

GAME

7

2023-24 UCF MEN'S BASKETBALL POSTGAME NOTES

UCF Knights
5-2 (0-0 B12)
Johnny Dawkins
136-89 | 292-204

72



57

Lipscomb Bisons
6-4 (0-0 A-SUN)
Lennie Acuff
71-64 | 604-377

December 2, 2023 | Addition Financial Arena | Orlando, Fla. | 5,125 - Attendance

Starters

Player	Season
3 Darius Johnson (G)	7
5 Omar Payne (F)	7
13 Mrachelus Avery (F)	1
24 Jaylin Sellers (G)	7
31 Thierno Sylla (F)	4

Series History

Overall	4-1
In Orlando	3-0
Streak	W2

Top Performers

UCF Knights	
Darius Johnson	19 PTS 3 AST 5 REB
Marchelus Avery	12 PTS 6 REB 1 AST
Lipscomb Bisons	
Derrin Boyd	22 PTS 4 REB 2 AST
AJ McGinnis	14 PTS 4 REB 2 AST

Comparison

	Knights	Bisons	
1st Half	16-37 (43.2%)	FG	7-25 (28%)
	6-18 (33.3%)	3PT	5-15 (33.3%)
	1-3 (33.3%)	FT	4-10 (40%)
2nd Half	11-30 (36.7%)	FG	13-26 (50%)
	3-10 (30%)	3PT	4-9 (44.4%)
	8-10 (80%)	FT	4-5 (80%)
Full Game	27-67 (40.3%)	FG	20-51 (39.2%)
	9-28 (32.1%)	3PT	9-24 (37.5%)
	9-13 (69.2%)	FT	8-15 (53.3%)

Team Notes

UCF is now: 5-2 on the season, 5-2 as a member of the Big 12, 136-89 under Johnny Dawkins, and 193-74 at AFA

- UCF moves to 34-11 in December under Johnny Dawkins, historically the best month for the Knights since his first season in 2016-17. With a 75.5 winning percentage under the College Basketball Hall of Famer, UCF hasn't dropped more than two games in December under Dawkins.
- The Knights move to 3-1 at Addition Financial this season following their largest victory versus Lipscomb at home in program history. The 15-point win bests UCF's 10-point victory in the teams' first-ever meeting on Jan. 17, 2004, (68-58) while conference-mates in the A-SUN.
- UCF went on multiple scoring runs in the first half, including an eight-point run that extended the lead from 28-21 to 36-21 late in the first 20. The period mirrored an 11-point scoring run at the beginning of the half for the Knights as they went on an 11-point run to shift the contest from 3-6 to 14-6.
- Both scoring runs propelled UCF to a 39-23 first-half advantage. The Knights have outscored their opponents 230-189 in the first half through seven games this season. At home, UCF has outscored opponents 110-69 in the first half (43-21 vs. FIU on 11/6/23, 31-18 vs. Cal State Fullerton on 11/16/23, 36-30 vs. Stetson on 11/26/23).
- In total, the Knights forced 20 turnovers in the win, marking the second-most this season and the sixth game this season having at least 15. UCF has now forced 120 turnovers through seven games.
- UCF amassed 24 points off 20 Lipscomb turnovers, accompanying 33.3% of the Knights' final point total.
- The Knights matched their season-high in three-pointers made with nine (Cal State Fullerton on 11/16/23).
- UCF's bench outscored the opposition's for the sixth game this season following a 24-12 display. The Knights have outscored opposing benches by a combined 78 points through seven games.
- The Knights continue to dominate in the paint, as UCF scored 34 points to the Bisons' 14 in the win. UCF has outscored the opposition in the paint in all but one game this season and has an overall margin of +98.

Player Notes

- Darius Johnson led the team in scoring for the second game this season. He dropped 19 points to go along with five rebounds and three assists. The tally propels him past 100 (101) on the season, marking three consecutive seasons with at least 100 points to start his collegiate career.
- The junior's 19 points are the third-most in his career, behind his 25-point performance earlier this season versus Charlotte on Nov. 20 and 24-point performances last season versus Miami on Nov. 27, 2022. Johnson has now notched double-digit points in six of seven games this season. Throughout his career, Johnson has a total of 29.
- Johnson also reached the century-mark in steals with two in the win. He is the only current Knight with at least 100 career steals.
- Jaylin Sellers continues his strong performance to begin his UCF career as his 16 points secure the Ball State transfer with seven consecutive performances with 15 or more points to start the season.
- Thierno Sylla set a career-high with his eight rebounds in the win, besting his previous high versus Cal State Fullerton on Nov. 16, 2023, when he snagged seven boards.
- Marchelus Avery secured his 12th career game with at least 10 points and his second as a Knight.
- Ibrahima Diallo, one of the nation's top shot-blockers and the Big 12 leader entering the game, secured his 100th career block in the victory. He has at least one in each game this season.

Dawkins' Perspective

"I thought our guys played really hard, they're a difficult team to defend with the type of offense they run, and to hold them to under 60 points takes a lot of effort. We forced 20 turnovers and that's something that we've done all season, there's a lot of energy and activity for us on defense. There's still a lot of things we can improve on and we'll continue to work on as we go forward."