

GAME

4

2023-24 UCF MEN'S BASKETBALL POSTGAME NOTES

UCF Knights
3-1 (0-0 B12)
Johnny Dawkins
134-88 | 290-203

83



80

South Dakota St. Jackrabbits
1-3 (0-0 Summit)
Eric Henderson
88-38 | 88-38

November 19, 2023 | Flagler Gymnasium | St. Augustine, Fla. | 609 - Attendance

Starters

Player	Season
2 Shemarri Allen (G)	4
3 Darius Johnson (G)	4
5 Omar Payne (F)	4
24 Jaylin Sellers (G)	4
31 Thierno Sylla (F)	1

Series History

Overall	4-1
In Orlando	1-1
Neutral	-0

Top Performers

UCF Knights	
Marchelus Avery	22 PTS 2 REB 1 BLK
Jaylin Sellers	20 PTS 3 REB 2 STL
South Dakota St. Jackrabbits	
Charlie Easley	21 PTS 6 REB 3 AST
Luke Appel	19 PTS 3 AST 2 REB

Comparison

	Knights		Jackrabbits	
1st Half	13-33 (39.4%)	FG	10-30 (33.3%)	1st Half
	3-13 (23.1%)	3PT	4-11 (36.4%)	
	3-4 (75%)	FT	6-11 (54.5%)	
2nd Half	16-26 (61.5%)	FG	14-24 (58.3%)	2nd Half
	4-11 (36.4%)	3PT	8-17 (47.1%)	
	15-20 (75%)	FT	14-18 (77.8%)	
Full Game	29-59 (49.2%)	FG	24-54 (44.4%)	Full Game
	7-24 (29.2%)	3PT	12-28 (42.9%)	
	18-24 (75%)	FT	20-29 (69%)	

Team Notes

UCF is now: 3-1 on the season , 3-1 as a member of the Big 12, and 134-88 under Johnny Dawkins.

- The Knights advance to the finals of the Jacksonville Classic following their fourth triumph over South Dakota State all-time in the program's first meeting since 2008 at the Cancun Challenge in Mexico.
- UCF has now started back-to-back season's 3-1 through its first four contests. It marks the fifth time under Johnny Dawkins the Knights have begun 3-1 as UCF hasn't gone .500 or worse through its first four games since 2015.
- The three-point win is the lowest margin of victory for the Knights since last season's 107-104 double-overtime victory over Memphis on Jan. 11.
- The Knights move to 3-0 when leading at halftime (tonight: 32-30). Through UCF's first three wins, it's led at the half by a combined 37 points, outscoring opponents 106-69.
- Marchelus Avery (22) and Jaylin Sellers (20) became the first Knights duo since Memphis on Jan. 11 of this year to score 20 or more points in the same game (Ithiel Horton: 30 and C.J. Kelly: 21).
- Under Johnny Dawkins, the Knights are now 10-5 in regular-season neutral site contests. Overall, UCF is 16-12 in neutral site games since 2016 (Dawkins' first season at UCF), including two regular-season titles at the Baha Mar Hoops Bahamas Championship in 2022 and the Myrtle Beach Invitational in 2018.
- South Dakota State's 28 three-point attempts mark the most against the Knights since South Florida attempted 31 FG from beyond the arc on Jan. 21, 2023, and the Jackrabbits' 12 made three-pointers are the most by an opponent since the Knights' last neutral site contest against Missouri in 2022 on Dec. 17 where the Tigers connected on 13 shots from beyond the arc.
- Led by Avery's 22 points, the Knights' bench outscored the Jackrabbits bench 33-17. It marks the fourth consecutive game to start the season UCF's bench has outscored the opposition, shifting the margin to plus-70, having tallied 131 points to the opponent's 61.

Player Notes

- In his second career game for the Knights after having his transfer waiver approved before UCF's last game against Cal State Fullerton, Marchelus Avery led the Knights in points with 22 off the bench.
- The performance is the senior's fourth-career game reaching 20 or more points and the first since his career-high 26 versus Northern New Mexico on Dec. 22, 2022.
- Avery set a career-high with his 4-9 performance from beyond the arc, marking the most three-pointers made following four prior games in his career connecting on three attempts.
- Jaylin Sellers secured his ninth career game with 20 or more points and his third of the season. With 80 points through his first four games to start the season, it marks the most during a four-game stretch of his career, besting a 75-point stretch from Dec. 3 to Dec. 17 in 2022 with Ball State.
- Omar Payne scored a season-high 10 points in the win, marking the ninth double-digit performance of his career and the first since a 10-point performance at Notre Dame on Dec. 27, 2022, while playing for Jacksonville. He also set a career-high with three steals.
- Darius Johnson led the team with four assists in the win as he now has 12 this season and 207 throughout his three-season career at UCF.

Dawkins' Perspective

"We practice those situations during the week [late-game action], so it's good to see our guys get them and then execute them. That's what you want to see your players do, can we carry it from the practice floor into the game, and tonight we were able to do that. We're resilient, one thing I know about our team is they'll keep on coming and keep on fighting, they'll give us an opportunity every night."