/70	24/38/2/296	2 0-0
Kansas City	17	10	36/144	17/25/1/130	1 0-0	28/123	22/37/2/172	1 1-0
NY Jets	0	37	18/72	4/19/1/0	3 2-2	57/257	8/16/0/63	0 0-0
NY Jets	14	24	22/171	18/36/1/110	3 2-1	41/171	12/15/0/182	0 0-0

CINCINNATI TEAM STATISTICS 2006-2009 (INCLUDING ALL PLAYOFF GAMES)

YEAR	OFFENSE													DEFENSE																					
	SUR	PSR	PF	PA	FD	RA	RY	YPC	F-FL	T-RP	PC	PA	PI	SK	YP	YPP	YPT	FD	RA	RY	YPC	F-FR	T-RP	PC	PA	PI	SK	YP	YPP	YPT	DIF	APR	OPR	TM	TO
2009	10-7	7-10	19	19	18	31	131	4.2	26-13	36-10-22	18	30	14	32	176	5.8	16.4	17	26	103	4.0	17-6	35-14-19	19	33	19	34	202	6.1	16.4	.0	4.1	5.9	32	-2
2008	4-11	7-9	13	23	15	26	95	3.6	27-11	20-6-11	19	32	15	51	151	4.7	19.2	19	31	120	3.9	20-12	43-15-23	20	32	12	17	206	6.5	14.3	-4.9	11.4	5.0	29	-2
2007	7-9	7-9	24	24	20	26	97	3.7	20-10	41-10-26	23	36	20	17	251	7.0	14.7	20	28	118	4.2	27-16	44-11-29	22	34	19	22	230	6.8	14.5	-2	6.6	6.7	29	+5
2006	8-8	8-7	23	21	20	27	102	3.8	25-11	43-14-28	20	33	13	37	239	7.3	14.6	21	28	116	4.2	24-12	40-15-24	22	35	19	35	239	6.9	17.2	2.5	2.5	4.0	29	+7