

GAME

1

2023-24 UCF MEN'S BASKETBALL POSTGAME NOTES

UCF Knights

1-0 (0-0 B12)

Johnny Dawkins

132-87 | 288-202

85



62

FIU Panthers

0-1 (0-0 CUSA)

Jeremy Ballard

77-80 | 77-80

November 6, 2023 | Addition Financial Arena | Orlando, Fla. | 6,225 Attendance

Starters

Player	Season
2 Shemarri Allen (G)	1
3 Darius Johnson (G)	1
5 Omar Payne (F)	1
12 DeMarr Langford Jr. (G)	1
24 Jaylin Sellers (G)	1

Series History

Overall	13-13
In Orlando	10-5
At FIU	3-8

Top Performers

UCF Knights	
Jaylin Sellers	23 PTS 3 STL 6 REB
Darius Johnson	15 PTS 4 AST 4 REB
FIU Panthers	
Petar Krivokapic	10 PTS 5 REB 2 STL
Jayden Brewer	9 PTS 1 AST 6 REB

Comparison

	Knights		Panthers	
1st Half	19-39 (48.7%)	FG	5-20 (25%)	1st Half
	4-14 (28.6%)	3PT	2-8 (25%)	
	1-3 (33.3%)	FT	9-14 (64.3%)	
2nd Half	12-23 (52.2%)	FG	12-27 (44.4%)	2nd Half
	3-10 (30%)	3PT	2-10 (20%)	
	15-20 (75%)	FT	15-18 (83.3%)	
Full Game	31-62 (50%)	FG	17-47 (36.2%)	Full Game
	7-24 (29.2%)	3PT	4-18 (22.2%)	
	16-23 (69.6%)	FT	24-32 (75%)	

Team Notes

UCF is now: 1-0 on the season , 1-0 as a member of the Big 12, 132-87 under Johnny Dawkins, and 154-73 at AFA.

- The 23-point victory is the second-largest in a season/home-opener under Johnny Dawkins, just one point shy of the Knights' 80-56 win over Nicholls in 2016. UCF's 85-62 triumph is the largest since a 26-point victory over East Carolina in the 2022-23 regular-season finale earlier this year on Mar. 5.
- The Knights forced 24 turnovers from the Panthers tonight, the first time since Memphis also committed 24 earlier this year on Feb. 16. The victory also marked the first time the Knights recorded 16 steals since a bout with Cincinnati on Feb. 19, 2020.
- 10 of the 13 Knights who saw minutes were making their debut for UCF. The newcomers combined for 61 points, 12 assists, and 31 rebounds.
- In UCF's first matchup with FIU this century (since 1998), the Knights leveled the all-time record at 13-a-piece. The win improved Johnny Dawkins' record versus in-state opponents to 23-8 since taking over in 2016. Addition Financial Arena continues to be a fortress for Dawkins, improving to 83-27 at home.
- From the second media timeout at 12:13 to the third and final at 4:01, the Knights went on an 18-8 run, building their lead to 13 before the final minutes of the first half. By the buzzer, UCF led the Panthers 43-21 following an 11-2 run to close out the half.
- The Knights' defense held the Panthers to just four points during the final four minutes of the first half and the first four minutes of the second half.

Player Notes

- Ball State transfer Jaylin Sellers led the Knights in scoring with 23 points. The tally is the second-most in the junior's career, just one shy of his career-high of 24.
- The performance marks the second consecutive season a Knight making his debut has scored 23, matching Taylor Hendricks' 23-point debut against UNC Asheville a season ago on Nov. 7.
- Darius Johnson had his best season debut in Black and Gold, going five for 12 from the field and three of eight from three, scoring 15 points to go along with four assists and two steals. Johnson is just one assist shy of 200 in his career.
- University of Missouri - Kansas City transfer Shemarri Allen made his 60th career appearance at the DI level in his debut for the Knights. He got off the mark in Black and Gold with an early free throw in the first quarter. Allen finished the game third in scoring with eight points and five assists.
- Tyler Hendricks, brother of former Knight and ninth overall pick in the 2023 NBA Draft, Taylor Hendricks, scored his first collegiate points in his Knights debut with 11:17 on the clock in the first half on a driving layup to give UCF a 16-11 lead. Hendricks finished the game with seven points, going three for four from the field while snagging four rebounds.
- Omar Payne grabbed six boards in his UCF debut. The Jacksonville transfer also collected two blocks in the victory.
- One of four fifth-year transfers, Ibrahima Diallo led the Knights with three blocks in his UCF debut. The center was efficient from the field, going three of four to collect seven points.

Dawkins' Perspective

"Our guys got off to a good start tonight, we beat a team that we knew would be very difficult to play against, a team that presses for 40 minutes in their usual style. It was great for our guys, with 10 new players, there was a lot we had to learn about them in that type of situations. For the first 25, we played for about as good as we could play. In the last 15 minutes, true to form for who they are, they're gonna keep going and keep playing for 40 minutes."