

A Historic Season

By Alex Taft

This Saturday, the Cincinnati Bengals will be facing off against the Las Vegas Raiders in an NFL Wild Card round, as they enter the playoffs for the first time in 6 years. The Bengals have been a notoriously unsuccessful football team for quite some time now, but this year they've made a huge comeback, beating teams that they've historically been crushed by time and time again; such as the Pittsburgh Steelers, who the Bengals absolutely demolished with a crushing score of 41-10. Naturally, as excited as the tailgaters and die-hard Bengal fans of Cincinnati are about this, no one is more stoked with the success of the Bengals than the Bengals themselves. In an interview with NFL Writer Kevin Patra, Bengals running back Joe Mixon energetically stated that the Bengals "Ain't playing and joking no more." The Bengal's excitement is clear, as expected considering that they've added 11 wins to their belt this season. It feels so refreshing to see our little regional team from Southwest Ohio succeed in the big leagues, and for the first time in 6 years, the Bengals hype is truly in the air. "The Bengals, who got no love for years, even when they were winning, are amassing serious fondness now," states sports columnist Paul Daugherty of the *Cincinnati Enquirer*. I believe that this perspective on the situation really encapsulates this season; the Bengals were taking loss after loss for years and years, leaving them with "no love" even when they had one-off games where they won, but now that they've stepped things up, the hype, the love, is pouring in. Hopefully, the



hype and love will pour onto the fields this Saturday, and empower the Bengals to add a 12th sweeping victory to their belt this season. Who dey!