

Four Former Buckeyes Start For Bengals In Super Bowl LVI, Fall To Rams, 23-20



Four former Buckeyes started for the Cincinnati Bengals in Super Bowl LVI, but they fell to the Los Angeles Rams, 23-20, on Sunday evening.

Cornerback Eli Apple, safety Vonn Bell, defensive end Sam Hubbard and right tackle Isaiah Prince started for Cincinnati in the NFL's final 2021-22 game. If you count quarterback Joe Burrow, who played three years in Columbus before finishing his career at Louisiana State, five former Buckeyes started.

Ohio State had never had more than three starters in a Super Bowl before this year. Tom Matte and Bob Vogel started for the Colts and Matt Snell started for the Jets in Super Bowl III and Keith Byars, Terry Glenn and William Roberts started for the Patriots in Super Bowl XXXI.

Former safety Jordan Fuller is a team captain for the Rams. However, he did not participate in their postseason games after injuring his ankle in the final regular-season contest. He started in 17 games before he ended the year on the injured reserve,

Hubbard collected eight tackles and two tackles for loss. Bell recorded seven tackles with one tackle for loss. In comparison, Apple recorded five tackles and a pass breakup but allowed the game-winning touchdown to NFL Offensive Player of the Year Cooper Kupp, who eventually won the Super Bowl MVP. Kupp beat Apple to the outside on a fade route, jumping over the cornerback to secure a 1-yard touchdown.

Cincinnati's offensive line struggled to protect Burrow throughout the contest. Prince was a primary culprit, allowing Rams defensive tackle Aaron Donald to break free on more than one occasion. He also was called for a 15-yard unnecessary roughness penalty that halted an offensive drive for the Bengals.

The Bengals will return next season with a target on their back. Still, they remain well-equipped to make another run at a Lombardi Trophy, with more than a few Buckeyes leading the way.