

STADIUM HISTORY

PAUL BROWN STADIUM — 2000-PRESENT

Paul Brown Stadium, home of the Bengals on Cincinnati's downtown river-front, plays host to its 19th NFL season in 2018. PBS, as it's known for short, opened in 2000. The first game was an Aug. 19 preseason contest vs. Chicago, a 24-20 Bengals win. The first regular-season game was a 24-7 loss to Cleveland on Sept. 10.

Named for the NFL legend who was Bengals founder, chief executive and first head coach, the stadium has won numerous honors and has helped keep Cincinnati in the national sports spotlight. Over the last 14 seasons (2004-17), PBS has hosted 22 nationally televised Bengals games, and another nationally televised game is scheduled for 2018.

From 2003-10 at PBS, the Bengals sold out a franchise-record 57 consecutive home games (regular and postseason).

The stadium features a sleek design and blends seamlessly with the city, open to views of downtown to the north and the Ohio River to the south.

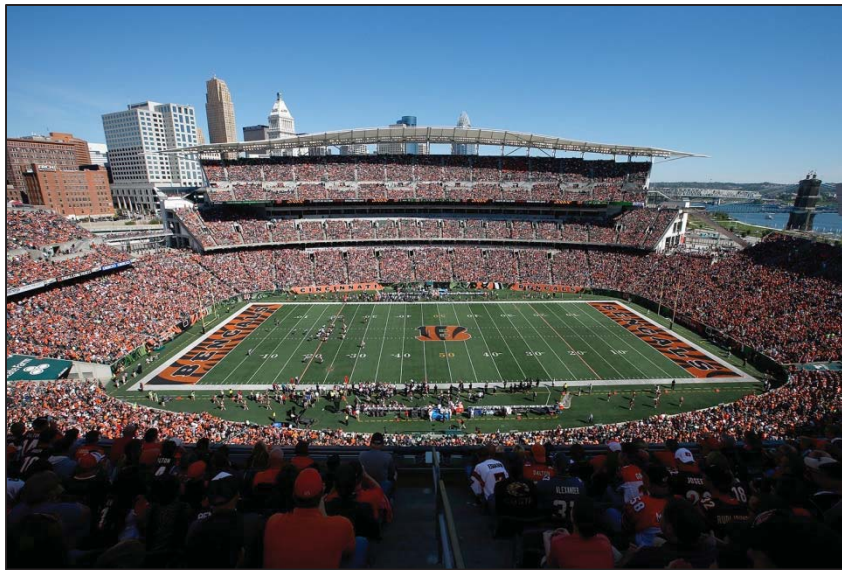
National recognition for PBS has come in various modes. In 2007, PBS was the only football stadium to make a Harris Interactive list of "America's favorite 150 buildings and structures." PBS ranked 101st on a list whose range included all manner of major structures — skyscrapers, museums, churches, hotels, bridges, national memorials and more. No other football stadium was voted among the top 150, and among all sports venues, only two historic baseball parks — Wrigley Field and the old Yankee Stadium — ranked higher than PBS.

In 2002, in an industry rarity, the stadium was singled out by both of the nation's premier architecture magazines, *Architectural Record* and *Architecture*. The two stories came on the heels of PBS receiving the 2001 Merit Award from the American Institute of Architects (California Council). It marked the first time an NFL stadium received the award from the prestigious AIA.

The acclaim began well before the stadium's 2000 opening. In May of 1998, studies of PBS' design led to it being among 15 winners from a field of more than 300 projects for an American Architecture Award.

In closer-to-home reaction, the stadium also debuted to rave reviews.

After a tour of PBS in June of 2000, some two months before the first game, Cincinnati Enquirer columnist Paul Daugherty wrote:



"The place is gorgeous. If the Bengals were trying to butter me up by giving me the tour, it worked. Every seat is good."

