

**GAME**

**3**

# 2023-24 UCF MEN'S BASKETBALL POSTGAME NOTES

**UCF Knights**

2-1 (0-0 B12)

Johnny Dawkins

133-88 | 289-203



**Cal St. Fullerton Titans**

1-2 (0-0 Big West)

Dedrique Taylor

142-163 | 142-163

**November 16, 2023 | Addition Financial Arena | Orlando, Fla. | 5,322 - Attendance**

## Starters

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

## Series History

|            |     |
|------------|-----|
| Overall    | 2-0 |
| In Orlando | 1-0 |
| Neutral    | 1-0 |

## Top Performers

| UCF Knights                |                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Jaylin Sellers             | 15 PTS   5 AST   5 REB |
| Ibrahim Diallo             | 8 PTS   8 REB   5 BLK  |
| Cal State Fullerton Titans |                        |
| Grayson Carper             | 13 PTS   3 REB   1 BLK |
| Vincent Lee                | 10 PTS   4 REB   0 AST |

## Comparison

|           | Knights       |     | Titans        |           |
|-----------|---------------|-----|---------------|-----------|
| 1st Half  | 13-30 (43.3%) | FG  | 6-25 (24%)    | 1st Half  |
|           | 3-8 (37.5%)   | 3PT | 2-9 (22.2%)   |           |
|           | 2-7 (28.6%)   | FT  | 4-4 (100%)    |           |
| 2nd Half  | 14-28 (50%)   | FG  | 6-26 (23.1%)  | 2nd Half  |
|           | 6-13 (46.2%)  | 3PT | 1-10 (10%)    |           |
|           | 7-11 (63.6%)  | FT  | 13-17 (76.5%) |           |
| Full Game | 27-58 (46.6%) | FG  | 12-51 (23.5%) | Full Game |
|           | 6-13 (46.2%)  | 3PT | 3-19 (15.8%)  |           |
|           | 9-18 (50%)    | FT  | 17-21 (81%)   |           |

## Team Notes

UCF is now: 2-1 on the season, 2-1 as a member of the Big 12, 133-88 under Johnny Dawkins, and 155-73 at AFA.

- UCF moves to 2-0 at home this season after the Knights' defense held the Titans to just 12 of 51 from the field. Their 23.5% marked the lowest in nearly seven seasons and the lowest since Johnny Dawkins' sixth game in charge of the Knights against Stetson on Nov. 30, 2016, when the Hatters shot 22.1% (15-68).

- Cal State Fullerton's 44 points are the fewest scored against the Knights since Western Illinois tallied just 37 last season on Nov. 14, 2022.

- With tonight's triumph and the emphatic 85-62 season-opener versus FIU on Nov. 6, the Knights have won their first two home games by a combined 51 points. The tally marks the largest win margin over the program's first two home games since a 115-61 win over West Florida in the 2010 season-opener and a subsequent 80-39 win over Jackson State.

- The Knights' defense held the Titans to just 18 points in the first half, the fewest by an opposing team since Tulsa mustered just 14 points of their own in the first half on Feb. 26, 2023.

- Cal State Fullerton shot just 24% from the field in the first 20 and 23.1% in the second half, the lowest marks since Santa Clara shot 20.83% from the field in the first half of the Baha Mar Hoops Bahamas Championship game on Nov. 18, 2022.

- Through the Knights' first two home games, they've led the opposition by a combined 35 points at the half (74-39) and are now 2-0 on the season when leading heading into halftime.

- UCF's defense forced 15 turnovers, the third consecutive game the Knights' opponent has accumulated 15 or more (FIU: 24, Miami: 18). UCF entered the game eight in the nation in turnovers forced per game.

- The Knights bench outscored the Titans bench 41-7, shifting the margin to plus-54 points through the team's first three games. UCF dominated in the paint once again, outscoring the opposition 30-18.

## Player Notes

- Jaylin Sellers once again led the Knights in scoring, notching 15 points off 12 shots, securing the Ball State transfer three consecutive double-digit performances.

- Sellers becomes the first UCF player to lead the team in scoring in his first three performances with the Knights in the Johnny Dawkins era (since 2016).

- Sellers' 60 points through his first three games mark the most during a three-game stretch in his career and the most by a Knight in his first three contests of a season since Brandon Mahan scored 55 points in 2021. The junior dished out a career-high five assists and surpassed 250 career FGs-made with his 7-12 night from the field.

- Ibrahim Diallo had a strong night as the San Jose State transfer recorded a season-high five blocks, marking the third consecutive game that he's led the team in blocks to start the season.

- Diallo surpassed 1,000 career collegiate minutes while snagging a season-high eight rebounds (one offensive/seven defensive).

- Two Knights notched their first career points in Black and Gold during the victory. After having his transfer waiver approved before the game, Marchelus Avery, formerly of New Mexico State, was one of three Knights to score exactly nine points in the win.

- Freshman Comeh Emuobor converted on his second career three-point attempt, later hitting two free throws to give the Raleigh, N.C., native his first points with the Knights.

## Dawkins' Perspective

"It was a really good game by our guys, we put 36 minutes of really good basketball together and we responded well from our last outing. Defensively I challenged them, I challenged them about taking care of the basketball in both areas that we worked on this week, and I saw improvement. That's what you want to see this time of year, is getting better in the areas in which you know you have to make improvements.