

Kroenke's LA switch pays off with Rams victory

BULLET FOR SUCCESS

By PETER CARLINE

STAN Kroenke went all-in and the gamble paid off as the Los Angeles Rams beat the Cincinnati Bengals in Super Bowl LVI to give Tinseltown the title it so desperately craves.

Perhaps the roaming Rams have now finally found a home. In just their 19th game at SoFi Stadium, the NFL's comeback kings roared back again in a 23-20 victory.

Owner Kroenke moved the Rams back to LA from St Louis in 2016, and has spent big on players and the \$5billion palace.

After clutching the Vince Lombardi Trophy and with the turf covered in blue and yellow ticker tape, the 74-year-old tycoon said: 'As far as building this stadium goes, I think it turned out alright.'

After a thrilling season, the showpiece was far from pretty. But with Super Bowl MVP Cooper Kupp and Aaron Donald dominating on either side of the ball, there was no fairytale finish for Joe Burrow and the Bengals.

At 36, Sean McVay became the youngest head coach to win a Super Bowl.

He was left scarred by defeat three years ago against the New England Patriots in Super Bowl LIII but said: 'You talk about a



We did it: Cooper Kupp seals the win and (left) Stan Kroenke resilient team. For the offense up by 10 in the second quarter, to be able to find a way and for then behind by seven in the third. Aaron finding a way to finish it But with their offence stalling - off... it's poetic.' The Rams were Odell Beckham Jr suffered a knee

injury - they delivered when it mattered.

Trailing by four with two minutes on the clock, they won a third straight playoff game thanks to a thrilling late drive.

Quarterback Matt Stafford combined with Kupp - who drew three vital penalties - pushing the Rams forward 79 yards before the receiver caught a one-yard touchdown pass to put them ahead.

'I just don't have words,' said an emotional Kupp after being named the game's MVP.

Burrow - who was sacked seven times, tying a Super Bowl record - was halted on fourth and one on the edge of field goal range.

Donald, who has anchored the Rams defence since 2014, span the quarterback around and threw him to the floor for the game-ending incompleton.

'You've got to be relentless. If you want something bad enough, you have to go get it,' said Donald, who had talked of retiring before the game.

For Cincinnati, their dream season stalled. 'It hurts... it's disappointing,' said Burrow, who injured his left knee in the fourth quarter.

'We'll take this and let it fuel you for the rest of our careers.'

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