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For Immediate Release

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Vanderbilt Commodores to meet Cincinnati Bearcats in the 53rd Annual AutoZone Liberty Bowl

Memphis, TN – The co-champions of the Big East Conference, the Cincinnati Bearcats will square off against the Vanderbilt Commodores in the 53rd AutoZone Liberty Bowl on Saturday, December 31, 2011 at 2:30 p.m. (CST). The game will be televised by ABC.

The 24th ranked Bearcats with a 9-3 record will be playing against Vandy, one of the hottest teams in the country that demolished Wake Forest 41-7 on the road in their last game of the season. This will be the first ever appearance for Cincinnati in the AutoZone Liberty Bowl.

Southeastern Conference member Vanderbilt will also be making its first ever appearance in the AutoZone Liberty Bowl.

This will be the eighth time that these two teams have met on the gridiron, but the first time since 1994. Vandy currently leads the series 4-3.

Cincinnati has been champion or co-champion of the Big East Conference 3 out of the last 4 years with appearances in the 2009 BCS Orange Bowl and the 2010 Sugar Bowl. The Bearcats are currently leading the nation in sacks and bring an attacking defense to the AutoZone Liberty Bowl.

AIR FORCE '89 '90 '91 '92
ALABAMA '59 '69 '76 '82
ARKANSAS '71 '84 '87 '09
AUBURN '65 '84
BAYLOR '85
BOISE STATE '04
BOSTON COLLEGE '83
BYU '98 '01
COLORADO '69 '70
COLORADO STATE '99 '00 '02
EAST CAROLINA '94 '95 '08 '09
FRESNO STATE '05
GEORGIA '67 '87 '10
GEORGIA TECH '72
HOUSTON '96 '06
ILLINOIS '82 '94
INDIANA '88
IOWA STATE '72
KANSAS '73
KENTUCKY '08
LOUISVILLE '93 '00 '01 '04
LSU '78 '85
MARYLAND '74
MIAMI '61 '66
MICHIGAN STATE '93
MINNESOTA '86
MISSISSIPPI STATE '63 '91 '07
MISSOURI '78 '80
N.C. STATE '63 '67 '73
NAVY '81
NEBRASKA '77
NORTH CAROLINA '77
NOTRE DAME '83
OHIO STATE '81 '90
OLE MISS '65 '68 '89 '92
OREGON '60
OREGON STATE '62
PENN STATE '59 '60 '79
PITTSBURGH '97
PURDUE '80
SOUTH CAROLINA '88 '06
SOUTHERN MISS '97 '99 '03
STANFORD '95
SYRACUSE '61 '96
TCU '02
TENNESSEE '71 '74 '86
TEXAS A&M '75
TULANE '70 '79 '98
TULSA '05
UCF '07 '10
UCLA '76
USC '75
UTAH '64 '03
VILLANOVA '62
VIRGINIA TECH '66 '68
WEST VIRGINIA '64

Steve Ehrhart, Executive Director of the AutoZone Liberty Bowl:

“We are excited to have two teams with great momentum who are both making their first appearance in the AutoZone Liberty Bowl. We are very proud to host these two outstanding universities.”

“Vanderbilt’s head coach James Franklin has done an unbelievable job in his first year as their coach. They play fast and physical, and have some tremendous playmakers on both sides of the ball. We are excited about this great matchup, and we’re looking forward to a great game.”

James Franklin, Vanderbilt Head Coach:

“We are extremely excited and honored to be coming to Memphis and playing in the AutoZone Liberty Bowl. I am sure our opponent will present both a huge challenge and great opportunity for our football program.”

“This promises to be a tremendous trip to celebrate an exciting season for our players, coaches and fans and I know the Commodore Nation shares our enthusiasm about playing in Memphis on New Year’s Eve. It will be a great trip for all Commodores.”

Butch Jones, Cincinnati Head Coach:

“We are pleased to accept a bid into the 53rd AutoZone Liberty Bowl. It’s a great honor to be part of a game with the prestige and storied history of the AutoZone Liberty Bowl. We look forward to a great number of Cincinnati fans being the team behind the team and helping us ring in the New Year in Memphis.”

For event and game tickets, call the AutoZone Liberty Bowl at (901) 795-7700.

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