At roughly the same time, Cincinnati Post columnist Bill Koch wrote:

"The views come at you from every angle. Unlike Cinergy Field (formerly Riverfront Stadium), which cut you off from the city once you were inside, this stadium celebrates its setting.

"From the west side, you gaze into Price Hill, with Union Terminal off in the distance. From the east, you walk through the club lounge, where you can see the river, the Roebling Suspension Bridge

and the downtown skyline. You are not in Anytown, USA. You are unmistakably in Cincinnati."

Mike Brown, a son of Paul Brown and the club's chief executive since 1991, puts it this way:

"In the best stadiums, the experience of just walking in wakes you up. It's exciting just to be there. From day one, we made this a goal for our stadium. We want it to be the best setting for pro football in the country, and we think our fans will agree that it is."

Though proud of PBS' much-hailed outer design, the Bengals are prouder still that the stadium has fulfilled a primary goal of serving as a premier venue for watching football. Almost 70 percent of the seats are along the sidelines, positioned for the best possible sight lines to the action.

PBS also serves as a link to the past. In an era when many sports facilities carry corporate names, Cincinnati's stadium bears only the name of Paul Brown.

"We like the fact that our stadium name honors the tradition of the NFL," says Mike Brown. "Many names now don't have anything to do with the game."

The stadium includes 132 suites and 7600 club seats.

Additional facts and figures on PBS:

SEATING CAPACITY: 65,515.

DIMENSIONS: The stadium site covers approximately 22 acres, and Paul Brown Stadium itself reaches a height of 157 feet.

PLAYING SURFACE: Twenty-Four/Seven synthetic turf system by Shaw Sports Turf (installed by The Motz Group in 2018).



RIVERFRONT STADIUM/CINERGY FIELD — 1970-99

(Was called Riverfront Stadium from 1970-95, and renamed Cinergy Field in '96.)



Like Paul Brown Stadium, Riverfront Stadium was located in downtown Cincinnati on the bank of the Ohio River. Its site was about a quarter-mile east of the PBS site. It was renamed Cinergy Field in 1996.

Housing the Bengals and baseball's Cincinnati Reds, Riverfront/Cinergy was one of a number of circular, dual-sport facilities built in the U.S. in the 1960s and early '70s. Seating capacity for Bengals games was 60,389 in the stadium's full football configuration and 56,759 during shared periods with baseball.

Riverfront hosted the most celebrated victory in Bengals history, the 1981 season AFC Championship game known as the "Freezer Bowl." The Bengals defeated San Diego 27-7 on a day with the lowest wind chill (minus-59 degrees) and second-coldest temperature reading (minus-9) in NFL history. The Bengals won their second AFC title at Riverfront in 1988, defeating Buffalo 21-10.

The longest Bengals sellout streak at Riverfront was 43 games, from the 1988 season opener through the '92 home finale.

The Reds continued playing in Cinergy Field for two seasons (2001-02) after the Bengals departed for PBS, and Cinergy was imploded in December of '02 to make room for new riverfront development.

NIPPERT STADIUM — 1968-69

The Bengals played their first two seasons in Nippert Stadium on the campus of the University of Cincinnati. When the Bengals played at Nippert, its seating capacity was listed as 31,301.



The Nippert Stadium site began hosting UC games in 1902, and it remains the home of the Bearcats today. It is the fourth-oldest playing site still in use in college football. Nippert has been expanded and upgraded many times over the years. Its most recent major renovation took place from 2014 through early '15. The Bearcats played all their 2014 home games at Paul Brown Stadium, but returned to Nippert for the '15 season.

The stadium began in 1902 as Carson Field, named after Arch Carson, who played a significant role in starting football on the UC campus in 1885. In 1901, as physical director of the university, Carson guided the construction of the first field, which was later named for him (to this day, Nippert's playing surface still is called Carson Field). Fans watched from wooden bleachers constructed on the hillside adjacent to the field.

Construction began in 1916 on a permanent brick-and-mortar stadium, and the structure was completed in '24. The new stadium was named after Jimmy Nippert, a UC player who sustained a spike wound injury during the 1923 season finale and died a month later from blood poisoning. His grandfather, James N. Gamble of Procter & Gamble, provided the funds necessary to complete construction, and Nippert Stadium was dedicated the following November.

STADIUM FIRSTS AND LASTS

PAUL BROWN STADIUM

FIRST PRESEASON GAME: Aug. 19, 2000 / Bengals 24, Chicago 20 (attendance: 56,180)

FIRST REGULAR-SEASON GAME: Sept. 10, 2000 / Cleveland 24, Bengals 7 (attendance: 64,006)

First Bengals scoring play: Ron Dugans four-yard TD pass from Akili Smith (second quarter, 14:33)

First opponent scoring play: Travis Prentice 16-yard TD run (first quarter, 3:43)

RECORD AT PBS (REGULAR SEASON, THROUGH 2017): 79-62-2 (.563)

LARGEST CROWD AT PBS: 66,188 on Oct. 28, 2007 / Pittsburgh 24, Bengals 13

RIVERFRONT STADIUM/CINERGY FIELD

(Stadium was called Riverfront Stadium from 1970-95 and was renamed Cinergy Field in '96.)

FIRST PRESEASON GAME: Aug. 8, 1970 / Bengals 27, Washington 12 (attendance: 52,299)

FIRST REGULAR-SEASON GAME: Sept. 20, 1970 / Bengals 31, Oakland 21 (attendance: 56,616)

First Bengals scoring play: Sam Wyche five-yard TD run (first quarter, 13:08)

First opponent scoring play: Fred Biletnikoff 20-yard TD pass from Daryle Lamonica (first quarter, 0:30)

LAST REGULAR-SEASON GAME: Dec. 12, 1999 / Bengals 44, Cleveland 28 (attendance: 59,972)

Last Bengals scoring play: Darnay Scott 52-yard TD pass from Jeff Blake; Doug Pelfrey PAT kick (third quarter, 3:15)

Last opponent scoring play: Darrin Chiaverini 19-yard TD pass from Ty Detmer; Phil Dawson PAT kick (fourth quarter, 0:49)

RECORD AT RIVERFRONT/CINERGY (REGULAR SEASON): 128-100-0 (.561)

LARGEST CROWD AT RIVERFRONT/CINERGY: 60,284 on Oct. 17, 1971 / Cleveland 27, Bengals 24

NIPPERT STADIUM

FIRST PRESEASON GAME: Aug. 3, 1968 / Kansas City 38, Bengals 14 (attendance: 21,682)

FIRST REGULAR-SEASON GAME: Sept. 15, 1968 / Bengals 24, Denver 10 (attendance: 25,049)

First Bengals scoring play: Dale Livingston 49-yard FG (third quarter, 12:02)

First Bengals touchdown: Bob Trumpy 58-yard pass from John Stofa (third quarter, 8:58)

First opponent scoring play: Bob Humphreys 33-yard FG (third quarter, 3:07)

First opponent touchdown: Eric Crabtree five-yard pass from Jim LeClair (fourth quarter, 11:57)

LAST REGULAR-SEASON GAME: Nov. 16, 1969 / Boston 25, Bengals 14 (attendance: 25,913)

Last Bengals scoring play: Jess Phillips four-yard TD run; Horst Muhlmann PAT kick (fourth quarter, 13:10)

Last opponent scoring play: Gino Cappelletti 43-yard FG (third quarter, 7:58)

Last opponent touchdown: Charley Frazier six-yard pass from Mike Taliaferro; Gino Cappelletti PAT kick (first quarter, 1:24)

RECORD AT NIPPERT (REGULAR SEASON): 6-8-0 (.429)

LARGEST CROWD AT NIPPERT: 28,642 on Sept. 29, 1968 / San Diego 31, Bengals 10